

General Assembly- Friday, March 12th, 2021 – 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Call to Order- 3:04pm

Roll Call- Quorum reached

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

- HMSLS motions, Media and Communications PHD seconds

Guest Speakers

Betty Montgomery, Chair, Board of Trustees

- David O'Brien will become the chair of the Board of Trustees for the next two years.
- The Board has been working to make sure the issues from last weekend have been addressed.
 - The fraternity is on an interim suspension, the Board is working with the national counsel and law enforcement.
 - Vigil this weekend and a virtual town hall on Sunday.
- Campaign over the last 6 years has raised millions of dollars for student scholarships, technology, and classroom updates.
 - How do we make the student experience better?
 - What are the needs?
 - Continue to refine our strategic goals.
 - Remarkably impressed with the current cabinet and Life Design.
- They want to align the university's goals with 21st century needs.
 - Large expansions of our partnerships
 - Doctor of Physical Therapy, Nursing BSN.
 - Expanding the availability of internships.
 - Made the standing committee with the Diversity and Belonging office.
 - Welcoming and embracing community.
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- One of the few who have been able to stay healthy and be in person.
 - Amazed at the quality of students.
- Wall Street Journal said we are the #1 public university in the Midwest and in Ohio.
- It has been a delight to serve the BGSU community.

David O'Brien, Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees

- David has a 50-year relationship with the Bowling Green and BGSU community.
- They are here to hear our questions and what is important to us.
 - What can they do to serve grad students?

Questions for Betty and David:

- Theater and Film PHD: Thank you for joining us in this busy time. The senator feels there is a lack of attention from the Board and from the upper administration. It is assumed that grad students have the same needs as undergrad students, or our needs are less than the undergrad student's needs. Feels that we are not being heard with COVID concerns. The senator and many graduate students do not feel that the university is listening and feel ignored.
 - Thank you for sharing. Budget cuts were painful, and the decisions were not made easily. Behind every statistic was a person. If we didn't listen to you, we are listening now. The Board values the graduate students of BGSU.
 - That's why they are here, to listen to what the graduate students need. They are taking notes.
 - Follow up questions: a lot of the frustration of how information was conveyed was because the committee to gather student input made it clear that they were looking for a specific answer.
- Public and Applied Health Masters- Graduate students can be disconnected from Greek Life, but it is a part of our lives. There is a petition to adopt a "one strike" policy for hazing. What are your thoughts on the policy and where do you see Greek Life going at BGSU?
 - Right now, they have been asked to step back until the criminal investigation is complete. The Board is invested in the Greek Life at BGSU. They are going to be careful that the culture is diverse, open, and safe. They still have a responsibility to keep students safe, even though students are adults. She does not see Greek Life getting banned all together, but there will be changes. They cannot make students make good choices, but they can equip students with the tools to make the best decisions.
 - There is an anti-hazing law that is in the Senate currently.
 - The culture needs to change, but the culture is difficult to change.

Sheri Stoll, Chief Financial Officer & VP

- Primary Budget Drivers
 - Revenue is driven by enrollment and state support.
 - Graduate enrollment is higher compared to previous years.
 - Expense budget is driven by enrollment, salary, benefits, utilities, and technology costs.
 - State funding is based on performance.
 - There was a large loss of funding, but it could have been much worse.

- They saved money over the summer by reducing the utility use with everyone online.
- Enrollment Trends
 - We had expected an enrollment drop, but not as much as what happened.
- Six Year Budget
- Planning for FY22
 - Enrollment estimates are still very uncertain.

Questions:

- Media and Communication PhD: Do graduate assistantships stipends go under salaries and benefits or under student aid/scholarships?
 - Graduate stipends are under Salary and Benefits and fee waivers are under Student Aid and Scholarships.
 - Why is there not an increase in the student aid section? The major fundraising campaign had a goal to raise money for student scholarships from private donors.
 - Do you expect that number to go up in the future? It tough to say, it most likely will not change dramatically. Since the campaign raised so much for student scholarships, the hope is that more and more private donors will fund student scholarships.
- Email Sheri with additional questions.

Julia Thatcher, GA, Student Recreation Center

- The department of Recreation and Wellness recently merges with Athletics.
- Rec Well has two facilities: the Student Recreation Center (SRC) and the Perry Field House.
- The Thrive initiative is a well-being initiative or students, faculty, and staff.
 - Move for your Mood: <https://www.bgsu.edu/recwell/falcon-fitness/move-for-your-mood.html>
- SCR Facilities available for grad students
 - 30-foot rock wall for all levels of climbing ability (climbing pass required).
 - 2 pools: an Olympic sized pool and a casual pool.
 - Falcon Fitness: group exercise courses for all students. Passes available at the front desk of the SCR.
- Wellness Connection Services
 - Free HIV testing
 - Peer education topics for student groups. Topics include self-care, alcohol, drugs, sexual health, bystander intervention, etc.
- Perry Field House

- Intermural sports- currently offering noncontact sports in person.
- Club sports- many options for students
- Safety protocols
 - Face-coverings
 - Physical distancing
 - Enhanced cleaning protocols
 - Good health practices
- For more information, visit their website or call their office.
 - <https://www.bgsu.edu/recwell.html>
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Questions:

- HMSLS: Are there any activities that are not allowed due to COVID-19?
 - Certain sports are not offered, limit capacity, limited access to dance rooms.

Officer Reports

President- Blessy Mcwan- bmcwan@bgsu.edu

- Officer Elections applications are open! All senators are eligible to apply.
- If you are interested and what to know about eligibility, let Blessy know.
- Applications are open today until April 12th.
- All applications are on Canvas.

Vice President- Ikpemesi Ogundare- ogundio@bgsu.edu

- Call for Moderators for Colloquium.
 - Poster and paper presentation, looking for 3 people.
 - 2-hour commitment with some preparation leading up to the event.
 - Email Ikpemesi and Blessy if you are interested.

Treasurer- Morgan Durfee - mdurfee@bgsu.edu

- Regalia
 - Applications are open through Canvas.
 - If you or your constituents are planning on walking in the spring, the award would cover the cost of buying the Master's regalia or renting the Doctoral regalia. Can be used to purchase Doctoral regalia.
 - Applications close next Friday, March 19th.

Student Affairs Representative- Jaclyn Shetterly – jshette@bgsu.edu

Student Affairs Advisory Committee:

- We are charged with giving constituent feedback on university Codes of Conduct and policies before they go into effect.
 - Student Code of Conduct
 - Community Living Standards
 - Proposed revisions of the Freedom of Expression Policy (based on the Ohio Senate Bill 40—the Forum Act)
 - Heckler’s Veto
 - Paying for security
 - Policies that come out of the Office of Student Engagement
- Student Code of Conduct
 - Definition of harassment changed from “severe, persistent, or pervasive” to “severe, pervasive, AND objectively offensive” as noted by the Senate Bill 40
 - The Conduct Office is trying to find other sections that might cover behavior that is severe, pervasive, OR objectively offensive.
 - “Harm to Others” (1)(b)
 - Medical amnesty policy is a little difficult to understand.
 - Added sanction: “Withholding or Revoking a Degree – The University may withhold conferring a degree due to a finding of Prohibited Conduct. In extraordinary circumstances, the University may revoke a conferred degree.”
 - This change is in place for students who are in their final semester and commit something egregious.
 - Ex: the policy is broken, the hearing happens the week before graduation, the student is found responsible, but an appeal is filed after graduation.
- Most of the changes of the Student Code of Conduct are regarding using more concise language.
- We elected a new chair: Prof. Marce Dupay (they/them)
- Future Meeting (March 19th):
 - Student Resident Community Living Standards Policy
 - Freedom of Expression Policy

Graduate Student Issues Committee

- COVID-19 Fall 2021
 - Mask mandates
 - 75% back on campus

- 6-ft apartment
- University will not give out vaccines (as we are not
- Hybrid:
 - Half the class comes one day, the other half comes the other day
 - Not being used in Fall 2021
- Blended:
 - Classes will all meet in person one day and will all meet in online the next day.
 - This of course differs from MWF and M/W or T/Th
- Instructors have more choice.
- COVID-19 Spring 2021
 - Have special cases come up with additional funding?
 - Not really
 - Will those more at risk have the opportunity to request for off campus accommodations?
 - Possibly go through accessibility services?
- Stipends
 - Our low stipends affect our ability to recruit our top students.
 - Do we have any data about fraction of GAs who are working additional jobs?
 - If you raise stipends, then you get less students, when you have less students, you have smaller grad classes, when you have smaller classes, they might not make.
- Wellness Days
 - GAs that do not teach did not get those days off.
 - Should there be less programming so that more people can have time off?

Announcements:

- THFM is offering Asian American Theatre (remote) during first summer session at grad level
- HESA is offering Women & Gender in Higher Education and Higher Education in Film and Fiction, both online, this summer.

Library Advisory Committee

- Feel free to reach out to Jackie with concerns about the committee or any issue.

Ex Officio Meetings

Old/Unfinished Business

Land acknowledgment resolution and discussion

- Important to have the land acknowledgement.
- Motion to pass the resolution to support the Land Acknowledgement On behalf of the Land Acknowledgement Committee.
 - MACIE seconds.
 - Resolution Passed by 32. Opposed by 0. Abstained by 1

Discussion

- Theater and Film PHD- The language on this is quite good, and USG has passed a version.
 - So has faculty senate.
- College Student Personnel: Was there a reason that certain nations were removed and replaced with others?
 - We are not sure, check with the Land Acknowledgement Committee to be sure.

Vote

New Business

- None

Announcements

- Vice President: taking a moment to acknowledge the loss of two of our students this week.
- HMSLS- To go off of the question from Theater and Film earlier: Do we think we need to look about how we sell the University to prospective students as part of the culture? How can we cultivate that that is not tolerated?

- David- Has the same question, the Board will put it to the university to get an answer and have a plan. His role is to ask the university to make the changes the Board wants to see.
 - If you have ideas and suggestions, let the Board know.
- Media and Communication PhD- There are two non-voting members for the Board, have international students served in this role? How does the Board use these positions to listen to students?
 - David- Having students on the Board connects them to the issues. There is no formal way to listen to feedback, but the student trustees have open communication with the Board members.
 - Does not believe that there has been an international student trustee in the time that he has been there.
 - Estee Miller is the graduate student trustee representative (esteem@bgsu.edu)
- Theater and Film PHD- Honor the students we have lost in the past week.
 - <https://thedashpoem.com/>
- Media and Communication PhD- Can we have Sheri in another meeting that would be great.
 - Blessy- We cannot guarantee that she can make it to another meeting, but her contact information is in the minutes.
 - cwagone@bgsu.edu - Sheri's Secretary's email
- Take care of each other.

Adjournment- 4:52pm

- Media and Communication PhD motions, Statistics PHD seconds.