



Graduate Student Senate
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<http://www.bgsu.edu/gss>

General Assembly

Friday, April 14, 2023, 3:00–5:00pm via Zoom

Call to Order

By the Vice President at 3:04pm/

Roll Call

Attendance: 9 Executives and 33 Senators – Quorum Reached

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Seeing no changes requested, meeting minutes were approved.

Guest Speakers

None

Officer Reports

None

Old/Unfinished Business

None

New Business

- Elections
 - The General Assembly meeting was strictly for election of the GSS SEC roles
 - The Vice President stated that candidates running for the SEC positions can vote in all elections apart from the one they are contesting in
 - Out-going SEC members are also ineligible to vote apart from the Representative-at-Large
 - The Vice President also stated that the application is considered a self-nomination
 - He encouraged the assembly to participate fully in the election and ask the candidates good questions

- For the election:
 - The candidates will have at most five minutes to address the General Assembly. After the address, the candidate will be asked questions from the General Assembly
 - Once questioning is complete, a voting member will motion to end questioning, and this will be seconded by another voting member
 - The candidate(s) will be placed into a breakout room
 - All the GA will deliberate and once the deliberation is completed, a member will motion to end it, and this will be seconded by another voting member
 - Afterwards, the voting will take place and after completion of the voting process, the candidate(s) will be returned to the meeting and the winner will be announced
 - For candidate(s) running for multiple positions, if unsuccessful in the initial position, the candidate(s) can seek to continue into other position if they choose to
- **For the Position of GSS President**
 - Candidate: David M. Fisher; candidacy seconded by Biological Sciences Masters
 - Questions to the candidate:
 - The Higher Education Administration, Doctoral: What type of agenda and subject do you plan to promote and discuss with the new SEC members and the Senators?
 - David answered: It will be good to meet and get to know all the new members. It will be important to know what everyone's priorities are going into the new session. My idea is to create strategic and long-term planning, and this can be done by just myself, it requires everyone's input
 - The Higher Education Administration, Doctoral: Can you share with the assembly one thought you have in mind?
 - David answered: Much as been done by the outgoing executives, the plan is to create proof in form of documents or otherwise, that can be shared with the school administration on campus regularly. This will help to show that the actions GSS are taking, are in alignment with the university's values and strategic plan
 - The GSS President: Could you speak a little bit to how your role as the professional development

representative has kind of prepared you for this role of presidency?

- David answered: The role put me in the position to be in the middle of the action with graduate students. I have been able to meet with a lot of people on campus and work with different departments on campus having varying needs and I have been able to attend to this without being impartial
- The Biological Sciences Masters motioned to end Q&A, and this was seconded by the Representative-at-Large
- Deliberation
 - The Representative-at-Large: I worked with David over the past one year and I can attest to his strong listening skills, and his professional approach in all interactions I had with him. He listens to other people's ideas and then add his. I think he would do great at the present position for next year
 - The GSS President: I second that. I think that David is an amazing, organized, and strategic person. I think he would be amazing in this position
 - The Higher Education Administration, Doctoral: He is organized, smart and can add something new or build on what the previous administration started
- The School of Media and Communication, Masters motioned to end deliberation, and this was seconded by the Biological Sciences, Masters
- Election Results:
 - **A clear majority; 27 votes for the incoming GSS SEC President, David M. Fisher**
 - **For the Position of Vice President**
 - Candidates:
 - Christopher Chandler
 - Ariel Esposito
 - The Representative-at-Large seconded the two nominations
 - Questions to the Candidates:
 - Have you been doing things already to improve the GSS student body before now?

- Ariel Esposito answered: Yes, I have been working in limited capacity with the Graduate Diversity and Belonging Representative on ways to help parenting students on campus
 - Christopher Chandler answered: Yes, I am a part of the Biology graduate student association, and this encouraged me to apply for this role
 - The Vice President asked: Can you talk a little about an event that you have planned in the past, that you would consider to be successful? Or can you talk a little bit about what your administrative structure is?
 - Christopher Chandler answered: I was the vice president membership in an organization where I had to plan the entire induction ceremony and awards at the same time, and it was successful. My administrative technique is that I lead by example, I encourage others to lead when they can, and I am not afraid to ask for help from people around me
 - Ariel Esposito answered: I was the treasurer for a university organization in Ohio. I helped run the convention on that campus
- Higher Education Administration, Doctoral motioned to end Q&A and this was seconded by Sports Administration, Masters
- Deliberation
 - Biology Sciences, Doctoral: I have known Christopher for years and he embodies everything a leader holds to take this position. He is honest, friendly, and open-minded. I can attest that he can multitask, and I recommend him for this role
 - Communication Sciences and Disorders, Doctoral: Christopher is an excellent student. He is friendly, a team player and always open to taking on new challenges. I recommend him for this role
 - Representative-at-Large: She has very good communication skills, she was nominated and won the GSS Senator of the Year Award. She has an impressive time management skill, and she is always willing to advocate for graduate students when she has the avenue to. I recommend her for this role

- Sport Administration, Masters: I really do not know both candidates well enough, but based off testimonies for recommenders, I will recommend Chris for this role
- Election Result:
 - Christopher Chandler: 17 votes
 - Ariel Esposito: 13 votes
- **Christopher Chandler is the new GSS Vice President**
- **For the Academic Affairs Representative position**
 - Candidate:
 - Ghada Ayoub Itayem
 - Biological Sciences, Masters seconded the nomination
 - Question to the Candidate:
 - Leadership Studies, Doctoral and the GSS President strongly recommended Ghada Itayem for this role
 - GSS President asked: How do you plan to handle the pushbacks from faculties, students, and the university administration?
 - Ghada Ayoub Itayem answered: Different people, situations or events requires different approaches to deal with. There is no way around it. It is important to always build trust amongst the people that we interact with. With this, a common ground can be reached by the parties involved. It is also important to communicate clearly and ensure that the plans are in line with the vision and mission of the graduate body and university as a whole
 - The Academic Affairs Representative asked: Is there any issue that you can refer to, that is a challenge to graduate students in terms of academics?
 - Ghada Itayem answered: Yes, it comes in two folds basically. The need for more diverse perspectives when dealing with international students is important. Also, the need for faculties to improve their communication skills when addressing graduate students
 - The Academic Affairs Representative asked: What do you think can be done to improve the amount of graduate research conducted in the university?
 - Ghada Itayem answered: Well, it is important to note that there are department that then to focus more on teaching than doing active research. However, we can

send out surveys to different graduate students department to know about their interest in active research, from this, we can approach the faculty or department with our data and give them our recommendation based on data from the survey

- Biological Sciences, Masters motioned to end Q&A, and this was seconded by Sociology, Masters
- Deliberation
- The Representative-at-Large motioned to move directly to voting and this was seconded by Communication Sciences and Disorders, Doctoral
- Election Result:
 - **Majority of the voting member voted for Ghada Itayem, and she is the new GSS Academic Affairs Representative**
- **For the Student Affairs Representative position**
 - Candidate:
 - Adwowa Osei
 - Biological Sciences, Masters seconded the nomination
 - Question for the Candidate
 - Biological Sciences, Masters asked: What are your strategies to ensure more meal swipes for graduate students?
 - Adwowa Osei answered: A good approach will be to reiterate the fact that graduate students help the university in terms of research output and teaching undergraduates and in this regard, the meal swipes should be increased. Coupled with this, there are occasions where graduate students do not like to meals served and once, they have swiped in, that is all for that week which can be unfair
 - Biological Sciences, Masters motioned to end Q&A, and this was seconded by Higher Education Administration, Doctoral
 - Deliberation
 - Sport Administration, Masters: She is passionate about the welfarism of graduate students, and she also highlighted the importance of students having certain software that can aid their graduate student journey. For all of these, I recommend her for the role
 - Biological Sciences, Masters motioned to end the deliberation, and this was seconded by the Representative-at-Large
 - Election Result

- Candidate:
 - Ariel Esposito
- Biological Sciences, Masters seconded the nomination
- Question to the Candidate:
 - GSS President asked: Would you be open to utilizing the survey created by the outgoing representative-at-large going forward?
 - Ariel Esposito answered: Absolutely, it will be very important to continue the excellent work. I think it is important to get as much information as possible to help in more advocacy for graduate students on campus
- Communication Sciences and Disorders, Doctoral motioned to end Q&A, and this was seconded by Biological Sciences, Masters
- Deliberations:
 - The Representative-at-Large and Biological Sciences, Masters both attested to Ariel Esposito strong advocacy skills and strongly recommended Ariel Esposito for the role
- Representative-at-Large motioned to end deliberation and this was seconded by Communication Sciences and Disorders, Doctoral
- Election Result:
 - **Majority of the voting members voted for Ariel Esposito, and Ariel Esposito is the new GSS Representative-at-Large**
- **For the GSS Outreach and Marketing Representative**
 - Candidate:
 - Chidiebere Anugwolu
 - Biological Sciences, Masters seconded the nomination
 - Questions to the Candidate:
 - The Vice President asked: In addition to social media, what are some ways you are hoping this position grows?
 - Chidiebere Anugwolu answered: I believe we should look to start from the very beginning. New students will be coming in over the next few months, it will be ideal to project GSS to them: telling them about our plans for the year and getting to know what they like as well. It is also important to continue from where the predecessor stopped as she did a great job
 - Sport Administration, Masters asked: How do you intend to be more creative while handling the GSS social media platforms?
 - Chidiebere Anugwolu answered: I believe that introduction of short videos and getting all graduate

students communities involved will go a long way in improving creativity. I also believe in creating YouTube content, advertising the diverse international communities we have here on campus will also be helpful

- Representative-at-Large motioned to end Q&A and this was seconded by Biological Sciences, Masters
- Deliberations:
 - Biological Sciences, Masters: He is passionate, and his experiences seem to be spot on for this role
- Biological Sciences, Masters motioned to end deliberations, and this was seconded by Representative-at-Large
- Election Result:
 - **Majority of the voting member voted for Chidiebere Anugwolu, and he is the new GSS Outreach and Marketing Representative**
- **For the GSS Diversity and Belonging Representative position**
 - Candidate:
 - Shudipta Sharma
 - Biological Sciences, Masters seconded the nomination
 - Questions to the Candidate:
 - The GSS President appreciated Shudipta Sharma for this vying for this position
 - Communication Sciences and Disorder, Doctoral motioned to end Q&A and this was seconded by Sociology, Masters
 - Deliberation:
 - Media and Communication, Doctoral talked about Shudipta Sharma strong work ethic and team player skills. Media and Communication, Doctoral strongly recommended Shudipta Sharma
 - Media and Communication, Doctoral motioned to end deliberation and this was seconded by Sociology, Masters
 - Election Result:
 - **Majority of the voting member voted for Shudipta Sharma, and Shudipta Sharma is the new GSS Diversity and Belonging Representative**
- **For the GSS Professional Development Representative position**
 - Candidate:
 - Syeda Zainab Akbar Lnu
 - Biological Sciences, Masters seconded the nomination
 - Questions to the Candidate:

- The GSS President strongly recommended Syeda Zainab Akbar Lnu
 - Communication Sciences and Disorder, Doctoral motioned to end Q&A and this was seconded by Sociology, Masters
 - Deliberation:
 - Media and Communication, Doctoral: She has a lot of experience in the fields of arts and humanities which can be an add on for this role. She has been responsible for writing and getting grants in various organizations that she has been a part of, and I believe that this can come in handy for role. I recommend her for this role
 - Biological Sciences, Masters motioned to end deliberation, and this was seconded by Sociology, Masters
 - Election Result:
 - **Majority of the voting member voted for Syeda Zainab Akbar Lnu, and she is the new GSS Professional Development Representative**
- **For the GSS International Graduate Student Representative position**
 - Candidate:
 - Blessing Iweuno
 - Biological Sciences, Masters seconded the nomination
 - Communication Sciences and Disorder, Doctoral motioned to end Q&A and this was seconded by Sociology, Masters
 - Communication Sciences and Disorder, Doctoral motioned to end deliberation and this was seconded by Higher Education Administration, Doctoral
 - Election Result:
 - **Majority of the voting member voted for Blessing Iweuno, and she is the new GSS International Graduate Student Representative**
- **For the GSS Online Student Affairs Chair position**
 - Candidate:
 - Shane Hesketh
 - Biological Sciences, Masters seconded the nomination
 - Question for the Candidate
 - The GSS President and Vice President appreciated Shane Hesketh for this vying for this position
 - Media and Communication, Doctoral motioned to end Q&A and this was seconded by Biological Sciences, Masters
 - Deliberation:

- English, Masters: He has a strong work ethic, he is friendly and always willing to help others
 - Popular Culture, Masters: He is very passionate, open-minded, and always willing to advocate for the right cause
 - Higher Education Administration, Doctoral motioned to end deliberation and this was seconded by School of Media and Communication, Doctoral
 - Election Result:
 - **Majority of the voting member voted for Shane Hesketh, and he is the new GSS Online Student Affairs Chair**
- The Sport Administration, Masters gave some helpful insights to the incoming executives
 - He mentioned that there may be a need to review how award winners are chosen to improve transparency in GSS
 - He further suggested that a neutral committee be set up to oversee the process
 - He was encouraged to meet with the new executives to discuss those suggestions and ideas
- For the position of GSS Secretary and Environmental Affairs Representative, the positions remain vacant.
 - The new President and Vice President will appoint someone at the beginning of the new session and have them officially voted in at the first GA meeting. Alternatively, at the first GA meeting, open nominations can take place and an election can be conducted afterwards

Announcements

None

Adjournment

- Biological Sciences, Masters motioned to end the meeting, and this was seconded by the Representative-at-Large
- Meeting Adjourned: 5:29 pm