

GSS GA (2021-22) MINUTES OF MEETING 1

Scheduled: 09/10/2021 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Attendance: 8 SEC and 33 Senators

Meeting Started: 3:00 pm

Call to Order: By the VP Kat Nic (katg@bgsu.edu)

Roll Call: The Secretary Esther Oyedele (eoyedel@bgsu.edu); We had a quorum with a total of 33 Senators in attendance.

Approval of minutes and agenda: none to report this week

Guests Speakers

- **The President:** She gave a welcome and motivational speech. She hopes senators keep their heads high. She reminded the senators that we have been selected to serve, she urges us to support ourselves and others. She listed the upcoming adventures of GSS, and encouraged all senators to participate and be an active voice in the 2021/2022 year.
- **Alexander Goberman** (goberma@bgsu.edu): He stated he has been at Grad College since 2014 and the Interim Dean of Grad College since October 2020. He listed the programs we have at BGSU to be 47 Certificates, 83 Masters and 19 Doctoral Programs. He showed a presentation slides (see attached files). He further stated that we are here to represent students from different backgrounds. He spoke about Graduate College with processes from admissions through to graduations, the Graduate College oversees funding, GSS, interact with provost office; it's a one stop shop to get all you need. He added Grad College is happy to help always. He gave some academic and health advice, to make active decisions to take care of our health and balance our work and life and have a life outside GSS. He added that BGSU Counselling Center is here to support students. He urges us to email him if we need anything and contact again until he responds. He dropped his email (goberma@bgsu.edu). He further added if you are a TA or TI to watch out for emails with information on flexibility for students that have Covid-19 related questions, to look for their supervisors contact and grad cord to know the path to follow and how to handle things.
- **Questions:** None

OFFICERS REPORTS

- **The President:** Over the summer, she met with university organizations and President Rogers in regards to the Covid-19. She has been part of committies that are interested in student responses. She requested senators to indicate interest in any of the three committees that need representation.
- **Vice President:** She gave a Faculty Senate update. In SEC a resolution in support of the USg Vaccine Mandate Resolution was passed, but it did not pass in the General Assembly. Professional Development Fund application will be open on September 27th on Canvas. She urged Senators to inform their constituencies about this.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

- **Senator Training:** She showed a presentation (see attached file).
- **Request for Feedback:** The president reported that President Rogers requested feedback from USG, GSS and Faculty Senate regards Covid-19-19 vaccine mandate. She motioned to open the floor for discussion on the vaccine mandate and grad students experience on campus in response to Covid. Seconded by MACIE Rep.
 - Physics Rep: Students have protocols with quarantine of 10 days if tested positive to Covid-19-19. Are TAs who have close contact with students allowed to quarantine and what is their access to testing. President replied, there is access to take home test in the library and the student union. CMA rep added testing online is from 8am-8pm on weekdays. He further dropped in the chat box that the take home COVID tests are great and free! And you have to be guided through the test online.
 - History Rep: Asked if Professors are being answered in terms of getting larger rooms considering the fact that some students are being sandwiched in classrooms/lecture halls. She added that Professors and students are concerned with social distancing. Vice President responded that some faculty members will have their classrooms moved but there are space challenges. She added the school is aware and trying to help faculty members to have larger room, the concern is being voiced and it's been worked on. Dean Goberman added that the best way to do this is for instructors to contact their supervisors and those people

to contact their Department Chairs and Deans. He added that Covid-19 FAQ is also in place.

- Communication Sciences and Disorders Masters Rep gave an experience that sometimes-getting Covid-19 results are complicated and someone got a false positive result in the process, but recommended Covid-19 FAQ to the house.
- Covid-19 FAQ: You can add specific questions or scenarios as there are experts trained to answer them.
- Chemistry PhD: Asked that since the university has a mandatory policy to wear mask, if the majority of student is vaccinated, will this policy change? Citing that the mask give students security and using her department and student parents with children as a case study. The VP answered that we don't have an answer yet. The President said GSS can write a resolution/policy to state that we want students to continue to wear a mask. We can propose this in October. Dean Goberman added that GSS is a powerful body with a strong voice, if we feel we want to be proactive, the resolution might be in place when the school is having this discussion. He urged us to feel free to exercise our power.
- The President appreciated Physics and Chemistry Representatives for bringing concerns from heir department as it affects their students.
- English PhD. Rep: Asked for Professional Development Fund opening date. The VP responded application is scheduled for September 27 to October 11th 2021.
- The university has a mandate Covid-19 starting Spring 2022. How are we being affected by the mandate? Our concerns, constituency's opinion should be collected. Dean Goberman dropped a link for us to see whats been done so far.
 - link: <https://www.bgsu.edu/covid19/vaccine.html>.
- Academic Affairs Representative stated that some internationals students are not comfortable with the vaccine. She added they are concern about the long-term effects of taking the vaccine. The president responded that this is not the first vaccine but the first for Covid-19. The VP added that scientists have been working on the Covid vaccines for a decade but the Covid-19 vaccine is just the recent one. The president further stated the need to educate and encourage the international students in regards to getting the vaccine.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The president requested through the Chat box that if you don't have access to Canvas, senators should email GSS (gss@bgsu.edu) with a request to be added. History Representative added information to access the GSS page on canvas: **Go to courses > All Courses**

ADJOURNMENT

MACIE Representative moved to adjourned which was seconded by Public and Applied Health Representative.

Meeting Ended: 4:02pm.