

General Assembly

Friday, 14th October 2022, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Attendance: 13 Executives and 40 Senators

Meeting Started: 3:00 pm

Call to Order: By the Vice President

Roll Call: By the Secretary (we had a quorum with a total of 13 Executives and 40 Senators in attendance).

Approval of Minutes and Agenda: Seeing no changes requested, meeting minutes were approved.

Guest Speakers

- **Dr. John M.K. Lommel, Director of Institutional Effectiveness**
- The Higher Learning Commission and the Reaccreditation Process
 - Why accreditation?
 - It's all about equality
 - The quality of the institution's academic programs is validated
 - Allows evaluation of the institution's adherence to mission and sustainability of its finances
 - All of these are conducted by a review team that checks if an institution matches up to the HLC standard
 - Peer Review Team on Campus: October 17th – 18th
 - Encourages students to attend the Open Forums Discussion for students which will hold on Monday, 17th October, 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm

- The reviewer will ask the stakeholders (students/faculties) questions about the school policies, academics, and how it affects them generally
- On the 18th of October, Drop in session
- Opportunity for stakeholders (students/faculties) to meet in relative privacy with a reviewer
- **Rodney Fleming, Student Legal Services**
 - Overview of Student Legal Services
 - Core mission: Helping students alleviate problems to success
 - Student legal services are only liable to the students and not the government/university; answer to only clients (students)
 - Explanation of Student Legal Fee
 - Optional \$13 fee per semester; 88% of students participate in the program
 - Survey results from students
 - 73% of students that filled out the survey said that legal issues affect their academics, 70% of students said that legal issues cause stress, and 27% of students considered leaving BGSU if they couldn't get legal help
 - Questions & Answers:
 - Questions: Are there laws in Ohio that set a cap for rent increases?
 - Answer: No, a landlord is free to set the rent at any amount they believe they can convince a tenant to pay
 - Question from the GSS President: Can tenants petition for grandfathered property rights?
 - Answer: Homeowners (the landlord usually) can petition for these rights, not the tenant
 - Question from Philosophy (Masters): Why is the legal service not available for students in the summer period?

- Answer: The price may need to increase during the summer because the volume of students will be low during the 4 months
 - Some schools pay for the whole academic calendar year
 - Question from American Culture Studies Representative: Do you do wills for students?
 - Answer: Yes, Wills/Medical Powers of Attorney
- **Marlene Reynolds, Student Health Insurance**
 - Student Health Insurance Overview
 - Health Insurance Options
 - Healthcare.gov (marketplace)
 - Benefits.ohio.gov (Medicaid plans based on income)
 - International plans must meet BGSU requirements
 - BGSU-sponsored plan (United Healthcare Student Resources)
 - Need to visit Falcon Health Care and Urgent Care if unwell rather than the Emergency room because of costs
 - Need to understand insurance terms such as copay and deductible
 - Annual Premium Comparison with other universities
 - Miami University is lowest with \$2,151 then BGSU at \$2,329
 - BGSU allows international students to opt out of the university's health insurance plan
 - This plan must meet the university's standard
 - However, at Miami University, international students are not allowed to opt-out of the university's plan
 - Important plans from United Healthcare Option
 - SureBridge - Vision option
 - Eye Exam, Corrective Spectacle Lenses, Frames, Corrective Contact Lenses
 - SureBridge - Dental option

- Preventative, Diagnostic, Restorative, and Adjunctive services
- Contact: 1-800-815-8535
- Community Health Center Dental Clinic: 419-354-9049
 - Without any dental insurance plan, the charge is based on income earned
- Mental issues helpline:
 - 1-800-273-TALK
 - 419-502-HOPE
- Questions and Answers:
 - Question: Why is the premium bill per semester rather than per month?
 - Answer: It is by standard from the bursar policy and delays may occur if billing is per month hence creating coverage gaps that will be backdating of payments
 - Question: Why do students graduating in Spring have to pay for Summer health insurance plans?
 - Answer: A new plan has been created for this which runs from January 1st - May 31st and the premium will be \$970
 - Question: Can deductibles be waived especially for International students
 - Answer: Deductibles cannot be waived, however, some services are not subject to deductibles
 - Question: Are there special mental health coverages?
 - Answer: It has no special coverage, but it is covered along with other illness
- For further questions, please contact GSS@BGSU.EDU and we will connect you with Ms. Marlene Reynolds.

Officer Reports

President

- FPD (Last year's treasurer perspective)
 - Funds from GSS FPD are supplementary funds for applications
 - The need for graduate students to reach out to graduate coordinators/secretaries/advisors for departmental funding opportunities
 - Large Fall FPD application; funds from GSS for FPD are based on supply & demand (limited funds)
- GSS and Counseling Center Discussion
 - Structure of the Counseling Center was discussed on October 5th
 - Students are assessed and placed on the either short-term or long-term plan
 - BGSU Counseling Center appealed for trust among partnering bodies and encouraged peaceful and respectful dialogue
- Update on Budget
 - Still in works, more updates will be given to foster accountability
 - Budget will be presented at the end of the semester
- Question from the Philosophy (Masters), is the counseling program fee optional, and can it be waived if the service is not utilized by a student?
 - Answer from Vice President: It is not a waivable fee

Vice President

- Openings in Committees: Need for Senators/GSS Executives to volunteer for:
 - Marketing
 - Skills preferred include design, social media management, email marketing, planning, strategy, and copywriting

Graduate Student Senate
111A McFall Center
Bowling Green, OH, 43403-0181
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- Next General Assembly meeting will be on Zoom (virtual)
 - Guest speakers – BGSU President Rodney Rodgers and BGSU Mayor Mike Aspacher
 - The public is welcome to join the Zoom. The Zoom link will be posted on the GSS Webpage under “Meetings”.

Treasurer

- Fiscal Affairs and Advisory Committee on the EDHD School Reconfiguration
 - Meeting held which concerned the reconfiguration of the College of Education and Human Development
 - Plans to collapse 5 schools into 3 schools
 - Concerns raised
 - Cost implication
 - Potential loss of accreditation for some programs
 - Committee stated that all concerns have been factored in and duly considered
- Summary of Fall 2022 FPD
 - Appreciated the Senators for outreach
 - Highest number of applicants for Fall (100 more than in 2020 and over 50 more than in 2021)
 - Due to carried forward funds from the last session, funds were increased for the conference category from \$220 to \$500 per successful applicant
- Co-Sponsorship Form and Budget Update
 - Still ongoing; subsequent information in the next GA meeting

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Chair for Professional Development

- Professional Development Day – November 2nd, 2022 (8.15 am – 5.15 pm)
 - Pre-conference workshops (Safe Zone and Green Dot Trainings); Keynote Speaker; Networking Luncheon; 6 breakout sessions
 - Sign up for these events will be sent out in the coming weeks
 - Need to sensitize graduate students about the upcoming event
 - Keynote speaker: Jennifer McCary, Chief Diversity and Belonging Officer
 - Information about Professional Development Day can be seen on the GSS page: <https://www.bgsu.edu/student-government/graduate-student-senate/ProfessionalDevelopment/GraduateStudentProfessionalDevelopmentDay.html>.

Chair for Environmental Affairs

- Campus Sustainability Week
 - Starts from October 15th – 22nd
 - Film screening, Seminars, and Eco craft: October 18th
 - Tree planting on campus: October 19th (9 trees to be planted in BGSU); Sign up needed for interested participants
- Green Falcon Pledge – Partnership with Undergraduate Student Government (USG)
 - Collaboration with USG and Campus Sustainability
 - The need for students to be more mindful of the environment
 - The goal is to increase the level of sustainability among students
 - Need for Senators/GSS Executives to form a committee
- Interested parties should reach out to krware@bgsu.edu

Unfinished Business

- None to Report

New Business

- Voting Points coordinated by the President
- Eligible voters: Senators and the GSS Representative-at-Large
- Three Minute Thesis – Ratification and Creative Category
 - Ratification – GSS SEC should move forward in developing formal ratification contesting the Three Min Thesis “Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g., no poems, raps or songs)”:
 - Yes: 20 votes, 90.91%
 - Creative Category – GSS should move forward in the creation of a “Creative Category” competition:
 - Yes: 20 votes, 90.91%
- Graduate Student Survey Results – Top 3 Initiatives
 - These were the Top 3 initiatives
 - Graduate Student Stipend
 - Graduate Assistant Access to Staff/Faculty Parking Passes
 - BGSU Student Health Insurance Cost
- Graduate Student Stipend Ask
 - Option A – Raising the lowest stipend to be more equitable with the highest: (20.83%; 5 votes)
 - Option B – For a high percentage raise to be applied to the lowest stipend amounts and the smaller percentage asks for the highest stipend amounts: (45.83%; 11 votes)
 - Option C – Equal raise for all stipends: (33.33%; 8 votes)

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Announcements

- Breathing Yoga Event on the Quad - October 19th: 12-1 pm
- Guns on Campus - Ohio Law and BGSU Policy (BGSU Teaching Community facilitated by GSS, CFE, and Chief Campbell) - Friday, October 21st: 3-5 pm
- Halloween Funfest with RSA - Wednesday, October 26th: 7-9 pm - Olscamp 101
- Graduate College Halloween - Monday, October 31st: Time TBD

Adjournment

- A motion from Philosophy (Masters) to invite Marlene Reynolds (Student Health Insurance) to further discussion. This was seconded by the Representative-at-Large
- Motion for Adjournment: Motion from Biological Sciences (Masters) to adjourn and seconded by Financial Economics (Masters)
- Meeting Ended: 5:00 pm