**General Assembly Minutes**

October 26th, 2018; 3pm-5pm

Graduate Student Senate

* Call to Order – 3:02pm
* Roll Call
  + Please come see us after the meeting if your name was not called
* Approval of the Minutes and Agenda
  + Motion: American Culture Studies MA
    - Second: World Languages and Culture Studies
* Unfinished Business
  + Funding for Professional Development
    - The Senate had a conversation regarding Funding for Professional Development to inform the SEC of suggested changes and feedback to the process of how to allocate the annual funds. **Minutes from this conversation are available upon request to the Vice President (please email** [**ikeen@bgsu.edu**](http://ikeen@bgsu.edu)**).**
      * + Decision will be made November 2nd

**Please email in any additional questions/comments/concerns**

**by Tuesday, October 30th by 11:59pm**

* Guest Speakers
  + Dr. Thomas Gibson, Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost
    - I would like to talk about some of the feedback about Recreation and Wellness, as I am someone who can do something about this.
    - The policy that many are reacting to is not new
      * It has been in place for many years
      * What Steve Kampf is attempting to do is market the policy
      * There was a breakdown in communication with the articles of clothing you should wear
        + They will be rethinking the message and the images associated with the policy
    - Student Affairs and Graduate student engagement
      * Graduate students can receive:
        + Psychological counseling
        + Therapy Groups

15% of clients are graduate students in the counseling center

* + - * + Accessibility services

For work or for studies

* + - * + If you have an emergency or crisis

Within the dean of students, there are services available.

* + - * + The Recreation Center

The hours were made to be available for graduate students.

* + - There are several opportunities for his office to support us.
    - His office is room 110 in the McFall Center
    - His email is [tjgibso@bgsu.edu](http://tjgibso@bgsu.edu)
    - **Questions/Comments:**
      * School of Art
        + Is there anything that can be done for part time students who use the recreation center? We currently pay the non-student rates even though we are students.

That is something that will have to be looked into. Please send me an email about this.

* + - * Biology MA
        + In your department for financial aid you only have to take six credits for you to be full time for financial aid, but you still cannot use the Recreation Center.

School of Art and Biology MA, please send me a joint email about this

* + - Mental Health Awareness Campaign
      * We want to make sure everyone is aware of services that are available
        + We have services on campus as well as at Falcon Health Center
        + Next month you will see this roll out though spring semester.
        + We want to use this as a tool to educate
      * Start the Conversation
        + They have a track for faculty and staff that you are eligible for
        + It is on the counseling centers website.
        + <https://events.bgsu.edu/event/start_the_conversation_training#.W9WVQi-ZNsM>
    - Next spring, we are introducing a current issues series
      * We will take hot topics out of the headlines and discuss them on campus
        + This could be polarizing, but it is important to discuss varying topics on campus
      * **If you are interested in helping with this or have ideas for topics, please contact Dr. Thomas Gibson**
    - **Questions/Comments:**
      * Mathematics PhD
        + Is start the conversation the same as Safe Zone?

These are two different programs based on their focus.

If you want to participate in Safe Zone training, please contact Dr. Katie Stygles, Assistant Director for Diversity Education and LGBTQ+ Programs

Email: [kstygle@bgsu.edu](http://kstygle@bgsu.edu)

<https://www.bgsu.edu/equity-diversity-and-inclusion/lgbt-resource-center/bgsu-s-lgbt-safe-zone-program.html>

* + - * MACIE
        + There is a Start the Conversation training session this coming Monday in the Union.

1:00pm -2:30 pm

BTSU 314

<https://events.bgsu.edu/event/start_the_conversation_training#.W9WVQi-ZNsM>

* + - * + Could you clarify about the opportunities for Safe Zone training?

You would need to contact Dr. Katie Stygles, Assistant Director for Diversity Education and LGBTQ+ Programs

<https://www.bgsu.edu/equity-diversity-and-inclusion/lgbt-resource-center/bgsu-s-lgbt-safe-zone-program.html>

* + - * English MA
        + Is the dress code based on values or is it because of objectifying others, or is it a health concern?

It has nothing to do with values or targeting genders

It is about health and safety

It’s about bacteria known and unknown that can be transferred

The dress code is more of guidance they exist across the country not just here

* + - * Mathematics PhD
        + Three years ago, a person got an infection a week before his preliminary exams. He went for treatment and found he got it from the gym.
      * Psychology
        + Is there a way to get in contact with the person who is in charge of making the decision for the Recreational Center?

Steve Kampf

<https://www.bgsu.edu/recwell/contacts-and-staff/steve-kampf/>

Located in Recreation and Wellness Center

* + Mr. Rodney Fleming, Managing Attorney for Student Legal Services
    - There is an office on campus that helps students with their legal needs.
    - They are a real law firm and are a separate entity from the University.
      * This allows for confidentiality
    - They contract with the university
    - **The student legal services fee is only $9**
    - 92% participate in the program.
    - You have access to two full time attorneys
    - There are no additional attorney fees.
    - 70% are reporting the legal issue is causing stress.
    - 73% says its distracting them from studies.
    - 28% consider leaving school if they cannot get help.
    - Saw around 200 graduate students last year.
    - **Some of the many issues they deal with are:**
      * 35% involves land lord tenant issues
      * Eviction defense
      * Lease contracts
      * Roommate agreements
      * Common area maintenance
      * Rent escrow
      * Emotional support animals
      * Single family zoning
      * Yard/sidewalk issues
      * Protection orders
      * Record sealing
      * Credit reporting issues
      * Dissolution of marriage
      * Notary services
      * And many more
    - **Limitations/things they cannot help with:**
      * Actions between student and BGSU
      * Actions involving Trustees, Faculty, or Staff.
      * Actions against other BGSU students
      * Actions against other state officers/ agencies
      * Felony defense
      * Contingent fee cases
      * And others
    - 97% of those who use services would recommend services to others
    - November 9th there will be a tour of the Wood County Court.
      * If you are interested in a career in law or this field, please contact Career Services and sign up via Handshake
      * <https://www.bgsu.edu/career-center/students-and-alumni/handshake.html>
    - **Questions/Comments**
      * School of Art
        + With 529 college savings plans, would you be able to interpret those contracts?

Yes

* + - * Vice President
        + Could you please talk about the student advisory board?

We have our office to help out students because for example, if you landlord were to take your $500 deposit it’s unlikely you would go hire an attorney which would cost more than the deposit, so we are there to help.

We would like to create an advisory board to make sure we are meeting the needs of student and so we can get the feedback of the services available

**If you are interested in this opportunity to be on the student advisory board, please email the Vice President**

[ikeen@bgsu.edu](http://ikeen@bgsu.edu)

* + - * + If you are out of state traveling for a conference and experience legal issues, can you still help?

If you are having issues anywhere you should come visit

Many times, on spring break students will have issues

He can give advice on how he would handle it in Ohio

They are part of a network of lawyers they can reach out to other lawyers.

In Ohio we have agreements with other Ohio institutions that have Student Legal Services.

Ohio State

Kent State

University of Toledo

Bowling Green State University

* Officer Reports
  + President
    - Graduate Student Appreciation Nights
      * Over the January winter session
      * They want graduate students to attend games
      * Would this be something we would like and when?
        + English MA

If there is free food, many would go

* + - * + MACIE

If I know my department, free food would get us to go.

Nights would work better.

* + - Health insurance
      * Meeting will be Tuesday evening at 7pm
    - If you get a phone call from yourself, do not answer it
      * It is a scam going on, so just ignore the call
    - Student Recreation Center Dress Code
      * We have heard that they want to put a dress code because people have been taking pictures of people in the gym
        + A lot of bacteria can be transferred onto gym pads
        + The reason for dress code is to keep people safe and healthy.
    - **Questions/Comments**
      * Communion Science and Disorders
        + There has been a lack of cleaner and towels available
        + **There is no signage that you should wash your equipment after using it**
      * Theater and Film MA
        + You are talking about a lot of young adults that may not be used to gym etiquette, and I think signage would help greatly.
      * American Culture Studies MA
        + There seems to be a lot of targeting of women who are working out
      * Chemistry
        + It would be a lot more convenient to have wipes available to clean the machines
  + Chair for Professional Development of Graduate Students
    - Not present
  + Chair for International Graduate Student Affairs
    - The Vice President sent out an email a few weeks ago with links to important webpages
    - If you have any questions or clarifications, please email me
    - There are two busses that are going to be going to the Toledo Airport
      * For the fall - December 15th
      * For the spring - May 18th
      * Cost is $20
      * You must reserve a spot
    - Events
      * Diwali Mela
        + Saturday, November 3rd from 6-10 pm

BTSU Ballroom

* + Chair for Multicultural and Disability Graduate Student Affairs
    - None
  + Chair for Environmental Affairs
    - Not present
  + Chair for Online Graduate Student Affairs
    - None
  + Representative-at-Large
    - Not present
  + Secretary
    - None
  + Treasurer
    - Those who have received a tentative status for Fall FPD they have sent out letters to all venders.
    - As soon as the approvals are in you will be emailed.
  + Student Affairs Representative
    - Student Affairs Advisory Board will be meeting in November
      * In the coming weeks think about what we want to be for graduate students.
  + Academic Affairs Representative
    - None
  + Vice President
    - GSS has purchases a table for up to ten people for Diwali Mela
      * If you or any of your constituents are interested in attending for free, please email Ivy Keen at [ikeen@bgsu.edu](http://ikeen@bgsu.edu)
        + Saturday, November 3rd from 6-10 pm

BTSU Ballroom

* + - * + It is a cultural performance with food and performances
        + “Diwali” is an auspicious festival of lights, which symbolizes the win of good over evil
        + Hosted by the India Student Association (ISA)
      * Tickets are $15 at the door
      * A table is $120 for 10 people
    - Canvas check in
      * There are still around 1,000 graduate students who have not yet accepted their invitation to join the GSS Canvas page
        + Please remind your constituents to do this as soon as possible
  + Board of Trustees Graduate Representative
    - Not present
  + Advisor
    - There is a new graduate winter sessions webpage
    - <https://www.bgsu.edu/graduate/wintersessiongrads.html>
      * It will have a variety of information as well as many links and resources available.
      * You can also apply for jobs at the student employment services office.
      * Professional development activities will also be listed
        + January 15th: How to Recognize Student Distress with Jodi Webb
        + January 17th and 18th: Dissertation Boot Camp with The Learning Center
        + January 22nd: Post-graduate School Careers with the Career Center
    - The first Monday of every month we are having the meet and greet in the Graduate College.
      * November 5th at noon will be the opening to the art exhibit.
        + They are working with the school of art to make a Graduate Student art gallery.
* New Business
  + Door Button Resolution
    - Spoke with accessibility services, and they have issues with being able to track which of the handicap door switches are broken.
    - **Questions/Comments**
      * World Languages and Culture Studies
        + What is the procedure now?

You can report it to facilities management,

On every webpage on BGSU if you scroll to the bottom there is an accessibility reporting link.

<https://www.bgsu.edu/accessibility.html>

* + - Move to vote
      * Motion: College of Musical Arts
      * Second: Communications Science and Disorders PhD
        + Yes: 34
        + No: 0
        + Abstentions: 0
      * **Resolution passes**
* Announcements
  + November 6th is General Election Day
  + Fall 208 LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Social
    - 5:30-8:00pm Carter House (307 N. Church Street)
  + Next General Assembly: **October 26th** 3-5pm in the McFall Gallery
    - Guest speakers:
      * Dr. Rodney Rodgers (BGSU President)
      * Ms. Blaze Campbell (Not In Our Town)
* Adjournment – 4:59pm
  + Motion
    - Popular Culture
  + Second
    - Political Science

Prepared by Malachi Bailey.

**General Assembly Minutes Addendum**

October 26th, 2018; 3pm-5pm

Graduate Student Senate

**Funding for Professional Development Conversation:**

* + - Thank you for all the feedback that was emailed in
      * + We had mixed responses

Competitive was best choice for many departments.

Removing departments was also favored.

The other question that came up was restricting the awards annually or by semester.

* + - * **Questions/Comments**
        + Chair for Multicultural/Disability Graduate Student Affairs Representative

There was a question about the content and making it more competitive and the making sure to maintain the prestige.

If we are going to look at prestige we have to look at how we view this.

For the spring FPD these will be items that the Treasurer and the Vice President set.

In February when the constitution revision happens this is something that can be addressed.

The terms and conditions will be made public when they are set.

* + - * + Academic Affairs Chair

When will the decision be made and will it be made public?

Whatever options we make or whatever terms or conditions are made they will be publicized at the application point so that the criteria will be known to the applicants when applying.

* + - * + Theater and Film MA

Making it more competitive - are we talking about making it competitive based on merit or financial aid?

We have heard responses on both

Some departments have more access to more funds than other departments have access to

We cannot ask for tax forms or financial aid documentation.

* + - * + Biology PhD

Would it be important to look at the awards that are given out and look at how much money is given out to each area? (memberships, conferences, etc.) Memberships can be cheaper and conferences can be really expensive.

That fee some departments memberships can cost can be $100 or more.

With the other aspect of cutting categories, the question of sustainability arises. Without the pot growing only cutting categories might not be enough to stop the dilution problem.

* + - * + English MA

This is not an option on here but a few people in the program were thinking that there could be a cap on how man application you take for example 30 membership applications.

We have talked about making caps on the award amounts.

The other side we wouldn’t want to limit the number of applications because that goes away from showing how much of a need there is for this program.

The number of applications that are going in have been rising each year.

* + - * + Communications Science and Disorders PhD

There have been concerns of people being awarded multiple application in a cycle. Would enacting a policy like this have a help on the issue of the dilution of funds?

Treasurer

15% were duplicates

This is a problem

Most were due to memberships.

Some were applying to memberships for a reduction of the cost of conferences in the spring.

President

To the treasurer, if we were to say no duplicates per round would that make an impact?

For Fall no, but if in Spring yes, because we predict more applications for presenting or attending a conference.

* + - * + English MA

No one is expecting the university to cover everything, can we cut the funding amount for everyone and spread it out to all applicants?

If the numbers continue to increase at the same rate for this fall to next fall, we would see a decrease in award amounts.

Next year $90 would be the award amount for presenting at a conference

* + - * + Philosophy

They like Option A because you are getting funds if you choose the other options you are taking funds away.

If you choose Option A, how low does the award amount have to get to where it doesn’t stay worth applying for.

If it would drop down to $20 for example would it be worth applying for?

* + - * + Dean Booth

If you want to convivence people to increase the budget, you want to show how the professional development money is being used to help graduate students progress in the field (i.e. through presenting, going to conferences, etc.)

They want us to prove to them the learning and benefits we are getting from using FPD funds

Memberships are nice, but there is often no evidence you are active in the organization.

* + - * + English MA

No one is saying we are taking money and doing nothing. The question is how we distribute the resources and how we can bring the maximum out of the minimum. We want to make sure the resources are available to everyone. Without limited budget we don’t want to dishearten anyone, we are here for anyone who is interested in profession development.

* + - * + Psychology

Option C, how do you ensure objectivity, how do you weigh the different needs of departments? Is there a way to challenge decision?

There is an appeals process for challenging decisions that were made.

On how to ensure the objectivity, I whole heartedly trust the individuals this year. The conditions on how it is evaluated should be clear and public before the application opens. If there are questions, you can always raise the questions.

For the future we are not sure and would love suggestions.

Are there variables to look at?

Having two rationales to look at

One explaining how it will enhance your degree

A breakdown of cost and why

If you need to fly and can’t drive, you should rationalize it.

When you talk about a local versus a faraway event would you pay more for those who are traveling longer distances?

For FPD it has to be 100 miles away or more to apply.

Master ACS

Is there no record that is showing the specifics of where the money is going?

There is for the past two years there isn’t before that.

Working together with the graduate college has helped to improve communication and organization.

Theater and Film MA

Option C becomes harder if the competitiveness is based on the quality of work because it is not possible to be objective with that. It seems to be better to have to objectify the need if it is for a conference.

This might be something to have to include in the rationale.

For example, this is the main conference in my field

Biology PhD

We only have two years on the books is the number of graduate students going up?

Over the last three years I have seen huge increases.

I can look at OrgSync data and see the applications have increased each year.

As more conferences emerge and students have more pressure to attend he believes they will increase.

I believe something simple would be good because the committee that is reviewing. The more complicated it becomes, the more difficult it becomes for those who have to choose.

Biology MA

In Option B to give the best options for the future it seems best to choose the things that are developing skills.

If it goes to Option B I don’t think I would be comfortable endorsing anything other than presenting at a conference.

Popular Culture

None of this seems sustainable. What are our options for asking for money? What if we had each department have a representative tell what their money goes to?

This is something that has been done in the past with the testimonial approach.

Last year we were one of the only departments to get an increase

I think we will have changes with the new Provost

Many times, we have been told that the money is not going up next year.

* Dr. Booth

Every department has access to funds. Some departments haven’t gotten any because they haven’t used it.

Some don’t ask for it, so they haven’t gotten it for a long time.

* + - * + Theater and Film MA

I agree it’s important to look at new ways to get money, but we need to proceed on the assumption that we won’t.

But this allows us to prepare for the worst case scenario, I wonder if there is a way to make all three options work together.

* President: In the interest of time, what questions do we have for SEC?

Chair for Multicultural/Disability Graduate Student Affairs

In the past people were funded for multiple applications the most that were given to one person was four memberships for example. Should there be some kind of cap?

* + English PhD
    - I think if you do this it will limit some of the categorical issues we are talking about.
    - If I can only get one award, then I am going to go for what is the most valuable to me.
      * + Communication Sciences and Disorders PhD

It could be written in the policy that multiple applications would be allowed but only if there are not enough applications. Then duplicate applications can be allowed.