Logo_4C.tif Graduate Student Senate

402B Bowen-Thompson Student Union

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<http://www.bgsu.edu/gss>

**Graduate Student Senate General Assembly**

**Senate Executive Committee**

**Friday January 11, 2013**

**3:00-5:00pm**

**Student Union – Room 306**

**Minutes**

President David Sleasman opened the meeting at 3:02 pm.

**Present:** David Sleasman, Jeff Larocque, Christina Wright-Fields, Ellen Collier, Sherry Early, Lingxiao Ge, Whitney Begue, Christopher Thomas, Vivienne Felix.

**Absent:** Michael Salitrynski, Christopher Weinland, Chen Shen

**Minutes**

Old Business

* Graduate Assistant IPP for Health Insurance
  + Vice President Jeff Larocque shared that this option is now fully available to graduate students. The health insurance fee will be split into 4 payments. This still isn’t payroll deductions, so please share any feedback you hear.
* Electronic Submission thru OhioLink
  + Vice President Jeff Larocque shared that the received more responses over break and they were all had negative sentiments about the process. The primary concern was the lack of a centralized help location. The Graduate College agrees with this feedback and is working on identifying a solution.
* Grievance Procedure
  + Student Affairs chair Sherry Early shared that the policy was reviewed at the Academic Subcommittee of Graduate Council and will be presented to the full Graduate Council at their next meeting.
* Implementing the Graduate Strategic Plan
  + Secretary Ellen Collier provided an update on the Program Self-Study that was presented to Graduate Council yesterday and will be distributed to programs soon. The document will be reviewed by a committee of faculty members, not administrators, and will serve as an instrument to collect data across the institution.
* International Student Services Director Position
  + International Affairs Chair Lingxiao Ge reported that the university has closed the search and has decided to not extend an offer at this time. An announcement will be distributed to the campus soon.
  + Lingxiao shared her concerns that the number of staff (2.5 FTE) would not be able to serve the international student population, especially with the goal of doubling the number of international students.
  + Lingxiao also recommended that the new leadership of ISS and SAO be invited to a future GA.
  + President David Sleasman distributed materials from Vice President of Enrollment Management Albert Colom about the recruitment strategies for international students.
  + Concerns raised amongst the SEC members about the lack of retention strategies compared to recruitment, and not distinguishing between undergraduate and graduate strategies.

New Business

* Stipends/Budget (GSS and University)
  + President David Sleasman and Secretary Ellen Collier reported that the new SSI model will see about a $5-8 million cut for the university. An additional $2-3 million in cuts will also occur if the faculty contract is approved.
  + GSS may be in the position to advocate on behalf of graduate education and encouraging transparency throughout the budget cut process.
  + Dr. Ogawa is trying to determine what best way to incentivize the increase of enrollment.
  + Discussion about the benefits of additional stipends or scholarship funds.
* Elections
  + President David Sleasman encouraged those with interest in running for a position to seek information as a good core of the current leadership will be graduating.
  + David asked that individuals make your intentions known so they might be able to shadow current officers.
  + Proposed date for elections is March 29, 2013. We will advertise in Campus Update and hopefully in the BG News.
* A Representative At Large position is open due to graduation.
* Social Events
  + Social Chair Whitney Begue was able to reserve 20 seats at Stone’s Throw after the next GA. We will be walking over directly from the meeting.
* Student Budget Committee
  + Heath Parish resigned and was co-chairing the Student Budget Committee.
  + Since the committee is gearing up for spot funding and annual allocations for the year, David and Jeff will attend the Tuesday meetings. David has also volunteered to attend the two weekend meetings in February.
* GSS Budget
  + Advisor Jodi Webb has requested the GSS budget by March.
  + It was agreed to remove the Vice President scholarship allotment as the funding has never been used.

Chair Updates

* Secretary Ellen Collier
  + Will be absent February 1, February 8, and March 15 due to conflicts, can anyone take minutes?
  + Christina will take minutes on March 15; Whitney will cover the other dates if no one else is able.
* International Affairs Chair Lingxiao Ge
  + Health Services Advisory Committee will meet later this month.
  + GSS will appoint a second graduate student to this committee.
* Student Affairs Chair Sherry Early
  + Student Affairs Advisory Board meeting announced the groundbreaking for the new Health Center will be on February 14, 2013.
  + “Developing intentional learners, engaged citizens, and social change agents” is the new vision for the Division of Student Affairs.
  + The funding model for the division was also shared.
* Public Relations Chair Christopher Thomas
  + Will be setting up a Twitter by next week and has started posting things on Facebook.
  + Also looking at an app to send out reminders about upcoming dates.
* Academic Affairs Chair Christina Wright-Fields
  + Christina has previously sent out an email requesting SEC members to fill in for meetings she is not able to attend. Most were covered, but the January 24 meeting will not have a representative.
* Vice President Jeff Larocque
  + University Tech Committee is in the process of overhauling the design of MyBGSU.
* Issues and Concerns
  + None
* Topics of discussion for the future
  + Revisiting the cost of PhD regalia
  + Timing of deadlines for graduation
* Nest Full GA – 1/18/13