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**

**Friday October 12th, 2012**

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

**McFall Gallery**

**Minutes**

Vice President Jeff Larocque called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

* Roll Call
  + 57 senators in attendance; a quorum is present.
* Approval of the Minutes
  + Senator from HMSLS motioned to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2012 and September 21, 2012 GA.
  + Senator from GuSTO seconded.
  + Motion passed
* Guests:
  + Michael Ginsburg, Associate Dean of Students & Faith Yingling, Director of the Wellness Connection
    - Informed the GA that the Drugs, Alcohol, and Sexual Offenses (DASO) Coalition has been formed in order to investigate university policies and programming.
    - Reported that the Ohio Board of Regents has approved a resolution that supports tobacco free campuses throughout the state.
    - DASO Coalition is asking GSS to draft a letter to the President representing the voice of their constituents in support of a tobacco-free campus policy.
    - Concerns from the GA include the fact that the 35 feet rule are not currently enforced and whether or not classified staff were surveyed along with students.
    - Questions posed regarding the enforcement of the policy and if smoking areas would be designated on campus. The policy will be left to individuals for enforcement and marked areas could be made if GSS makes that recommendation.
    - Faculty and staff have access to cessation programs through their insurance. The student health service, pharmacy, and Alcohol and Other Drug counselor provides those services on campus.
    - Question from Political Science: Has the Bowling Green community had been considered in this decision? The response is that they have not issued any specific surveys.
    - Question from Musical Arts: What are the cost of the available treatment programs? Mr. Ginsburg and Dr. Yingling will look into this to be sure services are easily accessible.
    - Question from Biology Graduate Student Association: Would it be possible to create an affidavit for non-smokers to sign that would reduce the cost of insurance for non-smokers?
    - Question from German: Does data from other institutions show that these types of policies change smoking behavior overall, not just on campus? Dr. Yingling responded that it is too early to tell since the policies have recently been enacted.
    - The GA will hold a formal vote on whether we support this position at the October 28 meeting.
  + Richard Sipp, Director of Student Health Center
    - Informed the GA of the following in regards to the new health center:
      * The preferred site is on the corner of Wooster Street and South College. Land will be leased to Wood Count Hospital (WCH) and the university still has control over the physical location.
      * The new center will also be on the bus route.
      * Target completion timeline is fall 2013 and there will not be any interruption in service during the transition.
      * The same services will be offered in the new facility, in addition to basic radiology, and gynecological services, and drive-through pharmacy.
      * WCH will have an obligation to discuss any pricing changes with BGSU.
    - Question from Musical Arts Senator: Will lab testing be outsourced and therefore take longer to process? Those services will most likely follow the same model as we have now, but a final decision has not yet been made.
    - Question from about parking at the new site, considering the drive-through pharmacy and outreach to the community. Mr. Sipp replied that he has the same concern and parking has been inadequate at the current location. Parking is a major consideration but site design has not yet been finalized.
    - The current health center space will be provided to the College of Health and Human Services.
  + Marlene Reynolds, Assistant Director of Business and Information Systems & Tammy Ford, Student Insurance Office Representative
    - Informed the GA that flu shots are $25 at the Student Health Center and they will bill any insurance. The BGSU student insurance plan will essentially cover the cost of the shot.
    - If you have the BGSU student insurance plan, choose to receive a flu shot off campus, and are balance billed, please meet with the insurance officers so they can help you.
    - Please let Ms. Reynolds know if you have any increase in prescription co-pay so they can investigate the reasons.
    - With the Affordable Care Act, the previous maximum of $2000 per year for prescriptions has increased to $100,000 for all services, which includes prescription and medical charges.
  + Vice President Jeff Larocque introduced Monica Moll, BGSU Campus Police Chief
    - If you have issues with police, parking, and shuttle services feel free to contact her.
    - Chief Moll will be looking for a GSS representative for public safety advisory committee.
    - Question from VP Jeff Larocque: Is training being offered to officers so they are better able address protests and demonstrations? Chief Moll replied that the police force has upgraded equipment and recently had a full day training on crowd control.
    - Question from German Senator: What is the policy on riding bikes on campus sidewalks? There is no official policy, but please give right away to pedestrians and be safe when approaching intersections.
    - Chief Moll offered training sessions on how to respond to an active shooters (ALICE training) and a session on Recognizing and Caring for Individuals in Distress. You may email her in order to schedule those trainings.
    - Concern from Musical Arts: Would it be possible for graduate teaching assistants having access to faculty parking lots since they are often on campus teaching courses late into the evening?
    - Chief Moll informed the GA that the parking permit fees and parking fines go to support the maintenance of the lots as well as ensuring that the shuttle runs consistently. This is the only form of revenue for those services.
* Old Business
* Update on Payroll Deduction for Health Insurance
  + President David Sleasman informed the GA that during his meeting with President Mazey, it seems the administration is open to the payroll deduction. However, they would need to hire a full-time employee to manage this process. This also means the elimination of two graduate assistantships.
* Update on Background Checks
  + President David Sleasman introduced Rebecca Ferguson, Director of Human Resources.
  + Ms. Ferguson informed the GA of the following facts:
    - There have been two graduate assistants hired since September 1, 2012 and they were both international students. Since they had gone through the visa process, they were not subject to the background check policy.
    - Administrators will start asking departments if their students have already been through a background check and the university will use that validation in place of this new policy.
    - The policy will soon be online for all to review and all applicants will be aware of the background checks.
  + Question from Musical Arts Senator about loop hole in the policy for US citizens who have lived abroad and now returning to the states: How would you run a background check for the years spent abroad? Ms. Ferguson replied that Interpol will run international background checks, but they may be cost prohibitive. BGSU will make case specific decisions about which cases to pursue.
  + Question from Geology Senator: From where will the funding for this process come? Ms. Ferguson replied that the cost will be sent to the college and the Dean’s office will decide where the funds will come from. However, a final decision is still being worked on within the Graduate College.
  + Question from German Senator: Will there be standardized requirements for all programs? Answer is that they will vary by program and will depend upon what tasks the graduate student will be doing.
* Removing Academic Honesty from the Charter (and potential changes)
  + President David Sleasman informed the GA that it is slightly unusual to see this policy included in a university charter. As such, it is not amendable since revisions must go through the Board of Trustees.
  + In conjunction with USG, David is working to see what changes or updates can be made.
* Update on Grievance Procedures
  + Student Affairs Chair Sherry Early informed the GA that the Issues Committee met and are looking at other institutions’ non-academic grievance policies.
* Promote Professional Development Day! - October 27, 2012
  + Registration form available on the GSS website. It’s free! There are flyers available at the front table, please pass them on to your constituents.
* New Business
  + Flu shots, Health Insurance Prescriptions
    - Student Affairs Chair Sherry Early informed the GA that student insurance does not in fact cover the cost for the flu shot.
    - An urgent care facility is offering the flu shot at a lower cost than they are on campus.
    - Since we have a new health insurance this year, please let Sherry know if anyone has experienced any concerns with the switch.
  + Committee Assignments have been made. How do you report to the GA?
    - Vice President Jeff Larocque informed the GA that notifications will be sent to senators soon, either from Jeff or the committee chairperson.
    - The Tuition, Stipend, and Fee Committee members are invited to the SEC meeting on October 18, 2012 at 3:00 pm in 306 BTSU.
    - If you serve on a committee and have information to report to the GA, send Jeff an email notifying him and he will add you to the agenda.
  + Current positions open
    - Vice President Jeff Larocque notified the GA that the following positions are still open:
      * Publicity Chair
      * Social Chair
      * Graduate Professional Development Chair
* Senate Executive Committee Reports
* Academic Affairs Representative - Christina Wright
  + No report
* Treasurer - Michael Salitrynski
  + At the next GA, Mike will present on our funding allocation and spending possibilities. Please let him know if you have any questions.
  + GAR- Heath Parish
    - Heath informed the GA of his position duties. He assists the Treasurer and is the GSS representative to the Student Budget Committee. They review spot funding and annual budgets for all student organizations.
* Secretary - Ellen Collier
  + Update on Homecoming – only 3 people participated in the parade but it was still great fun!
  + Family Weekend is this coming weekend. Please feel free to attend any of the events with your friends and family!
* Student Affairs Chair - Sherry Early
  + Report presented under New Business.
* Multicultural Affairs Chair – Chen Shen
* International Student Affairs Chair - Lingxiao Ge
  + The previous Center for International Programs website has been updated to its new name of International Student Services (ISS).
  + There will be a volunteer application form current BGSU international graduate students to be a point of contact for prospective international students interested in coming to BGSU.
  + International Student Orientation will be held in early January.
  + If you are changing your Visa status, you should inform ISS as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary fees.
  + International Students need to keep their address updated with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.
  + International Education Week will be held in November and will kick off with the International Dinner on November 4 in the BTSU Ballroom. Tickets are $15 through ISS, World Student Association, and the Union Information Desk.
* Representatives-at-Large- Nivethasree Balasubramanian
* Representative-at-Large- Christopher Weinland
  + No report
* Board of Trustee- Graduate Representative- Vivienne Felix
* Issues and Concerns
* Adjournment
  + Motion to adjourn by GuSTO Senator.
  + Seconded by HMSLS.
  + Meeting adjourned at 5:01 pm.
* Next meeting- October 26, 2012