Logo_4C.tif Graduate Student Senate

402B Bowen-Thompson Student Union

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**Graduate Student Senate General Assembly**

**Friday November 29th, 2012**

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

**McFall Gallery**

**Minutes**

Vice President Jeff Larocque called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

* Roll Call – a quorum is present; 49 senators are in attendance
* Approval of minutes from last two meetings
  + 10/16 motion to approve by STL seconded by ACS. Motion carries.
  + 11/16 motion to approve by GuSTO; second by History. Motion carries.
* Guests:
  + Provost Dr. Rodney Rodgers
    - Provost Rodgers shared information about upcoming changes and initiatives at BGSU.
    - Academic programming – working on building the infrastructure in graduate education to ensure we are properly supporting the growth of number and quality of graduate programs. The development of new programs will be key in the advancement of the university.
    - Facilities – Provost Rodgers reviewed major demolition, renovation, and new buildings.
    - Research – wants to increase external funding from $17 to $30 million per year. This aggressive goal is in order to enhance the research culture and results of faculty and graduate students on campus. Will continue to invest in tenure-track faculty and ensure appropriate support for graduate students in the key research areas.
    - Discussion about the key research areas and concerns were raised from areas that have limited opportunities for securing external funding. Reaching the $30 million mark will allow the university to dedicate internal funding to those areas that may not have as many external opportunities. Provost Rodgers identified our strengths as PhD programs, as well as a number of masters programs that could link directly with a doctoral program.
    - Provost Rodgers identified that there is a plan to ensure there will be enough faculty that is necessary for the growth to 25,000 students. There are plans to invest funds and support to tenure-track faculty.
* Old Business
* Smoke Free initiative update
  + President David Sleasman has sent forth names for the university wide committee. This committee will be charged with recommending policies.
* Health Insurance update
  + President David Sleasman shared that the administration is looking into utilizing the current tuition payment plan for health insurance as well.
  + Dr. Ogawa updated the GA that there will be a fee for 4 payments per semester for students who use this service. As soon as we hear more, information will be disseminated to the GA.
* Grievance procedure update
  + Student Affairs Chair Sherry Early shared with the GA that she are working through Graduate Council in order to create a finalized plan.
  + This process has also spurred a discussion and formalization of the job responsibilities for the RA, TA, and AA roles.
* Public Safety Advisory Committee
  + English Senator Martha Schaffer shared that there is currently $245,000 in outstanding parking fines. This comes from non-students so they have developed a new system that sends out reminder emails and recommendation to the Attorney General for collections after 45 days.
  + The other major issue is that parking lots have been “let go” for so long that there are major issues arising with resurfacing.
  + There are currently over 200 outdoor cameras, mostly in parking lots, that are monitored regularly. The committee also discussed that the blue light phones are not actually used.
  + There has been no discussion in that committee about having a shuttle stop at the new health center. There are also discussions about a new shuttle service area since they have new busses.
  + Also looking to hire 1-3 new police officers beginning in January.
* New Business
  + New funding model for state share of instruction (SSI)
    - President David Sleasman shared that there will be further discussions on this topic as information is released.
  + Doctoral Regalia
    - In addressing the concerns raised from last GA meeting, President David Sleasman met with bookstore employees in order to discuss this issue. The price is on the low-end of comparable regalia. There will also be better communication about the sale offered during the fall semester.
    - As a result of these concerns being raised, the sale has been extended until December 21. Doctoral regalia are sold for $772 and the sale is 20% off.
  + Google Doc for complaints related to submission of electronic copy of dissertation.
    - Vice President Jeff Larocque will send out a link to Graduate Coordinators and senators to a Google Doc that should be used to compile a list of issues students are facing.
  + University Committee Reports: If you have met at all this semester, please feel free to share any information at this time.
    - Mobile, Web, and Apps committee – the BGSU sports app has been approved by Apple and Android. There will also be a forthcoming revamp of the BGSU website as many pages are not used.
    - Academic Visioning Committee – please send any recommendations for active learning classroom space or technology to Ellen Collier.
    - ISS Director Committee – phone interviews have been conducted and the committee is now in the process of assessing strengths and weaknesses of each applicant. Once final candidates have been announced, Lingxiao would like for senators to attend the on-campus interviews and presentations.
  + New Publicity Chair is Christopher Thomas and new Social Chair is Whitney Begue.
* Senate Executive Committee Reports
* Academic Affairs Representative – Christina Wright
  + No report
* Treasurer – Michael Salitrynski
  + No report
* Secretary – Ellen Collier
  + No report
* Student Affairs Chair – Sherry Early
  + No report
* Multicultural Affairs Chair – Chen Shen
  + No report
* International Student Affairs Chair – Lingxiao Ge
  + No report
* Professional Development Chair – Nick Garcia
  + Keep in mind the Shanklin Awards next semester!
* Representatives-at-Large – Christopher Weinland, Nivetha Balasubramanian
  + No report
* Board of Trustees – Vivienne Felix
  + No report
* Issues and Concerns
* Announcements
  + Turn in receipts for funding for professional development at the GSS office.
  + World AIDS Day – December 1st
  + Next meeting is January 18, 2013
* Motion to adjourn by Theatre; seconded by ACS. Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm