Logo_4C.tif Graduate Student Senate

402B Bowen-Thompson Student Union

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**Graduate Student Senate General Assembly**

**Senate Executive Committee**

**Friday December 7th, 2012**

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

**Student Union – Room 306**

**Minutes**

President David Sleasman opened the meeting at 3:01 pm.

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

**Absent:** Nick Garcia, Heath Parish, Chen Shen, Nivethasree Balasubramanian

**Agenda**

* President David Sleasman thanked the SEC members for their service on various committees throughout the semester.
* Old Business
  + Racial Incidents and GSS Response
    - President Mazey and Jill Carr sent out an additional correspondence this week in response to concerns that Zoom News was not the best venue for the joint statement that was originally distributed.
  + Electronic Submission thru OhioLink
    - Vice President Jeff Larocque has created a survey asking for feedback on the thesis and dissertation submission process. The survey was distributed to GSS senators, Graduate Coordinators, and Faculty Senate with the idea that it will be forwarded to individuals going through the process now or have recently completed it.
    - Issues that have arisen include the need for software, lack of a point person to assist students, and complex nature of the technology.
    - Responses received thus far have indicated that the online submission is “the hardest part of the program”.
    - Additional issue is that submission deadlines have not changed since the switch to the online process.
  + Implementing the Graduate Strategic Plan
    - Secretary Ellen Collier and President David Sleasman reviewed progress regarding program self-study and program review.
    - Evaluation of programs will play a large role with the release of the new SSI model, which takes into consideration degree completion and course completion among other parameters.
  + Grievance Procedure
    - Academic Affairs Chair Christina Wright-Fields shared that the Academics Policy and Standards Subcommittee reviewed the procedure and made a few recommendation. Additions included the option for students to withdraw if a resolution is made during the process. The policy will now be sent to the Graduate Council leadership for review.
  + Graduate Assistant payroll deduction for health insurance
    - Vice President Jeff Larocque reviewed what has transpired over the course of the last month. As of now the option will be to utilize the tuition payment plan option for health insurance as well.
    - A final decision on this option is forthcoming.
* New Business
  + Academic Affairs Chair Christina Wright-Fields
    - Administration has been discussing a policy to award to degrees to deceased students who are near program completion.
    - Diversity & Inclusion Award applications have been distributed. Deadline is in the spring.
  + Treasurer Mike Salitrynski
    - Professional Development funds are coming along for this run and we are prepared for the January deadline.
  + Vice President Jeff Larocque
    - Attendance has been pretty high this semester and have had quorum at each meeting – yay!
    - Photochemical Sciences has been censured. Jeff has been discussing with them to move from two senators to one.
    - The senate is actually over seated right now. We have one or two extra senators than what is listed in the Constitution.
    - Still need to determine the representatives to the Stipend Committee.
    - Jeff has been pleased with the involvement of senators in their respective university committees.
  + Student Affairs Chair Sherry Early
    - This semester has been successful with billing issues at the Health Center and the flu shot.
    - Sherry attended the Student Affairs Advisory Board meeting this past week as well.
  + Secretary Ellen Collier
    - No report
  + International Affairs Chair Lingxiao Ge
    - Lingxiao has recommended to the Health Center Advisory Board to hold an open house for undergraduate and graduate students. She will continue to attend meetings next semester.
    - The search committee for the new ISS director has finished phone interviews, and would like to bring candidates to campus next week Wednesday-Friday. Will be having open forums so any student will be able to attend.
  + Social Chair Whitney Begue
    - Looking for ideas and would like to send senators a survey for their input
    - Likes the idea about heading to a pub after a general assembly meeting (possibly after the first meeting in spring)
    - Also discussed non-pub activities such as family-friendly, afternoon programs and making sure graduate students know partners are welcome.
    - It was suggested that programming could take place around awareness month events (e.g. Black History Month, Women’s History Month, etc.)
    - If Jodi Webb will pass in information if learns of events she would like to invite graduate students to (Kwanzaa dinner as an example).
  + Public Relations Chair Christopher Thomas
    - GSS should have more publicity and presence in the BG news. It was suggested that he send letters to the editor inquiring why more graduate issues and stories are not being covered. It was also discussed to have a weekly “Grad Corner” in the paper for a consistent presence.
    - Suggestion offered to have a graduate student on the BG news committee to share graduate events/programs/updates and to work collaboratively with undergraduate students.
    - Christopher is also planning on using social media more through our existing Facebook account and setting up a new Twitter account.
  + Representative at Large Christopher Weinland
    - Chris identified a need to develop a charge for the Stipends Committee as well as determine which administrators would be best to discuss issues, concerns, etc. with.
    - Need to gather contract, stipend, and fee information to identify financial expectations for graduate students and disseminate that information.
    - This committee will also be examining how graduate assistants offset university costs.