 Graduate Student Senate

402B Bowen-Thompson Student Union

Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0181

Phone: (419) 372-2426

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

**Graduate Student Senate General Assembly**

**Friday January 18th, 2012**

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

**Gallery, McFall Center**

**Agenda**

* Call to Order
* Roll Call
  + 41 senators in attendance, a quorum is present.
* Approval of the minutes
  + It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2012 meeting. Motion carries.
* Guests:
  + Chris Wammes, Senior Applications Developer – Information Technology Services.
    - Mr. Wammes introduced the new design of MyBGSU. The site will use open source technology and provide direct links to the most essential services.
    - Links will be provided to the bursar/financial aid, library, academics, career center, and employment information.
    - The plan is to launch a pilot group at the end of January and a second pilot on February 25. If you are interested in participating in the second pilot, you can email [portal@bgsu.edu](mailto:portal@bgsu.edu). They are hoping to have the new portal live for the fall 2013 semester.
* Old Business
* The new Individual Payment Plan (IPP) for Student Health Insurance
  + President David Sleasman reported on the approval of the payment plan for health insurance. Students have the option to split the cost of the health insurance over 4 payments per semester. Students should be able to register for this plan via MyBGSU.
* Student Health Center
  + President David Sleasman announced that the ground breaking will be February 14, 2013. Plans are still to have the facility open and fully functioning for the fall 2013 semester.
* Grievance Procedure
  + Student Affairs Sherry Early reported that a new proposed policy was previously submitted to the Graduate Student Issues Committee. It will now be reviewed by the Academics, Policies, and Standards Committee and then go forward to the full Graduate Council.
* OhioLink
  + Vice President Jeff Larocque reviewed the survey he sent out previously asking for feedback on the thesis/dissertation submission process.
  + Feedback was mostly negative and those results were submitted to the Graduate College.
  + By fall 2013 semester, the plan is to have a central location in the library where students can go for help in submitting their thesis or dissertation. This “one stop shop” will be able to assist with formatting and other issues. Colleen Boff and Vera Lux have been identified as the contact people in the interim.
* New Business
  + State Funding/SSI
    - President David Sleasman reviewed that a new formula has been developed in order to determine the amount of funding the university will receive from the state. It is anticipated that the university will lose anywhere from $5-8 million for the next biennium. Additionally, the approval of the faculty contract will reduce the budget by another $2-3 million.
    - These cuts have resulted in the stoppage of many searches on campus and the anticipated release of non-tenure track faculty members.
    - David also reviewed the change in graduate contracting staff model. This is simply an administrative change so it should not impact the graduate student experience.
  + Student Budget Committee/GAR
    - President David Sleasman shared that the position is currently open. Anyone interested should contact David or Jeff. They will both be filling in until the position is filled.
  + International Student Services
    - President David Sleasman shared the international student recruitment plan. Concerns were raised regarding the lack of focus on retention and the grouping of undergraduate and graduate students together in this plan.
  + Regalia
    - President David Sleasman asked that senators have a conversation with their constituents regarding the cost of the doctoral regalia. The cost is more than the price at Kent State and Harvard.
    - If the concern is shared by graduate students, David and Jeff will continue to address this issue with Provost Rogers and President Mazey. Sentiments were expressed that the cost absolutely needs to be reduced and perhaps we need to go back to the basic black doctoral robes in order to do so.
    - Vice President Jeff Larocque suggested that graduate students might be able to be involved in the process to select a new design for the robes.
    - Please share any comments or concerns with David as we move forward.
  + Shanklin Awards and Colloquium Committee
    - Vice President Jeff Larocque announced that he is seeking senators to assist in planning the Shanklin Colloquium. Please see him after the meeting if you are interested.
    - The Shanklin Awards will be held the same day, so please encourage your constituents submit materials such as research projects, papers, projects, and performances. There is a blind review process and all senators are invited to the awards reception.
  + Open SEC positions: Graduate Allocations Representative, Professional Development Chair, and Representative-at-Large
    - Vice President Jeff Larocque announced that there are multiple positions available on the SEC. Please see David or Jeff if you are interested in any of these positions.
    - The Graduate Allocations Representative position involves Tuesday night meetings and 2 weekends where you review annual funding requests from student organizations. You are compensated for the 2 weekends.
    - The Professional Development Chair would be working alongside Jeff on the Shanklin Colloquium this semester.
    - The Representative-at-Large position is elected and serves as a voting senator that also serves on the SEC. This is the only SEC position that has a vote in the GA.
    - Vice President Jeff Larocque opened the floor for nominations for the Representative-at-Large Position.
      * No nominations at this time.
      * It was moved and seconded to close nominations until the next meeting; motion carries.
  + General SEC elections for next year are coming soon. You and other graduate students are encouraged to run for a position!
    - Vice President Jeff Larocque announced that the date for elections will be March 29, 2013.
    - The elected positions are President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, 2 Representatives-at-Large, and the Academic Affairs Chair.
    - President David Sleasman strongly encouraged interested individuals to run for a position and to reach out to the current officers so there is a smooth transition.
    - The position of President is a full, 20-hour per week assistantship that comes with a tuition scholarship and stipend.
* Senate Executive Committee Reports
* Academic Affairs Representative – Christina Wright
  + No Report
* Treasurer – Michael Salitrynski
  + Applications for the next round of professional development funding are due February 8, 2013.
* Secretary – Ellen Collier
  + No Report
* Student Affairs Chair – Sherry Early
  + The Student Affairs Advisory Board meeting reviewed the division’s funding structure.
* Multicultural Affairs Chair – Chen Shen
  + No Report
* International Student Affairs Chair – Lingxiao Ge
  + The Health Service Advisory Committee meeting is January 24. Please let Lingxiao know if you have any questions or concerns about the health center, health insurance, etc.
* Social Chair – Whitney Begue
  + Tonight after the GA we will be having an event at the Stone’s Throw directly after the meeting.
  + We are also getting tickets to a men’s and women’s basketball games later this semester.
* Publicity Chair – Christopher Thomas
  + Recently started a Twitter account: @BGSUGSS.
  + Please also follow BGSU GSS on Facebook!
* Representative-at-Large – Christopher Weinland
  + No Report
* Issues and Concerns
  + None
* Announcements
  + Shanklin Submissions are due February 20 for the research awards.
  + Next week the College of Musical Arts will be putting on Princess Ida at 8:00 pm in the Wolfe Center. Dates are January 25 & 26.
* Motion to adjourn; motion carries.
  + Meeting adjourned at 4:37 pm.
* Next Meeting is February 1, 2013