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, January 29, 2016**

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

**Gallery- McFall**

**Handouts:** GA Minutes 12/4/15; Senator Attendance Resolution, FPD Credit Hour Requirement Resolution, HB 48 Letter; Shanklin Award for Research Excellence Guidelines; Shanklin Colloquium Guidelines

**Censured:** Physics & Astronomy, African People’s Association, Chinese Scholars Association, Health Care Administration Association

**Absences:** Clean Slate!

**Agenda**

* Call to Order – Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Vice President Julia Largent called the meeting to order, and welcomed everyone to the first General Assembly (GA) of the 2016 spring semester. She also asked anyone with feedback on her new PowerPoint agenda to see her after the meeting.
* Roll Call – GSS Secretary Jeffrey Moore took the roll, and asked the senators to remind anyone they see coming in late to check with him before they leave or else they will be counted as absent.
* Approval of Minutes – Student Development Association made a motion that the minutes from the December 4, 2015, GA be approved, which was seconded by Sociology. The “ayes” carried and the minutes were approved.
* Guest Speaker: **Vicky Kulicke**, Office of Equity and Diversity, Title IX Deputy Coordinator – Ms. Kulicke spoke about Title IX, what it covers, and how this applies to the BGSU graduate community. Title IX states that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any education program receiving federal financial assistance. She addressed the misconception that Title IX only dealt with issues related to athletics, and spoke about the ways Title IX guides the handling of reported cases of student sexual violence. Since graduate students often hold positions of authority or leadership on campus, or are perceived to be in positions of authority or leadership owing to their assistantship duties, Ms. Kulicke said it was important for graduate students to know how to respond to potential Title IX offenses. If you become aware of a potential Title IX violation, such as a student in a class you are teaching approaching you to discuss a possible incident of sexual violence, this information must be passed on to the appropriate university officials for investigation and adjudication, as dictated by federal law. Ms. Kulicke also discussed whether or not a Title IX report automatically means a criminal investigation will take place, and how local and campus law enforcement agencies are involved in Title IX investigations. Only individuals in specific roles, such as mental health counselors, attorneys, or members of the clergy are exempt from reporting possible violations, owing to confidentiality laws. Potential violations must be reported as quickly as possible so the proper investigation can be taken, and so that both the victim and the alleged perpetrator can be treated according to their respective rights under Title IX. If a student comes to you with information about a possible Title IX violation, or reports an incident of sexual violence to you, report the incident to the appropriate department chair/director/dean, or report the information to the Office of the Dean of Students. It is also important to make students aware of counseling services available to them, such as the SAAFE center and the campus counseling center. The PowerPoint presentation used by Ms. Kulicke is available on OrgSync.
  + HEADS and Sociology asked what the reporting procedure is if you learn of a possible violation through a second hand, “friend-of-a-friend” source. Ms. Kulicke said it was important in these cases to try to report whatever information you could, but that you could not push the second hand source for information they were unwilling to give. In those cases, you could again make the student aware of the counseling services available and strongly encourage victims of sexual violence to come forward with more details.
  + Student Development Association asked what happens if they learn about a possible Title IX violation, but the alleged victim does not want to press charges or participate in an investigation. Ms. Kulicke said in her experience cases like this were not common, but the university would not force someone to do anything with which they were not comfortable. Nonetheless, federal law requires the university to conduct an investigation of some kind, to whatever extent they are able. She suggested in those instances to contact the Office of the Dean of Students for guidance.
  + HEADS asked for clarification regarding whether or not the university had to report these violations to local law enforcement, and with whom, if anyone, information about investigations or involved parties is shared. Ms. Kulicke said any reported violation involving a minor must be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency, which in this case would be the Bowling Green Division of Police. She also said the BGSU Campus Police and Bowling Green Division of Police have a good working relationship with each other and her office, and all the involved agencies and offices work on a strict need-to-know basis regarding these cases.
  + Owing to time constraints, Julia ended questions at this point, and asked anyone with additional concerns to email her, and she would forward those to Ms. Kulicke.
* Guest Speaker: **Dr. Pat Pauken**, Secretary, BGSU Board of Trustees – Dr. Pauken thanked GSS for allowing him to speak, and for the role they play in helping to select the Graduate Student Representative for the BGSU Board of Trustees. As a public institution, Ohio state law dictates that two student representatives serve on the BGSU Board of Trustees, one each representing undergraduate and graduate students, for a two-year term of service. State law further dictates that the governing body of each student constituency is responsible for putting forward qualified nominees to serve in these positions, meaning that GSS is responsible for selecting graduate student nominees. The term runs from mid-May, 2016, to mid-May, 2018. Anyone interested in applying for this position must be a full time graduate student in good standing with the university, and must be able to serve for the full two year term. Interested candidates must also be an Ohio resident, and must either be registered to vote in Ohio or be eligible to register to vote in Ohio. Current undergraduates who will begin full time graduate studies at BGSU this fall are also eligible to apply, provided they can prove their status as incoming graduate students. Representatives have several obligations throughout the year, including five meetings of the Board (two each in fall and spring, and one in summer), and additional functions or retreats. A nominations committee formed by GSS will formally nominate five candidates, who are then approved by BGSU President, Dr. Mary Ellen Mazey. From there, the candidates’ information is forwarded to Governor John Kasich, whose staff may or may not conduct additional interviews before the Governor officially appoints a representative. Student representatives bring an important voice to the Board, and their perspectives are highly valued in the decisions the Board makes about the future of the university. This is a great opportunity, particularly for those interested in higher education administration, but also anyone looking to become a faculty member someday, as this provides valuable insights into the inner workings of the university.
  + GSS Social Chair Keji Kujjo asked for more information about the voting requirements, and if this would exclude international and out-of-state students. Dr. Pauken said he believed that was correct, but he would check the appropriate state laws and notify GSS if he was mistaken.
* Guest Speaker: **Lakeshia Dowlen,** Interim Assistant Dean of Students – Ms. Dowlen works in the Office of Off-Campus Student Services, which has resources for off-campus and commuter students, both those living in Bowling Green and the surrounding areas, and those who commute from farther away. Her office is always looking to enhance the experiences of off-campus students, and she relies heavily on online surveys to gather information about the needs of this student population. Ms. Dowlen is looking to create a housing satisfaction survey, similar to one use by the Office of Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services at Ohio State University, which would gather information about various landlords and rental property management companies that operate in Bowling Green. This information would be made available to both undergraduate and graduate students looking for feedback about housing conditions they may not find in other online reviews, and as a tool for current residents to give honest feedback about their housing preferences and needs. Ms. Dowling is asking GSS to consider sponsoring this survey, and to help contribute feedback to make future versions of the survey better; she is placing a similar request with the Undergraduate Student Government (USG).
  + GSS President Maryam Kamran said something she would find useful is information on how long it takes property managers to make repairs, and information about the cleanliness of properties, as this was information she could not find when she was looking for housing options online.
  + GradsAct also said this was a good idea, but asked how the Office could be sure students, and not property managers, were responding to the survey. Ms. Dowlen said the survey would require logging-in with a university-issued user name and password via a secure site.
  + World Student Association said they thought this information would be especially helpful for international students who want an honest assessment of properties, but would not be able to travel or stay in Bowling Green prior to beginning their studies. Criminal Justice said they would also recommend this to out-of-state students for similar reasons.
  + GuSTO expressed a desire to make sure the survey addresses noise levels of properties, as the senator felt he was misled in regards to the noise level and proximity to undergraduate housing with his current living situation.
  + Higher Education Administration asked if this would be a one-time survey, or if this is something that would be re-administered on a regular basis. Ms. Dowlen said her current goal is to continue the survey at least every spring to get updated information. She also said she would work to get this information to the student community as soon as possible once the survey window closes.
  + Student Development Association said he thought this could also provide local property managers an added incentive to improve the quality of their services in order to attract more renters, and wanted to make sure Falcon’s Landing was included in the survey.
  + World Student Association said it would be good to include a basic timetable of when to contact property managers, as many students arrive late on campus and find their housing options are limited.
  + Julia and Maryam said they were recently invited to attend a meeting of the Off-Campus Student Advisory Board, and will share whatever information is brought up regarding this survey.
  + Owing to time constraints, Julia ended questions at this point, and asked anyone with additional concerns to email her, and she would forward those to Ms. Dowlen.
* Officers, Chairs, and Committee Reports
  + Vice President, Julia Largent
    - * Quick Senator Training/Refresher – Julia refreshed everyone on the duties and responsibilities of senators, and the basics of the simplified system of Robert’s Rules of Order used by GSS. This information can be found on OrgSync. Rights and responsibilities of senators include talking and voting during GA, carrying information back to constituents, writing and proposing legislation/resolutions/letters/etc., and bringing important issues before GA. Senators can also attend meetings of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC), but please let Jeffrey know if you plan to attend so he can ensure there is enough space. Please also be sure to secure a proxy for your department/program/organization (DPO) if you are not able to attend GA.
        + Philosophy asked to clarify whether or not recognized organizations have a vote in GA, and asked if it was possible for a single department to have multiple DPOs. Julia said recognized organizations do get a vote, and while it was technically possible for a DPO to crowd the chamber GSS bylaws limit the total number of seated senators to 60.
      * Board of Trustees Selection Committee – As mentioned by Dr. Pauken, the deadline to apply to be considered for the Board of Trustees Graduate Representative is February 5. Julia is forming a committee to nominate graduate students to serve on the Board of Trustees. Please see Julia if you are interested in serving on this committee.
        + The committee needs one Representative from SEC, a Graduate Organization (this person does not have to be a current or former Senator), and three current GSS Senators. Jeffrey has agreed to serve on the committee as the SEC representative. World Student Association, Public Administration, and HEADS volunteered to serve as Senators. Julia said she would work on soliciting a representative from a Graduate Organization. Committee meeting dates will be announced shortly.
      * Funding for Professional Development: The deadline to apply for Funding for Professional Development (FPD) for the 2016 spring semester is February 12. The application is online, and is the same “new” application that was rolled out last semester. Information about FPD for summer 2016 will be available late March/early April.
        + GSS Treasurer Scott Chappuis said the funding cap for FPD has recently been raised to $300.
        + Sociology asked if you can apply for funding after you have already spent money on a qualified event. Julia said yes, as long as the purchase was made this semester and met all other qualifications for approval.
      * Shanklin Graduate Research Colloquium
        + The Shanklin Graduate Research Colloquium will take place April 12, 2016.The deadline for the Research Excellence Award is February 12; this is a full paper submission, and you submit to one of three categories for consideration. Winners from each category receive a cash prize. The deadline for Colloquium and GSS Awards is March 4; this is an abstract-style conference presentation. Information regarding GSS awards is still being finalized, and will be forthcoming. Please see Julia with any questions about this event.
* If you applied for the Regalia Award this semester, please see Julia after today’s meeting.
  + - * It’s On Us Committee
        + If you want to help plan events for the It’s On Us National Week of Action (April 3-9), please let Julia know as soon as possible. Meetings are Wednesday at 9:30.
  + President
    - Maryam Kamran
      * University of Toledo Graduate Symposium – UT is hosting the Midwest Graduate Research Symposium on Saturday, April 9. This event is open to graduate students in all disciplines, and the deadline for application is March 19 at midnight (the application can be found online by Googling Midwest Graduate Research Symposium). Registration for the event is free, and if enough people are interested in attending Maryam can work on coordinating transportation to and from the event.
      * The second annual Interfaith Breakfast will take place March 22, from 7:30-9:30, at the Wood County Fairgrounds. This year’s theme is Peace through Hospitality. This event is free to attend, but RSVPs are required. Please see Maryam if you are interested in attending the event.
      * Faculty Senate Update – Enrollment breakdowns for spring 2016, and projections for fall 2016, are looking good. Faculty Senate (FS) formed an ad hoc committee to look into House Bill 48, but as of yet have not come to a consensus. Maryam believes the ad hoc committee has a fair balance of people for and against the bill, and is interested to see what comes of their discussions. FS has raised concerns about athlete injuries and their long-term consequences for students as a result. Two committees – the Intercollegiate Athletic Advisory Committee and the President’s Athletic Advisory Council – are looking into ways to help protect and promote the health and well-being of BGSU student athletes. House Bill 64, which would ask universities to reevaluate the necessity of offering low-enrolling courses, is still being actively discussed, as are the possible implications to various programs on campus. Although no mass training is available, active shooter response training is available to campus constituencies by request. SEC can request the BGSU Police Chief to hold a training session, but the Chief is not considering rolling out this training for the entire campus as they feel it would lead to undue panic.
      * Graduate Student Issues - Graduate Council Update – There is still concern about graduate students working more than 20 hours per week, and there has been some pushback to the idea of tracking student work hours as these would be difficult to log for research assistants. The Provost’s office is forming a committee to examine this issue, but the committee has not yet convened. Maryam has also met with Dr. Mazey to discuss this issue. There is discussion about whether health care benefits should be included in graduate associate financial aid packages, or if BGSU should subsidize health care costs. Some universities do one or the other, so Maryam and Julia are trying to collect information on how other schools handle this issue. Please let either of them know if you previously attended a school who handles this differently than BGSU, and how that school handled this issue. Finally, the university is looking to hire a third-party ombudsperson to oversee issues related to student mentorship guidelines, and reported cases of abuse. This would be a full time position, and undergraduate and graduate student populations would each have their own ombudsperson. More information will be forthcoming as it becomes available.
* Old Business
  + HB 48 Letter (Concealed Carry) – Per the results of the online survey that was conducted at the end of last semester, GSS has drafted a letter taking a stand against House Bill 45. If passed into law, this bill would allow individuals with a concealed carry permit to bring firearms on college campuses, among other locations, that had previously been prohibited by state law. A final version of the letter stating GSS’ opposition to the proposed legislation can be found on OrgSync. Julia explained that today, we are looking to either pass the letter or not, and have recommended amendments.
  + HEADS made friendly amendments to the letter to reflect the fact that the bill is now a Senate Bill, having passed the State House of Representatives in December, 2015. The Senator suggested calling the bill “Senate Bill 48, as Amended,” as the legislature has added some amendments to the bill as well. The Senator also stated their belief that the bill would ultimately pass, given the political makeup of the state legislature, and wondered if GA would not be better served spending its time thinking of what to do when this bill becomes law. Julia said it would be more appropriate for GA to handle that question if and when the bill is signed into law.
  + Theatre and Film said he expected the discussion on this letter to take days, not weeks, and that GSS should be prepared to send this letter soon. The Senator then made a motion to vote on the letter, which was seconded by History.
  + Julia announced this would be a card vote. By a margin of 43 votes in favor, 2 votes opposed, and 0 votes abstaining, the letter was approved and will be sent to the state legislature. Julia thanked everyone for the spirited discussion on the issue, and particularly thanked those senators who assisted in drafting the letter.
* New Business
  + Elections – Elections for GSS Officers for the 2016-2017 academic year will take place during GA on March 18, 2016. Nominations will be open for all elected positions starting at the next GA, February 5. With the exception of President and Vice President, which require a candidate to have previous experience with GSS (one year and one semester, respectively) any graduate student in good standing at BGSU can be nominated for a position. Interested parties do not have to be present in GA to be nominated, but candidates must be present in GA at the time of the election to be voted upon for the position to which they have been nominated. These elections are for ELECTED positions; appointed positions are decided by the President-Elect at a later time. The position of President is considered a full-time graduate assistantship and comes with a stipend; the positions of Vice President, Academic Affairs Representative and Student Affairs Representative also receive small stipends. All other positions are unpaid.
    - President Information – Maryam Kamran – The GSS President works closely with the Vice President on many issues and committees. The President regularly meets with members of the university administration, such as the University President, Provost, Dean of Students, and Dean of the Graduate College. One of the chief responsibilities of this position is to attend university committee meetings, many of which have non-negotiable times, including Faculty Senate, Grad Council, Grad Student Issues Sub-Committee, and Board of Trustees meetings. Maryam said this has been a great experience for her, and has brought her into contact with many people across the university community she may not have otherwise had a chance to meet, and thinks anyone interested in a career in academia would benefit from serving in this position. The President is also the president officer at SEC meetings.
    - Vice President Information – Julia Largent – Like the President, the Vice President of GSS also attends many meetings and meets with university administrators on a regular basis. The Vice President frequently works with the Office of Equity and Diversity, the Dean of Students, and the Vice President of Student Affairs. Unlike the position of President, the Vice President’s position is not considered a graduate assistantship, so you can serve in this role and keep your departmental assistantship. The Vice President is also the presiding officer at GA.
    - Secretary Information – Jeffrey explained that the primary responsibility of the Secretary is to record the proceedings of the GA and Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meetings. He also takes roll call at GA, and serves on university committees as needed. Jeffrey considers his role to be a more passive one, as he spends most of the time during meetings taking notes, which he organizes into meeting minutes. He said that he considers being accurate, thorough, and honest in his reporting to be the most important elements of his position.
    - Treasurer Information – Scott Chappuis – The Treasurers position can seem daunting, but Scott says anyone with a mathematics/numbers background, or anyone who has served as or with a DPO treasurer before has all the skills needed to fulfill this position (although he also says math/accounting does not have to be your strong suit). The Treasurer works closely with GSS Office Secretary Kathy Newman, the Professional Development Chair, the President and the Vice President to determine budgets, allocate FPD, and review other funding applications. Scott said this position also allows him to work with and meet a lot of people across campus, which has been an unexpected bonus of the position.
    - Social Chair Information – Keji Kujjo – According to Keji, the two most important parts of this position, which is appointed rather than elected, are to plan at least three graduate student social events per semester, and to plan the Shanklin Colloquium banquet.
    - International Affairs Chair Information – Shahad Al-Doori – Interested parties must be an international student, and must meet monthly with International Student Services (ISS), and twice a semester with the Health Center Committee. The International Affairs Chair plans events for International Education Week each November, and other campus events in the spring, which can be whatever the Chair wants. As a side note, Shahad also mentioned that the annual Multicultural Conference would be held March 17-18 this year, and that she is looking for people with international education experience (including domestic students who have studied abroad) to form a roundtable session at this event.
    - Environmental Affairs Chair Information – Caitlin Buhr – The primary role of the Environmental Affairs Chair, which is also an appointed position, is to be the graduate student representative for the Green Initiatives Fund, which gives funding to support sustainability initiatives on campus such as green roof projects, pollinator habitats, and bike rack projects. The Chair also works to raise awareness of Earth Month events in April.
  + Senator Attendance Resolution (Chris Faulkner) – The Senator representing Student Development Association, Chris Faulkner, wrote a resolution asking graduate coordinators, instructors, and the Graduate College, not to schedule graduate classes at the same time as GA. This has been an issue for some DPOs in the past, particularly MBA students, who find their DPO censured nearly every fall as a result of a required class conflict. Chris feels this robs those students of the opportunity to fully engage in GSS or have their voices heard, and hopes this resolution will make an impact on scheduling.
    - English moves to discuss the resolution, which was seconded by Sociology.
    - English then raises a concern about the use of gendered language in the resolution, and makes a friendly amendment to change the language to be more gender neutral.
    - Sociology moves to vote on the resolution, which is seconded by College Student Personnel. The “ayes” carried and the resolution as amended was passes.
  + FPD Minimum Credit Hours Resolution (Julia) – GSS bylaws previously stated that students had to be enrolled in a minimum of six credit hours to be eligible to receive FPD. This was not enforced in the past, but it came to light after part time students raised concerns about being ineligible for FPD. Last year, a resolution was proposed to lower this requirement to four credit hours to make FPD open for part time students.
  + Owing to time constraints, Theatre and Film moved to table discussion on this topic until the next GA. Sociology seconded the motion, and the discussion was tabled.
* Issues and Concerns – Student Development Association raised a concern about increasing class sizes, and the strain that puts on students and instructors. The Senator wants to bring forward a resolution seeking to limit class sizes, and wanted to know whether there was support for such a resolution in GSS. Owing to time constraints, Julia asked the Senator to raise this issue again at a later GA.
* Announcements
  + **Next General Assembly:** February 12, 3-5 McFall Gallery; Guests: **Lisa Hanasono**, BG4Unity; **Yannick Kluch**, We Are One Team (WA1T)
  + **Black Swamp Pub Happy Hour:** Join us today after GA for drinks and/or dinner at Black Swamp Pub in the Union.
  + **BGSU Libraries has a page for graduate students:** <http://www.bgsu.edu/library/LTL/students/GraduateStudents.html>
  + **If your department or organization has an event**, email gradcol@bgsu.edu by 4 pm on the Thursday before the week of your event to have it included in the weekly Academic Agenda.
* Adjournment –Criminal Justice moved to adjourn; GuSTO seconded the motion. The “ayes” carried and the meeting was adjourned. Julia thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a good weekend.