Logo_4C.tif Graduate Student Senate

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**Graduate Student Senate General Assembly**

**Friday, February 12, 2016**

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

**Gallery- McFall**

**Handouts:** GA Minutes 1/29/16; FPD Credit Hour Requirement Resolution, Shanklin Award for Research Excellence Guidelines; Shanklin Colloquium Guidelines; Election Guidelines

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

**Absences:** Accounting (1); Analytics (1); MBA/MOD (1); Applied Geospatial Science (1); German (1)

**Agenda**

* Call to Order – Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Vice President Julia Largent called the meeting to order, and welcomed everyone to General Assembly (GA).
* 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, otherwise they will be counted as absent.
* Approval of Minutes – Theatre and Film 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 Speakers: **Yannick Kluch**, We Are One Team (WA1T) – Yannick Kluch is the founding president of WA1T, an initiative to promote social justice and social change through sports and athletic activism. Frustrated with published research on the social benefits of athletic activism, which tends to focus on the theoretical, Mr. Kluch founded the organization in order to affect practical change in campus culture. WA1T tries to raise awareness about a number of different social justice issues, including but not limited to gender equality, issues within the LBGTQI community, and opening productive dialogues about social change on campus. Sports are used as a conduit for change due to their universal appeal, and because they can be used to promote friendships between and among stereotyped groups. The group has had success raising awareness through the use of photo campaigns that share messages of inclusion, speaker and panel events, and by sponsoring “sporting days” for people to try different kinds of sports on campus. The list of supporting partners and collaborating organizations for WA1T continues to grow from its launch in September, 2015, and Mr. Kluch is looking to raise additional awareness among the graduate student population on campus. Mr. Kluch wants to see WA1T continue to grow, and not be an organization that fizzles out after one year, or after the current organization leadership leaves campus. He is also speaking with partners and like-minded organizations on other campuses to expand WA1T nationwide. The WA1T core leadership team meets every week on Tuesday at 8:00 to discuss relevant issues and ways to spread the word. They can also be found on Facebook at weareoneteambg.
  + Academic Affairs Representative Dhiman Chattopadhyay asked for more information about recruitment on other campuses. Specifically, he asked if Mr. Kluch was actively recruiting on other campuses, or if he was waiting for current students to take ideas about WA1T with them when they leave BGSU. Mr. Kluch said he has been doing presentations at regional and national conferences to try to spread the word, and has been making connections with people who visit campus for sports-related events. That said, his primary focus has been on establishing an organizational infrastructure here before attempting to roll out the organization nationwide.
  + Representative-at-Large Tyler Conlon asked if Mr. Kluch would be willing to come and speak to classes or other student groups to help raise awareness about WA1T. Mr. Kluch said he would be happy to make those types of presentations, or if schedules will not permit a face-to-face presentation he can send awareness materials to any interested parties.
  + Graduate Women’s Caucus said she had previous experience and connections with a similar organization called Generations for Peace in Amman, Jordan, and wondered if WA1T had considered collaborations with groups in other countries. Mr. Kluch said he would like the chance to be able to collaborate with international groups in the future, but he wants to ensure WA1T has a firm infrastructure at BGSU before finalizing plans for collaboration.
* **Dr. Lisa Hanasono**, BG4Unity – Dr. Hanasono thanked GSS for allowing her to come speak today, and said the timing of her presentation was serendipitous as her topics of discussion overlap in certain ways with Mr. Kluch’s presentation. BG4Unity is a student-run organization that grew out of an undergraduate class taught on persuasion in the media. Dr. Hanasono explained that some of her research interests include discrimination and coping, and how social media influences attitudes about different demographics. BG4Unity focuses on using social media to confront and shatter stereotypes across a wide spectrum of demographics. Dr. Hanasono discussed the ways in which media portrayals of different groups lead to the assumption of stereotypes, and asked GA to throw out some common stereotypes about graduate students as an example. Some of the answers given were that graduate students are bitter, isolated, and poor. Dr. Hanasono discussed the ways social activism groups like the Occupy Movement, Black Lives Matter, and Not Your Asian Sidekick use social media to spread awareness, raise funds, and initiate political activism. Cyberbullying, online hate speech, and racist posts on social media have been a persistent problem for as long as there has been social media, although the awareness of and these problems has risen in recent years. BG4Unity was launched last year to take a stand against hate, encourage responsible social media usage, and offer messages of hope and support to everyone in the campus community and the wider City of Bowling Green community. Last spring BG4Unity took pictures at the Challenging Stereotypes panel with people holding signs with encouraging messages, with the goal to show people care about their community. Currently, BG4Unity is using social media as a platform to challenge stereotypes, with a different social identity and its corresponding stereotypes being addressed each week. Dr. Hanasono thinks BG4Unity could be a great opportunity for graduate students to get involved with spreading encouragement and hope across campus, and she hopes GSS can sponsor and support BG4Unity moving forward.
  + Sociology asked what kind of support the graduate student community could provide, above or beyond what is provided by the undergraduate student community. Dr. Hanasono said that because BG4Unity is still a young organization, having only launched last spring, she is open to any level of action or involvement, or suggestions for how to grow the organization, and asked anyone with ideas to contact her.
  + Graduate Women’s Caucus suggested setting up more panels, particularly with students who have been affected by stereotypes. She also suggested having small group discussions and video projects to help raise awareness, which could possibly be co-sponsored by GSS.
  + GradsACT suggested addressing major-specific stereotypes would be beneficial to many students, since BG4Unity is primarily run by undergraduates.
* Officers, Chairs, and Committee Reports – Senate Executive Committee (SEC) officers who were not able to speak about their positions at the previous meeting were asked to say a few words about their respective elected or appointed positions. If they could not be present at the meeting, they were asked to send a brief description of their position to Julia.
  + Disability Affairs Chair
    - Jackie Luedtke – Jackie was not able to attend the meeting, so Julia spoke on her behalf. The Disability Affairs Chair is an appointed position who meets with the Office of Disability Services several times a year to help raise awareness of disability issues on campus, and chairs the Diversity Affairs Committee.
  + Student Affairs Representative
    - Krystal Allen – Krystal was not able to attend the meeting, so Julia spoke on her behalf. The Student Affairs Representative is an elected position, and comes with a small stipend. The Representative is tasked with representing the interests of the entire graduate student community. The Representative co-chairs the Graduate Student Issues Subcommittee, and sits on the Grad Council and the Student Affairs Advisory Board. This Representative regularly meets with the President and Vice President of GSS, and the BGSU Vice President of Student Affairs. Currently, Krystal is working with the Student Affairs Advisory Board to review and update the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct for the 2016-20107 academic year. She is asking for feedback on what should be included in the handbook. Interested parties can email her until February 21 at [knallen@bgsu.edu](mailto:knallen@bgsu.edu) (proposed changes will be released by the Advisory Board in the near future).
  + Graduate Allocations Representative
    - Michael Mastalski – Michael was not able to attend the meeting, so Julia spoke in his place. The Graduate Allocations Representative (GAR) is an appointed position, and is the co-chair along with his undergraduate equivalent of the Student Budget Committee. This committee oversees Funding for Professional Development (FPD), spot funding, Coke funding, and other funding sources available to students on campus. The GAR also meets once a semester with the FPD Committee and the GSS Treasurer to discuss a budget for the next semester.
  + Multicultural Affairs Chair
    - Derron Borders – The Multicultural Affairs Chair regularly meets with the Not In Our Town Committee, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Center for Leadership, and the Associate Dean of the Graduate College to discuss multicultural initiatives on campus. The Office of Multicultural Affairs also offers a six-week certificate on inclusive leadership program starting February 24, and asked anyone interested in more information to see him after GA.
  + Professional Development Chair
    - Jess Shapiro – The Professional Development Chair works with the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and GAR of GSS to determine a budget for FPD, and to make decisions on FPD awards. The Chair also works with the Social Chair to plan the Shanklin Colloquium Banquet. This is an appointed position.
  + Representatives-at-Large
    - Mallory Minteer and Tyler Conlon are the two Representatives-at-Large Mallory agreed to speak on behalf of the position, as she has served in this capacity for a longer period of time. The Representatives essentially serve as additional senators, representing the entire graduate student body. As such, they attend GA and are required to sit on a university committee. The Representatives also attend SEC meetings.
  + Academic Affairs Representative
    - Dhiman Chattopadhyay – The Academic Affairs Representative is an elected position, and the position comes with a small stipend. The Representative sits on the Committee for Academic Affairs and the Graduate Policy and Standards Committee. As a result, the Representative plays an active role in any proposed changes to policies and standards affecting graduate students, and regularly meets with the Provost and the Associate Dean of the Graduate College. Dhiman said his position is not always easy, and is often about learning when to listen as much as when to speak, but it is nonetheless a rewarding experience.
  + Vice President
    - Julia Largent
      * Funding for Professional Development (FPD): The deadline to apply for FPD is tonight, February 12, at midnight. Interested student can apply for anything that occurs this semester. A summer application will be forthcoming in March.
      * Shanklin Colloquium Dates – Please help spread the word.
        + The Shanklin Graduate Colloquium is scheduled for April 12, 2016.
        + The deadline for the Research Excellence Award (full paper submission) is February 12 at midnight.
        + The deadline for the Colloquium and GSS Awards is March 4 at midnight.
        + All applications can be found on OrgSync. Links can also be found on the GSS and Graduate College Facebook pages.
      * It’s On Us Committee
        + If you want to help plan events for the national It’s On Us National Week of Action (April 3-9), please let me know as soon as possible. Committee meetings are Tuesday morning at 9:30.
      * Regalia Award Winners – Due to rollover in the GSS budget, more Regalia Awards were able to be given this semester than in semesters past. There were two doctoral-level awards (Pauline Baird, English; Jeremy Doughty, Higher Education Administration) and seven masters-level awards (Jennifer Cresswell, School of Music; Genna Fusco, Human Movement, Sports and Leisure Studies; Timothy Ludington, Biology; Lydia Munnell, English; Daniel Rodriquez-Limon, School of Music, Marissa Tashenberg, Human Movement, Sports, and Leisure Studies; Timur Valiulin, Architecture and Environmental Design) were given out this semester. Applications for summer Regalia Awards will be available late May/early June.
  + President
    - Maryam Kamran
      * Graduate Student Issues Committee updates – The two issues discussed at the Graduate Student Issues Committee relevant to GA: issues with mentorship/advising and a graduate ombudsperson. There have been a number of reports of graduate students being misadvised or taken advantage of by people in a supervisory position within their departments. The Committee has been looking to benchmark institutions to determine what best practices in these situations are. One thing the faculty has requested is an online guide for how to properly conduct themselves as advisors/mentors, which the Committee is hoping to publish soon through the Graduate College. The other issue of concern was the hiring of an ombudsperson to help resolve instances of academic conflict as they arise. The Graduate College, the Provost, and the President all think this is a good idea, but it needs to be determined if this would be an outside person brought to BGSU, if this would be a part- or full-time position, or if this would be someone serving in a volunteer capacity. In any case, Graduate College Dean Michael Ogawa wants to have this person in place within the next few months.
        + Student Development Association expressed hesitancy with the idea of hiring a faculty member for the ombudsperson, as they may have inherent bias to protect other faculty or staff to the detriment of graduate students. Maryam said members of the Committee expressed the same concern. They also expressed concern about linking the ombudsperson position to the Counseling Center on campus, as they would rather the person picked to fill this position is more familiar with graduate programs than would be expected of the Counseling Center.
* Old Business
  + FPD Minimum Credit Hours Resolution (Julia) – This issue was briefly discussed at the previous GA, but was tabled due to time restraints. Last semester, it was brought to the attention of GSS that there was a minimum credit hour requirement in GSS bylaws regarding who was eligible to receive FPD. The bylaws stated a graduate student had to be enrolled in a minimum of six credit hours to be considered, but this would exclude part time students from consideration. To the best of Julia’s knowledge, this restriction was never enforced, but the Resolution would officially lower the credit hour threshold from six to four. There were no changes or amendments to the resolution. Representative-at-Large Tyler Conlon moved to vote on the resolution, which was seconded by Biology Graduate Student Association. The “ayes” carried and the resolution was approved.
* New Business
  + SEC Nominations – Maryam, as the highest ranking GSS SEC Officer not running for reelection, opened the floor for SEC Officer Nominations. Vaughn Thornton, the senator from World Student Association, nominated himself for the position of Academic Affairs Representative; his nomination was seconded by Media and Communications. Suman Paneru, the senator from College of Technology, nominated himself for Treasurer; his nomination was seconded by Teaching and Learning. Tyler Conlon nominated himself to serve as Representative-at-Large; his nomination was seconded by Representative-at-Large Mallory Minteer. There were no other nominations. Maryam reminded all nominees to fill out the application form on OrgSync before elections were held on March 18. Maryam closed the floor for nominations until the next GA.
* Issues and Concerns – No issues or concerns were raised by GA.
* Announcements
* **Next General Assembly:** February 12, 3-5 McFall Gallery; Guests: **Julie Wagner**, Dance Marathon; **Monica Moll**, Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police
* **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 – Representative-at-Large Tyler Conlon moved to adjourn the meeting; GuSTO seconded the motion. The “ayes” carried and the meeting was adjourned. Julia thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a good weekend.