Logo_4C.tif Graduate Student Senate

402B Bowen-Thompson Student Union

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**Graduate Student Senate General Assembly Minutes**

**Friday, March 15, 2013**

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

**Gallery, McFall Center**

**Agenda**

* Call to Order
* Roll Call: Jeff Larocque took roll, and the minutes for March 1st were approved. He asked for questions about absences, and he announced changes in the meeting dates, which are as follows: Changes in Meeting Dates: 4/5 and 4/19 changes to 4/12 and 4/26
* Dr. Booth informed the GA that OhioLink is back up and students can now upload their work. She also explained that there may be confusion for students who claim that their assistantship funds are considered scholarship on their federal tax forms. Dr. Booth said an official explanation of what to do with this tax issue will be released soon.
* Guest
  + Marcia Salazar-Valentine-Director International Student Services: Marcia Salazar explained that International Student Services is now a separate office, which she heads, from the Education Abroad and International Partnerships Office. Jennifer Chambers head of Education Abroad and International Partnerships and Marcia Salazar explained their roles and how one deals with studying abroad (EAIP) and the other deals with foreign student needs (ISS). Jennifer Chambers explained that grad students may see her for help studying abroad and acquiring Fulbright scholarships. Websites for both departments will be updated soon (eventually with an online checklist for international applications) and they claimed that there would be greater transparency about international student fees (which was explained to be the lowest of most any university in the US).
  + Deb Busdeker from Wood County Hospital: Examples of the beige brick that will be used for the new student health center were passed around for senators to see. The main entrance doors will have orange framing to help accentuate them. There will also be orange accents in the interior of the building. 3D models of the interior of the building were shown as well. A shot by shot record of the building construction will soon start being posted online. There will be another update before summer break (expected completion, end of August).
* Old Business
* Regalia: David Sleasman explained that the bookstore staff will be present at the next GA to answer questions concerning the price of Regalia.
* Policy Confusion: David Sleasman said there is some confusion about which policies are and are not in the grad catalog or student handbook. He also raised a question about when a policy goes into effect. Updates to come soon
* Smoking Policy: David Sleasman explained there is a clean-air policy going forward to the president.
* Strategic Plan: David Sleasman distributed a draft version of a new strategic plan draft that incorporates graduate education in its statements (a change from before where there were none).
* Health Care Reform: Student employees will be as of July 1st, 2013 limited to 28 hours a week. David Sleasman asked the GA to keep an eye on that concern if considering working summer hours that exceed that limit.
* Student Union Fees- Status: Chris Weinland has been invited to join the committee considering this issue.
* Large Item Pick-Up will not occur this May, so the upcoming March 18th pick-up becomes important (especially for students moving out at the end of the semester).
* Shanklin Awards: Elizabeth Witter reminded the GA that the Shanklin’s Colloquium is March 18th by 4PM. The Graduate student senate awards are due March 21st. We are still looking for volunteers to assist with the Shanklin’s Colloquium.
* General Elections/Nominations are March 29th. Jeff Larocque reminded that GA that voting will occur at the next meeting. He opened nominations for all positions, including for the first time, Student Affairs Representative. Erin Baker was nominated for Student Affairs Representative.
* Vote on Proposed changes to the GSS Constitution: The GA called to vote on the amendments to the constitution. The vote passed 49-0-0
* Jeff Larocque presented another amendment to the constitution that makes it clear how many meetings a student must attend to be readmitted to the GA (3 mtgs total, the meeting where readmittance is requested and two consecutive meetings.
* New Business
  + Survey: Michael Salitrynski explained that FPDs for the summer are now available and the he is spearheading a survey to determine need for professional development funding at a campus-wide level.
* Senate Executive Committee Reports
* Academic Affairs Representative - Christina Wright
* Treasurer - Michael Salitrynski
* GAR- Rachel Robinson
* Secretary - Ellen Collier
* Student Affairs Chair - Sherry Early
* Multicultural Affairs Chair – Chen Shen
* International Student Affairs Chair - Lingxiao Ge
* Social Chair – Whitney Begue
* Publicity Chair – Christopher Thomas
* Representative-at-Large- Christopher Weinland/Erin Baker
* Issues and Concerns
* Announcements
  + GUSTO will have a colloquium of theater scholars and the general graduate population. It will be held April 6th at the Wolfe Center.
* Next Meeting is March 29st, 2013