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, March 18, 2016**

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

**Gallery- McFall**

**Handouts:** GA Minutes 2/26/16; Election Materials

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

**Absences:** Accounting (1); Art (1); Geology (1); German (1); MBA/MOD (2); Musical Arts (1); School of Teaching & Learning (1); Technology (1); GradsAct (1); Graduate Art Students (1); Graduate Women’s Caucus (1); GuSTO (1)

**Agenda**

* Call to Order – 3:03PM
* Roll Call
  + Proxy: Acct, Food & Nutrition, German, HiEd, History, Psych, Public Health, BGSDA
  + Absent: ACS, Art, Bio, BAMOD, CS, CJ, HMSLS, CMA, Atlas, Bio GSA, Women’s Caucus, India SA
* Approval of Minutes – Sociology GSA, Media & Comm (second)
* Guest Speakers: **Michele Schmitz**, Assistant Director, Student Employment Services; **Dr. Alexander Goberman,** Associate Dean of the Graduate College; **Sandy Heck,** Associate Director, Human Resources & Benefits
  + Statement of Understanding – Stipends (resource on myBGSU and Grad Coll website)
    - Info on payroll timeline, onboarding, health insurance, etc.
    - Tip: print all contracts prior to graduation – myBGSU access expires 90 days after grad – might need the info for future job applications
    - Grad College catalog – financial assistance and assistantship info
    - Scholarship conditions emailed when notified of award (ex. tuition-only, not related to past or future services)
    - Questions related to lack of payroll dispersal over winter break during 3 weeks during Dec/Jan when classes are not in session
    - International students can work up to 28 hours per week over winter break due to waiver
    - Amount dispersed will be adjusted to be divided between 34 weeks, rather than 37 weeks (what it is now) – 18 biweekly pays ($778 per month)
    - Pay dispersed on January 27, 2017 will be a half-paycheck (paid for only 1 week of work)
    - Students will be paid for time worked after fall semester ends (i.e. grading or other work) if department adjusts the contract accordingly
    - Departments can also contract a GA over winter break for a 3-5 week period – paid an hourly rate as a student employee
    - Supervisor and GA should meet to talk about expectations regarding this at the beginning of the year
    - Bursar bill will still be due January 15th even without being paid over winter break – scholarship dispersal will keep the same schedule as before
    - Sharing now to promote budgeting and utilizing funds earned over the summer – use budget sessions offered by PNC banks
    - Tracking of hours is required for employees in a non-exempt status (this includes GAs on assistantship)
    - Use bi-weekly compensation timesheet on payroll website to track – additional options are being considered to report in a consistent manner
    - Grad students can get OPERS back starting 3 months following final termination date (post-graduation) – only receive student’s contribution – can be cash or rolled into another retirement account
      * Cash refund is taxable and subject to early retirement penalty
      * No tax if into another retirement account
      * Open an account with OPERS to start processing refund
    - If grads fall under 4 credit hours, they must contribute to OPERS
    - BGSU adds an additional 14% into your OPERS account
    - MACIE asked when tracking hours will start – they should be documented within the department and they will keep it for 3 hours post termination
      * Good to keep consistency with supervisor
    - Geospatial asked about the requirements for getting the employer match back from OPERS - must be here full-time for 5 years
    - Philosophy asked if you had to be at BGSU for 5 years – any public entity in Ohio for 5 total years
    - Sociology asked to clarify what happens when you leave BGSU – as long as you
    - President asked if tracking hours is a guideline or a policy – currently a guideline, no uniform measurement is available yet
    - Sociology asked about final grading happening post-end of semester and whether TAs/TIs should be paid for this time – contract should reflect the expectation of work after the semester
    - SA Rep asked about stipend language vs. hourly because stipend reflects more of a salary pay schedule – if you are working when classes are not in session, your stipend contact can be amended to reflect these additional expectations or you could be hired as an hourly student employee for those weeks outside of contract
      * SA rep said if tracking hours then I am an hourly employee – clarified that we are part-time employees, not hourly
    - Theatre & Film asked about tracking small meetings and other work time as a TI – this will be clarified at the department level
    - Theatre & Film asked about making up hours when gone for part of a week – cannot work no more than contracted hours, agree on flexible schedule with supervisor (document it in writing) if you need to go over 20 hours in a particular week to make up hours
    - Theatre & Film asked how to get money back regarding OPERS with SES – payroll office should have advised that OPERS is being taken out if under 4 credit hours, log on to the website and get familiar
    - Philosophy asked about consequences of reporting more or less than contracted hours – must be a conversation with your supervisor; honesty component could be equated to academic dishonesty policy
      * Consequence is a violation of employment laws to BGSU
      * Philosophy concerned that people are working more than 20 hours so what is the incentive for reporting more than 20 hours per week if not going to get paid more – need to discuss with supervisor
    - AA Rep asked about working less in a 2-week period due to conferences (would I get paid less that period?)
      * Tracking hours does not change any paychecks
    - Romance & Classical Studies asked if other options were considered for the winter break period including withholding paychecks – Finance & Admin policy to not withhold, many schools are paying GAs hourly or a lump sum up front, some GAs need to swipe in and out of work, this new method is the least invasive/cultural shift
    - English asked if the university plans to offer financial counseling to incoming GAs – already offered by PNC
    - Alex Goberman encouraged everyone to talk to their supervisors about working more than 20 hours – if it doesn’t work, then talk to someone in Grad College (Goberman, Peggy Booth)
    - President asked where the line is if an RA working on dissertation work or if faculty member says work still needs to get done – if more than 20 hours is related to supervisor’s tasks, then that’s not okay; if other hours are for your thesis/dissertation, then that is okay
    - Philosophy asked about consequences for not reporting summer prep work, then Sociology said she’s not working less than 28 hours on weeks when papers are due (I can’t work over 28 hours and be responsive to my students) – not encouraged to work more one week and less another week in the new system (could discuss flexibility with supervisor)
      * Could set up less hours/week contract in fall and 5 hours in summer to compensate for prep
    - Criminal Justice said her supervisor has told her that they have wiggle room in being flexible with hours
    - FLSA says you can only work contracted amount per week in each pay period
* Officers, Chairs, and Committee Reports
  + Environmental Affairs Chair
    - Caitlin Buhr
      * Earth Month
      * <https://www.bgsu.edu/campus-sustainability/earth-month.html>
      * Consulting company (SHP Leading Design) came to assess large projects that BGSU could do to improve sustainability – focus group 2 weeks ago – creating a report on what they found
      * Overhaul of HVAC system (AC too high in summer or heating too high in winter) – some new buildings have computer system that will override thermostat – looking into campuswide monitoring system to make temperature control much better
      * Finding areas for solar potential (parking lots, bus stops)
      * Earth Month is all of April (Earth Day is April 22nd)
        + April 9th: e-waste drive (anything that isn’t a tube TV or alkaline batteries), 10am-1pm in ice arena parking lot
        + April 6th: analyze trash vs. recycling in several buildings to improve recycling education
        + April 20th: 11am-2pm sustainability fair, booth about calculating carbon footprint headed by Caitlin
        + Other events: guest speaker on April 18th at 6pm in BTSU Theater
  + Social Chair
    - Keji Kujjo
      * Graduate Student Appreciation
      * March 18, 5-7pm, McFall Gallery, TODAY!
      * Thursday, March 31st: cultural trivia night at Women’s Center, 6-8pm
      * April 14th from 5-7:30pm: Girl Rising film showing with discussion (Peace Corps volunteers and other students)
      * Event right after the meeting at 5pm!
  + Academic Affairs Representative – Dhiman
    - * Interfaith Breakfast on March 22, 7:30am – shuttles available (7, 7:15am, leaving from union parking lot, drop off at 9 or 9:15)
      * RSVP ends Saturday (tomorrow)
      * Speakers from many major faiths
      * Set-up volunteer shifts (March 21st 3-6pm and March 22nd at 5:30am)
  + Vice President
    - Julia Largent
      * Shanklin Date
        + April 12, 2016 – starts around noon
        + We will need judges for Colloquium, look for a sign up sheet soon
        + Banquet is open to all grad students and faculty, doors open at 7pm
      * Senator of the Year Nominations
        + Last chance for nominations
        + Award Recipient will be announced at GSS Awards Banquet, April 12.
        + No new nominations
      * FPD
        + Summer Application

May 8-August 14 (Sunday before fall classes begin)

Deadline: April 8

https://orgsync.com/9942/forms/187856

* + - * + It’s On Us Week of Action

April 3-9

If you want to get involved, email Julia

Research panel on April 4th, 6-8pm

* Old Business
* New Business
  + SEC Elections
    - President – no new nominations
    - Vice President – Romance & Classical Studies nominates Zach Burton, second by Criminal Justice, accepted
      * 1st year Master’s in History, proxy senator since early fall
      * Started being involved in government at age 12
      * Student council in HS and undergrad – communications chair in soph, VP in jun, pres in sr
      * Running because I shined in VP position in undergrad
      * Mastered Roberts Rules
      * Troubled institution - $1 million budget deficit, worst cafeteria food – protested when programs were cut, put in spirit rock and clock tower – doubled retention rate while I was there – happened because we respected each other and were close
      * Forming those relationships now in history dept and want to bring that to GSS
      * VP asked favorite color – brown
      * AA Rep asked him to bang the gavel – he did!
      * Env’t said he needed to have jokes and already does
      * Romance & Classical Studies pointed out that he is a career politician ☺
      * CSP asked how he plans to work with all constituencies to make sure our needs are met – ready to carry my experiences to the graduate level – have done many things in all sorts of fields – historian ability to take objective views of situations
      * AA Rep asked how confident he feels in saying he disagrees with other folks – administration very disconnected from students at undergrad – worked at level of administrators while also being critical of them and coming after them for issues - to make friends with everyone, you have to be ready to criticize/question
      * GuSTO moves to close questions
      * Sociology moves to vote
      * 38 votes in favor, none in opposition, no abstentions
    - Academic Affairs Representative - no new nominations
      * Joseph Robertshaw – growing hair for charity and then donating it
        + Former blue-collar worker, older than most of you
        + Injured, then became interested in rhetoric
        + Bachelors degree while following my navy wife around – University of Maryland in Europe
        + Masters in science and education and a Masters in English in Youngstown
        + Educator – hope that you give and get something from everything you do – want to be an educator who defends other educators
        + Want to address issues and learn what it takes to challenge folks who want to dismantle my field
        + Want to meet the provost and deans and learn all of the inner workings
        + Work I plan to do in my dissertation – number of adjunct instructors in higher ed and finding best practices for them
        + What I offer – knowledge that I don’t represent myself and my own interests – need to keep you all informed so you can tell me about your opinions
        + Schedule is far lighter next year – only writing and teaching – time to commit – hopefully this qualifies me to earn a vote
      * Vaughn Thornton
        + 1st year grad in MACIE
        + Undergrad here in Spanish education – been here for 5 years, hopefully next year is my last year – no more stipends!
        + In PLA – 4 year leadership-based curriculum – focus on servant leadership - what position would I be able to best serve the community in?
        + Most deeply connected to education – took a lot of classes, now teach a class – invested in making sure classes are as good as possible
        + I found myself here – very proud of BGSU (falcon on my resume)
        + Want education the students get to be top-notch
        + First job I had was in the BGSU phone bank telling them they should come here and why it’s so great
        + Very analytical person – need folks to think deeply about what the students want and what will help them to be more prosperous – can converse with multiple committees – can help university grow in a prosperous way and help students understand that their education is well-rounded and will help them develop as people
        + Want the students to have the best time at this university
        + HEADS asked why they’re not running for president

Vaughn said he is best able to serve in an academic context

Joseph said he does not fulfill the requirement, but VP said he actually does (hint-hint)

* + - * + AA Rep asked how they would make their voices heard

Joseph – learned to pick my battles and determine what is most valued, I would speak if something were slipping away, if others on my side are speaking up I would stay silent, don’t need to see the results as long as I do the work

Vaughn – learning community involved in internationalizing the campus and work was slow, have to pick your battles, a lot to go over in meetings and some things get pushed further along while others don’t, I will focus more on what is most important to graduate students

* + - * + AA Rep asked how they would make sure they are being as representative as possible

Vaughn – being here, consistently being involved in different ways on campus, I’m only involved in MACIE, take courses in different dept, get a general feel of what other grads are looking for academically, go to different places, I feel comfortable going to different events and talking to people

Joseph – rely on past decisions, history of GSS, keep GA updated through Orgsync and submit reports for each meeting to collect opinions of senators, rely on what I know of the law and school policies/procedures, use delay tactics to gain more time

* + - * + STL moved to close questions, STL moved to discuss
        + Geospatial asked what the duties are – AA said represents this body at anything that has to do with academic policies or decisions – Faculty Council, Cmte for Academic Affairs, etc.

Balance between when to keep silent and when to fight the battle

Learn a lot about how academic affairs works

* + - * + Romance & Classical Studies asked the motivation behind the question regarding silencing by the dean – AA said sometimes there isn’t room for discussion or changes to a policy, discretion, it depends
        + HEADS asked if this was a post that needs someone with longevity – AA said not really, I’ve learned a lot, good for someone to stay 2 years, but okay if only 1
        + GuSTO moves to move, second by Geospatial
        + Joseph, 28; Vaughn, 10; no abstentions
    - Student Affairs Representative – Rep at Large nominates Vaughn Thornton, second by Sociology (only nominee)
      * CSP asked how he would help the new VP understand what undergrad and grad students value – completely different focus for grad students, strong emphasis on undergrad student development, grad students don’t receive as much, most vocal with multicultural development for undergrads (BGSU needs a push), recognition is major issue for grad students (not as much emphasis), need a graduate community
      * SA Rep asked how he would advocate on behalf of grad students – recognize that focus is different, need to focus on grad students, can’t let other things fall to the wayside, need to understand what issues students are facing and how SA can be equipped to help them, need to clearly articulate the difference
      * President asked about ability to navigate difficult issues on campus – multicultural issues are one of the most difficult things to talk about, need to meet people where they are, attempt to get them to level where I am (or vice versa), need to stand firm with our issues and what we’re looking for
      * Public Health moves to close, Sociology seconds
      * Criminal Justice opens discussion, Public Health seconds
      * Public Health moves to vote, Criminal Justice seconds
      * 40 people voted in favor; none in opposition; no abstentions
    - Treasurer – no new nominations
      * Scott Chappuis addressed GA on 2/26
      * Suman Paneru
        + International student, involved in activities in undergrad, studied architecture
        + Managed financial activities of national architecture event – sponsors, budget
        + Student leader representing other students – campus committee where we tried to solve issues regarding student fees and other issues – in forefront about bargaining prices
        + Nominated for UN student position, team organized a national training program for leadership & public speaking activity for other students
        + Registered architect during crisis time with the earthquake – talked to people from different countries, managed over 500 people to buy and distribute supplies
        + Masters in construction management – need to manage finances, people, and supplies
        + Past experience dealing with money – know how it can impact running a program to have an efficient management
        + HEADS asked how long his program is – just finishing 1st of 3 year program
      * Criminal Justice moves to vote, Rep at Large seconds
      * Scott, 13; Suman, 25; 1 abstention
    - Secretary – no new nominations
    - Representative-at-Large (2) – no new nominations
      * Tyler Conlon addressed GA on 2/26
      * GuSTO moved to open discussion
      * Sociology moved to vote, Sociology GSA seconds
      * 37 voted in favor; none in opposition; 4 abstentions
* Issues and Concerns
  + HEADS asked for the procedure with filling the presidency – run elections at each meeting until someone is elected (might have a different procedure); same procedure for rep at large and secretary
  + CSP brought up concern that Union Multipurpose Room reservations will be unavailable for first 3 weeks of each semester
    - Advisor (Jodi Webb) said it factors into a larger space utilization issue and ability of students to weigh in on these decisions
* Announcements
  + **Next General Assembly:** April 1, 3-5 McFall Gallery; Guests: **Aaron Kane,** Parking Services; **Steve Krakoff**, Capital Planning; **Sara Bushong (maybe)**, Dean, University Libraries
  + **Creating a Community Engagement Network**, Thursday, March 31st noon-4pm, lunch provided, BTSU Ballroom. Register: <http://bgsubusiness.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_3ymM6vftmzNx3Qp>
  + **Grad Student Cultural Trivia Night**, Thursday, March 31st, 6-8pm, 107 Hanna Hall (The Women’s Center)
  + **It’s On Us National Week of Action**, April 3-9
  + ***Girl Rising* Film Discussion**, Thursday, April 14, 5-7:30pm, 107 Hanna Hall (The Women’s Center)
  + **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.
  + **Ray Browne Conference on Cultural and Critical Studies (promoted by Culture Club)**
  + **World Student Association Karaoke Night in Education 115 tonight**
* Adjournment
  + CSP motion to adjourn, Rep at large seconds