



Graduate Student Senate
111A McFall Center
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0181
Phone: (419) 372-2727
<http://www.bgsu.edu/gss>

General Assembly

Friday, March 18, 2022 - 2:00-4:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE: 12 Executives and 34 Senators

MEETING STARTED: 2:01 pm

CALL TO ORDER: By the Vice President

ROLL CALL: By the Secretary (we had a quorum with a total of 12 Executives and 34 Senators in attendance)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA: Gerontology Representative moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Biology MA Representative.

GUEST SPEAKERS

- **Dr. Joe Whitehead, Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs**
 - Appreciate the graduate students and graduate assistants in supporting all university operations
 - He attended to questions that were sent ahead of time to him
 - COVID
 - Finding balance between suppressing virus transmission and mental health
 - Adaptation and Responses: Move classes from smaller rooms to larger rooms
 - Testing and provision of face coverings
 - Current position: Personal responsibility approach
 - Multiple level of protection and request everyone to be sensitive to people around them

- Optional face coverings approach: Work with Deans, Chairs and Faculty of each colleges
- University funding
 - Strategic plan is designed to enhance student success and designed to have more flexible resources
 - More importantly: student success component
 - Focus on enhancing the faculty, staff and student experience for the public good
 - We provide the support they need to understand our values
- How Graduate students can influence organizational structures of BGSU
 - Graduate students have different perspectives and voices
 - Have dialogue with all different part of the university to broaden our perspectives
 - Talk to faculty, staff, other graduate students and undergraduate
 - Ask questions

➤ **Questions and Answers**

- **Theatre and Film Proxy:** Dr. Whitehead, I was deeply appreciative of the opportunity to participate in this week's interview process for the new Dean of Arts and Sciences. However, I was very frustrated to be the only student there for the majority of the meetings. Can you give us an update on the search process? Also, how do we get students to feel like their voice matters enough to participate in important processes like choosing a Dean?
 - **Answer:** The Provost noticed earlier on that they are few student participations. There are conflicts in terms of student schedule. They ensure they have student perspectives on the search committee of the new Deans
 - Currently, for the Arts and Sciences Dean, they have three sessions for one more candidate for interview this week after which they will review all survey information and make the best decision possible.

- **MACIE Representative:** What COVID protocols will be in place for graduation given that there will likely be many vulnerable people present. Could you speak to that briefly?
 - **Answer:** They advise face coverings if the person is immunocompromised
 - Face coverings (N-95) are highly recommended
 - Availability of space in the Stroh Center where people can spread out
 - Personal responsibility
 - Provision for special cases

➤ **Sherideen Stoll, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President for Finance & Administration**

- She appreciated the opportunity to speak to the GSS
- She shared a presentation (to be attached to the minutes) on the following agenda
 - Primary Budget Drivers
 - BGSU's revenue is driven by students enrollment (tuition and fees), and state support
 - BGSU's expense budget is driven by student enrollment and salary, benefits, utilities and technology costs
 - Enrollment Trends
 - Through the Fall of 2019 with good uptrend but COVID affected the trend in the Fall 2020 for undergraduate
 - For graduate enrollment, when COVID arose, for Fall 2020 there was an uptrend in couple of distance and e-Campus programs
 - Six-Year Budget
 - She showed a summary of six-year look at BGSU revenue budget for the Bowling Green Campus only.
 - Vast majority of revenue is from students tuition and fees
 - Planning for FY23 Budget
 - Enrollment estimate still uncertain but expecting mostly flat enrollments
 - State budget as approved

- Graduate tuition and general fees increase of 5.0% is tentatively planned for FY23
- Items Still TBD
 - Graduate scholarship and stipend
 - Impact of DPT to enrollment
 - Financial impact of COVID to BGSU
 - Fall elections (Governor, AG, State Auditor, U.S. Senator)
 - FY24-FY25 Biennial budget

➤ **Questions and Answers**

- **ACS (PhD) Representative:** Regarding the possible graduate tuition increase for FY23, will there be a comparable increase in graduate funding (GA, TA, RA) to offset that expense?
 - **Answer:** No certainty for now. She doesn't think they have that sorted yet.
- **Professional Development Chair:** Is there a work that is done to ensure that faculties are transparent about budget allocation with their students?
 - **Answer:** The university's current and historical budget is posted on the Department of University's website
 - She has not much information regards the faculty information
- **Biological Sciences (MA) Representative:** She appreciated the context and background, but she wonder if what she is saying could be put in terms of the potential impact on graduate students.
 - **Answer:** The impact is the tuition increase but beyond that she will be less certain
 - Public Safety is going to be proposing a \$5 increase to the annual parking permits.

➤ **Jennifer McCary, Chief Diversity and Belonging Officer**

- She appreciated the opportunity to speak to the GSS
- She shared a presentation (to be attached to this minutes)
- Diversity and belonging initiatives
 - Beyond the Dream
 - Diversity and belonging Council
 - Enrollment efforts

- Tests optional
 - Scholarship
- Day of Dialogue
 - To be hosted in the Fall 2022
- She shared the divisional highlights
 - Civic engagements
 - Equity and compliance
 - Leadership
 - LGBTQ+ Programs
 - Multicultural Affairs
 - Spirit programs
 - Title IX
 - Women and Gender Equity
 - Violence Prevention and Education
 - Firelands

➤ **Questions and Answers**

- **Professional Development Chair:** Are there the same policies and activities of monitoring the gap in international student population to promote diversity?
 - **Answer:** Develop a few dashboard to track to see what is happening with internationals students and students of colors
 - Harder to track is the LGBTQ+ community based on gender and gender identity and they hope to address that soon
- **Biological Sciences (MA) Representative:** If this initiative is a high priority for the university, why are volunteers being relied on to do the work?
 - **Answer:** Tasked with the institutional diversity and inclusion work
 - Able to get more full time positions and able to add 3-4 positions in the last two years to help spread the work across the professional staff
 - They still need to rely on paid graduate students and volunteers
 - They are still seeking for more ways to resolve resources problems

OFFICERS REPORTS

- The President:

- Reported on Graduate student funding
 - Low GA stipend and funding
 - Shared the framework on allocations for funds from Dean Goberman
 - Met with President Rogers for follow up on the information gotten from Dean Goberman
 - Raised that an increase in stipend will go a long way to assist the students
 - Encouraged using the emergency funds to help the graduate community
- Officer Nominations and Elections
 - Will be opened tonight
 - Check the applications on GSS Canvas page
- The Vice President:
 - Shanklin Colloquium Updates
 - Concluded the presentations for papers and posters
 - Award ceremony for all awards and competitions on Friday, April 8th, 2022.
 - The Award ceremony will be virtually shared on FB live
 - Research excellence finalists have been contacted and the final competitions will be on April 6th
- The Treasurer:
 - Update on Regalia and FPD
 - March 3rd, the FDP committee met and approved 71 awards
 - March 4th, Regalia committee met to award 19 applicants
 - Sweatshirt updates
 - To be announced when they come in
- Professional Development Chair:
 - Committee on Professional Affairs Update
 - Discussion on two laws
 - Faculty members express their concerns regarding the laws

- Considering the policy of bringing back students that could not graduate due to financial problems and enroll then again
 - Make those students' transcripts available to enable them get good jobs or go back to college
 - The committee request messages are sent to Graduate students who might know some people who have such problems
- Multicultural and Disability Affairs Chair:
- Rainbow Days flyer
 - Workshop related to support LGTQ+
 - Women's History Month Events
 - https://events.bgsu.edu/womens_history_month

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **The President**
- Feedback on International students' health insurance
 - International Graduate students are required by the Federal policy to fully pay for their health insurance at the beginning of the year/semester
 - Due to this, the university's hands are quite tied regards this issue in terms of helping out
 - **ACS (MA) Representative** shared: "I'm wondering if there are some loopholes to that federal policy because I was able to get a consideration to pay health insurance only for Fall (till 12/31/2021) last year rather than the whole year. I only paid for Spring and Summer after the Fall insurance expired"
 - **Answers:** Some international students have applied for state aid

NEW BUSINESS

- **ACS (MA) Representative** shared: "I'm wondering if there are some loopholes to that Federal policy because I was able to get a consideration to pay health insurance only for Fall (till 12/31/2021) last year rather than the whole year. I only paid for Spring and Summer after the Fall insurance expired"
- **Answer from the President** There might be unique cases or considerations

- Some international students been able to apply for state Medicaid
 - To have access to any type state aid, you need to be a resident or have a certain status
 - She also advised reaching out to individual department to see if there is any information or assistance they can offer
- **ACS (PhD) representative:** To the general assembly regarding graduate stipends, is anyone aware of transparency efforts to publish what the stipends are per academic program?
 - **Answer:** The GSS will look into that information regards any transparency efforts and what they might be and share any updates with the GA
- Tax Filing
 - The Dean has no information regards this for now but will get clear answers and inform GSS
- Emergency food and funding with the Dean of Students office for immediate needs
 - Visit: <https://www.bgsu.edu/dean-of-students/support-and-guidance.html>
- Senators are encouraged to share the information discussed at GA meetings with their respective departments

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The President:** The CMA in conjunction with the Department of Theatre and Film are presenting Offenbach's Orpheus in the Underworld Friday March 25 at 8pm and on Sunday March 27 at 3pm in the Donnell Theatre in the Wolfe Center for the Arts; \$8 general admission, free for BGSU students with ID card at the door
- **Chemistry (PhD):** Hearing aid funding not covered by the insurance
 - The funding does not cover such expenses but the student should reach out to clinical department of the school and the office of the dean to see if there is any other community funds that could be accessed
 - Dean Goberman added: There is a speech and hearing clinic on campus
 - <https://www.bgsu.edu/health-and-human-services/programs/departement-of-communication-sciences-and-disorders/clinic-infomation.html>
- **Theatre and Film Representative:** Free events
- **Student Affairs Representative:** latino/a/x issues conference is next week
 - <https://www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/cultural-and-critical-studies/news-events/latino-issues-conference/lic-registration.html>
- **Treasurer:** The Teaching and Learning Summit is happening next Wednesday

- <https://www.bgsu.edu/bowen-thompson-student-union/conference-and-event-services/teaching---learning-summit.html>

ADJOURNMENT: Biology (PhD) Representative moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by ACS (MA) Representative.

MEETING ENDED: 3:47pm.