Graduate Student Senate

402B Bowen-Thompson Student Union

Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0181

Phone: (419) 372-2426

<http://www.bgsu.edu/gss>

**Graduate Student Senate General Assembly**

**Friday, March 29, 2013**

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

**Gallery, McFall Center**

**Minutes**

* Vice President Jeff LaRocque called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.
* Roll Call
  + 50 senators were present at the time of roll call; a quorum is present.
  + It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the March 15 meeting; the motion carries.
* Guests
  + Dr. Michael Ogawa, Dean of the Graduate College and Vice President for Research and Research Development
    - Dr. Ogawa shared his support for making the doctoral regalia more affordable.
    - He reported he spoke with Dr. Mazey and would like the GA to weigh the different options they have proposed. Essentially would like the senators to come together to evaluate the options and provide a recommendation. He is specifically looking for a rank order of our preferences.
    - Dr. Ogawa reviewed the various purchasing and rental options available for students. Specifics on cost for each item (gown, hood, and tam) were included on a handout distributed to all senators.
  + Ms. Pam Abbott, Bookstore Staff
    - Displayed to the GA the custom robe and standard black robe, as well as the tam and mortar board.
    - Ms. Abbott reviewed the various payment methods for the robes, including credit cards, BG1 card, gift card, gift registry, and “Bookstore Bucks” program.
    - It was suggested that the bookstore staff begin communicating to students earlier than their graduation application so they have adequate time to save. Additionally, they will put the FAQ sheet on their website.
  + Discussion of the regalia issues
    - It was suggested that since every student situation is different, we should recommend to keep all available options even though the administration is looking for only one option.
    - A second recommendation is to keep Option A but make both the tam and mortarboard available.
    - Motioned and second to extend the time limit of the discussion for 10 additional minutes; the motion carries.
    - Comment from HEADS senator stating there is one time during the year that there is a 20% discount on the regalia.
    - Question from Geology senator asking if the university had any plans to redesign the gown in order to lower even the price of purchasing the gown. The answer is that the university is committed to retaining the custom brown gowns.
    - If we move forward with the two different robes, the university can easily structure the seating arrangements and order so that it looks purposeful.
* Old Business
* Proposed changes to the GSS Constitution
  + Vice President Jeff LaRocque gave the second reading of the proposed change to Section 12 of the Constitution.
* Professional Development Chair Elizabeth Witter reminded the GA of the upcoming Shanklin Awards. She also emphasized we have a low RSVPs from senators. Please consider attending in order to represent graduate education on campus.
* New Business
  + Elections
    - At the time of elections, 53 senators were present. It takes 27 votes to elect.
    - Lingxiao Ge was elected President: 51 yes, 1 no, 1 abstention.
    - Martha Schaffer was elected Vice President: 52 yes, 0 no, 0 abstention.
    - Rachel Robinson was elected Academic Affairs Representative: 52 yes, 0 no, 0 abstention.
    - Erin Baker was elected Student Affairs Chair: 51 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention.
    - Michael Salitrynski was elected Treasurer: 52 yes, 0 no, 0 abstention.
    - No nominations for the position of Secretary.
    - Ryan Wright was nominated for the position of Representative-at-Large.
    - Elizabeth Witter was elected Representative-at-Large: 53 yes, 0 no, 0 abstention.
    - Ryan Wright was elected Representative-at-Large: 52 yes, 1 no, 0 abstention.
* Issues and Concerns
  + If any doctoral students are still having difficulties submitting their thesis or dissertations, please contact Colleen Boff in the library or Jeff LaRocque.
* Next Meeting is April 12th- Sherri Stoll
* Meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm.