Logo_4C.tif Graduate Student Senate

402B Bowen-Thompson Student Union

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**Graduate Student Senate General Assembly**

**Friday, April 1, 2016**

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

**Gallery- McFall**

**Handouts:** GA Minutes 3/18/16; Election Materials; Musical Arts Reinstatement Petition

**Censured:** Analytics, Art, MBA/MOD, Musical Arts, Physics & Astronomy, African People’s Association, Chinese Scholars Association, Graduate Art Students, Health Care Administration Association, MPASA

**Absences:** Accounting (1); American Culture Studies (1); Computer Science (1); Geology (1); German (1); HMSLS (1); School of Teaching & Learning (1); Technology (1); ATLAS (1); GradsAct (1); Graduate Women’s Caucus (1); GuSTO (1)

**Agenda**

* Call to Order – Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Vice President Julia Largent called the meeting to order, and welcomed everyone to the penultimate General Assembly (GA) of the 2015-2016 academic year.
* 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. He also reminded the assembly to sign the attendance rolls in the back of the room or they may be counted as absent, especially if they came in late.
* Approval of Minutes – Criminal Justice made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2016, GA. The motion was seconded by Mathematics and Statistics. The “ayes” carried and the minutes were approved.
* Guest Speaker: **Steve Krakoff**, Vice President of Capital Planning and Campus Operations– Steve Krakoff thanked Julia and the GA for allowing him to speak, and gave a presentation on the state of capital projects on campus. He stated that the focus of capital projects over the last few years has been on the academic core of campus, and to that end a number of buildings and classrooms have been renovated or rebuilt in the last five to ten years. Within that time, about 50 classrooms have been renovated and/or upgraded to support active learning pedagogies, and the goal is to have all classrooms on campus upgraded to active learning spaces by the end of the 2020 academic year. One example includes renovations to Olscamp Hall, which has had three additional classrooms and four micro classrooms added, specifically to help with math education on campus. Additionally, renovations to Eppler Hall have led to the development of studio spaces, and a renovation of almost the entire second floor to allow for team-based seating approaches. Construction continues on the first floor of the Health Sciences Building to provide better facilities for rapidly growing programs across campus. There have also been renovations at the Firelands campus to alleviate the needs for teaching, lab, and collaboration spaces in the College of Allied Health Sciences. Some administrative and non-essential functions have been moved off the academic core of campus to the Huntington Building to make room for more classroom and lab space on campus. Planning for renovations to Hanna Hall is still underway, with the goal of moving the College of Business Administration into that space in 2020. Additional renovations are under way or will begin over the summer to South Hall, Moseley Hall, and University Hall. The renovations are designed to upgrade and restore the reputations of existing programs. A new memorial garden will be constructed to centralize various memorials to people in the campus community who have died, including veterans. Construction of the new Greek Village is nearly complete, and the facility is expected to open in the fall with over 420 beds for Greek members. Renovations are also under way at the Bowen Thompson Student Union, moving the campus Career Center and Student Employment Center to the space currently occupied by the Bookstore.
  + Theatre and Film asked for clarification of the status of the Gish Theatre, and how the renovations to Hanna Hall and the impending relocation of the College of Business Administration will affect this space. Mr. Krakoff said there is not much to report at this time except that his office is studying what options are available. He understands the importance and significance of this space, and wants to make sure the solution works for all interested parties.
  + GSS Treasurer Scott Chappuis referenced previous mock-ups of the South Hall/Hanna Hall renovations that include bridges or breezeways connecting the spaces, and asked if those were still being considered. Mr. Krakoff said those were not currently part of the planned renovations given the short distances between the buildings, but the interior spaces of both buildings were being designed in such a way that bridges or breezeways could be added later if so desired.
  + Sociology asked about the heating and air conditioning of the open spaces being proposed for some of these renovations. The senator is concerned that more thought was given to the aesthetics of the spaces and not the efficiency of the design. Mr. Krakoff said he understood those concerns, but that the mechanics of engineering heating and air conditioning systems in larger spaces has advanced substantially in recent years, and he feels the university has adequately planned how to control the environments in these spaces in the most efficient way.
  + HEADS asked if Mr. Krakoff can clarify what, if any, plans the university has for the Administration Building. Mr. Krakoff said the plan is to demolish the building, probably in 2020 or 2021, and move non-essential functions currently housed there off campus. Until then, the building will be a “flex space,” allowing for more classroom and administrative offices until current construction projects are completed. He did stress, however, that essential functions currently housed in the Administration Building, such as the Office of the Bursar and the Office of Financial Aid, will remain on campus but in a different location.
  + Student Development Association asked about the impact on programming space due to the renovations in the Bowen Thompson Student Union, and expressed concern that these renovations were not made known to the student population before they began. Mr. Krakoff said his office has been careful not to decrease access to any programming space, but conceded that communication revolving around the renovations could have been handled better. Mr. Krakoff said that his office will make more of an effort to communicate and consult with undergraduate and graduate student constituencies before future projects commence.
* Guest Speaker: **Aaron Kane,** Parking Services – Aaron Kane was on hand to give a brief update on parking and shuttle services around campus, and to answer questions about these services. An expansion to Lot 7 is currently underway, which will add an additional 250 visitor parking spots, but those spots could be repurposed in the future as needs arise. Rich Street, which runs east-west from Dunkin Donuts to the Oaks, will be shut down and made into a service drive to help improve pedestrian traffic on campus. This renovation should be completed by the first week of July. Lot O by the College of Health and Human Services will be torn up and repaved over the summer. Parking Services has a new Twitter account, @Parking\_BGSU, where you can get information and have questions answered about parking lot closures, where to park during semester breaks, and get information about shuttle routes. There have been discussions with student groups about adding an express route to the main shuttle route to cut the approximately 25 minute round trip time needed to travel the route. This express route, which is expected to roll out in the fall, will take approximately 12 minutes and only stop at certain hot spots. The university recently bought a new 36 passenger shuttle bus and authorized the creation of a new bus route, which will be designed by students this fall. Parking Services is also looking to hire more student drivers, at a rate of $11.50 per hour. A satisfaction survey is forthcoming, and Mr. Kane said anyone who takes the survey will be entered into a sweepstakes to win an iPad Mini.
  + Sociology asked to clarify what positions students are being hired for, as they are concerned students may be forcing out other drivers who work for the university on a full time basis. Mr. Kane said he understands this concern, but his office is not forcing anyone out in favor of student employees. He explained that Parking Services has a hard time keeping drivers, as there is a need for drivers at times when non-student employees are often not available to work. Student drivers are primarily used to fill these hours, but there could be some leeway in scheduling based on driver availability. Sociology also asked for more information about the renovations to create more visitor parking, particularly when the number of student/commuter parking spaces has decreased in the core of campus, and spots in faculty and staff parking lots often go unused. Mr. Kane said no student spots have been removed in the past year; currently only Lot A is being phased out, which is a faculty parking lot. He explained that the 250 spots being added to Lot 7 may be made available to faculty and staff for an upcharge if spaces are not being utilized, but this will not be determined until after renovations have been completed.
  + Popular Culture asked if more spaces for student/commuter parking can be made available in the core of campus, and expressed frustration that so many of the student/commuter spots are on the far edges of campus. Mr. Kane said he would be open to that idea but the reallocation of spots would have to be approved by university administration, not his office. As a follow up, Psychology asked if graduate students who are also instructors of record could pay an upcharge to get access to faculty parking lots because the student/commuter parking lots are so far removed from the academic core of campus. Mr. Kane again stated that this would need to be approved by other parties on campus, but said he was open to discussing that with members of the graduate student community on campus to try to find out how to make such a proposal work.
  + GuSTO expressed frustration with the shuttle tracker service, and provided several examples of times when the tracker said shuttles were on the way that never showed up, or did not show up for 20 minutes or more. The senator asked for clarification on who monitors that service and whether it can be updated or improved. Mr. Kane said the service is administered from off campus by a non-university contractor using GPS tracking. He said he was not aware of any problems with the tracker, but asked students with concerns to email the details to shuttle@bgsu.edu, which goes directly to the administrator of the system.
  + Philosophy and Theatre and Film asked about the possibility of getting short term, non-paid parking spots near the library and the Bowen Thompson Student Union for students who just need to quickly pick up or drop off materials, but do not want to risk getting a ticket or paying to park in a visitor spot for 10 or 15 minutes. Mr. Kane said there were no current plans to open up any parking spots for that purpose, but said it was a good idea and he would look into the logistics of implementing it.
  + Romance and Classical Studies asked if students were able to give any feedback on proposed changes to parking lots or parking spot allocation on campus, as he felt student voices were not being heard in these decisions. Mr. Kane said the Public Safety Committee, which includes Parking and Shuttle Services, has a graduate student representative, and this is the primary means through which student voices are heard, but the representative has not been attending meetings this year. He said he is always interested in hearing student voices, but he can only react to the feedback he receives.
  + Graduate Women’s Caucus expressed concerns about shuttle services, and the times at which shuttle services stop every night. She often has classes that keep her on campus until 9:00 or 9:30, and as a result she cannot always catch the shuttle. She asked if it would be possible to get more shuttles running on nights and weekends. Mr. Kane said he understands this concern, and Parking and Shuttle Services has experimented with extended hours before, but there are not enough passengers to make extended hours financially justifiable, but if there was enough interest he could try to work something out.
* Guest Speaker: **Sara Bushong,** Dean, University Libraries – Sara Bushong was on hand to talk about the services and privileges available to graduate students through the library. Graduate students can usually check out items for a full semester, and can renew through fall and spring. OhioLINK has a three week checkout period, but does allow up to six renewals. Instructors of record, including teaching associates, can put things on reserve for students to help keep textbook costs affordable. They can also schedule library sessions and research appointments to help their students’ complete assignments. There are a number of technologies that can be borrowed from the library, including video cameras and laptops. The library has recently subscribed to Kanopy, an online streaming service that allows users to stream documentaries and on demand movies. The seventh floor of the library has recently been renovated with more areas to plug in devices, and there are now four renewable study spaces available, with a link to reserve them on the library website. The library now has two 3D printers available for free in the Student Technology Assistance Center (STAC), and the CollabLab will help students design and create physical models of prototypes for classes if they need them. Ms. Bushong also spoke about the Faculty Learning Your Way (FLY) Program that is rolling out this fall. This is a program designed to provide additional resources to students in conjunction with the Office of Disability Services, with the aim of helping students with learning difficulties more successful in their academic and professional careers. This program provides weekly tutoring catered to the needs of students from trained specialists, and is similar to a program at Arizona State University that has met with success.
  + Romance and Classical studies thanked Ms. Bushong for her work to maintain and update the library.
  + GSS Environmental Affairs Chair Caitlin Buhr asked if the FLY Program was looking to start a partnership with the Speech and Hearing Clinic, who also offers tutoring services with K-12 and university students in the community. Ms. Bushong said that was not being considered yet because the FLY Program was still new, but this may happen at a later time. As a follow-up, Student Development Association asked if there are plans for the FLY Program to collaborate with any other programs on campus or in the community. Ms. Bushong said there are no current plans, but once the Program is up and running there may be more collaboration.
  + Theatre and Film asked if students lose access to library resources after they graduate. Ms. Bushong said alumni can ask to get a courtesy card to check out materials, but she was not sure about database access, and would need to follow up with that information later.
  + Sociology asked how the FLY Program was going to be more open for people who are financially disadvantaged, as the program costs $5,000 per semester, and as a result will exclude some students who could use the service. Ms. Bushong said there was scholarship money available for students to apply for, and she is working on additional donations and funding for that program. There is also a $250,000 donation for the Learning Commons that will be paid out over the next five years, and some of that money can be used to cover these costs.
  + Student Development Association asked if there are any plans for library book drops to be installed at various places on campus. Ms. Bushong said there are plans to add a book drop near Lot N and another at the Bowen Thompson Student Union, and more may be added if the need arises.
* Officers, Chairs, and Committee Reports
  + Environmental Affairs Chair
    - Caitlin Buhr
      * Earth Month – April is Earth Month and a number of programs and events are going on across campus. A full schedule and description of events, as well as information about how to volunteer for Earth Month, can be found at the following link: https://www.bgsu.edu/campus-sustainability/earth-month.html
  + Social Chair
    - Keji Kujjo
      * The film *Girl Rising* will be screened on campus on Thursday, April 14, from 5:00-7:30 p.m., in 107 Hanna Hall.
  + Treasurer
    - Scott Chappuis
      * Semester Budget Report – GSS is still operating within budget, and Scott was able to allocate funds for the Graduate Student Appreciation event at the previous GA as a result. He has been working with Maryam and Julia on a budget for next year, which is awaiting approval from the Board of Trustees. GSS is on tap to receive a budget of $45,000 from the Board for the 2016-2017 academic year. Scott thanked GA for giving him a chance to be treasurer this year, saying it has been an honor and a privilege, and that he knows GSS will be in capable hands next year.
        + Student Development Association asked if the GSS budget will be affected by the new budget/performance process the university is developing. Jodi Webb said this process was not expected to impact student organizations in any way. Scott also reminded GA that GSS is one of only three student groups on campus whose budget surplus is rolled over into the next year.
  + Vice President
    - Julia Largent
      * All graduate students and faculty are invited to the Shanklin Colloquium on April 12, from 12:00-6:00 p.m. The full schedule of events will be forthcoming shortly. Additional judges are needed for the Colloquium, so please consider volunteering or asking your constituents to consider volunteering. Shanklin Date all grads and faculty invited to reception, food will be given, please come. 12-6, full schedule coming shortly.
        + April 12, 2016
        + We need judges for Colloquium—sign up! Now!
      * FPD
        + Summer Application

The summer session runs from May 8-August 21.

The application deadline is April 8. Applications can be submitted at the following link: https://orgsync.com/9942/forms/187856

* + - * It’s On Us Week of Action is next week. Information about this event can be found on OrgSyng, please help spread the word amongst your constituents.
      * Sheri Stoll will be speaking at the next GA. If you have any questions for her, please send them to Julia as soon as possible.
      * Julia will be traveling to a professional conference on April 15. As a result, she will not be able to attend the final GA of the year. Incoming GSS Vice President Zach Burton will preside over the meeting in her place, and Julia will be passing the gavel to him later in this meeting.
  + President
    - Maryam Kamran
      * Survey Updates – SEC reviewed some graduate student satisfaction surveys from Michigan Tech and the University of Minnesota, which looked at academic professionalism and mentoring experiences, and will be using these to create a graduate student satisfaction survey at BGSU. There has been a delay in this process because the Graduate College has expressed interest in working with GSS on this project, but the survey is expected to roll out soon.
      * Other Updates – Krystal Allen gave an update on Graduate Council, who is still discussing how to track graduate student work hours, the upcoming changes to the graduate payment schedule during university breaks, and other issues. The payment schedule is being discussed by Faculty Senate as well, who are concerned about the issue and its impact on students. As a result, this issue may be escalated to university administration for further review. Graduate student hour tracking is still a hot button issue and is being closely reviewed by Human Resources and the university, and it may not be rolled out to the full university for the next academic year. The Graduate College is looking into ways to present education on these topics during Graduate Student Orientation, so students are not caught off guard by these changes.
* Old Business
  + SEC Elections
    - President – Amira Hassnaoui, the current senator representing Graduate Women’s Caucus, nominated herself to serve as President of GSS. Her nomination was seconded by American Culture Studies. Amira said she did not have a formal speech prepared, but her experiences as an international student in Tunisia during the Arab Spring protests and as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Wisconsin have taught her that good leaders do not create followers, they make more leaders. She said she felt BGSU was the first institution she had attended where there was a strong graduate student community, and would be honored to represent this community. Amira said she believes in the idea of thinking globally and acting locally, and that communication is the key to making different voices heard. If elected, she said she would work to represent all graduate students on campus, not just herself or her own interests, and will work with the members of SEC and different groups across campus to make BGSU a safe space for everyone.
      * Student Development Association asked if there were any particular issues she would want to address if elected. Amira said one issue she would like to see continued from the current President is the idea of students or subsidies for health insurance, as it is important for all graduate students that their health care needs be covered if they are to be productive members of the community.
      * Caitlin Buhr asked if she would be open to more collaboration with the undergraduate community on campus. Amira said she would, and thinks this kind of collaboration could only help both constituencies, particularly since those students will one day become the graduate student leaders on campus.
      * Criminal Justice moved to open the floor for discussion of the nomination, which was seconded by Student Development Association. There was no discussion of the nomination.
      * Sociology moved to vote on the nomination, which was seconded by Theatre and Film. Amira left the room while the vote took place. By a margin of 27 votes in favor, zero votes against, and zero abstentions, Amira was elected to serve as President of GSS for the 2016-2017 academic year.
    - There were no nominations for the offices of Secretary or Representative at Large.
* New Business
  + Musical Arts Reinstatement – Samuel Teeple, the senator from the College of Musical Arts, submitted a letter of petition asking for reinstatement to GSS. He apologized for the fact that his department was censured, and said course commitments couples with confusion over the spring break schedule caused him to miss two GAs in a row. He expressed regret for the situation, and said he would make more of an effort to be present for the rest of the semester and into the fall.
    - There was no discussion on the petition for reinstatement.
    - Philosophy moved to vote on reinstatement, which was seconded by Theatre and Film. The “ayes” carried and the College of Musical Arts was reinstated.
  + Passing of the Gavel –Julia officially passed the gavel, and control of GA, to incoming GSS Vice President Zach Burton, and wished him good luck in his term of office. Zach presided over the final minutes of the meeting.
* Issues and Concerns – No issues or concerned were addressed at this meeting.
* Announcements
  + **LAST General Assembly:** April 15, 3-5 McFall Gallery; Guest: **Sheri Stoll,** Chief Financial Officer and Vice President for Finance & Administration
  + **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.
* Adjournment – Criminal Justice made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Theatre and Film. The “ayes” carried and the meeting was adjourned. Zach thanked everyone for coming, and wished everyone a good weekend.