Logo_4C.tif Graduate Student Senate

402B Bowen-Thompson Student Union

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**Graduate Student Senate General Assembly**

**Friday, April 15, 2016**

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

**Gallery- McFall**

**Handouts:** GA Minutes 4/1/16; Art Reinstatement Petition; Graduate Art Students Petition

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

**Absences:** Accounting (1); American Culture Studies (1); Chemistry & Photochemical Sciences (1); Computer Science (1); Economics (1); English (1); Food & Nutrition (1); Geology (1); German (2); School of Teaching & Learning (1); Technology (1); ATLAS (1); India Student Association (1); GradsAct (1); Graduate Women’s Caucus (1); GuSTO (1)

**Agenda**

* Call to Order – Incoming Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Vice President Zach Burton called the meeting to order, and welcomed everyone to the last 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 roll, either in the back or the front of the room, or they may be counted as absent, especially if they came in late.
* Approval of Minutes – Representative at Large Mallory Minter made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2016, GA. The motion was seconded by Graduate Writers Club. The “ayes” carried and the minutes were approved.
* Guest Speakers: **Sheri Stoll,** Chief Financial Officer and Vice President for Finance & Administration – Ms. Stoll thanked the body for allowing her to come and speak at the last GA of the year, and passed out printed copies of her PowerPoint slide presentation, which she said she had also forwarded to GSS Vice President Julia Largent to make available on OrgSync. Ms. Stoll said much of her presentation was based on questions forwarded to her earlier in the week by Julia, but she would take additional questions at the end. She began by giving a brief history of the state financial support Bowling green State University (BGSU) receives, and how this impacts tuition and fee increases. All public institutions get revenue from state funding and tuition, and in Ohio the amount of state funding received has steadily decreased over the last 30-35 years. Currently, only about 23% of the university’s revenue comes from state funding, whereas in years past this number has been as high as 68%.The exact amount of funding received is based on performance outcomes, measured by the number of courses successfully completed and the number of degrees awarded. BGSU does not receive support for students who fail their courses, or who do not complete degree programs. Salary/wages/benefits represent the single biggest expense to BGSU; utility costs are the second highest expense; technology, including upgrading and replacing older systems, is third. Undergraduate and graduate enrollment at BGSU has been trending towards a decline for over a decade, although enrollment numbers of both constituencies have been up the last two academic years. This trend towards decline is based in part on the fact that Ohio is projected to have one of the largest declines in the pool of 18-19 year olds as a percentage of overall population in the Midwest, a trend which has been observed as a contributing factor of declining enrollments at other institutions in the region. A complex formula is used to determine the exact amount of funding institutions receive from the state, and BGSU hit its high water point in 2010 (Ms. Stoll later clarified this statement was based on historical funding data going back to 2000, the earliest year for which reliable data is currently available). After that, economic and political factors resulting from the Great Recession of 2008 contributed to a decline in overall state spending on education, leading to a cut in state funding for the first time since Ms. Stoll has been in her position. The next fiscal year for BGSU starts July 1, 2016. By this time in the year Ms. Stoll generally has a good idea how much funding BGSU will receive from the state, and while draft numbers have been released no concrete information is yet available for the 2017 fiscal year. What she can say is that funding from the state makes up roughly half of the university’s general operations budget, funding programs and departments across campus. She will contact GSS with more exact figures once they are available. Based on the draft numbers, she expects BGSU to receive approximately $283 million over the next five years. One question she received was a request to see where BGSU graduate tuition and fees stood in comparison to other institutions in Ohio. Graduate tuition and fees are currently the 7th highest in the state, and there are currently no plans to increase tuition or fees for the coming academic year, although this is subject to change at the Board of Trustees meeting in June. Auxiliary budgets also contribute to the overall spending and budget of the university, primarily intercollegiate athletics, though Ms. Stoll stressed this is the case at virtually all public universities across the country. About $21.5 million dollars of auxiliary budget spending was allocated to intercollegiate athletics for fiscal year 2016, with salaries/wages/benefits of coaching staff being the chief expense in this category. BGSU is a Division 1 school in the Mid-American Conference (MAC), and as such the university contributed money from its auxiliary budget to the MAC for expenses each year, though our contribution is one of the smallest in the conference owing to the size of the university. Finally, there was a question about whether or not funding was available for doctoral programs that lasted five years, compared to four year programs that fund students through their entire graduate course of studies. Ms. Stoll said money is budgeted to the Graduate College to cover graduate student expenses such as tuition waivers and stipends, and those funds are allocated by the Graduate College to individual programs at their discretion. As a result, Ms. Stoll does not have any direct information about this type of programmatic funding, and encouraged students interested in this process to speak to the Dean of the Graduate College, Dr. Michael Ogawa.
  + Philosophy asked if the amount of money put into auxiliaries is proportional based on how much each program generates, or if another method is used to calculate this amount. Ms. Stoll said the percentages are mostly based on historic numbers and have remained fairly consistent over time, although some adjustment has been done over the years based on the growth or reduction of different programs, or when new facilities are being constructed. The senator expressed displeasure with this response, and said it did not seem to be an efficient use of funds.
  + Student Development Association asked what outcomes BGSU looks for in determining whether or not athletic programs have been successful in contributing to the university. Ms. Stoll said each athletic program prepares and submits program goals to the university each year, but there is no expectation that funds will be cut if programs do not achieve those goals since funding is determined based on a historic factors. Ms. Stoll said asking whether this is a good use of resources is not the right question to ask, but that students should be asking whether it is worthwhile to the university to be a Division I university or not, and is this something incoming students and alumni want from BGSU. Once a school is designated as Division I, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has strict rules about the number of varsity sports an institution must offer. As a follow up, the senator asked if any research had been conducted to see whether or not this designation from the NCAA had any impact on new student applications or enrollment. Ms. Stoll said she was not aware of any formal research of this sort, but there was anecdotal evidence that schools with successful athletic programs see increases in enrollment. .
  + Philosophy observed that many of the answers Ms. Stoll provided seemed to be based on decisions made by the BGSU Board of Trustees. The senator asked how students are able to have their voices heard, and whether the Board listens to student input or makes decisions in a vacuum. The senator used the example of the Student Recreation Center, and asked what would need to be done to have funding taken from auxiliaries budgeting and reallocated to this site. This resulted in a heated discussion between the senator and Ms. Stoll about where and how funds are allocated. Ms. Stoll concluded by saying if constituent bodies are unhappy with the way university budgets are written or how funds are allocated, their best bet is to petition the Board of Trustees to reconsider the university budget.
  + Sociology asked for more information about historic budgets, and how money is allocated to the MAC. Ms. Stoll said budget information from the 2000 fiscal year forward is available online, but BGSU has been a member of the MAC for much longer than that. She suggested checking with the university archives at Jerome Library to see if they had older budget information available to review.
  + Philosophy pointed out that, based on information in historic budgets online and in Ms. Stoll’s handout, the budget for various athletics programs was not balanced, and asked what accounted for this apparent discrepancy. Ms. Stoll said the Board of Trustees approved a measure many years ago that allowed for athletic programs to submit unbalanced budgets so long as those programs act in good faith to come as close as possible to balancing their budgets. The senator expressed dissatisfaction with this answer, saying it was hypocritical to expect other departments or programs to be held to a different standard than athletics.
  + Romance and Classical Studies, and HEADS asked about state support, and sought additional clarification on how the state government allocates funding to public institutions. Ms. Stoll said the state of Ohio distributes about $1.4 billion annually to public institutions, and the funding formula is based in part on the type of institution (community college, technical or trade school, 4 year institutions, etc.) Typically, 50% of funds based are based on the number of degrees granted, 30% is based on the overall number of successful course completion, 10% is set aside for institutions with doctoral-level graduate programs, and the final 10% is set aside for institutions with medical schools. BGSU receives funding in all of these categories except the last, since the university does not have a medical school Ms. Stoll said institutions with branch campuses also receive higher amounts of funding, so an institution like Kent State, which has seven branch campuses across Ohio, would receive more funding than a school like BGSU with a smaller number.
* Officers, Chairs, and Committee Reports
  + Environmental Affairs Chair
    - Caitlin Buhr
      * Earth Month activities continue through April. There are still a number of events going on across campus and the community. Information about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities can be found at the following link: https://www.bgsu.edu/campus-sustainability/earth-month.html
  + Professional Development Chair
    - Jess Shapiro
      * Shanklin Colloquium – Jess thanked everyone who volunteered with the planning and execution of this year’s Shanklin Colloquium, as the event was a great success. .
  + Representative at Large
    - Mallory Minter
      * Public Safety Advisory Committee Report – Mallory gave a report in her position as a member of the Public Safety Advisory Committee, which met this past Wednesday. A new express shuttle route will be added this fall, which will make a 13-minute loop around the core of campus. The student driver program instituted by Parking and Shuttle Services has been a success, and there are plans to hire at least two more student drivers and train them to be ready to drive this fall. Construction on additional visitor parking near the Bowen Thompson Student Union will open up 250 parking spaces, and is projected to be completed by July 9. Parking and Shuttle Services is considering moving away from rearview mirror-hanging parking permits for the fall 2017 semester, and using a scanner system that checks permit status based on vehicle license plate numbers. They have also recently expended the Toys for Tickets and Food for Fines programs, which allow students, faculty, and staff to bring in new, unwrapped toys during the holidays or non-perishable food items throughout the year to get reduced fines. A resolution passed by GSS earlier this year asking for additional crosswalks around campus has been forwarded to the appropriate parties on campus, but since the streets where crosswalks were requested are actually owned by the city there are negotiations under way between the city of Bowling Green, BGSU, and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) about what, if any, crosswalks will be constructed, and where. As part of the ongoing construction projects on campus, the Administration Building will likely be demolished in the next three to five years to make way for a new gateway into campus. Emergency Management Technicians on campus have undergone several training exercises of late, including fire, tornado, and ALICE training. They have also been reaching out to different programs and departments on campus to see what services people need in their individual buildings. A proposal to build a weather observation tower near the BGSU airport has been approved, and the university is working to get a storm ready certification. The BGSU Police Department is looking to hire a new officer this summer. They are also purchasing new vehicles and equipment to make them more prepared to handle emergencies on campus. They are also looking into equipping all officers with body cameras, but these are expensive and the department is not certain they have the money in their budget this year to purchase these cameras, given the other expenses they have already committed to. The BGSU Police Department, Bowling Green Division of Police, and the Toledo Division of Police are looking to upgrade their records management systems in order to be able to communicate more efficiently between departments. A group of gun rights advocates is planning an open carry walk through campus and downtown Bowling Green on Saturday, April 16, starting at 1:00 p.m. Individuals participating in this event will not be able to enter campus buildings. The university is temporarily suspending the Student Code of Conduct provisions against students carrying firearms on campus to allow students to participate in this event if they wish to do so. A survivalist supply store will be opening this summer in the Woodland Mall on north Main Street. The timing of this announcement has nothing to do with the open carry walk. The store is believed to be affiliated with a survivalist organization called the Oathkeepers, but this has not yet been confirmed. A recent community outreach program with the BGSU Police Department and the Bowling Green Division of Police has proven successful, and the two departments hope to collaborate on future events this summer and fall.
        + School of Teaching and Learning asked for more information about where this open carry walk would be taking place. Mallory said her understanding is that the group would meet somewhere on campus, walk to downtown for lunch, and then walk back to campus. Students who want to be involved in this walk must stay with the main group of walkers in order to be considered in compliance with the Code of Conduct waiver.
        + Graduate Women’s Caucus asked if any protest events were planned for students who wanted to express opposition to the open carry walk. Sociology said several community groups were organizing a protest picnic in City Park, and she would forward information about this to GSS President Maryam Kamran to forward to the graduate student population on campus.
        + Romance and Classical Studies asked what the purpose of the open carry walk was. Mallory said her understanding is that the group organizing the event wanted to encourage dialogue on open carry laws, and encouraged people to approach them and ask questions during the event.
  + Vice President
    - Zach Burton
      * Applications for the Summer Regalia Award are due June 3. The application can be found at the following link: <https://orgsync.com/9942/forms/194566>
  + President
    - Maryam Kamran – Maryam thanked Jess, Julia, and Social Chair Keji Kujjo for their help in planning and executing the Shanklin Colloquium, and said the feedback she had received on the event was overwhelmingly positive. Mentorship guidelines for both students and faculty will be uploaded to the Graduate College website in the near future. These will hopefully provide guidance for parties across campus about what best practices for effective student/mentor relationships look like. The Office of Student Affairs and the Office of Academic Affairs will be helping to introduce a student ombudsperson position on campus, which will likely be staffed by a rotating slate of faculty members from across campus in order to help address problems that may arise across disciplines. This position is expected to be filled by the start of the fall semester. The names of candidates to fill the graduate student representative’s seat on the Board of Trustees have been forwarded to BGSU President Mazey, who will be forwarding them to the Governor’s office shortly. If a new representative is not named by the time of the June meeting, current representative Rolfe Richie can attend that meeting. Maryam concluded by thanking everyone for a good year, saying her time as president has been a rewarding experience for her. While she conceded that she was not able to accomplish everything she set out to do, she feels that GSS still accomplished a lot this year, and that she knows the body is in good hands next year.
* Old Business
  + SEC Elections
    - Secretary – There were no nominations for the office of Secretary. As this position has not been filled the election will remain open through the summer. Anyone interested can be nominated and elected at the first GA of the fall semester.
    - Representative at Large – Outgoing Student Affairs Representative Krystal Allen nominated herself to fill the empty Representative at Large position, which was seconded by sitting Representative at Large Mallory. Krystal had previously been nominated to serve as President of GSS, but ultimately declined that nomination so she could continue to focus on her academic responsibilities. Nonetheless, Krystal said she has a love and respect for the work GSS does, and feels she can still be of service to the body in a capacity that allows her to have more time to focus on her doctoral work. For this reason, and to help preserve a sense of consistency from one class of officers to the next, Krystal has decided to seek the positon of Representative at Large.
      * There were no questions for Krystal about her nomination.
      * Criminal Justice made a motion to discuss the nomination, which was seconded by Graduate Women’s Caucus. Student Development Association said Krystal was great, and he would support her nomination. HEADS said Krystal is an exceptional leader who is plugged into the graduate population on campus.
      * Graduate Women’s Caucus made a motion to close discussion on the nomination and move to a vote, which was seconded by College of Technology. By a vote of 36 in favor, zero against, and zero abstentions, Krystal was voted into the office of Representative at Large.
* New Business
  + Art Reinstatement – The representative from Art requested reinstatement after having been censured earlier this semester, saying he suffered from bad time management and just lost track of meeting times and days.
    - Sociology said she could appreciate losing track of time, but asked what measures would be taken to ensure this did not happen again in the fall. The representative said he was not sure, as he did not expect to serve as a senator again next year.
    - Student Development Association asked why this was being discussed now, rather than being held over for discussion at the first GA in the fall. Maryam said it was to hasten the process so Art students could be eligible for Funding for Professional Development (FPD) and Regalia Awards sooner. The senator asked if this program had already been censured this year, and Maryam confirmed they had not been.
    - Criminal Justice made a motion to discuss the request for reinstatement, which was seconded by Applied Geospatial Science. English said he thought it was good to do this now, rather than making a new representative in the fall answer for someone else’s mistakes.
    - Sociology made a motion to close discussion on reinstatement and move to a vote, which was seconded by Geospatial Sciences. This was done by a voice vote. The “ayes” carried with one abstention from Geospatial Sciences, and Art was reinstated.
  + Graduate Art Students Reinstatement – The representative from Graduate Art Students asked to be reinstated after having been censured earlier this semester. The representative had no explanation for why they had been absent, and gave no reason for why they should be reinstated.
    - Sociology asked for a more definitive answer for why the representative had not been attending meetings. The representative said he had no real excuse, except to say he was a new father and had lost track of time.
    - Applied Geospatial Science asked if the current representative would be the organization senator in the fall. The representative said he would not, but did not yet know who would be taking his place. Sociology suggested his organization should have at least one back up representative selected to prevent the organization from being censured again.
    - Student Development Association asked what prevented other members of the organization from attending in the representative’s place. The representative said he did not know, but acknowledged having a backup representative would have been a good idea.
    - Criminal Justice made a motion to discuss the request for reinstatement, which was seconded by Representative at Large Mallory Minter. Philosophy asked for clarification on what happens if a department is censured. Maryam explained the department, program, or organization (DPO) is prohibited from seeking funding from or participating in GSS-sponsored events, such as FPD or the Shanklin Colloquium. The senator asked if there was a way to send notifications to department chairs to let them know about censures and the consequences. Jeffrey said Julia had been sending email notifications to department chairs and/or graduate coordinators as necessary when DPOs were censured, but GSS had no formal process by which to force those individuals to acknowledge or act upon these notifications. He also noted these notices were sent by email, and suggested a typewritten letter on GSS letter head might be a more effective way to communicate this information. Zach said he would take note of this information and consider updating the notification process in the fall. Sociology suggested sending something to department chairs and graduate coordinators at the beginning of the semester notifying them of the consequences of censure. Jeffrey again stated that Julia had been doing this, but again, there was no way to ensure the recipients of these notifications acted upon them.
    - Multicultural Representative Derron Borders suggested requiring departments that have been reinstated after censure to have a proxy in the event the duly elected or appointed senator cannot or will not attend GA.
    - Student Development Association took issue with the apparent lack of concern or seriousness of the request for reinstatement, and suggested a more rigorous process for reinstatement should be adopted in the fall. The senator also requested the vote for reinstatement be held as a card vote, as he doubted that everyone present in GA participated in the voice vote to reinstate Art a few minutes before.
    - Biology Graduate Student Association made a motion to close discussion on the request for reinstatement and move to a card vote. This motion was seconded by College Student Personnel. By a vote of 31 in favor, three against, and two abstentions, Graduate Art Students was reinstated.
* Issues and Concerns – No issues or concerns were discussed at this meeting.
* Announcements
  + **Spring Commencement, May 6—Congratulations!**
  + **Summer Commencement, August 6—Congratulations!**
  + **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 – Sociology made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Philosophy. The “ayes” carried and the meeting was adjourned. Speaking on behalf of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC), Zach thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication to GSS this year, and said he looked forward to another strong year starting in September. He wished everyone good luck for the last two weeks of the semester, and best wishes for those students graduating in May and August.