



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

General Assembly

Friday, April 15, 2022 – 2:00–4:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE: 13 Executives and 39 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 13 Executives and 39 Senators in attendance)

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

GUEST SPEAKERS

➤ **Dr. Rodney K. Rogers, BGSU President**

- Appreciate GSS for the opportunity to address the assembly
- He encouraged us to support each other
- He applauded the role grad students have played to allow the institutions move forward in the light of the pandemic
- He also appreciated acknowledged the role Dean Goberman have been playing in the graduate school.

➤ **Questions and Answers**

- **Popular Culture Representative:** Why did the BGSU change the mask policy in the mid-semester
 - **Answer:** We chose to follow the science and recommendations of Public health officers and the policy was in line with the CDC recommendations as well as Ohio Department of Health.

- We do follow the proponents of the recommendation and if they change the policy, we will also change it, as we want to be consistent.
- **Theater and film (PhD) Representative:** In follow up with the previous questions, most of the grad students that teach large number of group were not consulted before deciding on the policy to remove the mask.
- The previous conversations students have has not been effective in the school's policy and how we contribute to the process
- Articulated worries about graduate students not having a strong dialogue and that not following the university policy of public good
- How does the university prove to us that our opinions counts and our voice matters
 - **Answer:** it is more difficulty to make decisions such as the global pandemic situation
 - We tried to get better
 - However, we reflected on the response of the graduate students
 - He think there were a lot of things they got right and not right, however the university will have to reflect on things they did not get right and adjust

OFFICER'S REPORTS

➤ The President:

- Response to the questions going on when the President was here
 - We have a voice with the GSS as we are empowered to do so
- She gave a brief note reflecting on her 2021-2022 term as GSS President:
 - She acknowledged and appreciated the GA
 - Some of GSS SEC accomplishment for the 2021/2022 academic year
 - During the Summer of 2021 GSS and USGS president's office provided a joint statement in support of an On-Campus pantry
 - GSS supported Student Legal Services by providing a resolution and support of a fee increase to better support student community
 - Awarded over \$35,000 for Funding for Professional Development between the Fall, Spring and Summer semesters,

though we anticipate to go above this amount with Summer funding

- Funded 30 Regalia Awards in support of Graduating Masters and Doctoral Students
- Shanklin Research Colloquium and GSS Awards
 - Over 75 applicants in different categories
 - Partnered with 7 judges
 - 19 finalists awarded over \$10, 000 in recognition of Faculty and Student research excellence
- GSS, SEC and Senators served on 17 different University committees and Graduate students interest were represented on 2 National Search Committees
- 3 Tabling events
- GSS welcomed 16 speakers during the academic year of which 10 speakers were welcomed this semester alone

➤ The Vice President:

- Shanklin Colloquium Updates & Thank You's
 - She shared a document for the Shanklin Award winners
- Trustee Search Update
 - We have concluded the search
 - The GA will be notified once the selection is completed

➤ The Treasurer:

- Summer FPD
 - It has been updated on the website
 - The active date is April 30th through August 31st
 - Opening date is May 27th and will be due on June 10th
 - Updated funding links:
 - <https://www.bgsu.edu/student-government/graduate-student-senate/funding-options.html>
 - <https://www.bgsu.edu/student-government/graduate-student-senate/funding-options/funding-for-professional-development.html>

- Tabling and Sweatshirt Pickup: https://falconbgsu-my.sharepoint.com/:x/g/personal/agtaylo_bgsu_edu/EW7tWcKd2-NGuFIN1RgPUu8BmICoPtykQkqh79qKGU44yQ?e=Ik5mNR
 - The Spring Tabling Event on
 - Wednesday April 20th from 2pm-5pm
 - Thursday, April 21st from 11am-3pm
 - Mugs and straw kits to be given out to graduate students
 - The sweatshirts are available only to the GSS members and there will be a sign-out sheet. You can request a proxy to pick them up for you.
- There will be Summer Regalia Awards and the dates will be announced

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

➤ **Elections**

- Only GSS members are allowed to vote, proxies are excluded
- SEC Elected positions for the office of:
 - **President, Candidate: Amada Taylor**
 - Questions to the Candidate
 - Theatre and Film (PhD): What have you learnt last year being in SEC, what would you continue to emulate and what would you do differently?
 - Current President: What major philosophy do you think is relevant to your work and what can you bring to the table?
 - Answer by the Candidate
 - It is her mission just like the past administrative have done to amplify GSS voices through Q&A and heart-to-heart questions
 - Being a transformational leader as seen from SEC leaders as examples.
 - GA Comments on the Candidates

- School of Art Representative: I second that, Amanda has always been very involved and empathetic to the needs of graduate students and fellow senators.
- International Graduate Student Affairs Chair: I agree, Amanda is a great candidate and has always advocated for students of all backgrounds.
- **40 yes votes and 4 abstain**
- **Vice-President, Candidates: Nick Malendowski**
 - Questions to the Candidate
 - Theatre and Film (PhD) Representative: This position requires compelling GSS to attend meetings and ensure they do their jobs, how good is your communication skills and how do you propose to get senators more engaged in the work of the Senate?
 - President Ikpemesi: Could you propose a way to approach the Faculties to be judges when organizing Shanklin Awards ceremony?
 - Answers by the Candidate
 - He is good with emails as he has good experience with that
 - He wants the senators to feel they have a value in the GSS by their contributions
 - He likes to connect one-on-one with people and he how he can support the needs of the senators
 - He is ready to go out of his way to reach out to faculties to ensure they get personalized invites in request for judges
 - GA Comments on the Candidates
 - Professional Development Chair: Nick has worked with me on the Professional Development Day and his help was tremendous. He cared about what the real needs of the students are and how can we bring those skills to PDD
 - GSS Treasurer: She testified to his contributions and volunteer
 - Theatre and Film Representatives: She acknowledged the candidate's contributions and urges the assembly to be

mindful of the responsibilities of these candidates in regards to the constitution

- **39 yes votes and 4 abstain**
- Academic Affairs, Candidates: Michael Ofori, Beligala Deshapriya
 - Questions to the Candidate: Michael Ofori
 - Theatre and Film (PhD) Representative: what kind of conversations do you anticipate to have with the administrations and how do you intend to present it to the GSS
 - Answer by the Candidate
 - He will have conversations with the students representatives and present it to the GSS GA
 - If it involves calling the dean for questioning if that is requested to address the students' academic needs
 - Questions to the Candidate: Beligala Deshapriya
 - Absent with permission
 - GA Comments on the Candidates: Michael Ofori
 - None
 - GA Comments on the Candidates: Beligala Deshapriya
 - None
- **34 votes for Michael and 7 abstain**
- Student Affairs, Candidates: Emmanuel Ladapo
 - Questions to the Candidate
 - Current Student Affairs Representative: Talk about your time management on how to manage attendance on different universities' committees
 - Answer by the Candidate: Setting preferences and implementing proper time management from previous experiences
 - GA Comments on the Candidate
 - Current Student Affairs Representative commented on his desire to advocate for students

- **34 votes for and 4 abstain**
 - Treasurer, Candidates:
 - Abass Suara (Sport and Leisure Representative) was self-nominated and seconded by Media and Communications (MA) Representative
 - Victoria TenEycks (History Representative) was nominated by the Current Treasurer and seconded by CSP (MA) Representative
 - Questions to the Candidates:
 - Current Treasurer: How would you rate your organization skills
 - What other things beyond finances would you be willing to do for GSS as a Treasurer
 - Answer by the Candidate: Use his previous experience, priority settings, professional communications to ensure everyone achieve their goals, play as a team and respond in time and ensure transparency and properly communicate to the GA
 - Answers by the Candidate: Victoria TenEycks
 - Average organizational skills
 - about democracy and ensure all finances regard all awards especially PDF and get in speakers to shape professional programs and events
 - GA Comments on the Candidates
 - Theatre and Film Representative: Considering money is a pressing issues and we were been advised we lose the money we don't use. How do we collaborate with other organizations for effective disbursement and advocating for the transparency and opportunities of creative ways we can use our finances
 - **18 votes for Abass, 13 votes for Victoria and 1 abstain**
- **Secretary, Candidates: Katherine Nic**
 - Questions to the Candidate
 - President: How would you encourage programs that don't have senators to have one and to increase participations

- Theatre and Film Representative: Appreciated her effort in the Awards she organized. Communication with the departments and selling GSS. How can we be proactive to get programs ahead of time to encourage programs to have more participation
- Answer by the Candidate
 - Ensure and good publicity to ensure effective communications for the programs
 - Enlightens the program chairs in the effectiveness of having representatives on the GSS
- GA Comments on the Candidates
 - Theatre and Film Representative: She has demonstrated getting agenda and communicating with the senators
 - Current Treasurer: She commended the current Secretary's good work and request her opinion on the candidate
 - Current Secretary: She encouraged GA to vote for her based on her previous demonstrated skills to do a better work
- **31 votes and 2 abstain**
- **Representatives at Large, Candidates: Adam Smith**
 - Candidate spoke to his qualifications and reasoning for wanting to serve in this position
 - Questions to the Candidates: Adams Smith
 - World Language and Culture: Beyond how different departments relate with another, what other approaches do you have
 - What are the proposal to facilitate communications with larger departments within themselves
 - Theater and Film Representative: How do you manage attending the schedule in the Fall 2022 and what is your current experience regards attending these events and how would you prioritize your attendance
 - Answers by the Candidate: Adam Smith

- No much familiarity with such department
- Platform and online networking as well as events for networking for graduate students from and within a departments
- He shared his previous experience as a student and RA, he can conveniently fit the meetings schedule
- GA Comments on the Candidates
 - Theatre and Film Representative: Given the conversations that happened in the chats and having someone
 - Environmental Student Affairs Chair: She recommended Adam based on his good people skills from past work experiences
- **27 votes and 2 abstain**
- **Thank You's and Recognition of 2021 – 2022 Senators and SEC**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Theatre and Film (PhD) Representative:**
 - She provided a short report on the Vice Provost proceedings and encouraged Senators to attend the discussion sessions with the candidates for Dean of Arts on Tuesday (April 19th) and Thursday (April 21st)
- **Dean Goberman:** Appreciated everyone in the GSS SEC and GA and looks forward to working with the new SEC
- **Media and Communications (PhD):** <https://www.bgsu.edu/provost/leadership-searches/vice-provost-and-dean-graduate-and-professional-programs.html?deliveryName=DM16832>

ADJOURNMENT: Treasurer moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by School of Teaching and Learning Representative.

MEETING ENDED: 4:44pm.