Logo_4C.tif Graduate Student Senate

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**Graduate Student Senate General Assembly**

**Friday, April 24, 2015**

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

**Gallery- McFall**

**Handouts:** GA Minutes 4/24/15, Reinstatement: HEADS

**Agenda**

* Call to Order
* Roll Call
* Approval of Minutes: English moves, Theatre and Film seconds, Ayes carry
* Guest Speakers: **Marlene Reynolds** and **Tammy Ford**, Student Insurance:
  + Office in Falcon Center Suite 202. Here to present new information for the 2015-16 policy and the changes and enhancements going on. The cost of the plan is lowering for both Plan A and B, there are no design changes. There is a decrease in the premium cost. BGSU’s plan is in the Inter University Council, which means its plans match other policies for those in this council. We are the lowest in cost. Have options of other healthcare options, these are offered through the government and you can go there and look through their marketplace to look at available coverage options. There is a lot of information, if you would like further information you can begin looking at it now and your student health insurance ends in July so now is the time to look. Medicaid expansion is an option based on income. The Enhancements for the upcoming plan involves changes to online enrollment and waiver. International students will be able to enroll through MyBGSU. United Healthcare has been asked to offer a supplemental vision policy and it is not yet finalized. It will be up soon and they will update students as soon as they know. This will be an additional purchase. They also will have more details to explain why an error message may appear. Have answers to questions about where you can get further information within the powerpoint itself. Details where you can get information about benefits (through the brochure is the best location), who you can ask for questions (call or email Student Insurance Office or contact United Healthcare Student Resources Customer Services. Pregnancy is covered within the insurance plan. How can you learn who is in-network, there is an online tool to verify, though you can also contact them or the insurance provider. You can learn why something was not covered and it is possible that you may just need to provide additional information or verify how it was run. You may get two bills because some services are run through Wood County. Why have fees increased while coverage has not changed? Health Center says that only some immunization increases have taken place, the write-off for them may have increased, but your fee has not. How far in advance are decisions made about the plan? You could always speak to them about this.
  + Gusto says that this is a growing concern that the student insurance plan is presented the slide is shown that shows what the copays are and the fees, but that these copays do not explain how these fees are spread out or what the additional fees are. The copays and fees are not explained in detail, which is not an accurate representation of their fees. Many services are paid twice because the healthcare office cannot process some of this. They tell people that these are not all covered and that their slide is briefly presented and does not have all of the details. They tell people not to go to the emergency room if it is possible. The health center has extended its hours to help more people come in there. They have checked with UnitedHealthcare about multiple copayments and they were told you should only have two copays. Gusto did call the UnitedHealthcare office and has been told that it is in the policy that this is normal.
  + Media and Communications is asking if there is a way that international students can have the insurance program explained to them in more detail and if it is possible for someone to come in that is sent as a proxy of the injured person to discuss how the policy would be covered. Our insurance office could meet with a proxy. They do have in the website and online a uniform glossary of terms so there has been some explanation of these. They would also be willing to meet with people specifically to go over the policies. Believe that a document might be too long if they created it.
  + Theatre and Film is asking about the prescription portion of our coverage. Initially prescriptions were much lower, there was a slight increase in some prescriptions and you had to purchase them differently. This year the prescription costs have continued to increase over time. Would like to know if there is any way to change the amount of a prescriptions. They may be able to change prescriptions to a 90 day, the mail order can do this normally. You can come in and they can work through these things with the insurance company while you are in the office if need be. The plan was different for prescriptions and now they have shifted to fit with the new policy. There are places in town that will help to get you prescriptions for a cheaper price. They will make sure to get you answers if you come in.
  + Says insurance is often just confusing to everyone and everyone needs clarification.
  + If you have further questions please email Michael or directly email the insurance office.
* **Dolores Garcia,** Wood County Health and Wellness Center:
  + They are located in the Health District Building, they are a separate agency, but they share a building. They are a federally qualified health center. They have are designed to serve an underserved population. They have a lot of programs available and a lot of assistance. They have three providers. Two nurse practioners and one doctor. One np is focused on reproductive health. Monday through Friday 8:30-4:30. They also do have some evening hours available. They are contracted with a variety of insurances. They have a sliding fee scale, which is based on income, which will help to cover balances. There is a nominal fee of $15 required for a visit. They just started accepting credit or debit card payments. They are Marketplace Certified Application Counselor. They have phone based translation service to help those who speak any language. Adults and children are welcome and if you have no insurance they can still help you. You can come and talk to them if you need help with healthcare. They have prenatal services available. They are contracted with Wood County Women’s Care, you would go there after a certain number of weeks and would deliver there. They have a Title Ten grant, which covers birth control options. They were able to add behavioral health, pharmacy, and Marketplace Certified Application Counselor. They will meet with anyone from Wood County and the surrounding areas. The pharmacy is for established patients, but you can do everything there. She is the application counselor. She can help you learn what you are applicable for and will work to determine what you can apply for. Students normally do not know that they are eligible for Medicaid, it’s a free service. They do refer out for substance abuse. A lot of systems are in the works. Cost for medications is significantly reduced for their office due to 340B Drug Pricing Program. They can figure out ways to help you. They will tell you what to bring and how to go through everything. They often walk the applications directly to the office themselves. Soon they will have a new addition, the groundbreaking is spring of this year. They will have increased Women’s Health Services, expansion of pharmacy services so that it can serve everyone, medication therapy management would involve tutorials and presentations to help people understand medications they may be new to using, and an on-site psychiatrist on an as needed basis. You can call them or come by. Their phone number is 419-354-9049. They have a lot of Women’s Health offerings for free. There are postcards in the back with information
  + Sociology is asking if they can help with people who have diabetes. If they do not have a primary care provider or if they would like to switch they can become patients and have their prescriptions filed there.
  + Gusto is asking if they are independent of the federal marketplace website. They do walk you through the website, but they know some things that can be used or added.
  + Sociology is asking if they have volunteer opportunities. She is not sure, they do have some interns, but she would have to check with their person. She knows people who would be interested in being there if they could volunteer.
  + Grad Pride is asking if you can still get benefits from these different options for this year. Deadline was extended to April 30th to the Marketplace and you can always apply to Medicaid. You though can still apply at this point.
  + Any additional questions let Michael know.
* Officers, Chairs, and Committee Reports
  + Social Chair: Amy Jamieson
    - Happy Hour at Black Swamp Pub
  + Dining Advisory Board, Kristen Brunner: They were really happy this year to learn that they had less food waste. They were able to make an 1850 dollar donation to United Way. They did mention that there is a discount for student organization catering. They occasionally have events that are posted online on their website. December 1st all foods will be nutrition labeled in the dining halls. Starbucks will be closed on Saturday the 9th. There will be an Italian sandwich shop in Krisher, they are changing Mondo’s into a burrito station. They have been doing that this year and it has been really successful. Outtakes will still be there. In the summer there will be no major construction going on in food areas. They currently have a wikipage and they are going to transition it to OrgSync. This was their last meeting and she will not be here next year so if you are interested it you should consider it. They let you eat for free in the dining hall if you are.
  + Dining Advisory Board, Denise Robb: Lactation Rooms
    - Currently there are two of these on in education and one in Hanna. She has been conducting research and people have wanted increased rooms. They are hoping to present a recommendation to the president to ask for additional rooms within the next three to five years. They think it would increase retention of non-traditional students and show our support for them.
  + Environmental Affairs, Rachel Kappler
    - Earth Week Update: Monday was the GSS sponsored handing out of houseplants and all of them were passed out. Next year they will probably do this inside. Tuesday there was a guest speaker and if anyone wanted additional information ilovemountains.org has details. Wednesday was the Earth Week Fair and Rock the Earth concert. Yesterday was a panel for Sustainable BG, there is a website where you can look at the plan. They want to do adopt a block plan still, they were working on putting a park into a park area. Want to increase bike lanes at some point. There is a 5K tomorrow and you have to pay to enter, but you get a t-shirt and water bottle and there are raffle prizes.
  + President
    - Recreation Center Hours: there was a petition to increase hours for the center. The petition was to keep it open until 2 am, but an executive decision has been made by University President to ask if it can be kept open until midnight, though they have not discussed opening it any earlier.
    - City University Relations Commissions: next year there may be a new ex officio position, possibly more, so that there is a system in place. They will probably look for candidates until Fall.
    - Parking Resolution has been looked at and they will work to open some lots to graduate students and may look at future parking changes.
* Old Business
  + Ohio Senate Bill 4-updated: line added about ambiguity. Gusto moves to remove from table, Theatre and Film seconds. Our team of editors will look through the document before it is passed. Theatre and Film moves to vote, Gusto seconds. Ayes carry. One abstention.
* New Business
  + ETD Chart: this would show the entire process for how to do Master’s or Dissertation. This is on Orgsync right now and if there are any major edits we can let them know
  + HEADS Reinstatement: Gusto moves and Accounting seconds. 38 votes, Reinstated.
  + Complete Streets: the font will be changed. 625 other communities have, including Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo, and is designed to look at the entire street. This would be the first step in adding bike lanes. If groups show interest in this it is more likely that it will get passed. Psychology says that this would help as you cannot bike on Main Street at all. Macie asks if there are going to be additional bike parking areas. Rep at Large is asking how this would work, they might have to go through plans. Political Science thinks that they should create bike lanes as it is illegal to bike on sidewalks in this area. CSP is saying that you are not supposed to bike on sidewalks. They do not have a specific place for bike lanes established, they are just thinking about it and by adopting this the city would be able to consider plans for the future. Psych moves to close discussion and vote, Pop culture Seconds. Ayes carry
  + Ohio House Bill 111: this bill was passed asking for all public universities to allow students to vote on Boards of Trustees. Would like this to be brought forward to ask for Senators to be given the right to vote. ASORS moves to discuss and Gusto seconds. ASORS says that he supports this. Psychology is asking if we currently have a BoT representative, and no we do not have one at this time. We have asked for a representative to be chosen. Gusto moves to vote, Accounting seconds. One opposed, no abstentions, motion passes.
  + Human Trafficking: This was discussed previously and has been an issue discussed by the Women’s Center previously. There are independent programs to address this on campus, but no larger system. Psychology moves to vote. ASORS seconds. Ayes carry, motion passes.
  + Body type: this is being suggested to try and minimize discrimination against those of varying body types. Romance and Classical Studies says that he would like to play devil’s advocate and is asking what this actually does for us. ASORs also sees it as not being an issue, except maybe in athletics, but other than that he sees no reason not to right a resolution. Gusto is asking if this would go into every policy. We do not know what will happen with it once they see the resolution. Psychology is asking if we could add something to clarify how. Public Health is asking if this also includes having health issues or if it is just what you look like. GAR says that this is specifically looking at body type characteristics, not specific health. Art is asking if body modification would be covered. Michael says it could be added. Gusto says that they have a meeting next week and he could ask what is meant by body type. This would mean it is tabled for next year. Theatre and Film says that this should be prepared for the fall, but that we could pass the resolution now as it is merely a suggestion. Geology says that she could see a situation where this would be appropriate by department. Art is asking if this would also apply to the ROTC students. Higher Education Administration says that there are ROTC requirements that have to be fit. Thinks that moving forward it should be kept vague so that we are not defining specific body types that we are protecting. GAR says that we are not writing the non-discrimination policy, but that it will be discussed by a number of committees that will look at this before it goes into place. Psychology moves to table it for clarification. ASORs seconds. Art is asking if voting on this today, would it still not be looked at until next year. President believes it would not be looked at in detail until next year. Gusto also would like to verify information, which is why he supports tabling. Sociology Graduate Student Association is asking if body type is used to determine students. GAR says that this type of discrimination is not protected like many other types are. One nay, one abstention, ayes carry.
* Issues and Concerns
  + Chris Faulkner and Nick Baca, Gender Neutral Bathrooms: they are considering putting together a resolution for gender neutral bathrooms on campus. They hoped to have it for today, but this did not happen. They want to have it together for next year. If graduate students would be interested in looking at locations that could be gender neutral they would appreciate it. It would help them set up their resolution. Psychology is asking if they have talked to the people connected to the construction people and they have spoken with some administrators to see what bathrooms are available. Knows administration is interested in this topic.
  + Collective Bargaining Committee: this would take a great deal of time and discussion. We were going to discuss actually forming a committee to look into the pros and cons of collective bargaining. Would look to see if we are legally able to do this. This would be something that would have to start and be discussed in the fall as we do not have enough time to discuss it appropriately. If you are interested in it, then in the fall it is possible that a committee could be formed. Sociology is asking if this committee would be added to Julia’s list and it is not there currently, and it would be only graduate students. Grad Pride is asking if this is legal. The committee would look into this.
* Passing of the Gavel/Transition
* Announcements
  + **Commencement:** May 8, 2015starting at 7:00pm in the Stroh Center.
  + **Black Swamp Pub Happy Hour:** Join us today after GA for drinks and dinner at Black Swamp Pub in the Union.
  + **BGSU Libraries has a page for graduate students:** http://www.bgsu.edu/library/LTL/students/GraduateStudents.html
  + **The Women's Center at BGSU is seeking presentations** to add to the schedule for the Fall 2015 semester. We have many openings in our Weekly Discussion Series, Women's Research Network Series, and Professional Development Series, and about half of our presentations are led by male or female graduate students. This is a great way to share your research in a laid-back and supportive environment! If you are doing research on women's or gender related issues, please send your topic idea or research area to Kristen Bunner at wcgradasst@bgsu.edu.
  + **If your department or organization has an event**, email jbatter@bgsu.edu by 4 pm on the Thursday before the week of your event to have it included in the weekly Academic Agenda.
* Adjournment: Psychology moves, English seconds. Ayes carry