Logo_4C.tif Graduate Student Senate

402B Bowen-Thompson Student Union

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

**Graduate Student Senate General Assembly**

**Friday, September 18, 2015**

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

**Gallery- McFall**

**Handouts:** GA Minutes 4/24/15; Reinstatement: History and College of Technology; Senator Training PowerPoint; List of Committees

**Departments Censured (carried over from Spring Semester):** History, College of Technology

**Absences:** Clean slate for everyone!

**Agenda**

* Call to Order – Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Vice President Julia Largent called the meeting to order. She welcomed everyone to the first General Assembly (GA) of GSS at Bowling Green State University (BGSU) for the 2015-2016 academic year, and explained that one of her primary jobs is to run GA meetings.
* Roll Call – Before beginning roll call, Julia asked the assembly to verbally confirm their presence in the meeting to help speed the roll call process. She also asked anyone who was a proxy to say “proxy” instead of “here” or “present.” Secretary Jeffrey Moore took the roll call and asked the senators to remind anyone they see coming in late to check with him before they leave.
* Approval of Minutes – Motion from teaching and learning, second from sociology, approved
* Guest Speakers: **Dr. Michael Ogawa, Vice President of Research and Dean of the Graduate College –** After thanking the GA for inviting him to speak, Dr. Ogawa gave a brief summary of his career and at BGSU: Dr. Ogawa began his career at BGSU as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry in 1991, where he mostly ran or oversaw externally-funded research projects. Dr. Ogawa also served as Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Photochemical Sciences from 2003 to 2010 before being named Vice President of Research in 2010, and Dean of the Graduate College in 2011. He considers his interactions with his students to be the most meaningful part of his career. He explained that, despite the name, he does not consider BGSU to be a true state school, as only 23% of the university’s funding comes from the state. This, coupled with recent trends towards decreased student enrollment and retention, have presented a number of challenges at BGSU, but this fall 3,400 freshmen enrolled in classes, which is approximately 200 more than anticipated. He was also pleasantly surprised to see new graduate student enrollment had risen 8%, from 784 new students in fall 2014 to 898 students in fall 2015. By comparison, the University of Toledo saw their new graduate student enrollment drop by 7% this year. This increase allows the university to better address three imperatives outlined by the Office of the Provost: revitalize academic programs, and introduce new programs to better serve students; to reimagine how current courses are taught; and to reinvigorate research activities, especially among doctoral-level graduate students, which Dr. Ogawa considers to be the lifeblood of the university. Dr. Ogawa hopes to continue working to foster an foster open and honest relationship with graduate students at BGSU, and invites any graduate student who wants to speak with him or Dr. Alex Goberman, Associate Dean of the Graduate College, to contact him for an appointment or stop by the Graduate College office, 120 McFall Center. Dr. Ogawa also spoke about The Hatch, a modeled after the television series *Shark Tank* that aims to allow BGSU students a chance to develop business ideas and hone their entrepreneurial skills. The Hatch gives students a chance to present their ideas to alumni investors, and Dr. Ogawa wants to help the program promote high quality entrepreneurial ideas that would be socially and programmatically relevant to BGSU and its’ student populations. The Hatch program is open to graduate students for the first time this year, and he is encouraging groups or individuals to submit proposals for consideration. Students whose projects are selected for potential investment are given a three credit hour scholarship and a $1,000 stipend to entice faculty members to serve as content experts on their projects. Applications for The Hatch are due October 20, so interested parties can speak to Julia as she works in the Graduate College office and has access to application information.
* Members of the Clean Air Policy Committee spoke to address upcoming changes to BGSU’s Clean Air Policy; please see the PowerPoint presentation used during the GA, which is available for download on OrgSync, for more details. The presentation began with a list of statistics about smoking rates in the U.S., and the number of other institutions in the U.S. with clean air or similar smoke-free policies. Proposed changes to the Clean Air Policy would eliminate tobacco use across campus, remove designated smoking areas on university owned property, and outline sanctions against those caught violating the new policy. The rationale for the change in policy is to help eliminate tobacco litter on campus, which results in a lot of wasted money and labor on campus/ to promote student success and safety; to decrease exposure to new and emerging tobacco products; and to prevent the use of eCigarettes and vaporizers from being used in conjunction with illegal substances, such as marijuana. During fall 2015, members of the Clean Air Policy Committee will be speaking to various constituents across campus, including Undergraduate Student Government (USG) and Faculty Senate, to help gain support for this change in policy ahead of a meeting of the BGSU Board of Trustees in December. The Committee plans to launch an educational campaign during the spring and summer of 2016, ahead of an anticipated implementation of the revised policy during fall 2016. The goal of the educational campaign is to raise awareness of the issue across campus, and to make faculty and classified staff aware of employee assistance programs and insurance benefits that include smoking cessation services. The Committee is seeking a letter in support of the proposal from GSS by the end of October, and anyone with questions, comments, concerns, or other feedback can contact [clearnair@bgsu.edu](mailto:clearnair@bgsu.edu)
  + GSS President Maryam Kamran asked about how information about the policy would be communicated to international students, as attitudes about smoking in other countries is often vastly different than attitudes about smoking in the U.S. The committee responded that they are aware of these differences in attitudes about tobacco use and considering ways of underscoring the gravity of this issue to all students, possibly during orientation.
  + Criminal Justice asked how the committee plans to enforce any new or revised regulations, and asked for clarification on restrictions and sanctions. The Committee members responded that their research into similar policies at other universities found that strong education policies were more effective than strict policing of the policy; citations and fines are punishments, but the Committee wants to reinforce the idea that the university is an educational institution by teaching people about the issue instead. The Committee is also exploring ways to allow for reporting of violations online, as not everyone will be comfortable approaching people who may be committing a violation.
  + Philosophy asked if such policies actually worked without enforcement, and asked to clarify what would be the policy for a professor who smokes and teaches back to back classes. The committee again stated that their research showed that education was more effective than enforcement, and that a professor in a situation like the one described would not be permitted to smoke on campus. Although this would be a difficult situation, the committee would recommend smoking cessation services to the professor in the scenario described. Philosophy then asked why the committee doesn’t focus on other unhealthy consumption practices, like soda pop, and that the policy seems overly paternalistic. Philosophy wondered where the line was between acceptable choices and unacceptable choices about what people could or could not consume on campus.
  + Biological Sciences asked why there was such a push to ban eCigarettes and vaporizers, as there did not seem to be sufficient research data available on their dangers or their effectiveness in helping people curb nicotine addiction or cravings. Following up on Philosophy’s point, Biological Sciences asked why the committee did not make an effort to ban high calorie foods, since obesity is a more prominent health risk than tobacco use. The committee answered that there was research showing eCigarettes and vaporizers were dangerous and contained a number of toxins, and that there was a problem of people using these devices on campus to consume illegal substances, such as marijuana. The committee pointed out that Jerome Library has already banned the use of such devices, as the water vapor they give off damages books, and Residence Life has banned the use of such devices in dormitories because of problems with the devices triggering fire alarms. The committee also pointed out that, unlike obesity, tobacco use has a direct, measurable impact on the people around the user.
  + College Student Personnel questioned the need for a new policy, since the proposal seemed to be focusing only on marijuana use, and eCigarettes and vaporizers. The senator asked why the committee did not do more to enforce the existing policy, rather than push for a new or revised policy. The committee stated again that education, not enforcement, has been shown to be a more effective tool for attaining the goal of a tobacco free campus, and that education was going to be the focus of the committee moving forward.
* **Michael Caniglia**, a sophomore at BGSU and a member of the Aruna 5k committee, discussed the event and the organization behind it; please see the PowerPoint presentation used during the GA, which is available for download on OrgSync, for more details. Mr. Caniglia explained that the Aruna Project helps raise funds to fight human trafficking in south Asia, particularly India, where hundreds of thousands of predominantly girls and young women are sold into sex slavery every year. Aruna provides counseling and sheltering services, and vocational training for girls and women who have been victims of human trafficking. The Aruna 5K is a fundraising event whose proceeds to directly to the Aruna Project. The event will be held on BGSU campus on October 24, with registration starting at 9 a.m. The cost to participate is $20/person, or $200 for a team of 10 people. The team with the most money will have their name added to a recognition plaque. A twitter account (@Aruna5K\_BG) and Facebook page (BGSU Aruna 5K) have been set up for the event.
  + Student Development Association asked whether or not registration is already open. Mr. Caniglia said it was, but interested parties can also register on the day of the event.
  + Philosophy asked for clarification about what the plague was for. Mr. Caniglia said it was to recognize the team that raised the most money for the event.
  + Julia Largent stated that she wants to form a team of graduate students (not just members of GSS) to participate in the event, and to please contact her if anyone is interested in participating.
* Officers, Chairs, and Committee Reports – Normally very short
  + Secretary
    - Jeffrey Moore, [jsmoore@bgsu.edu](mailto:jsmoore@bgsu.edu) Jeffrey is a third year doctoral student in the Rhetoric and Writing Program in the English Department. His primary job functions as secretary are to take minutes for GA and Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meetings, and to take roll call at GA meetings. Meeting minutes will be available on the GSS OrgSync page; anyone without access to OrgSync should contact Julia Largent immediately.
  + Multicultural Affairs Chair
    - Derron Borders, [derronb@bgsu.edu](mailto:derronb@bgsu.edu) Derron works on campus in the Office of Multicultural Affairs, so he considers this to be a perfect position for him. He also serves on the It’s On Us and Not In Our Town Committees, so anyone with questions or concerns about these initiatives, or anything related to multicultural affairs, should see him. He also works closely with the International Affairs Representative, Shahad Al-Dori, who was not in attendance.
  + Graduate Allocations Representative
    - Michael Mastalski, [mmastal@bgsu.edu](mailto:mmastal@bgsu.edu) Michael is a third year doctoral student in Higher Education Administration. He is co-chair of the Student Budget Committee, and can help answer questions about how graduate students and graduate student organizations can access spot funding, Coke funding, and other funding opportunities on campus.
  + Publicity Co-Chairs
    - Daniel Conklin, [djconkl@bgsu.edu](mailto:djconkl@bgsu.edu) Daniel is a second year MaCCIE student, and is serving as a Publicity Co-Chair this semester, as he will receive his degree in December. He is working to broaden the reach of GSS through social media, primarily Twitter, to help disseminate important announcement and information across campus.
    - Lingfei Luan, [lluan@bgsu.edu](mailto:lluan@bgsu.edu) Lingfei is a second year master’s student in the School of Media and Communications. She considers Daniel to be the more experienced publicity person, and jokingly suggested we should send all concerns to him.
  + Environmental Affairs Chair
    - Caitlyn Buhr, [buhrc@bgsu.edu](mailto:buhrc@bgsu.edu) Caitlyn’s primary goal this year is to communicate to GSS relevant information about the Green Initiatives Fund, an optional fee-based fund which has 83% participation on campus. The Fund exists to provide funding for sustainability initiatives across campus. Some examples include the green roofs and bike racks on campus, such as at the Wolfe Center and the Student Rec Center. Interested students can make proposals to the Green Initiatives Fund, and the Green Initiatives Committee will make decisions on what funding to provide. Students with ideas or questions should contact her, and she would be happy to help them develop their proposals. Caitlin hopes to make a number of announcements regarding the Green Initiatives Fund throughout the year.
    - Green Policy
  + Representatives at Large
    - Mallory Minter, [minterm@bgsu.edu](mailto:minterm@bgsu.edu) Mallory is a fourth year doctoral student in the Department of Sociology. As a Representative at Large, she essentially serves as an extra senator serving the entire graduate student population, not just her own department. In this capacity she also sits on the SEC, and represents GSS as a member of the Clean Air Policy Committee, who she meets with every Friday.
  + Professional Development Chair
    - Jess Shapiro, [shapirj@bgsu.edu](mailto:shapirj@bgsu.edu) Jess is a second year master’s student in Public Relations. Her primary goal is to organize and prepare for the annual Shanklin Colloquium in the spring. More information about that event will follow as it becomes available, but feel free to contact her with any questions.
    - Student Affairs Representative
      * Krystal Allen, [knallen@bgsu.edu](mailto:knallen@bgsu.edu) Krystal is a second year doctoral student in Higher Education Administration. Her position deals primarily with issues that fall outside the prevue of classroom learning, and she meets regularly with the Vice President of Student Affairs, so please contact her with any questions or concerns.
  + Academic Affairs Representative
    - Dhiman Chattopadhyay, [dhimanc@bgsu.edu](mailto:dhimanc@bgsu.edu) Dhiman is a second year doctoral student in the School of Media and Communications, who is returning to the position he held most of last year. His responsibilities relate to conveying information and issues regarding new courses and existing courses. He also serves on the Academic Affairs Committee and Graduate Policies and Standards Committees, so you can bring him any concerns that you feel should go before those committees.
  + Jodi Webb, Advisor
    - [jwebb@bgsu.edu](mailto:jwebb@bgsu.edu) Jodi is the Dean of Students and the advisor to GSS. She attends all GA and SET meetings, and is happy to talk to anyone about any issues they may have related to either body
  + Vice President
    - Julia Largent, [jlargen@bgsu.edu](mailto:jlargen@bgsu.edu) Julia is a third year doctoral student in the School of Media and Communications, and as Dr. Ogawa said, she works in the Graduate College main office. Her primary responsibility, as far as GA is concerned, is to run the meetings.
    - Julia asks that everyone visits the GSS website and makes sure their name and contact information is listed correctly.
    - The deadline for the Regalia Award is Friday, September 18. Anyone graduating in December can apply for the award, which covers the cost to purchase MA regalia or the rental of doctoral (doctoral students who receive the reward can buy regalia and pay the difference). Applications must be submitted by midnight through OrgSync at the following link: <http://bit.ly/GSSRegF15>
    - Fall applications for Funding for Professional Development (FPD) are now being accepted. The deadline to apply is next Friday, Sept. 25. The application has been revised compared to previous years, and requires more information about funding needs and departmental contacts. Funding is available for conferences and professional development and new funding opportunities are available each semester. Applications can be submitted at the following link: <http://bit.ly/FPDFa15>
    - Committee Assignments – As a senator in good standing, everyone is expected to serve on a committee. Committee appointments are on a first-come, first-served basis. Julia will be sending an email on Saturday, September 19, with a list of available committee positions; respond to her with your top three picks by September 25. The list is also on OrgSync and a printed copy is available for anyone who wants it. Some committees are GSS specific, others are not.
    - Volunteers are needed for Graduate College and Professional Fair on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 which will be held from 3:30-6:30. Volunteers are needed in shifts from 2:30-4:30 or 4:30-7:00. Volunteers will largely be unloading cars, moving materials to and from the site of the fair, and making sure fair presenters have the materials they need. Interested parties should contact Julia.
    - Julia opened the floor to ask if anyone had any ideas for people to invite to speak at upcoming GA meetings.
    - Biology asked if we could skip the speakers and end meetings early.
    - Public Administration Association asked if we could extend an invitation to Congressman Bob Latta.
    - Philosophy asked if we could invite members of the Board of Trustees. Maryam stated that a representative of GSS, Rolf Richie, attends the Board of Trustees meetings, and is meant to be a liaison between the two bodies, but he was not able to attend GA this week.
    - MPASA asked if we invited representatives from the Climate Action Committee to speak at GA.
    - Julia will be absent at the Oct. 2 meeting, as she will be attending a conference in Cincinnati; Maryam will be running the meeting in her place.
  + President
    - Maryam Kamran, [mkamran@bgsu.edu](mailto:mkamran@bgsu.edu) Maryam is finishing her doctoral degree in biology this year, so when she is not attending to her GSS duties she is locked away in her lab.
    - New Ways to Claim Sports Tickets – Students can no longer get into athletic events with a student identification card just by showing up at the ticket booth before the event. Instead, students need to go to bgsufalcons.com/studenttickets to claim tickets, take a screenshot of or print out a QR code, and take the QR code to the ticket office. Tickets are issued on a first-come, first-served basis, and more QR codes may be issued than there are available seats.
    - Goals for the Year – Maryam is working on forming a central database of sources of funding/support, including any type of funds for conferences or research grants (if your department already has something like this in place, please email her or Julia to help speed the creation of this database). She is also looking to form guidelines for mentor/mentee advisement relationships on campus, what are expectations for faculty, academic advisor, or with assistantship issues. Finally, she is trying to get creative in terms of finding ways to have people leave their departments and mingle. Some initial thoughts include graduate student nights at athletic events and gift cards.
    - Assistantship Stipulations and Reminders from Student Employment Services – Graduate students cannot work more than 20 hours per week if that if what is stipulated in your student employment contract. This is especially true for international students, who are also not permitted to work off campus. Students who work in excess of 28 hours per week will be in violation of labor laws, which will require the university to provide health insurance benefits to the student. Individual departments will be charged for these overages, meaning department budgets will be affected, which has an impact on numerous individuals.
    - Maryam hopes to foster open lines of communication with all graduate students, so please feel free to contact her with any issues you may have.
* Old Business – There is no old business, as this is the first GA of the year.
* New Business
  + Senator Training and PowerPoint – Please see the PowerPoint presentation used during the GA, which is available for download on OrgSync, for more details. Julia briefly reviewed Robert’s Rules of Order, and the rights of senators in good standing: the right to speak, make motions, vote, write or propose legislation, attend SEC meetings (please contact Jeffrey Moore if you plan to attend SEC meetings so he can ensure a room with enough space for everyone has been reserved), see non-privilege information and see the GSS budget. Motions on the floor must be seconded before discussion. A set amount of time to discuss motions will be provided. Amendments must be proposed and approved before voting on an issue.
  + Reinstatement of Department of History – Aaron Lewis, as the duly elected/appointed representative from the Department of History, wrote a letter to GSS asking to have his department reinstated. Citing his past experiences as an elected officer in other student organizations, Mr. Lewis pledges to be at every meeting if reinstated and will attend meetings with Zach Burton, a fellow student who will serve as his proxy in the event he is not able to attend meetings. College Student Personnel made a motion to reinstate History, which was seconded by Student Development Association. There was no discussion on the issue. Before the vote, Jeffrey reminded the senators that it was their responsibility as a senator to vote, and that abstentions should only be used in the event that there was a conflict of interest, either with the senator themselves or with their department, organization, or program. This point was raised because there were issues last year of people abstaining from votes when they had no reason to do so, and Jeffrey stated that those senators who engaged in such behavior are technically not upholding their responsibilities. The “ayes” carried and History was reinstated.
  + Reinstatement of College of Technology – Suman Paneru, as the duly elected/appointed representative from the College of Technology, wrote a letter to GSS asking to have his college reinstated. Mr. Paneru stated that he was unaware of the problems that led to his college being censured, but that he has no classes on Fridays so there will be no conflict of interest for him. Biology Graduate Student Association made a motion to reinstate Technology, which was seconded by Mathematics and Statistics. There was no discussion on the issue. The “ayes” carried and Technology was reinstated.
  + Elections: positions not filled in spring
    - Treasurer – Suman Paneru and Scott Chappuis both applied for the position, however, Suman stated that he was no longer interested in the position and withdrew himself from consideration. Julia gave Scott five minutes to explain his qualifications and interests in the position.
      * Scott is a second year doctoral student in the School of Media and Communications with a BA in communications and a BS in mathematics. Scott previously worked as an Adjunct Professor of Mathematics at Stark State College in Canton, OH. He has experience as a treasurer, having previously served in this capacity in other student organizations, and has a passion for creating budgets and working with numbers. He hopes to use his experiences to help bridge the gap between the sciences and the humanities by working with GSS and the Budget Committee, and has already taken the appropriate officer training for the role. There were no questions for Scott. No questions. A card vote was taken with 49 senators voting in favor of electing Scott to the position; there were no votes against or abstentions. Scott is officially elected.
    - Representative-at-Large – One Representative at Large position is currently vacant. There were no nominations for individuals to full this position. Julia asked the senators to communicate this opening to their constituencies.
* Issues and Concerns
  + BGSA: Communicating Fees to Students – Biological Graduate Student Association asked to speak about the difficulty in keeping track of fees assessed to students. The senator asked to have feedback on this issue forwarded to her, particularly regarding what, if any, information students are receiving from their departments about what the fees are, whether or not these fees are covered by tuition waivers, and what fees the students are expected to cover on their own. There seems to be a great deal of confusion about these issues, particularly related to the technology fee. Information about the fees, and a fee calculator, is available online, but it is very difficult to find and does not take into account differences in assistantships and departmental funding opportunities, and the number of credit hours students needed to be enrolled in relative to the charging of fees. The senator asked to have any questions or concerns forwarded to Julia, who would in turn forward them to her
    - Sociology asked about withdrawals for the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS), and why withdrawals were being made during the summer. Julia replied by saying under state law any student who is enrolled in enough credit hours to make them a half-time student or more can opt out of withdrawals for OPERS, but students enrolled in less than half-time credits cannot opt out. Maryam added that she feels this is an issue of transparency, but that she is not sure who should be responsible for informing graduate students about these issues. She thinks perhaps departments should take a more active role, or that the information should be presented during Graduate Student Orientation (GSO) in August.
    - Graduate Student Personnel found the fee calculator helpful, but had a very difficult time locating it online. Julia stated that the fees calculator was only made available this past spring, so there are likely still bugs in the system, but if we are going to pay a technology fee someone in university Information Technology Services (ITS) should be able to fix this.
* Announcements – If there is anything you would like to have in the announcements, send it to Julia by Tuesday the week of GS.
  + Dhiman – India Student Association is hosting an event to teach traditional Indian dances to students in the Multipurpose Hall of Bowen Thompson student Union on Friday, Sept. 25, from 6:00 – 9:00. Students representing Persian and Sri Lankan cultures will also be on hand to teach their cultures’ dances as well. This is a free event and all students are invited.
  + **Next General Assembly:** October 2. 3-5 McFall Gallery
  + **Black Swamp Pub Happy Hour:** Join us today after GA for drinks and/or dinner at Black Swamp Pub in the Union. This is open to all graduate students, not just members of GSS.
  + **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 for the academic agenda**, 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 – Julia asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by College Student Personnel, which was seconded by GuSTO. The “ayes” carried and Julia adjourned the GA.