Logo_4C.tif Graduate Student Senate

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**Graduate Student Senate General Assembly**

**Friday September 21st, 2012**

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

**McFall Gallery**

**Agenda**

Vice President Jeff Larocque called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

* Roll Call
  + 51 senators in attendance; a quorum is present.
* General Assembly Picture
* Guests:
  + Dr. Michael Ogawa
    - Dr. Ogawa, Dean of the Graduate College, addressed the GA. He introduced himself and gave a brief overview of his role. He expressed excitement over the progress GSS and the Graduate College have made in graduate education. Dr. Ogawa highlighted the creation of the Graduate Strategic Plan last year and the streamlining of many office processes. He shared that President Mazey announced a new enrollment strategy to have 25,000 students by 2020 (undergraduate, graduate, Firelands, and online). The plan is to accomplish this by decreasing the size of the freshmen class in a renewed focus on quality of students. Will plan on increasing the number of graduate students by 500-600. Will continue to work with the Implementation Committee in order to examine programs and assessment in order to increase competitiveness.
    - Currently 2,519 graduate students and we had the largest incoming graduate student class this year with 822 (24% increase over last year).
    - Update on payroll deduction for health insurance: if the Graduate College moves forward with this option, then other programs or finances will need to be cut.
* Old Business
* Come walk with GSS in the homecoming parade! Families welcome!
  + Secretary Ellen Collier announced the time, location, and details of the homecoming parade. Senators, families, friends, and other graduate students are invited to meet at Miletti Alumni Center at 3:30 pm. The parade will begin at 5:00 pm and last approximately 1 hour. Other events will be ongoing throughout the week, please see the schedule online!
  + Falcon Fridays – university initiative to wear orange and brown each Friday.
* Background Checks
  + President David Sleasman announced that a copy of the draft policy is available at the check-in time. David and Christina have been meeting with individuals on campus in order to clarify procedures and point out holes in the policy.
* Grievance Procedures
  + Student Affairs Chair Sherry Early shared with the GA that she has been benchmarking BGSU’s grievance procedures against other institutions and will be proposing a review of the current procedure in order to bring it up to date. If you have feedback on the current policy, please let Sherry know.
* Graduate Strategic Implementation Committee
  + Vice President Jeff Larocque announced that President David Sleasman and Secretary Ellen Collier will be the GSS representatives on the committee.
* Brown Bag Series
  + Vice President Jeff Larocque announced that the next Brown Bag will be October 11 with Tom Kornacki, Director of Sponsored Programs and Research.
* Shanklins Research and Colloquium
  + President David Sleasman announced that the colloquium will be April 18, 2013. It will be the first year we will be hosting a reunion of previous Shanklin winners. Past GSS leadership will also be invited.
* Master Plan Forum
  + President David Sleasman reminded the GA that the Master Plan Forum will be September 26, 2012 at 6:30 pm in the BTSU Theater.
* Professional Development Day
  + Vice President Jeff Larocque reviewed that the fall Professional Development Day will be October 27, 2012 in Olscamp Hall. The day will include faculty panels, former graduate student Q&A, mock interviews, and sessions on CV/resume writing.
  + At this time, Jeff also announced that the previous Professional Development Chair has stepped down so that position is open. Most of the planning has already been done for this semester, but we will need to select a new chair.
* Vice President Jeff Larocque announced that President Mazey has approached GSS and USG about making BGSU a smoke-free campus.
  + Suggestion was made to maybe enforce the 30-foot no smoking ban (state law) around university buildings, as a gradual process is often better received.
* New Business
  + Committee Assignment Forms-Jeff
  + Current positions open-Jeff
    - Publicity Chair
    - Social Chair
    - Graduate Professional Development Chair
* Senate Executive Committee Reports
* Academic Affairs Representative - Christina Wright
* Treasurer - Michael Salitrynski
  + Professional Development Funding- Deadline 9/21
* Secretary - Ellen Lassiter
* Student Affairs Chair - Sherry Early
* Multicultural Affairs Chair – Chen Shen
* International Student Affairs Chair - Lingxiao Ge
* Representatives-at-Large- Nivethasree Balasubramanian
* Representative-at-Large- Christopher Weinland
* Board of Trustee- Graduate Representative- Vivienne Felix
* Issues and Concerns
* Adjournment
* Next meeting- October 12, 2012