



Graduate Student Senate  
402B Bowen-Thompson Student Union  
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<http://www.bgsu.edu/gss>

**Graduate Student Senate General Assembly  
Friday September 23, 2011  
3:00-5:00pm  
Gallery, McFall Center**

**Handouts**

**Agenda**

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Funding for Professional Development
- Guest Speakers:
  - Dr. Mary Ellen Mazey, President do for graduate education. I am into my 11<sup>th</sup> week. I have been spending a lot of time with the undergrads, like last night at Kriescher hall. I have learned so much by listening to them.
  - My role now is to implement the great ideas. We need to target retention. In the past we have been 75% but I would like to see them up to 80%. I am especially interested in the world news reports Rankings. We are in the top 100 public institutions. We were 97<sup>th</sup>. We need to stay there and improve on that rating.
  - We currently have about 50 graduate programs with about 3,000 grad students out of 21,000 undergrads. I think we need to look at new interfaces on how we can better utilize the grads.
  - I just came out of a meeting about an accelerated BA to MA program in 5 years. Dr. Ogowa is looking at this as well/ This is our highest priority to institute a new strategic plan for graduate programs.
  - We need to take on a lot of renovations across campus in the next year. Math and Communications are you serious that you want to discuss the master plan for the renovation?  
MEM yes we are working on that

Math and Communication I see the university is committed to athletics with the stroh center, but what about our building which had to be closed this summer do to mould and asbestos this summer.

MEM yes West hall does need to be replaced. It is on our list.

Vasiliki I understand there have been substantial gifts for the athletics, but these new buildings put a heavy load upon the students. But by accepting the gifts we are putting a terrible load on us. Could the donors be directed in another area?

MEM In my experience, we cannot ask them to donate in a specific project. We are division One Athletics. Therefore there needs to be a good balance between athletics and academics. I agree there are major deferred academic infrastructure.

English Alex The last administration seemed to be more interested in quantity versus quality. What is your vision

MEM My vision is about a specific balance between. Today less than 25% of our fees come from the state. We cannot continue to maintain to handle University programs with only undergrad tuitions. More and more people are seeking masters programs, which is putting a heavier load on the school.

Our funding is based on our PHD graduates and amount of funding for research.

We do not know where the reduction of state funding is going to take us

Sociology Will class offerings be reduced, will educators positions be reduced?

MEM I do not have specifics because we do not have the graduate strategic plan. It comes down to the collaboration that our faculty would like to take on.

Currently 94% of BGSU faculty are full time

Shara Banks Is there a plan for current grads not to be affected by additional budget cuts.

MEM I would hope that we will be able to honor our commitment to you. Unless we face a double dip recession.

American Culture Studies How do we make sure the private funding is geared towards the specific programs and maintain the level of education?

MEM in terms of fundraising, the deans of the various schools have been asked to spend 50% of their time on this issue specifically to raise funds for their programs.

MEM I am so pleased to be here with and all that you

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- Dr. Rodney Rodgers, Interim Provost

RR You may wonder what the Provost does? They execute the strategic plan with a focus on the academic side. I try to execute this plan in coordination with MEM. Our plan has a long history of supporting graduate education. As you think about our program we have gone through difficult times. Last year we did go through some challenges last year due to issues coming from the state. We are trying to stay inline with our sister universities at Ohio State and Miami.

I want to be the first to say that this was not handled the best way that it could be. We are all new coming on board as of July 1. We are trying to be very clear and transparent in all of our financial planning. One off the key imperatives is based around graduate education for this fall. We are committed to insuring that we have quality programs here at BGSU but they also have to be financially viable. The programs we should have and new programs are points that we are interested in developing. We are looking at the issue of fee waivers and hope to have an answer by Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>. I appreciate the opportunity to come introduce myself to you. If you see any opportunities to improve your graduate experience here, please feel free to contact me directly.

- Rodney Fleming, Student Legal Services

RF I would like to explain what our program is all about. There is a \$7.00 optional fee for this service. We are a separate law firm contracted to help students. We came into being as some students felt they were being taken advantage of by landlords. So we came together as a prepaid legal service. We worked with over 1,400 students last year. Another large part of our work involves traffic law. Come to us and we can help you and even save you money. Some of what we do for grads: dissolution of marriage. Power of attorney, medical power of attorney. We are here as your law firm. Our only clients are students. We are in South all in room 401.

Our actual representation is only for the Bowling Green area only but we can make recommendations to other university legal services around the state.

Political Do you work with patents?

RR actually we refer to a firm in Perrysburg as that is a specialized firm.

JL are notary services covered by the legal fee?

RR yes, just bring in your paper work.

- Megan Pugh Espen-Falcon Landing

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MPE BGSU is offering for the first time graduate student housing. This housing is limited specifically to grads and faculty only. We are located between Stroh Center St. Johns Episcopal church. Our parking is monitored by BGSU security. But you are centrally located right on the campus so you can catch the buses.

All of the apartments are fully renovated, two bedroom, two bathrooms. We have flexible leasing options, you do not have to worry about subletting 10 or 12 month leases. Billing is being setup online through your account, the apartments are upscale and fully furnished.

Cost is \$550 per person (Double occupancy) We are working on getting the utilities included.

There are some issues on couples/families we need to work out.

We are charging \$900 for one individual renting the entire suite to one person.

\$550 as a single will have the second room locked but we may pair another person with you at a later date.

- Old Business

- Vacant SEC Positions.

JL You can nominate someone up to next meeting in two weeks. Please download the application from our website. If you have any questions please direct them to myself or David.

The Vice president needs to be a senator that has served for at least 5 weeks

- Vice President Nominated Jeff Laroque
- Representative-at-Large
- Professional Development Chair

- New Business:

- Mayor Quinn Resolution Count For:48 Opposed: Abstentions: 1

- Senate Executive Committee Reports

- President- David Sleasman
  - Charter: Does everyone understand what this is? The Charter regulates how the university runs. It details our representation and that of the various committees. On Dec. 10 the BofTrustees voted to make changes in response to the faculty voting to unionize. These changes also affected our representation. Many believed that these changes usurped the Faculty Senate's power. It also eliminated our voice in several different areas.

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Currently, according to Dr. Mazey, she is interested in changing the charter back, but certain issues cannot be changed back due to the union contracting process. Currently, we are out of compliance with our charter which means if we were up for accreditation review, we would fail. She wants the charter reinstated to the areas in question that can get us back into compliance. I have specifically pushed to make sure that the GSS is currently named so that we will continue to have a strong voice. On Tuesday, the faculty senate needed a 2/3's majority to be able to get this in front of the Board of Trustees. They are taking their time to avoid mistakes and they are trying to get this in front of the trustees in December. If you do want more information on this I will make every effort to get this new charter to you to read it.

- Graduate Council: David Sleasman and Jason Ratliffe will be your representatives.

Vasiliki who are the members?

DS Myself, JR and I am advocating with Dr. Ogowa for a third position.

Ling Xao Does the committee have a timeline for this project?

DS They are trying to get something in place by the end of this semester.

English The President and Provost talked about transparency, but that doesn't really have any impact on their decisions. What recourse do we have?

DS That is a very good question. Our presence there is to express the issues of the graduate body. I am cautiously optimistic. I am giving Dr. Rogers and Ogowa the benefit of the doubt. I feel like they are actually listening and they really seem like they do not want to cram any decision down our throat unlike last year with their predecessors. I believe these changes come from the top down and I feel like perhaps Dr. Mazey's leadership is partly responsible for this change.

Senator: I understand that these are difficult financial times, I think that we need to have the same documents that administration is using so if you could present this information online this will help us to better understand what cuts have to be made and why.

DS Yes, I agree, but last year these documents were not made available to us. There was a lot of frustration with missed deadlines for funding.

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Vasiliki Is it possible to make a motion that we would like to request this information be presented to this body?

JL We are getting positive responses to what we are asking for. I believe that if this situation does change or goes south, then yes a formal request would be correct.

DS I have been requesting these things right along and now we are getting them. I do not want to get something from administration just to have something. I want to see where the information is coming from. Is there something specific that you are requesting.

JL Whatever we legislate here the administration is not bound to respond. Biological Sciences Do we have any say in how the monies are budgeted/spent?

DS No, but we can ask for information to better understand

Musical Arts Would it be helpful to express that we want to all of this information?

DS Every meeting I clearly state this very issue. This year we are getting more information. Dean Colon is working to get the numbers together.

Musical Art But if we could write him a note, saying that when he gets these numbers together we want a copy.

DS I think we need to wait until the October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. If we do not get these then yes,

Vasiliki, but the numbers we need to are based on the potential closures.

DS Admin has stepped back from this issue and I trust their attention to this situation.

- Lunch Series:
- Stroh Fee

JL We will have more information on this subject in the next meeting.

○ Vice- President –Interim- Jeff Larocque

- Committees

Attendance we allocate seating based on program size.

○ Academic Affairs Representative- J.R. Ratliff

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JR Met with academic Affairs and I brought up concerns. The provost mentioned that they are looking for more collaboration within the graduate programs. Cross teaching will be occurring between some of our programs.

The second issue will be directed at fee paying students in gerontology. I have some concerns, I believe that you need to have a strategic plan in place before a program can get up in place.

- Secretary- Jonathan Sudler
- Treasurer- Christina Wright

- Funding

- Student Affairs Chair- Sherry Early

A lot of things are being working on, but we are waiting on information from the stroh fees.

Concern related to international students being assed a fee for something they are not here to physically used.

There are questions about electronic dissertation and when students could walk in May vs August.

Discussion about ABD students being assessed fees even though only taking 1 credit. First time in 7 yrs the Graduate enrollemnet has reduced, this is a natl problem.

There is also a question about recruiting intl students because they cannot become Ohio residents.

On positive note, we have a committment to recruit the best and brightest.

- Multicultural Affairs Chair- Leo Pinheiro

Office of Multicultural affairs deals primarily with undergrads, but we are working on getting more programming involved for grads. Please check out BGSU.edu/MCA

- International Student Affairs Chair- Anton Petrov

Anton we had a meeting with health services. BGSU is thinking about putting together a consortium with other ohio schools to get a better health insurance package. The health center is also looking for more feedback so that they can better know how to serve the grad students. The health center is looking at an open house opportunity to get to know what our needs are. It is important that we talk to them before decisions are made.

- Graduate Allocations Representative- Jared Brown

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We are meeting on Tuesday evening for the first time. I will be able to help you with funding you.

- Representative-at-Large- Lingxiao Ge

I had a meeting with Meagan at Falcon landing and encourage you all to check out the falcon landing.

- Issues and Concerns
  
- Next Meeting- October 7<sup>th</sup> -scheduled guest Mayor John Quinn
- Announcements

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