**Graduate Student Senate General Assembly**

**Friday, October 25, 2013**

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

**Gallery-McFall**

**Handouts: President’s Letter about Opportunity Assessment, Minutes from 10/4/13 GA Meeting, GSS Forum Flyer, NIOT Resolution, GSS Funds for Professional Development Survey, Academic Appeals, Posthumous Awarding of Degree**

**Agenda**

* Call to Order
	+ Martha called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.
* Roll Call
	+ Martha called role. 49 members were in attendance; a quorum was reached.
	+ Martha also explained the paperless meeting and asked senators to identify themselves and hold up department card when speaking in GA so it can be noted in the minutes.
* Approval of Minutes
	+ Pop culture moved to approved the minutes; second by psychology. Vocal approval – minutes approved.
* Guests
	+ Provost Rodney Rogers explained his role and academic affairs, including general education reform; academic advising revision; the Office of Pre-Professional Programming, and new academic programming.
		- Provost Rogers explained things at the graduate level as well. A graduate strategic plan (Goal #2) was added to the new Strategic Plan – linking graduate education to our research and our outreach engagement efforts. He also addressed the Graduate Strategic Plan from two years ago, which included adding infrastructure in the central staffing of the Grad College and promoting interdisciplinary approaches, adding programs, and growing enrollments in select graduate programs. Provost Rogers acknowledged budgetary issues that have arisen with the new funding model, and mentioned the new state crime lab coming to BGSU.
		- Provost Rogers also mentioned moving in a data driven direction, and ensuring we are growing programs to allow for a financially-sustainable model of Graduate Education. This includes growing in terminal degrees in various professions (more professionally-oriented than research-based programs)
		- Provost Rogers also addressed outreach initiatives and BGSU’s regional relevance, updates on facilities, and inclusivity and diversity planning.
		- Provost Rogers fielded questions from English (Jason Harris), Communication Science (Anna Ehrhorn), Treasurer (Mike), and Leadership & Policy (Erin Brown), HIED (Ryan Bronkema), and others. In response, he noted:
			* The change in the State Share of Instruction (SSI) and the smaller first-year class, and how these factors affect tuition and overall budget.
			* Hybrid approaches or online approaches that support distance learning.
			* Initiatives within the Graduate College for a more sustainable financial model.
			* We’ve got to be strategic about niche areas and high demand programs, and focus on developing these.We need to have honest discussions with heads of programs and deans about their programs.
			* Relationships and partnerships with the University of Toledo and other institutions across the state.
	+ Chief Information Officer, John Ellinger
		- CIO Ellinger came to hear questions, concerns, and enlighten graduate students to IT offerings to serve graduate needs
		- CIO Ellinger noted two particular changes: the new mybgsu portal and the new email. The portal change came to accommodate separate portals for graduates, alumni, retirees, etc., if that is of interest. The new email occurred to give the campus 50 gigs of email space, to offer BGSU email as a lifelong email, for Skydrive (25 gigs of personal space to use as desired and share things within the system) and Sharepoint for departments, college, search committees, etc.
		- CIO Ellinger also spoke of Canvas, and that Blackboard is officially gone, effective 12/31. IT can help BB users move things out of Blackboard if need be. Anti-plagiarism, evaluation tools, qualtrix, and other add-on tools, are included in Canvas.
		- CIO also mentioned FACES, an advising project that will move forward, and an update to come recreating the bgsu.edu webpage, the opt-in to opt-out change in the BG alert system and the add/drop process.
		- John Ellinger fielded questions from GCA (Julie Largent), ASOR (Brian Jaffee), Accounting (London Miller), GSA (Marta Alvira-Hammond), PD Chair (Arpan), and Treasurer (Jason Harris). He responded:
			* The webpage is 12 years old and needs an update, as well as dates on pages so it can include a chronological search.
			* Automated add/drop process will speed up the class scheduling process, as well as faculty notifications of add/drops
			* In canvas, course shells can be found and copied after a class is finished to reuse for future classes. Contact CIO regarding any access issues.
			* Other systems used will be updated in the coming years.
* Officer Reports
	+ Professional Development Chair (Arpan): GSS Forum 11/6
	+ Arpan explained that Daniel Gordon was coming for the next GSS Forum to discuss City-University Collaboration (Wednesday, Nov. 6) from 11 am – 12:30 pm.
	+ Academic Affairs Chair (Rachel)
		- Rachel met with the Dean of the Library – Student Technology Center is up and running. Drop ins and 1:1s for help on research, Ohio Link, Electronic Thesis and Dissertation support, etc.
		- Nov. 5th – Elizabeth Smart is speaking at 2:30 pm in the Jerome Library
		- Graduate Council approved a Posthumous Awarding of Degree. See Orgsync if you are interested.
		- Graduate Council is trying to pass an Academic Appeals policy – Rachel showed everyone the Academic Appeals is looking for feedback or corrections, as the Graduate Council has already approved it, pending GSS feedback. Please email Rachel feedback by Tuesday, October 29th.
	+ Vice President (Martha)
		- Senate Ad Hoc Workload Committee being formed to look at practices, procedures, and norms related to faculty workload. In need of graduate representation – let Martha know.
		- Academic Honesty Student Group Liaison with USG is also in need of a graduate student to sit on this group to investigate the fairness and appropriateness of this policy.
		- Censure Process for Gerontology & German Departments – these two departments will be notified that they are not in good standing and need to get readmitted if they’d like. They need to submit a letter about their readmission and petition GSS for that.
	+ Preisdent (Lingxiao)
		- Extension of Library Hours: As of 10/4, Sunday through Thursday, the library will be open until 2am. For the week leading up to and the week of finals, the library will be open 24 hours.
		- #CalltoAction: Since the recent twitter incidents attacking BSU, several forums have been held in response. The aggressor was not a student of BGSU or a resident of BG.
* Committee Reports
	+ GSS Committee on Stipends, Tuition, and Fees (London Miller):
		- Sen. Miller reported that committee is trying to compile information over this semester via a Funds for Professional Development Survey. Please get this information to London, not to share with constituents. Questions to Mike or London. GSA sought clarification – One per department.
	+ Regalia Award Committee (Martha)
		- Martha reported there were four applications for first round (all Masters students). The committee is meeting on 10/31 to make decisions, but should be able to give all four awards. Update to come on procedures and criteria moving forward.
* Old Business – none
* New Business
	+ President’s Letter and Accenture Study (Lingxiao)
		- Letter was sent on 10/4 by the President’s office. Accenture is a worldwide consulting firm offering measurable, achievable management opportunities for the foreseeable future. The initial report will be delivered in December.
		- The President’s office asked Lingxiao to solicit GSS for recommendations. Forward thoughts, concerns, and suggestions to Lingxiao to forward. These can be closely related to the graduate situation or about anything BGSU related.
	+ NIOT Resolution (Arpan)
		- Arpan explained what the Not in Our Town initiative is, and presented GSS’s official resolution of support for feedback.
		- GCA recommended fixing a grammar mistake (It’s to its)
		- Pending that correction, Pop Culture moved to pass the resolution, Accounting seconded. In the card vote, 49 approved, 0 denied, 0 abstentions. Motion passed unanimously.
* Issues and Concerns
	+ ASOR asked for more notice on Grad Nights.
		- Social chair followed up asking for input on how to advertise this. Email awrobel@bgsu.edu for ideas. Psychology recommended emails are best. Communication Science recommended digital signage.
	+ HEADS asked what GSS was going to do in response to Obamacare concerns.
		- Lingxiao and Erin responded: Erin met with Director of Health Services. HEADS asked for this to be this semester, and sooner rather than later. Director of Health Services is hesitant to come too soon because the information is not going to impact students yet. HEADS requested it happen so people have time to switch to their cheapest option.
		- HIED echoed request for more information sooner so people don’t get locked into an option they cannot afford. HEADS noted this will help us disseminate information
		- Lingxiao asked for concerns to be sent to her and Erin to bring to VPSA and Director of Health Services.
		- Pop Culture requested possible extensions for graduate students to make decisions regarding insurance until we have all the information.
		- Sociology requested Director of Health Services email us information if he cannot meet with us soon.
		- English asked if people who paid for a year in advance can opt out for the second semester pending further information. Erin will look into it.
		- Lingxiao asked for information and feedback on the Falcon Health Center to be sent to her to forward to the director.
		- Arpan suggested GoogleDoc and Vivienne recommended folder on Orgsync for all questions to reduce emails.
* Announcements
	+ Next GA: Friday, Nov. 8, 2013, 3-5pm in McFall Gallery
	+ Grad Night: TONIGHT! Black Swamp Pub (BTSU) at 5:30 pm.
	+ GSS forum: City-University Collaboration (Wednesday, Nov. 6) from 11 am – 12:30 pm.
	+ Saturday Study Sessions: 7th Floor JErmone Library, every Saturday 10 am – 3 pm.
	+ GUSTO announced Clydborne Park performances for the weekend on 10/25-27
	+ Pop Culture announced trivia at Grumpy Dave’s, 8pm on Saturday
	+ Pop Culture announced Dennis Mueller, on campus 10/29 from 2:30-3:30 to talk about non-academic jobs for doctoral graduates. At 6pm on 10/29 his new documentary will be screened in the uion.
	+ ISA Chair announced
	+ Accounting announced Relay for Life, November 15th into 16th from 6pm to 6am in Perry Field House.
	+ Martha announced that if you want things on the agenda, email her by Thursday morning preceding GA.