



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

Graduate Student Senate General Assembly
Friday November 4, 2011
3:00-5:00pm
Gallery, McFall Center

Handouts

-Materials on Gender Identity and Gender Expression Proposal

Agenda

- Call to Order @ 3:02pm
- Roll Call completed by David (VP absent)
- Guest Speakers:
 - Jill Carr, Senior Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

-Role as chief student affairs officer and dean of student. Previous VP left in July, Dr. Mazey decided to have Jill combine her role while the campus president reflect with her cabinet on the VP position.

-Student affairs provide co-curricular, health related areas (student health services, counseling, disability), dean of students (campus activities, conduct, crisis and Emergency, off-campus commuter, center for leadership, office of multicultural affairs, TRIO, housing, resident life, division wide activities)

-About 500 employees including student employees

-Focus on working with students to provide good programming

-Want to provide services and programs pertinent to graduate students, David started this last year.

-this year's focus area ties to strategic plans/learning outcomes → assessments: important for reaccreditation process

--3 specific areas that relate to all students

1. Involvement with campus: student org, governance body, utilizing services in division and on campus →

2. Making that student engage and letting them become leaders and enriching their experiences.

3. This will lead to greater student success → great retention rates

Ms. Carr asked for questions or suggestions?

#1 Senator asked: if there were any services for students with kids?

Carr: Childcare center behind Union, not free, there is a cost, not associated with SA. Center on N.

College has daycare as well and fee associated

#2 Senator: fee-paying students desire a place to go to an area during the day between classes for students to study or do work

Carr: Defined area for graduate student, for quiet time. She acknowledged we do not have that

#3 Senator: graduate classes in evening. And a lot of GA' position can be in the evening. The possibility of starting a graduate student parenting network

Carr: WE can definitely explore this. Maybe you can start this organization

#4 Senator: Providing a financial support to assist grad students who have financial need.

Carr: Find me in Conklin North. Happy to be a spokesperson and advocate for students at all time. Any issues or concerns, please email me or call me get on my calendar. Happy with progression of GSS, working closely with GSS over time. Glad that they are getting a stronger voice and truly want you all to continue to be represented on campus.

David: outstanding graduate student award renamed to Jill Carr. Appreciative and thank you.

- o Joe Frizado, Vice Provost of Academic Operations and Assessment

- his position is new; combination of duties in provost office → now becoming more coordinated: institutional research, budgeting, accreditation

- this is what reaffirms the value of degrees

- 1 of 12 universities developing new procedures with the Ohio Consortium

- would have a file room documenting everything happened over the course of years here (syllabus, → now becomes a virtual room, everything will be uploaded electronically, easier for the govt and higher commission

- propose and execute a quality improvement project (something new that the university is proposing → we choose recruitment and retention, keep in mind it is focused at a undergrad perspective however we still value grad input

- Institutional Research- arm of university that collects data, student credit hrs, incoming GPA of grads, demographics 3 functions → 1. Report info correctly to state (for compliance and \$), 2. Report to fed (have to report on everything we do 3. Strategic planning and initiatives within the campus

- Strategic Planning: coordinating the process of/not making the decisions; annually a strategic plan is developed; lower units (programs) → combine into departments → which combine into colleges

- all to find out who can get new positions, what happens to programs...so graduate programs are involved with the strategic plan at some level.

- provide information to make decisions for planning/accreditation

NO QUESTIONS FROM GA...Joe is located in Provost office.

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David: Budgets have not been released for departments b/c of software issues. And will these numbers will not be released till Xmas Break

- Old Business

- Dr. Bill Albertini- Gender Identity and Gender Expression Proposal

-Professor in English dept. here on behalf of committee made up of faculty, staff, students (Inclusion Network)→charged with improving diversity in all categories on campus

-readdressing resolution that was presented in 2007→the addition of gender identity and gender expression to BGSU. Resolutions recently passed in 2006-2007 by USG, GSS and the Faculty senate

-adding gender identity and gender expression to campus documents

-Dr. Mazey ready to take proposals to Board of Trustees mtg in December

-USG voted support this past Monday, Faculty senate voted this past Tuesday, Dr. Mazey wants to move on this, hence why he is at this meeting to see where GSS stands

-Reviewed current anti-harassment and equal opportunity policies→cited reasons why to add new terms b/c a common site for discrimination and harassment is how people live their gender.

-policies state our obligation and educate what categories are protected on campus and who is invited to be full members on campus

-student harassment in res. Halls, recruitment/retention issue, alumni relations issue, guidelines

-currently behind other universities regarding language revisions (OSU had it since 2004, UT 2007)

Questions/Comments

Senator: Voice support for initiative, especially since other schools are behind it; allows university put value on it

Senator: mirror comments; equal opportunity (employment, education); anti harassment changes. What does for a students experience? How does this change

Bill: it takes steps to making more cleaner and protecting these categories; individuals will be more knowledgeable about what these terms mean and understand how this is protected. If students are experiencing harassment/discrimination they will know b/c of these policies that they are protected. RA's in dorms unaware of these issues. Not a magic bullet, helps us take a step in the right direction

Senator: wonder how to make students aware of this policy? How are they going to understand that they are covered? Do we need to update our policy from 2007?

Bill: don't believe you have to update. President Mazey just wants to know that we are behind this.

David; what I propose after looking at the resolution is that we take a vote. The resolution doesn't need updates. I can make a motion, take a count if the body is for or against, and attach the resolution and the vote.

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Senator: students in my program have strongly supported this and want new measures

SEantor: what happened in 2007 that didn't support this

Bill: the board that existed in 2007 was not likely to pass it, thus it did not go before the board. It went past the governing boards. Pres. Mazey came to inclusion network to see what we were doing and was reintroduce to the resolution and decided it was good to move on it. It will get the university back to keep on what is going on and justice issue.

David; Dr. Mazey is not sure which way the board is going to go. She hasn't been pushing this issue, she just feels like the time is right and think its appropriate to give it to them

Senator: Once this is approved what happens?

Bill: What we are proposing, is the insertion of the words, as additional catergories, however the Board could support some or all of it or recreate

Senator: When will it be changed the upcoming year?

Bill: I am hoping immediatly, updates on the website and forms. Other schools have revised and updated it quickly.

Senator: I move to reaffirm 2007 resolution

Senator: Hear a second.

David: all those in favor of passing the motion of reaffirming 2007 resolution.

For 39 Opposed 1 Abstentions 1

- o Reports from Four Groups on Questions

-Last time we broke into 4 groups. Facilitators will be reporting back

JR (Question #4): 2 emails from my group. Not prepared to report. As group sends emails to me, I will bring my report.

Sherry (Question #1): 9 responses 33% masters, 67% doc. Contribution to one's discipline, creating new knowledge, contributing to research.

Lingxiao (Quesiton #2): helping with educating undergrads; grad education is good for us to pursue education and jobs; successful universities shouldn't only value undergrads but grads as well; strong education is what we want; strengthen research;

1. How does graduate education help our lives? Does it change our lives? Benefits
2. How will the university create major research funding? Does the university have a plan to hire faculty who can get research funding?
3. How to increase the enrollment in fee-paying students but still increase graduate assistants?

Anton (Question #3): didn't get a lot of feedback; will report back at next meeting.

- New Business

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- JR
 - WF Policy

-Solicited feedback from GA for possible impact on graduate students. These are proposed policies that are still in their beginning stage:

Senator: How does the attendance policy differ from what's on the book? The changes are in bold.

Senator: Is this the same for withdrawl?

JR: the policy change for the withdrawl are the weeks for when the course could be dropped. Currently its week 8, but is looking to change to week 12, keep in mind it's a 15 week semester. This is being discussed in the undergraduate council, waiting to be passed→then gets sent to graduate council for their consideration.

Senator: Why changing the times from 8-12 how does that benefit students?

JR: Allows students to work through issues. Instructors wanted students to have some leadway to work with professor and not be penalized.

Senator: How can students grow/develop/ learn from stuff?

JR: Got to consider bigger picture. Fiscal realities.

Senator: Responding to monetary needs, and not education needs. Keeping someone in a class for 12 weeks gives them too much time to drop before final exams.

JR: They get a WF on they transcripts. Registratrs want students to maintain a certain number of credits for financial reasons. Classes might determine if a student gets financial aid the next semester

Senator: Many of us are TA, droppoin ½ thru the semester is not reasonable. The only change to the GPA, you end up paying the fees for the class anyway. Is this just an excuse to collect more \$?

JR: I know that students who don't retain a certain # of credit hours there are financial reprocusions.

Senator: Does this impact retention rates with this change?

JR: Would a policy like this expect the quality of students who look at this institution. I will bring this up.

Senator: This is a good policy for classes that have only 3 assignments because you have to wait for grades and sometimes you need to withdrawl.

Senator: Why was that particular week choosen. I understand that students need more time. As a perspective of a teacher, you might as well as let them withdrawl anytime when they want.

JR: I can't tell you that because I do not know. I can tell you that a smaller group came together to discuss this issue and they discussed the timeframe. This whole proposal was sent to council on academic affair, the committee I sit on.

Senator: What definition is being used to support this argument?

JR: A student centered approached.

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Senator: It is proposing a consumer model over student centered.

Senator: I think this policy is being interpreted as a free pass for students. It could be seen as supporting retention b/c it allows students who encountered circumstances (sickness, death). Sometimes you need assistance to get to the bigger picture.

Senator: Had 2 students who suffered family crisis and I don't feel comfortable for penalizing them academically for something they can't control. Giving them more time is okay in this circumstance.

JR: It's an issue throughout campus that we are trying to address.

Senator: Student should be responsible and assume some responsibility. The issues discussed are special situations and are isolated

JR: Faculty would say this is a guideline. If its policy they are responsible to be accountable

Senator: Student centered can be perceived as lowering standards. Is there any consideration as to how many more withdrawals there will be as a result? How will this affect grade inflation, if you have multiple withdrawals?

Senator: There are special circumstances

JR: It goes on the condition that they will get a W on they transcript.

Senator: The university is not losing \$ so it is okay for the university to implement.

Senator: on the responsibility of the student to be ownership of actions

Senator: Inflation of grades and can lead to devaluing of degree

- Absence Policy

JR: if student has responsibilities associated with their position or scholarship is this excusable?

Senator: 2 types of students some who want to take advantage and some don't. Can we have clear definitions.

JR: Have a form that advisors can fill out electronically that explains absence due to university business and can get to faculty.

Senator: what are definition are using for university business? In my experiences for sporting absences, b/c of coaching.

JR: The athletic department is support of this policy.

Senator: students shouldn't be excuse b/c they are playing sports. This is saying they are getting a special exception, kind of like a religious holiday.

Senator: Clearly define university policy, what advanced notice is (student needs to know when to do this).

- Charter/ Cost

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David: Looking at the charter with regards to faculty benefit, salaries and how these issues would impact graduate students. I would like conversation to occur now. We are looking at issues that fall under collective bargaining. Having those conversations in that context, but be mindful that this body has neutrality on these issues.

Aaron: a few senators talk to me regarding affordability of grad education. The president asked that we look at the charter. I looked at the charter and I looked at the budget. My question more broad regarding issue of affordability of graduate education in general. We do not have a lot of direct say regarding costs of grad education. Looking at proposed changes to charter, it could potentially impact changes to grad.

David: Would the GA like to pursue any further. Ok hearing nothing, we will not proceed further with that. However, do know that we can entertain that a later date.

- Senate Executive Committee Reports

- President- David Sleasman

-1st and 2nd on the nomination of Michael Hewitt (Accounting Senator). Will accept nominations at 2nd meeting.

-update on background policy. Was suppose to start Jan 1st, until Fall 2012, going into the cycle of admissions.

-Forums for provost 2 happened this week and 1 next week

- Vice- President –Jeff Larocque- no report

- Academic Affairs Representative- J.R. Ratliff

-sitting on committee for inauguration of Dr. Mazey. There is need for volunteers the day of the inauguration.

- Treasurer- Christina Wright

-Office of Equity and Diversity Forums Nov 16-19

- Student Affairs Chair- Sherry Early

-International Student fee (2 fees, 1 is \$100, 1 is \$50 per semester, 1 is for orientation and 1 is another fee) \$50 fee started in 2010 for those students. \$50 fee charged for tax preparation, but senator affirmed that not many of us use tax forms. Senator was told that is was for I-20 maintenance. \$100 per semester is for the maintenance of visa

-Anton has a meeting with Dr. Hoffman and will address these fees with him.

-Sherry- studying abroad they are still paying fees for facilities they can't physically use; is there liberty to remove these fees.

- Multicultural Affairs Chair- Leo Pinheiro

-talk of accreditation and virtual storage room at University council

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-campaign of what does the provost does...came from the undergrads

- International Student Affairs Chair- Anton Petrov

-health services committee: dental bus coming to campus bi-monthly, twice a week massages for

\$30→both coming in the spring

- Graduate Allocations Representative- Jared Brown
- Representative-at-Large- Lingxiao Ge

-more people on Stroh Committee

- Representative-at-Large- Aaron Davis- no report

- Issues and Concerns

-Fin Aid come in to talk about changes in law

-dept of state has started an initiative for international weekend.

- Grad college available funding for research still taking applications.

- Next Meeting- November 18th
 - December 2nd meeting is being moved to December 1st- McFall Gallery- same time
- Announcements

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