Logo_4C.tif Graduate Student Senate

402B Bowen-Thompson Student Union

Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0181

Phone: (419) 372-2426

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

**Graduate Student Senate General Assembly**

**Friday November 16th, 2012**

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

**McFall Gallery**

**Agenda**

Jeff called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

* Roll Call
  + 44 senators in attendance; a quorum is present.
* Guests:
  + Wood County Hospital, Bill Kidd and Deb Busdecker
    - Mr. Kidd presented the proposed site area as at the corner of South College and Wooster Streets. He discussed connections to the campus, access sites, number of parking spots, and floor plan of the building.
    - Discussion from the GA about continuing services from the current to new facility, potential hours of operation, privacy concerns, possibility of a bus stop, and potential changes in personnel.
    - Mr. Kidd hopes to visit the GA once again in January in order to present finalized floor plans and details of the new facility.
* Old Business
* Smoke Free initiative update
  + Vice President Jeff Larocque stated that the decisions made on campus have prevented him from convening the committee to discuss the smoke-free contingency plans. President Mazey has recognized that our vote was contested. In addition, the USG vote failed. She would like to schedule a panel to address questions and concerns.
  + The details the GA discussed might be able to become a part of future policies following this panel.
  + Discussion about whether or not a new policy would need to come back to the governing organizations for a vote.
  + When more information is available, the GA will discuss items they wish to see in the policy.
* Grievance procedure update
  + President David Sleasman announced that the new procedure was submitted to the Graduate Council and the Academic Standards Subcommittee is reviewing it.
  + The proposed procedure includes new reporting structure, a non-retaliation clause and definitions of RA, TA, and AA.
* Racial Incidents
  + President David Sleasman informed the GA that there are a few groups on campus that have been giving attention to this and moving forward with programming and awareness. They are looking at how we can make BGSU and the BG community more inclusive.
* New Business
  + GSS Budget Report
    - Treasurer Mike Salitrynski presented information about differences between spending GSS has done this year as opposed to the past.
    - He highlight line items in which changes will be made: increase Telephone budget, delete GradStep, change “BrownBags” to “Forums” for more flexibility, increase Colloquium Awards, delete GSS Fall Research Conference Awards, add funds for Shanklin Promotional Items, increase amount for a Student Clerical Assistant, and increase general Promotional Items.
    - President David Sleasman explained that because of time commitment, previous leaders advocated for compensating the GSS Vice President. We will have to negotiate for that in the future since this allotment has not been utilized in the past 2 years.
    - Treasurer Mike Salitrynski presented a graph of where GSS funds are spent (primarily on professional development funding). Discussion about how increased usage allows for more allotment in the future. Additionally, a handful of applicants never follow through with attending their conference.
    - Mike is anticipating a very reasonable allocation request with limited increases. Will also include a renegotiation of the compensation for the Vice President.
  + Shanklin awards next semester
    - Professional Development Chair Nick Garcia discussed three different professional development programs next semester.
      * The Shanklin Award for Research Excellence will be held April 18 with monetary awards. The deadline is February 20, 2013.
      * Graduate Student Senate Awards include 5 awards with nominations due by March 21, 2013 and come with a monetary awards ranging from $100-$500.
      * Next Brown Bag is November 28, 2013 from 12-1 pm. Speakers will be President Mazey and Vice President of Finance Sheri Stoll.
  + Vice President Jeff Larocque announced that there are still two positions open. Please let Jeff know if you are interested in either of these positions:
    - Publicity Chair
    - Social Chair
* Senate Executive Committee Reports
* Academic Affairs Representative - Christina Wright (at conference)
* Treasurer - Michael Salitrynski
  + No report.
* Secretary – Ellen Collier
  + No report.
* Student Affairs Chair - Sherry Early (at conference)
* Multicultural Affairs Chair – Chen Shen
  + No report.
* International Student Affairs Chair – Lingxiao Ge
  + The Health Center will be holding an open house in order to address questions from students about insurance and policies. The date has not yet been set, so please provide any feedback you have to Lingxiao.
* Professional Development Chair – Nick Garcia
  + No report.
* Representatives-at-Large- Christopher Weinland and Nivetha Balasubramanian (absent)
* Issues and Concerns
  + Vice President Jeff Larocque thanked the senators for consistent attendance at the GA meetings. Please continue to attend or provide a proxy. Please take 5-10 minutes in order to inform anyone filling in for you so they are aware of current issues.
  + Vice President Jeff Larocque asked for individuals who have experience with the dissertation submission process. He has heard concerns that the electronic submission process is very difficult and there are not a lot of resources on campus to assist students. Please let Jeff know if any of your constituents are experiencing similar challenges.
  + Concern about the cost of renting graduation regalia as the cost is more than Michigan State University and even Harvard University.
  + Question from Biology Graduate Student Association about whether or not GSS should take a position on the faculty union negotiations. When this was first initiated, GSS decided to take a neutral position on the matter. Individuals are encouraged to make whatever stance they wish.
* Announcements
  + Turn in receipts for funding for professional development at the GSS office
  + Next Brown Bag with President Mary Ellen Mazey and VP of Finance Sheri Stoll on 11/28/12
  + Shanklins April 18, 2013- YOU ARE INVITED! Mark Calendars now!!
  + Martha Schaffer, English, serves on the Public Safety Advisory Committee. The first and only meeting is only on November 28. Martha is asking for any questions or concerns from the GA. You may email her at [mschaff@bgsu.edu](mailto:mschaff@bgsu.edu) with any feedback.
  + Next GA meeting 11/30/12
* Adjournment
  + Motion to adjourn by GuSTO.
  + Seconded by Graduate Communication Association.
  + Meeting adjourned at 4:39 pm.