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, December 4, 2015**

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

**Gallery- McFall**

**Handouts:** GA Minutes 11/13/15; MBA Reinstatement Petition; Smoking Policy 6 Reasons; House Bill 48 Letter of Opposition

**Censured:** Physics & Astronomy, African People’s Association, Chinese Scholars Association, Health Care Administration Association, MBA & MOD

**Absences:** Accounting (1), Art (1), Chemistry & Photochemical Sciences (1), Communication Sciences & Disorders (1), Computer Science (1), Criminal Justice (1), Economics (1), Food & Nutrition (1), Geology (1), Applied Geospatial Science (1), Graduate Women’s Caucus (1), Graduate Art Students (1), Leadership Studies (1), Media & Communication (1), Musical Arts (1)

**Agenda**

* Call to Order– Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Vice President Julia Largent called the meeting to order, and welcomed everyone to the final General Assembly (GA) of the fall semester.
* Roll Call – GSS Secretary Jeffrey Moore took the roll, and asked the senators to remind anyone they see coming in late to check with him before they leave or else they will be counted as absent.
* Approval of Minutes – MACIE made a motion that the minutes from the Nov. 13 GA be approved, which was seconded by GuSTO. The “ayes” carried and the minutes were approved.
* Guest Speakers: **Rolf Ritchie**, Board of Trustees Graduate Representative – The BGSU Board of Trustees met earlier today, and Rolf, as a non-voting graduate student representative to the Board, was on hand to explain to GA what that body does. He explained that the board acts as a safety net that goes over the financial plans of the university in minutia, including proposed construction projects and investments. The Board, whose members serve as volunteers, meets several times per year to audit and approve new projects and initiatives. Rolf said that in addition to attending meetings, one of the most rewarding things about this position is being able to meet and interact with members of the Board in more informal settings, and that the role has allowed him to get a better sense of how the university is operated. Rolf was appointed to the position by Ohio Governor John Kasich after a lengthy application process, and his term is up at the end of the current academic year, so anyone who is interested in applying to succeed him should contact Julia or Maryam as soon as possible.
  + Biology Graduate Student Association asked if there was anything discussed at today’s meeting that GSS should be concerned about. Rolf said nothing came to mind. He also mentioned that he initially approached this position with a healthy dose of skepticism, but has been pleasantly surprised to see how concerned the Board is about not only the future of the university, but also the physical, mental, and financial well-being of the students.

* **Jamie Heineman**, Community of Care Coalition – Jamie Heineman is a graduate student and an intern working on suicide prevention initiatives in the BGSU Counseling Center. Her work focuses on helping all students, undergraduate and graduate, feel a sense of duty and well-being. Today, Ms. Heineman is here to promote the Caught Caring Program, which recognizes people who show they care, and helps people see the difference they can make in someone’s life on campus. If you have witnessed someone show they care about another person you can nominate this person to receive a Caught Caring card, which will be mailed directly to them. Nominations can be submitted anonymously. Ms. Heineman is asking every senator to make their constituents aware of this program to help spread caring across campus. Nominations can be sent to bgsucares@bgsu.edu. More information can also be found on Twitter (@bgsucares). Please email or contact Julia or Maryam with questions.
* Officers, Chairs, and Committee Reports
  + Environmental Affairs Chair
    - Caitlin Buhr – Earlier this week, the Office of Campus Stainability has selected an outside firm to come to campus and perform a sustainability and energy feasibility study. Anyone interested in knowing more about this study should contact Caitlin as soon as possible. The Office will also be hosting an office supply giveaway in the Harshman community room on Tuesday, December 8, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Departments, programs, and organizations (DPOs) across campus have donated unwanted office supplies, and anyone can come and take what they need during this time.
  + Academic Affairs Representative
    - Dhiman Chattopadhyay – A number of proposed initiatives have recently been approved the Committee on Academic Affairs. Although specific language and guidelines still need to be approved by Faculty Senate and/or university administration, there appears to be support for all of these initiatives, and Dhiman expects them all to be approved in time. These include a reactivation policy, which would allow students who are not enrolled in classes for four or more consecutive terms to return to the university without beginning the admissions application process again; a process that would allow students to waive their right to appeal a plagiarism charge and accept the punishment given from their instructor, which will speed the disciplinary process and may help students avoid problems with their financial aid; and a process by which the record of a former student would be expunged after a given period of time, which would allow the student to return to the university after being found guilty of an academic honesty offense earlier in their academic career. Dhiman also reminds everyone that the Interfaith Breakfast will be held on March 18, 2016, with the theme of “Peace through Hospitality.” The venue for the event is still to be determined, so be looking for more information in the spring.
  + International Affairs Chair
    - Shahad Al-Doori – An email was sent out about an advanced writing class being offered next semester by the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program. Please be sure to let any constituents who may want or need this class to get in touch with ESOL or International Student Services (ISS). A number of international students on campus are not able to leave the US during winter break, and ISS is encouraging faculty and staff to consider hosting an international student over break. Please see Shahad or Maryam if you or someone in your DPR would be interested in hosting a student.
      * Sociology asked if there was anything the international student community wanted or needed from GA heading into winter break. Shahad said she could think of nothing else at this time.
  + Vice President
    - Julia Largent
      * If your DPO is changing Senators at the end of this semester, please let Julia know immediately so she can update the attendance roster and email listserv.
      * Guests for Spring Semester – If there is anyone you would like GSS to approach about speaking at a GA next semester, please forward that information to Julia so she can begin working on scheduling visits.
        + Philosophy asked if someone from the Department of Athletics can come to talk about the athletics fee students have to pay.
        + Theatre and Film asked if someone could come and speak about future construction and development on campus.
        + Public Administration asked if there is a group on campus that represents student parents, and if so could a representative from that group be asked to speak next semester. Disability Affairs Representative Jackie Luedtke said no such group currently exists on campus, but the Women’s Center is probably the closest DPO to what the Senator is asking about. Jackie also suggested having someone from Military and Non-Traditional Student Services come and speak next semester.
      * Shanklin Date – The 2016 Shanklin Research Colloquium will be held Tuesday, April 12, starting at 12:00 p.m. The deadline for the Research Excellence award is February 12; the deadline for the Colloquium and GSS Awards is March 4. Graduate students can submit whatever research they are working on for considering of these awards. Please see Julia with additional questions, and spread the word to your constituents.
  + President
    - Maryam Kamran – Maryam also attended the Board of Trustees meeting, and some things that were discussed were improvements in enrollment and retention numbers, and an increased focus on internationalization on campus and support for international students. Online degree programs have increased from nine to 16, and several new degree programs were proposed and/or approved, including a Master’s of Science degree in forensic science.
      * Student Development Association expressed concerns about inclusion and inclusivity policies on campus, including inclusivity for Trans student. Maryam said this was something that the graduate student representative could bring up at the next meeting, and that she knows the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) is also concerned about this issue.
  + Library Advisory Committee
    - Kaitlyn Wauthier – Kaitlyn is the graduate student representative on the Library Advisory Committee, which makes recommendations for the library budget. Kaitlyn has been surprised about some of the things she has learned as a member of the committee, and wanted to let GA know about some things that have been discussed in committee meetings this
      * FLY Program – The FLY Program is a new program that will roll out next fall, and is modeled after a similar program at the University of Arizona. This program will be organized by the Learning Commons in Jerome Library, and will provide additional tutoring support for a period of two years to an initial group of 40 first-year students who qualify for services through the Office of Disability Services. This service will come with an additional cost of $2.500.00 per semester for enrolled students.
        + School of Intervention Services asked how the FLY Program would be different than the services currently offered by the Learning Commons. Kaitlyn said the primary difference is that the Learning Commons typically operates on a walk-in or appointment basis, and is essentially first-come-first-served. The FLY Program will have two academic specialists with degrees and training in disability services and counseling services, and will each work with 20 students initially, once a week for an entire semester. These sessions will be more structured than the more informal help sessions typical of the Learning Commons.
        + Student Affairs Representative Krystal Allen asked for clarification on what the additional tuition fee will cover. Kaitlyn said this will primarily cover the cost of hiring the aforementioned academic specialists, and to help keep the FLY Program self-sustaining.
        + Sociology asked for clarification on how the initial pool of 40 students will be selected. Specifically, the senator asked if the spots were assigned on a lottery or first-come-first-served basis, or if some other process was being employed. The senator also suggested having one academic specialist do an initial evaluation of each student, then having qualified graduate assistants run the tutoring sessions. Kaitlyn said this was a helpful suggestion, but as to the selection process, that was still being worked out. What is certain is that students must apply and be admitted to the university, then quality for disability services to be eligible. Kaitlyn said she would share more information about admission to the FLY Program as it became available.
        + Philosophy asked if there was any oversight process for this program, or a way to guarantee students in the FLY Program reaped benefits from the service, given the added financial burden to the student. Kaitlyn said no final decisions about this had been made, and that there would likely be some adjustments to the program once it went live and concerns began to emerge.
        + Biological Sciences asked if the model program at the University of Arizona has any such oversight program. Kaitlyn said they did, but that the program at the University of Arizona was a free-standing program, not a branch of an existing institutional service like the FLY Program, so their oversight process may not be appropriate here. She also stressed that this was a pilot program, so more answers will be available once the Learning Commons has a sense of how successful the program is.
      * 3D Printing, scanning and printing services – Kaitlyn said the library has a 3D printer, but as of yet the library staff does not seem to know how to properly use it, and asked anyone with experience in this area to contact her. She also asked the senators what their thoughts were on making smart scanners more readily available for graduate student use.
        + Graduate Women’s Caucus asked why printing fees are not included in the technology fee graduate students have to pay. Kaitlyn said this has been brought up before, but she has not received any concrete rational for why graduate students have to pay to print at the library. Julia mentioned that undergraduate students also have to pay to print at the library, and that paying for this service only started in 2012. Maryam said she was told the technology fee was used to improve the internet technology infrastructure in the residence halls, and that she has asked if graduate students could either be exempted from this fee or have this fee go towards other functions on campus, but has never gotten a reply.
      * e-books – The Library Advisory Committee is concerned about the raising costs of books, and is considering more options to make e-books available to undergraduate and graduate students to help keep the library’s operating costs down.
        + Sociology Graduate Student Association asked if it would be possible to put e-books on reserve, or have a subscription service that would allow graduate students to “borrow” e-books during the semester, particularly for newer, more expensive books. Kaitlyn said she would bring this suggestion to the committee. The senator also said the University of Akron has a similar system in place for their undergraduates to get e-books, but they can still get hard copy books through OhioLINK.
        + Student Development Association asked if it was possible to borrow e-books through Ohio Link. Julia and Kaitlyn said they did not think this was possible, as the OhioLINK system relies on member institutions to supply books, but this was another suggestion that could be made to the committee.
        + Graduate Writers Club noted that e-books on the library website could not currently be printed, and asked Kaitlyn to speak to the committee about possibly changing this policy.
        + Philosophy asked why graduate students do not get books they check out for an entire semester. A number of senators and GSS officers spoke up to say they have had mixed experiences with this, and that this policy may depend on how new or in-demand the book is, rather than whether the person checking out the book is a graduate or undergraduate student. .
      * Kaitlyn asked the senators if they had any thoughts or opinions about what undergrad students should be told about the services at the library, or when those services should be introduced to undergraduates, and welcomed suggestions on this topic.
        + Sociology Graduate Student Association noted that incoming graduate students get a library information session during Graduate Student Orientation, and suggested undergraduates should get something similar. Kaitlyn mentioned that a similar orientation session had previously been part of undergraduate orientation but was cut several years ago in favor of a session about meal plans.
        + Philosophy suggested that a good place for students to get a library information session was during General Studies Writing (GSW) courses. Jeffrey said that he works as a teaching associate for GSW, and while most GSW instructors do give library instructional workshops in their classes, these workshops are not a required component of the GSW curriculum. He also said this suggestion would not be entirely practical for two reasons: first, it is possible to test out of one or both GSW courses, so those students who test out would not receive any library sessions; second, an increasing number of students are arriving at BGSU with GSW credit from other institutions, and as a result never enroll in GSW courses. English confirmed what Jeffrey said, but agreed that an information session during undergraduate orientation sounded like a good idea.
        + Student Development Association asked if there had been a drop in library attendance since the policy to make students pay for printing was instituted. Kaitlyn said she was now sure whether attendance numbers had been tracked in this way.
* Old Business
  + Elections: Representative-at-Large – College Student Personnel nominated Tyler Conlon, a first-year graduate student in their program, for the open Representative-at-Large position. The nomination was seconded by Student Development Association. Mr. Conlon said he was a graduate of Minnesota State University, where he studied local government management, and served on both the Residence Hall Association and USG. Since arriving at BGSU this fall he has wanted to get back into student government and representation, and wants to help bring issues of relevance to all graduate students to the forefront of the university community.
    - Jackie asked Tyler if he would have the time to attend meetings. Tyler said he specifically waited until the end of the semester to seek this nomination in order to give himself time to learn how to manage his responsibilities as a graduate student, and that he would have no issue attending GA and Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meetings next semester.
    - As there were no further questions for the candidate, Julia asked Tyler to step out of the room so the nomination could be discussed and voted upon.
    - Student Development Association motioned to open the floor to discuss the nomination, which was seconded by College Student Personnel. The senator said he thought Tyler would be a great representative, and that he has experience with GSS, having served as a proxy earlier in the semester.
    - Theatre and Film moved to close discussion of the nomination, which English seconded.
    - Sociology made a motion to vote on the nomination, which Student Development Association seconded. Julia announced that the vote would be held via a card vote. 43 senators voted in favor of the nomination, with no opposing votes or abstentions. Julia welcomed Tyler back into the room and congratulated him on being elected to the position.
  + Representative at Large (Mallory Minter)
    - Tobacco Free and Smoking Policy – Mallory was not able to attend the meeting, so Maryam and Julia spoke on her behalf. After learning that GSS is not going to support the proposed clear air policy initiative on campus, the Clean Air Committee has asked GSS to submit a list of objections and suggestions for improvement. Mallory prepared a list, based on suggestions from the Clean Air Survey Julia previous prepared and distributed to the senators, which can be found on OrgSync. In brief, the following grievances with the proposed policy change have been prepared: there is a lack of enforcement of the current policy; there are significant concerns about individual rights; the senators see a need designated smoking areas on campus, which the committee has not adequately addressed; the use of e-cigarettes and vaporizers, and their respective restrictions on campus, have not been adequately addressed by the committee; education services and smoking-cessation services should be expanded; the importance of other health concerns, and their relationship to the proposed policy change, have not been addressed. Maryam opened the floor for suggested changes, corrections, or additions to this list.
      * Sociology asked to add safety concerns for those people who live on campus, and would have to leave campus in order to smoke. Maryam said USG voted on whether or not to support this proposed policy change on Wednesday, and this was one of their major concerns as well.
      * Dhiman said he thought the point about other health concerns was important, but worried it may divert attention from the issue at hand, which may lead to meaningless debate.
      * English suggested adding a line item about the increase in litter that may occur if designated smoking areas are removed from campus. The senator also pointed out that the point about individual liberties may get some pushback since state law prohibits smoking on state property, and campus is considered state property.
      * Student Development Association suggested adding something about marginalized populations, as studies have found marginalized populations are more likely to smoke, and is worried that forcing these students off campus may result in increased incidents of violence against these students.
      * Dhiman suggested asking for fully enclosed smoking areas on campus, to further prevent the spread of smoke
      * Theatre and Film expressed concern about the use of e-cigarettes, vaporizers, or tobacco-related paraphernalia in artistic performances, which the senator felt was not being adequately addressed by this list, and asked to have this concern explicitly stated.
      * Maryam said she had recently spoken to President Mazey to express the concerns GSS has about this proposed policy changed. President Mazey has asked the Clean Air Committee to reconvene to reconsider some of the issues raised by GSS and USG, but Maryam was not sure what, if any, action would result from this request.
* New Business
  + Reinstatement of MBA/MOD – GSS received a letter from MBA/MOD senator requesting reinstatement; a copy of this letter is available to review on OrgSync. The DPO states the reason for their censure is a required course that meets at the same time as GA during the fall semester, which made it impossible for their senator to attend meetings. The senator said he had to miss two GAs in a row due to professional obligations, and could not find a suitable proxy in time, and was censured as a result. There were no questions for the petitioner. Julia asked the senator to leave the room while the petition was discussed.
    - Leadership Studies expressed frustration at the request because this DPO has frequently been censured in the past for non-attendance. Julia stated that in years past, this DPO has had trouble with attendance due to a required course on Fridays during fall semester, but the current senator has managed to attend all but two meetings this semester.
    - Student Development Association asked if it was possible to speak with the graduate coordinator of MBA/MOD to try to reschedule the aforementioned Friday class to prevent this from happening. Julia said she and previous GSS Presidents have spoken to the program director on several occasions, and as repeatedly been told rescheduling the class is not feasible.
    - Criminal Justice moved to end discussion and vote on reinstatement, which was seconded by Sociology. The “ayes” carried and Julia welcomed the senator back into the room, and informed him that his DPO had been reinstated.
* Issues and Concerns
  + House Bill 48 – Julia emailed a copy of a draft letter written by the senator from Theatre and Film, which would be sent to the Ohio Legislature regarding House Bill 48. If approved and signed into law, this bill would ease restrictions and punishments for those who carry concealed firearms into areas where such weapons are not permitted, including school campuses. As the vote on this piece of legislation will take place before the next GA, the senator asked to be permitted to bring this letter up for discussion and a vote at this meeting. The senator said his constituents are very concerned about this issue, and feel their concerns are being ignored by the state legislature, and want not only GSS but the university as an institution to do more to object this bill. If approved, the university could still decide to ban firearms on campus, but people who disobey this ban would receive little or no punishment. The senator says he feels very strongly about this issue because he knows people who have been attacked, and wants to see GSS take some action on this proposed legislation.
    - Maryam stated the Faculty Senate recently formed an adhoc committee to study this issue, but had no official opinion on the matter at this time. She also recommended that, regardless of personal opinions, students should not use their university-issued email addresses to contact state legislators or take action on this issue, as those email addresses may be published online and lead to harassment. The senator from Theatre and Film said he used his university-issued email to write his representative about the issue, and has been receiving harassing emails from a pro-gun organization called Buckeye Firearms Association.
    - Leadership Studies said he had a concealed carry license, and feel the legislation is a good idea, and would be happy to try to answer questions about the legislation and the reasoning behind it if he could.
    - GuSTO asked for clarification on what training or licensing procedures people have to go through before a concealed carry license can be issued. Leadership Studies said people generally get tested on a gun range, then ask the local sheriff’s department to conduct a background check, after which the sheriff’s office issues the license if the check is clean.
    - Graduate Women’s Caucus asked for more detail, specifically a timeframe for how long this process takes. Leadership Studies said anyone applying for a license had to take 10 hours of classroom safety training, 10 hours of training on a firing range, and apply for a background check. The senator said the process can take as little as 10 days, but his license took about one month to be issued. Graduate Women’s Caucus expressed concern about someone being involved in an incident with a firearm before the license was issued, then trying to retroactively claim they had a license at the time of the incident.
    - Criminal Justice stated that within the last six months, the licensing requirements had been changed. Applicants now only need eight hours of in-class training and two hours of range training before asking for a background check.
    - Philosophy asked who would edit and send the letter if it was approved. Julia said she would edit the letter, present it to SEC at next week’s meeting for final approval, and then send it to the state legislature. She further explained that this process was being fast-tracked due to the limited amount of time before the state legislature is set to vote on the bill.
    - Sociology Graduate Student Association volunteered to help edit the letter if it is approved. The senator also asked what evidence, on either side, could be found regarding this issue. Theatre and Film said he could find no specific numbers to prove legislation of the sort being proposed would decrease incidents of mass shootings or other violent crimes. Leadership Studies said he could provide numbers to show that violent crimes have decreased in states that have passed similar legislation. He also said that, according to the FBI, only one mass shooting had taken place this year in which the perpetrator had a valid concealed carry license.
    - Dhiman asks what data was available to show concealed weapons prevented crimes like assaults and murders. While he conceded that some individual cases may be found, he was skeptical that sufficient data could be provided to prove this point.
    - Philosophy referenced a recent mass shooting in Oregon, in which a military veteran who was carrying a concealed weapon at the time of the incident, choose not to use the weapon out of fear he would be mistaken for the perpetrator. The senator also asked what reason someone would have for carrying a concealed reason. Leadership Studies said most people carry concealed weapons for protection, and it was an individual’s choice whether or not to use those weapons in an incident like the one in Oregon.
    - Geology said they serve on the Committee for Committees, who has been tasked with staffing the aforementioned Faculty Senate adhoc committee. That committee will consist of eight members, four against the legislation and four against. The committee will also be made up of four faculty members from the main campus, two from the Firelands campus, a representative from residence life, and the chief safety officer on campus. The senator said the committee is hoping to convene and reach a consensus on the issue as soon as possible.
    - Biology Graduate Student Association wanted it stated in the record that the proposed legislation would affect not just college and university campuses, but also daycares, primary and secondary school campuses, aircrafts, public areas in airports and police stations, government property, and school safety zones. The senator also stated that the legislation, if signed into law, would authorize sheriff’s departments to use the revenue from concealed carry license fees to purchase additional firearms and ammunition for their departments.
    - Graduate Women’s Caucus expressed concerns over the legislation because, as an international student and a female, she worries that increased protests against immigrants, and anti-immigrant attitudes in the United States, are a threat to her safety.
    - English asked to clarify the language in the draft letter, specifically what opinion the letter is expressing. Julia stated that the letter, as currently written, expresses opposition to the proposed legislation.
    - Philosophy asked about language in the letter regarding undue hardship, and asked what this meant. Theatre and Film said this was language taken from the proposed legislation, and in essence it would lessen or remove any punishments for people who take concealed firearms into restricted areas so long as the induvial has a legally-granted concealed carry license. Philosophy asked if there were provisions over individuals who use firearms appropriately or inappropriately, and cited a recent case in Michigan of a person who was carrying a concealed weapon chasing down a shoplifter in a parking lot. As a further example, Philosophy asked about someone who accidentally discharged a firearm in an enclosed space, but did not injure anyone or cause significant property damage. Theatre and Film said he was not sure what would happen in either case, and would need to check the proposed legislation to see if any such provisions had been written into the bill.
    - Criminal Justice attempted to answer Philosophy’s question about discharging a firearm in an enclosed or public place, and said that currently it depended on how many people were in the room or the vicinity of the discharge. According to the senator, under the current law a person who discharges a firearm could be charged with multiple counts of endangerment or fined, depending on whether the discharge took place in a public space or a personal residence. The senator stated that his understanding of the proposed legislation is that the bill would essentially remove any consequences for these types of discharge incidents.
    - Culture Club asked what the current policy on campus was regarding concealed weapons. Julia said the university does not currently permit individuals to carry concealed weapons on campus, regardless of whether they are licensed to do so, and that the university could continue to make this their policy if the bill becomes law. This would not prevent the city of Bowling Green from abiding by the new law if the bill passes, which could lead to safety concerns in the community at large.
    - College Student Personnel noted that the current Student Code of Conduct had a provision for punishing students whose actions regarding firearms are deemed to be in violation of the law, and that students could be punished for firearms violations even if the violation occurs off campus.
    - Philosophy asked if students could bring guns into dorms if they have permits and this legislation is approved. Julia said her understanding of the situation is that they could. She also said there has been discussion of making one of the residence halls on campus a “gun dorm,” and requiring any student who wishes to have a firearm on campus to stay in that dorm. She mentioned a similar policy at Colorado State University, but also noted that during its first year of availability no students agreed to live in that dorm.
    - GuSTO asked if there is currently a provision for faculty and staff to have concealed firearms on campus. Julia said the current law states that, since campus is considered state property, only federal law enforcement agents are permitted to carry concealed firearms on campus. If the proposed legislation becomes law, the university would need to revisit and restate its policy on the matter.
    - Dhiman said he was not sure a change in university policy would be effective, since a state policy would override a university policy. Biology Graduate Student Association said they also thought the state policy would nullify any changes to university policy.
    - Jackie was happy this issue was being discussed, but was not comfortable with making a decision on such an accelerated timeline. Julia said she would prepare a quick survey through Qualtrics, and send it to the senators with a deadline of early next week. This would give people time to research the issue and decide how they want to vote on the matter.
    - Geology said she would ask the Committee on Committees if the adhoc committee could have add student representatives, as she was concerned student voices would be left out of this discussion.
    - Jeffrey reminded everyone that it was their duty as senators to vote, and that no one should be abstaining from this vote unless they have a personal conflict of interest. In this instance, a conflict of interest would include helping to craft the proposed legislation, or working or volunteering for an organization that was lobbying for or against the legislation
    - Student Development Association asked to clarify what the letter would say regarding support or opposition for the proposed legislation. Julia said the letter would reflect the results of the Qualtrics survey, whatever those may be.
* Announcements
  + **Congrats to all those graduating December 11!**
  + **Next General Assembly:** January 29, 3-5 McFall Gallery; Guests: **Barbara Waddell/Vicky Kulicke:** Title IX/Office of Equity and Diversity
  + **Black Swamp Pub Happy Hour:** Join us today after GA for drinks and/or dinner at Black Swamp Pub in the Union.
  + **Culture Club Party at the Attic**, tonight (12/4) 8-11pm. All graduate students welcome, $5/ticket
  + **Ray Browne Conference CFP** and more (!) available at www.bgsu.edu/raybrowne
  + **BGSU Libraries has a page for graduate students:** <http://www.bgsu.edu/library/LTL/students/GraduateStudents.html>
  + **If your department or organization has an event**, email gradcol@bgsu.edu by 4 pm on the Thursday before the week of your event to have it included in the weekly Academic Agenda.
* Adjournment – Julia moved to adjourn the meeting. The “ayes” carried and the meeting was adjourned. Julia thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a good weekend.