



Graduate Student Senate
111A McFall Center
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0181
Phone: (419) 372-2727
<http://www.bgsu.edu/gss>

General Assembly

Friday, December 10, 2021 – 3:00–5:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE: 11 Executives and 31 Senators

MEETING STARTED: 3:02 pm

CALL TO ORDER: By the President

ROLL CALL: By the Secretary (we had a quorum with a total of 11 Executives and 31 Senators in attendance)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA: College of Musical Arts and CSP Representatives moved to approve, seconded by History (MA)

OFFICERS REPORTS

➤ The President:

- She appreciated everyone for a wonderful semester
- Review of our work over this Semester and next Semester
 - Since the pandemic, we had good turn-up for FDP and Regalia application
 - Lots of background work with Dean Gobberman and the Faculty Senate and Undergraduate Student Senate
 - Looking forward to an exciting and more engaging Spring Semester
 - Looking for active Senators participation as we hope to host workshops
 - Bringing a few critical players in respect to the health (mental and physical) of graduate students on campus

- Multicultural/Accessibility Affairs Chair: He reported on:
 - Anyone wanting to take Safe Zone training is welcome to – Dr. Katie Stygles offers this course monthly to professors, but grad students are welcome to attend as well
 - Graduate students are welcome to take or request any of the workshops that are on the Diversity & Belonging webpage
 - Link to workshops – <https://www.bgsu.edu/equity-diversity-and-inclusion/workshops.html>
 - MIGSS is looking to plan a social event for graduate students and potentially have an end-of-the-year forum for students to speak with university leadership – more details to come
 - Are there specific people and/or departments students would like to present at an informational forum?
 - Jennifer McCary and co. are developing a Race & Democracy course for undergraduates – grad students are welcome to participate in this pilot. However, the course would not be available until Fall '22 at the earliest
 - Undergraduate Student Government (USG) is currently in the process of getting Columbus Day changed to Indigenous People's Day at BG and in the city of Bowling Green
 - Link to sign the petition – <https://www.change.org/p/members-of-the-bowling-green-community-celebrate-indigenous-people-s-day-in-bowling-green-and-at-bgsu>
 - I encourage everyone to sign. All support is appreciated!
 - If there is a gap in a graduate student organization (e.g., no club for grad weightlifting), you may create one as long as you have ten members – this will also open up opportunities for funding from the university
 - If you are having issues within your department, the university encourages you to report them and provides a level of protection from retaliation for doing so

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- **Student Legal Services Department: Desire to increase Student Legal Services Fee**
 - History (MA) Representative moved to start the discussion, seconded by CSP Representative
 - **Rodney F.** Requested GSS to write a resolution in support of an increase in students' legal services
 - Currently have an optional fee of \$9, with which they provide extensive services to both undergraduate and graduate students

- The increase is to hire a third attorney as the work is becoming overwhelming for the two current ones.
- They requested an increase of \$5-\$7
- Our decision will not directly impact us but the in-coming Freshmen class
- For more information, the presentation slides will be attached to the minutes

➤ **Questions and Answers**

- **Treasurer:** Is the \$9 a flat rate for the entire semester? Or is it per month?
 - Answer: Flat rate for the entire semester. No follow-up cost after paying this flat rate when you use their services
- **Mathematics Ph.D. Representative:** When you say hire, means per need basis?
 - Answer: They look forward to generating about \$100,000 of income to hire a new permanent attorney and continue running costs and staying up.
 - Representative: Yes, you answered, but I don't think there is a guarantee for them having enough from us. Traditionally, few graduate students would need these services in the long run
- **Public and Applied Health Masters Representative:** If many students still do not use their services at the current rate, how would an increase in the rate help more students pay and use their services?
 - Answer: Many students use their services. They work on average of about 1200 students and appear in courts for students about 700-800 times yearly. It's optional, so if you choose not to pay, the increase won't affect you.
- **History Representative:** I would also like to add that I attended BGSU in 2007-2009, and I don't think the fee has increased since then (though I haven't verified this)
 - Answer: No, it has not increased since 2009. BGSU was the first to premier this kind of service. In 2007, the cost was increased from \$7 - \$9.
- **Professional Development Chair:** It will be interesting to see the statistics of how many undergraduate and graduate students have used their services
 - Answer: There are more undergraduate students using this more than graduate students

➤ **Dean Goberman**

- He appreciates all senators for the work we all do to represent other students and for being part of GSS
- He encouraged us to take care of ourselves over the break
- Feel free to contact him if you need anything or if you have anything to share (goberma@bgsu.edu)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

➤ **President:**

- Next semester has been planned out by her and the VP
- They are currently finalizing the speakers who will speak during our meetings next semester
- The first GA meeting will be on January 14, 2022
- February Meeting: February 11, 2022
- March Meeting: March 11, 2022 – This is a Semester break date; hence meeting might come earlier or later
- April: GSS Elections and Leadership on April 8, 2022
- GSS Meetings has not been considered to be moved to in-person attendance but will be discussed/voted on at our first meeting next year

➤ **Dean Goberman:** Graduate Council is planning to stay remote for their meetings through the academic year

➤ **Secretary:** American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting from 13th – 17th December 2021 at New Orleans, Louisiana. She will be presenting her research work

➤ **Treasurer:** Appreciated everyone who participated in GSS Mix and Mingles

ADJOURNMENT: School of Art Representative moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Public and Applied Health Representative and CSP Representative.

MEETING ENDED: 3: 41pm.