

Graduate Student Senate

2022-2023
A Year in Review



GRADUATE

STUDENT SENATE
Bowling Green State University

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2022-2023 Graduate Student Senate SEC



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General Assembly Makeup and Speakers

This year, the Graduate Student Senate was composed of **14** Senate Executive Committee members and **47** senators representing Graduate Degree Programs and Colleges.

Additionally, we were joined by **17** speakers from the Bowling Green campus and wider community. The purpose of bringing these speakers to our General Assembly and Senate Executive Committee meetings is to enlighten the graduate student population of various resources available to them, as well as provide access to university administration. These speakers included:

- Dr. Jennifer Waldron (*Dean, Graduate College, BGSU*)
- Dr. Alexander Goberman (*Assoc. Dean, Graduate College, BGSU*)
- Ms. Alexia Coffman (*Sr. Admin. Assist., Graduate College, BGSU*)
- Ms. Michele Schmitz (*Budget Admin., Graduate College, BGSU*)
- Dr. John M.K. Lommel (*Director, Institutional Effectiveness*)
- Mr. Rodney Fleming (*Managing Attorney, Student Legal Services*)
- Ms. Marlene Reynolds (*Asst. Director, Student Health Insurance*)
- Dr. Rodney Rogers (*President, BGSU*)
- Mr. Mike Aspacher (*Mayor, Bowling Green, OH*)
- Dr. Katie Stygles (*Interim Chief Diversity Officer, BGSU*)
- Ms. Abby Coon (*Coordinator, Student Case Management*)
- Mrs. Lauren Albert (*Health Educator, Recreation and Wellness*)
- Mr. J. Clevenger (*Asst. Director, Tutoring Services*)
- Mrs. Hannah Marozzi (*Director, State Governmental Relations*)
- Ms. Justina Fuqua-Black (*Outreach Coordinator, The Cocoon*)
- Ms. Marilyn Eisele (*Chair, BGSU Board of Trustees*)
- Dr. Joe B. Whitehead (*Provost, BGSU*)
- Mr. Ben Batey (*Chief Health Officer, BGSU*)

Funding for Professional Development

Funding for Professional Development (FPD) is designed to supplement costs for graduate students participating in professional development in the following categories: Conferences, Memberships, and Other FPD (masterclasses, workshops, musical performances at national events, music tours, and subscriptions to services, etc.).

With many conferences returning to in-person modalities and an uptick in student's engaging in professional development, we saw record applications for each of our FPD cycles (Summer 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023), leading GSS SEC to redevelop their allocation system. Many conversations were had with the Graduate College and fellow graduate students that allowed us to extend many FPD acceptances.

Summer 2022

Summer 2022							
	Total # of Applications	# of Accepted Awards	# of Declined Awards	Award Limit	Total amount for the category	Percentage per category	Applicant Percentage
Conferences	32	24	8	\$650.00	\$11,634.95	73.53%	55.17%
Memberships	16	12	4	\$60.00	\$501.80	3.17%	27.59%
Other	10	10	0	\$500.00	\$3,686.00	23.30%	17.24%
Total	58	46	12		\$15,822.75		

We received **58** applications during Summer 2022, with **46** of the applications meeting the requirements for FPD. Activities included attendance at the The 33rd IEEE Intelligent Vehicles Symposium in Aachen, Germany, membership in the Association for Contextual Behavioral Science, and enrollment in the Statistical Horizons virtual seminar titled "Difference in Differences", as a few examples.

Funding for Professional Development

Fall 2022

Fall 2022							
	Total # of Applications	# of Accepted Awards	# of Declined Awards	Award Limit	Total amount for the category	Percentage per category	Applicant Percentage
Conferences	83	78	5	\$500.00	\$32,434.00	89.38%	57.64%
Memberships	44	35	9	\$100.00	\$2,052.00	5.66%	30.56%
Other	17	9	8	\$200.00	\$1,800.00	4.96%	11.81%
Total	144	122	22		\$36,286.00		

We received **144** applications during Fall 2022, with **122** of the applications meeting the requirements for FPD. This is the most applications received for FPD in the recorded history of GSS. This shows our SEC and senators were actively sharing resources with their constituent groups. We were able to dip into our carry forward and increase money we could award students. Activities included presenting at the World Association of Lesson Studies in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and 2022 ESI Solid Earth Team Meeting in La Jolla, California.

Spring 2023

Spring 2023							
	Total # of Applications	# of Accepted Awards	# of Declined Awards	Award Limit	Total amount for the category	Percentage per category	Applicant Percentage
Conferences	110	101	9	\$275 (Attending) \$350 (Presenting)	\$31,964.00	93.29%	69.62%
Memberships	41	39	2	\$30.00	\$1,143.40	3.34%	25.95%
Other	7	5	2	\$275.00	\$1,155.00	3.37%	4.43%
Total	158	145	11		\$34,262.40		

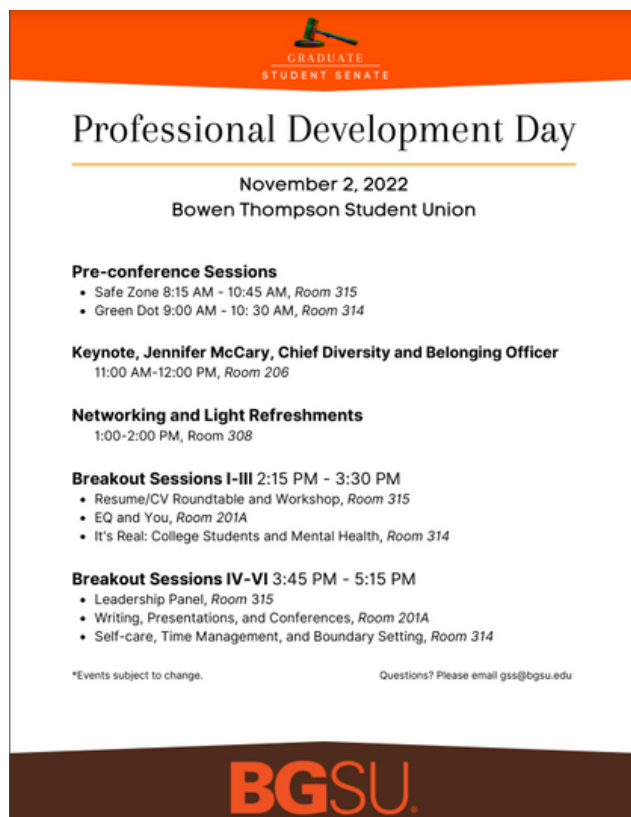
We received **158** applications during Spring 2023, with **145** of the applications meeting the requirements for FPD. Although we had to limit the amount we could offer students, we are grateful to provide so many students with professional development funding. Activities included many students presenting at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Washington, D.C., as well as many students attending the GAGE/SAGE 2023 Community Science Workshop in Pasadena, California.


Graduate Student Professional Development Day

On Wednesday, November 2nd, GSS hosted their annual Professional Development Day, with this being their first return to an in-person modality in three years. Led by the GSS Chair for Professional Development, David M. Fisher, and GSS Vice President, Nick Malendowski, activities were planned throughout the day that would allow graduate students to learn more about their professional identities and provide a broad range of skills. The Day began with two pre-conference workshops focused on creating safe zones for the LGBTQIA+ community and how to address bystander intervention. Following this, we had Mrs.

Jennifer McCary, BGSU's former Chief Diversity Officer, lead a discussion on graduate student health and well-being. The keynote was very well-received by the community, with many folks sticking behind to ask questions. This was followed by a catered networking session, which allowed graduate students from different programs connect with one another -- as well as faculty and staff. The day concluded with six breakout sessions, spanning a multitude of topics. Sessions were led by faculty and staff around campus, as well as community leaders.

This event was well-attended, and many graduate students expressed gratitude that an event like this exists.

A flyer for Graduate Student Professional Development Day. It features an orange header with the Graduate Student Senate logo. The title "Professional Development Day" is in a large, bold font, followed by the date "November 2, 2022" and the location "Bowen Thompson Student Union". The flyer lists several sessions: Pre-conference Sessions (Safe Zone and Green Dot), a Keynote by Jennifer McCary, Networking and Light Refreshments, and two sets of Breakout Sessions (I-III and IV-VI) with specific topics and room numbers. It includes a disclaimer about events being subject to change and a contact email for questions.


GRADUATE
STUDENT SENATE

Professional Development Day

November 2, 2022
Bowen Thompson Student Union

Pre-conference Sessions

- Safe Zone 8:15 AM - 10:45 AM, Room 315
- Green Dot 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM, Room 314

Keynote, Jennifer McCary, Chief Diversity and Belonging Officer
11:00 AM-12:00 PM, Room 206

Networking and Light Refreshments
1:00-2:00 PM, Room 308

Breakout Sessions I-III 2:15 PM - 3:30 PM

- Resume/CV Roundtable and Workshop, Room 315
- EQ and You, Room 201A
- It's Real: College Students and Mental Health, Room 314

Breakout Sessions IV-VI 3:45 PM - 5:15 PM

- Leadership Panel, Room 315
- Writing, Presentations, and Conferences, Room 201A
- Self-care, Time Management, and Boundary Setting, Room 314

*Events subject to change. Questions? Please email gss@bgsu.edu

BGSU.

GSS Regalia Awards

It is a significant commitment of resources for graduate students at Bowling Green State University (BGSU) to attend their commencement ceremony. In order to encourage more graduate students to walk in a BGSU commencement ceremony (May, August, or December), the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) created the GSS Regalia Award to support graduate students who may need help covering the cost of renting regalia (for Doctoral students)* or purchasing regalia (for Master's students).

The committee to decide on regalia awards was composed of the Graduate Student Senate Vice President, the Graduate Student Senate Chair for Professional Development, and three GSS Senators spanning across programs and all coming from different colleges. Applicants provided a written statement regarding why they need financial assistance for regalia, along with what walking in their graduation ceremony would mean for them. Many students mentioned familial support, pride, and impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic within their responses.



This year, the Graduate Student Senate increased their budget for regalia award applications to provide more students with regalia. **13** students received regalia during summer 2022, **16** in fall 2022, and an incredible **50** received regalia during spring 2023. Being able to provide **79** masters and doctoral students with regalia shows Graduate Student Senate's dedication to supporting graduate student success.

Charles E. Shanklin Research Colloquium and GSS Awards

Shanklin Award for Research Excellence

The Charles E. Shanklin Award for Research Excellence was established by Graduate Student Senate and endowed by the late Charles E. Shanklin as a meritorious award to recognize excellence in original research by graduate students at Bowling Green State University. In 2023, GSS celebrated the **13th annual celebration** on Wednesday, April 5, 2023.

Applications for the Shanklin Award for Research Excellence were excellence. We had **18** Judges for the preliminary round of judging:

Dr. Brent Archer <i>Communication Disorders</i>	Dr. HeeSoon Lee <i>Social Work</i>
Dr. Tim Brackenbury <i>Communication Disorders</i>	Dr. Monica A. Longmore <i>Sociology</i>
Dr. Amelia Carr <i>Management</i>	Dr. Montana Miller <i>Cultural and Critical Studies</i>
Dr. Malcolm D.E. Forbes <i>Photochemical Sciences</i>	Dr. Jared S. Rose <i>Counseling and Special Education</i>
Dr. Amy French <i>Higher Education and Student Affairs</i>	Dr. Anita Simic Milas <i>Earth, Environment, and Society</i>
Dr. Yuning Fu <i>Earth, Environment, and Society</i>	Dr. Liangfeng Sun <i>Physics and Astronomy</i>
Dr. Julia Halo <i>Biological Sciences</i>	Dr. Rachel Vannatta <i>Educational Foundations, Leadership, and Policy</i>
Dr. Abbas Heydarnoori <i>Computer Science</i>	Dr. Ben Ward <i>Mathematics and Statistics</i>
Dr. Hrishikesh Joshi <i>Philosophy</i>	Dr. Jari Willing <i>Psychology</i>

Charles E. Shanklin Research Colloquium and GSS Awards

In total, we received **36** applications for the Award (**9** from Arts and Humanities, **6** from Mathematics and Sciences, and **21** from Social and Behavioral Sciences). Of these 36, **6** were invited to the finalist round:

1st: Nicolas Schofield
German
2nd: Judith
Clemens-Smucker
American Culture Studies

1st: Kasandra Fager
History
2nd: Alannah Graves
History

1st: Abigail Jarosz
Biological Sciences
2nd: Madison Wagner
Biological Sciences

We were joined by **6** Deans from around BGSU to judge our finalist round, which included:

Dr. James Ciesla
Health and Human Services
Dr. Bill Mathis
Musical Arts
Dr. Jennifer Percival
*Schmidthorst College of
Business*

Dr. Ellen Schendel
Arts and Sciences
Dr. Dawn Shinew
*Education and Human
Development*
Dr. Jennifer Waldron
Graduate College

Charles E. Shanklin Research Colloquium and GSS Awards

In addition to the Shanklin Award for Research Excellence, GSS also sponsors three other competitions for students to engage in: The Shanklin Poster Competition, Shanklin Paper Abstract Competition, and the Creative Expression Contest.

Shanklin Poster Competition

This year, we received **12** submissions for the poster contest, with **7** choosing to present at the colloquium. Posters were judged by members of the GSS Senate Executive Committee. The top three posters belonged to: Jeremiah Adesanya (*Biological Sciences*), Toby Shaya (*Biological Sciences*), and Victoria Riesgo (*Psychology*).

Shanklin Paper Abstract Competition

We received **17** submissions for the abstract competition, with **14** presenting their projects during the event. These presentations took place in four back-to-back research panels, judged by members of the GSS Senate Executive Committee. The top three presentations were given by: Wesley Barnhart (*Psychology*), Maria Kalantzis (*Psychology*), and Jinx Mylo (*Media and Communication*).

Creative Expression Contest

To be mindful of creative endeavors, GSS introduced the inaugural Creative Expression Contest during the 2023 Shanklin Awards Colloquium. There were two categories for submission, which were Performative and Visual. Applicants were required to submit their piece, as well as a recording of them explaining their piece. The top two Performative applications were: Jeevani Sammeta (*Media and Communication*) and Victoria Main (*Media and Communication*). The top two Visual applications were: Tinatei Tunyan (*Art*) and Prisca Omugbe (*Applied Statistics*).

Charles E. Shanklin Research Colloquium and GSS Awards

The Creative Expression Contest wouldn't have been possible without support from Dr. Sarah Rainey-Smithback (*Cultural and Critical Studies*), Kimberly Fleshman (*Graduate College*), and Jenn Stucker (*Art*). Judges for the Creative Expression Contest were:

Dr. Barbara Bergstrom

Art Education

Marce Dupay

Studio Arts

Dr. Raddhika Gajjala

Media and Communication

Dr. Sidra Lawrence

Ethnomusicology

Dr. Michaela Walsh

Cultural and Critical Studies

Graduate Student Senate Awards

Each year, the Graduate Student Senate honors outstanding graduate students, faculty, and staff. As an organization, we celebrate faculty and staff's work and support of graduate students, graduate students assistantship work, and their commitment to serving the public good. This year, we had **9** judges for the GSS Awards:

Dr. John Boman

Sociology

Dr Becca Cragin

Cultural and Critical Studies

Dr. Heath Diehl

English

Dr. Raddhika Gajjala

Media and Communication

Dr. Melissa Keith

Psychology

Dr. Marlise R. Lonn

Counseling and Special Education

Dr. Sharath Sasidharan

Accounting and Information

Systems

Dr. Kimberly Stanley

Cultural and Critical Studies

Dr. Sara Stiltner

Human Movement, Sport, and

Leisure Studies

Charles E. Shanklin Research Colloquium and GSS Awards

This year's recipients of the Graduate Student Senate Awards included:

Outstanding Contributor to Graduate Education

Dr. Julia Halo (*Biological Sciences*)

Graduate Student of the Year

Wesley Barnhart (*Psychology*)

International Graduate Student of the Year

Shudipta Sharma (*Media and Communication*)

Outstanding RA-1

Christopher Julian (*Sociology*)

Outstanding RA-2

Rene Ayala (*American Culture Studies*)

SEC Member of the Year

Chinwendu Akalonu (*Media and Communication*)

Senator of the Year

Ariel Esposito (*Sociology*)



GSS Resolutions

This year, the Graduate Student Senate drafted, proposed, and passed **4** resolutions in support of graduate student endeavors. When GSS passes resolutions, they are sent to campus administration to review. Although resolutions do not automatically make change on campus, they show university administration what graduate students would like to see on campus. These four resolutions center on accessibility; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and support.

Resolution 1: Petition the 3 Minute Thesis Competition® founders at the University of Queensland to reconsider the rule that states "Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g., no poems, raps or songs)" to be more inclusive.

Resolution 2: To seek out additional support for first-generation students. We ask budget decision makers to consider this resolution in the allocation of funding.

Resolution 3: Formally supporting the recognition of election day as a campus holiday. We ask that the academic year committee consider this resolution in planning future academic years.

Resolution 4: Supports graduate faculty consider embedding library instruction for information literacy around key moments in introductory courses. We ask for you to pass this resolution along to faculty for consideration in the design of their Fall 2023-24 syllabi.

GSS Constitution Modifications and Restructure

At the beginning of the 2022-2023 academic year, the Graduate Student Senate SEC was composed of **7** elected and **7** appointed members. The appointed members were selected by the President and Vice President prior to the academic year, and began their positions when the semester started.

With this structure, the President and Vice President could put whomever they wanted into these roles, and appointed members could not receive a monetary award for their work. Because of this, GSS decided to **restructure** our SEC by doing the following:

1. Change all appointed positions (besides the Board of Trustees representative) to elected positions.
2. Change the names of the appointed-elected positions to be more reflective of the work they do.
3. Provide honorariums for individuals in these appointed-elected roles.
4. Raise the stipend of the Representative-at-Large.
5. Two new appointed positions - Chair for First-Year Doctoral and First-Year Masters.

To point 2 above, the following positions changed names:

1. Chair for Professional Development of Graduate Students *became* **Graduate Student Professional Development Representative.**
2. Chair for International Graduate Students *became* **International Graduate Student Affairs Representative.**
3. Chair for Multicultural and Accessibility Graduate Student Affairs *became* **Graduate Diversity and Belonging Representative.**
4. Chair for Publicity and Social Programming of Graduate Student Events *became* **Graduate Outreach and Marketing Representative.**

GSS Constitution Modifications and Restructure

5. Chair for Environmental Affairs *became* **Environmental Affairs Representative.**

7. Chair for Online Graduate Student Affairs *became* **Online Graduate Student Affairs Representative.**

These changes were passed by the General Assembly on Friday, December 9th, and elections for positions took place on Friday, January 27th. With the passing of this and modifications made to the Constitution and Bylaws, **13 positions** on the SEC were now elected, and **3 positions** are appointed.

Constitutional Review

Each year, the Graduate Student Senate forms a committee of senators and members of the SEC to review and revise the current state of the Constitution and Bylaws. Over the past two years, this has not taken place due to COVID-19.

This year's committee was chaired by the Graduate Student Professional Development Representative, and was joined by three senators. They spent hours reviewing each page of the Constitution and Bylaws, ending with a list of potential changes that would need to be approved by the General Assembly before going into effect. In total, the committee proposed the following changes:

- **17** Minor Constitutional Clerical Revisions
- **5** Major Constitutional Amendments
- **7** Minor Bylaws Clerical Revisions
- **1** Major Bylaws Amendment

All changes passed unanimously on Tuesday, April 18th.

GSS Constitution Modifications and Restructure

17 Minor Constitutional Clerical Revisions

- Article 1, Section 8: add neurodivergence to list.
- Article 1, Section 10: add a serial comma and reference to fund allocation.
- Article 2, Section 2: change to in advance of first meeting of the semester.
- Article 2, Section 3: replace “on a monthly basis” with “monthly during the fall and spring semester”.
- Article 2, Section 3: add a definition that special meetings count as a GA meeting. This concerns attendance and censorship.
- Article 2, Section 7.F.1: replace “In order to” with “To”.
- Article 2, Section 8.F: replace “professional” with “respectful”.
- Article 2, Section 9.F: replace “professional” with “respectful”.
- Article 2, Section 10.C: the program is required to fill the position within one month in addition to sending a proxy in the event a meeting occurs before the position is filled.
- Article 3, Section 5.B: repeat information eliminate.
- Article 3, Section 5.C: rename to Section 5.B
- Article 3, Section 5.D: replace “professionally” with “respectfully and in accordance with the fiduciary responsibility expected of the position”. Rename to Section 5.C
- Article 3, Section 5.E: rename to Section 5.D
- Article 3, Section 8.B: replace “SEC, but” with “SEC but”.
- Article 4, Section 6.A.2: replace “vacant, thus “with “vacant; thus”.
- Article 4, Section 6.B: remove a comma. Future consideration needs to be made for the order of the positions within the context of this subsection.
- Article 5, Section 2.A: replace “document, but” with “document but”.

GSS Constitution Modifications and Restructure

5 Major Constitutional Amendments

- Article 1, Section 9: further definition how funds are allocated. Include language to separate programs in good standing and programs that are not in good standing.
- Article 2, Section 1: a policy to help ensure the clarity of the GDPs within the GA especially with regards to voting and senator status.
- Article 2, Section 7.C: senators may also be present virtually in addition to in person.
- Article 2, Section 7.H: senators can share the budgets with their programs but have responsibilities. Additionally, current budgets need to be shared with caveats.
- Article 2, Section 8.B: add Any exceptions will be at the discretion of the GA chair.

7 Minor Bylaws Clerical Revisions

- Article 3, Section 1.C.3.b: replace "in order to" with "to".
- Article 3, Section 1.C.4.b: replace "in order to" with "to".
- Article 3, Section 1.D.3.b: replace "will ask a question" with "may ask questions".
- Article 3, Section 1.D.3.b.i: replace "The order of questions to candidates" with "The order of candidate replies to questions".
- Article 3, Section 1.D.3.b.ii: replace "The order of questions to candidates" with "The order in which the candidates reply to questions".
- Article 3, Section 1.D.3.c: separate "The GA will make a motion to close questioning" into its own subsection named Section 1.D.3.d all further subsections of same level being renamed appropriately.
- Article 3, Section 1.D.3.f.ii: replace "uncontested", and with "uncontested" and

1 Major Bylaws Amendment

- Article 2, Section 1.A: eliminate the 4-credit minimum.

GSS By the Numbers

Networking - Build community with the almost **3,200** graduate students around campus by hosting **9** open general assembly meetings during the academic year with many guest speakers from the BGSU and Bowling Green community.

Funding for Professional Development - We have processed **300** applications and awarded **\$86,371.15** during Summer 2022, Fall 2022, and Spring 2023.

GSS Regalia Award - This year we have awarded **79** graduate students an award for regalia that totals **\$4,685** in the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 semester.

Committee/Subcommittee Membership and Ex-Officio Service - GSS SEC has sat on and maintained an active role on **27+** Different Committees/Subcommittees throughout the semester.

Event Programming and Participation - Actively participated in or hosted **15** events at BGSU including the graduate student orientation picnic, Student organization showcase, Halloween Funfest, Guns on Campus – Ohio Law and BGSU Policy workshop with Chief Campbell & CFE, Clubs in the Pub, and a Planetarium Social Event. These activities have helped support the organization's mission and the public good as our focus for this 2022-23 academic year has been on community convergence.

Volunteer Hours - According to BGSU Serves (thank you Kendra Lutes!) we know that **96** graduate students have served more than **832** hours of volunteer work.

Student Resource Hub Project - GSS, in partnership with Dr. Glen Davis and under the guidance of Dean Waldron has undertaken building out the student resource hub on Canvas. We currently have gathered over **88** resources with the help of **6** of our campus partners.

GSS Special Projects

Surveys:

GSS conducted 4 campus-wide surveys this year, led by Michael Ofori, Amanda Anastasia Paniagua, Adam Smith, Amanda Taylor, and Katie Ware.

- The first was designed and launched in the beginning of Fall 2022 of over 3,000 Graduate Students to better understand and serve their interests. In this survey, we learned why students chose BGSU, what they like and what they are concerned about regarding BGSU, and gauge their campus sense of belonging. Noteworthy results included:
 - Graduate students chose to come to BGSU because of the reputation of their academic program, the quality of the faculty, and location.
 - Graduate students most like the quality of faculty, the student/peer connections they have had, and the low cost of living.
 - Graduate students are primarily concerned with graduate student stipends, parking permits, and health insurance.
 - A majority of graduate students feel like they belong here.
- The second surveyed all graduate students to better understand transportation needs. This survey asked about how often students came to campus, whether they had reliable transportation, and the feasibility of parking lots on campus. Important notes from this survey include:
 - A majority of students drive to campus for their graduate assistantships, and a majority have parking permits.
 - A large majority of graduate students would purchase a faculty permit if able to.
 - Students primarily use shuttles to get to and from campus and to area grocery stores. A majority would like to see routes extended South (specifically to Walmart).

GSS Special Projects

Surveys:

- The third surveyed all graduate students to better understand ITS needs of graduate students. The survey aimed to identify the problems that might be confronting graduate students especially with their research and teaching assignments. The survey also sought to find other technological needs or challenges confronting graduate students. Findings included:
 - 137 (70%) of the respondents claimed they had access to some workspace such as a private or shared office space, or a lab. 30% claimed they had no access to a workspace.
 - 62% of the respondents claimed they had access to all the software or computer application necessary for their study, teaching, or learning. Whereas 38% claimed they do not have such access.
 - 93% of respondents stated they would require a personal laptop to complete their work effectively.
- Finally, the fourth survey sought out information regarding graduate student professional development needs. This survey was recently sent to all graduate students, and data received will be given to the BGSU Foundation.

Student Resource Hub Project:

- The purpose is to have a comprehensive space that holds resource information for students. It will provide a brief description of the resource and a link to find out further information. Although we know that instructors and departments have information on resources throughout the BGSU website and on their syllabi, this is a common space accessible to everyone with a BGSU Canvas account that might be helpful for all instructors to promote as a comprehensive source for students to realize all resources available to them holistically. This will be completed by the end of the semester.