

Date: Friday, October 12th, 2023, 3–5 pm.

Venue: Olscamp 221 and via Zoom with approval.

Attendance: Quorum was met

Meeting Started at: 3:00 pm

Approval of minutes:

1.0 Guest Speakers: Ben, chief wellbeing officer, student insurance and accountability

- People need to realize the essence of health care, but it is essential for leaders of this country after COVID-19 and hence the prime focus for our campus.
- We have decided to focus more on mental health because of the effects of COVID-19, such as loneliness, isolation, inflation, stress, and high expectations from employers and students.
- In conjunction with Falcon Health Center and Wood County Hospital, the counseling center will use AI to help find the right mental health resources for students and staff, whether remote or in-person.
- There is also an app designed that assigns a real-life coach to help students and staff depending on answers they give during a survey, and it will allocate you to coaches who will monitor your mental health and well-being.
- Two graduate assistants have been trained to respond to mental health crises without students having to go to inpatient care because there is a crisis stabilization unit at Bowling Green State University.

Second guest speaker: Chris

- Chris has worked for BG for 13 years as a full-time employee and 17 years as a graduate student.

- Chris was the former dean of students and just moved to the current deputy chief wellbeing officer position.
- He focused on four primary areas: accommodation, everyone is due reasonable accommodation. Graduate students must work with the Office of Wellbeing to secure reasonable accommodation.
- In coming, students through existing systems and graduate student's senate can secure accommodation before they travel to the United States. Students should reach out to the office on time to secure the required needs for accommodation.
- For insurance, Marlene Reynolds is the professional handling all issues about insurance. She is located at the Falcon Health Center on the second floor. She is available by email and phone for all health insurance purposes. Marlene may visit the graduate student senate to enlighten us about the insurance packages available to the school.
- He also mentioned that international students who are seeking accommodation should reach out to the office for directives.
- For remote classes, there is the Counselling Center and Falcons' Health Center, as well as the Silver Cloud, which helps diagnose mental health challenges, especially for remote students.
- Information is gathered through surveying students' answers, for example, by monitoring alcohol use, and based on that, guidance will be given on what to do.
- He spoke about the role of the dean's office, that the office is for every student on campus, and the code of conduct for every student.
- Neighborhood associations also challenge the rent rates, summer stays, etc. Student voices are needed among such groups for student's agenda.
- As a graduate student, you must find the dos and don'ts when living in rented apartments.

- The Department of Accessibility is responsible for helping graduate students address any rent challenge they may face in acquiring a place or after.
- Students should get involved in BGSU, see it, hear it, report it, or say it, especially when it comes to sexual harassment and assault; we should not think that someone will say it when we do not say it. However, if you see something, say it and protect another person. If these incidents are reported, the dean of students will follow up, and 911 sometimes will also come for record's sake. Victims will be questioned as well as anyone involved; these are not necessarily rigorous questions but rather for records and investigation's sake.
- Student emergency funds also aid students needing food, rent, and basic needs.
- Hazing issues are also top priorities for the dean's office; reporting and questioning are done to gain insight into what happened before the remedy.
- Finally, the Department of Wellbeing is engrafted in the GSS community and interested in providing all graduate students services. The office is also open to meetings or appointments.

Questions

1. Where is the counseling department located? Ans: College park building, same as campus police and parking services.
2. Will wellbeing cover student insurance, especially with the new mental health? Yes, it is covered by health insurance.
3. Expand on the issues of Landlords and rental. Ans: Go to the student affairs directorate on BG's website.

4. What can you do about the issue of co-signing for international students, especially knowing that most international students need to secure accommodation before coming to the United States?

Ans: The Office of Wellbeing is working on that since it takes work.

5. Can there be temporary unpaid accommodation for incoming international students to offload their burden of paying so much before they settle in, at least for the first two months?

Ans:

6. Can dental and vision insurance be bought separately? Ans: Yes, but go to the BGSU website for all other information.

7. Is it possible for students to win appeals regarding their work being cited for plagiarism because of AI? Ans: BGSU's website gives more information about this.

2.0 SEC Report

President: David Fisher

- The Graduate Student Senate has issues of fulfilled and unfulfilled needs; however, finding a solution takes much work.
- We exist in several colleges with leaders.
- Decisions must go through several processes at least many times before processes are completed; raising stipends, adjusting fees, etc., are complex issues to overcome.
- Appreciates senators who make it to campus events.
- Shared government
- Representation: 130 hours and 150 hours; be heard and seen so you can be valued.
- Be meeting authorities as senators.

- Create commitment.
- The more participation, the more unified voices
- Representation helps maintain and grow access.
- Refrain from assuming someone else will do what is ahead of the group; you can be part of it, too!
- Be positive, but also bring your negative thoughts.
- Give back to the public good.
- Each member has 8 hours to volunteer per semester, which can be done anywhere as far as proof is given.

Question:

1. How do you verify whether someone has done their voluntary service? Ans: No system is in place for verification, but be honest; you will undoubtedly be found someday.
2. Does BGSU serve a requirement? Ans: Yes, it is part of our representation.
3. If I volunteer time outside BGSU, does it count? Ans: Yes, the goal is not for us to be exclusive anywhere, and it also increases our visibility.

Vice President

- Likely, each member of GSS will serve on a committee; currently, we are looking for people to serve on the board of trustees for a two-year term. The position is volatile; selection goes through several hands and processes.

Ghada, Student Representative

- I am very student-centered.
- My job can only be done with the support of everyone; she needs GSS to help her say what she has to say with the correct information we give her.
- Some course changes, such as forensic science from 6090 to 6066, library/lab-based, and musicology; campus course is eliminated now, and in-person courses are available now.
- She talked about the fact that it is essential to review learning outcomes.
- We are transforming 15-week classes to 7 weeks.
- The completion of a course should be an agreement between the student and the faculty.

Adwowa Osei

- Adwowa has been working on student insurance services for affordable choices.
- They are working on the meal swipes so that people who do not use their swipes can donate them to other people.

Kelly Anne, Financial Secretary

- Kelly had some training with the student allocation board.
- Sat in meetings from the central office.
- Kelly mentioned that more funds are needed because we only have 7800 dollars in requested funds, which is insufficient for the capital needed, especially for students attending conferences.

Gertrude Secretary

- Members of GSS should be involved in events and activities on campus.
- Representation is a crucial factor in students being heard, so we are elected as the mouthpiece for graduate students.

- Make sure that whatever you do, your name comes in the history of the book of GSS; I want to see your names in my books.
- Voice out anything you know or can contribute to.
- Know your channels of communication.

Ariel, Representative at Large

- We discussed the issue of stipends being a significant interest; there must be an extra level between senators and SEC members.

Chidi, Media representative

- Restructure, encourage, and make dining more inclusive.
- Diversity on dining menus, especially cooking African and other foreign foods.

Blessing, International student representative

- Housing, programs, and partnerships; working with graduate students to get them good housing options.
- Cultural: There should be African and other international markets that supply some international local foods to students, especially at the food pantry.
- There should be a variety of international foods at the food pantry she is working on.

Kayla, Environmental Affairs Representative

- Kayla has been supporting the student green initiative; anyone from biology or any department is invited on board for ideas.
- She is ready to collaborate on the proposals presented.

3.0 Presentation by Adam Marvin Center

- We are using civil engagement and service to perform some responsibilities.
- Introduced BGSU Serve; BGSU Votes
- Service and learning courses.
- Days for service and learning courses: fall, in August; Spring (January)
- The Marvin Center Partners with over 500 serves, which allows every student to volunteer.
- About 4400 students at BGSU serve.
- There are leadership certification programs as professional development courses.
- TED X is also a platform where students can share their insight and knowledge about specific topics with the public. Marvin Center will help and guide you with materials and a conducive atmosphere to perform well during a presentation on this program.

4.0 New Business

- a. Board of trustees and what they will be doing.
- b. Shaklin
- c. Budget Development
- d. internal conflicts are grievances.

New Committee set-up

Jack – Task forces for funding graduate students for a more compulsive issue raised.

- a. Conduct Survey
- b. Stipend delays and other challenges

Questions

1. Will the issues these task forces include tuition eligibility challenges to their work?
2. How many people and hours will be required to be part of this committee? Ans: About 3 to 6 hours per semester
3. Will there be any collaboration between the finance and the new task force? Ans: Yes, but in different operations
4. Are these task forces more permanent? Ans: It will depend.

Any Opposition to the formation of the task forces? Ans: No.

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.