General Assembly

Friday, September 8th, 2023, 3-5 pm

Olscamp 221 and via Zoom with approval

Attendance:

Meeting Started: 3:11 by Vice President

Roll Call: Completed by President

Approval of Minutes: No minutes to approve.

Guest Speakers:

- Dr. Waldron: Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate and Professional Programs
  - Serves as the Dean of the graduate college.
  - Has only been at BG for a year.
  - Graduated with an MA in Kinesiology in 1999.
  - Role as dean:
    - Advocate for graduate students
    - Wants to create an environment for learning with very few obstacles.
    - Here to assist GSS and all graduate students, but it may take a couple of levels of contacts to reach.
    - Address issues and concerns as well as successes.
    - Loves to talk to students about their research.

- Dr. Ludy: Associate Dean of Graduate and Professional Programs
  - Has been in the graduate college since January. From BG.
• Came here for HS summer camp, was a faculty member for 13 years, and studied nutrition.
• Loves to talk to students, and to hear about student concerns.
• Likes to help solve little problems before they turn into big problems.
• Helps connect students to other resources across campus.
• Works with policy.

• Professional Development:
  ▪ Graduate Student Orientation - All were mentioned here.
  ▪ In-person monthly graduate student PD
  ▪ Will this be recorded?
  ▪ First on coming up!

• Michele Schmitz: Budget Administrator
  o Also, at BGSU, Started as a Freshman.
  o Manages the Graduate college budget.
  o Ad Hoc advisor to GSS and SEC finances
  o Check FPD applications are university-compliant.
  o Works with programs to review contracts and to get everything contract-related figured out.

• Tammy Oelkrug: Director of Graduate Degree Progress and MS in Analytics Program

• Kim Fleshman: Coordinator, Thesis and Dissertation Services
  o Handle topic approvals and defense forms
  o Handle graduate college website.
• Been on campus since 1999. Previously a 911 operator.

• Resident IT Tech

• **Alexia Coffman: Senior Administrative Assistant**

  • The first line of defense in the graduate college, talk to Alexia to find out who to talk to.

  • Been a falcon since age 4.

  • Jack of all trades

  • Help with forms, adobe form sign process.

  • Works with the awards committee

  • Support policies with Dr. Ludy

  • FPD, after approval from GSS it goes through Alexia.

    • Video submitting an expense report on Canvas.

  • Can just talk to her.

  • Often wanting to make events bigger.

• **Heidi Bouza: Assistant to the Graduate Dean**

  • Worked at an independent grocery chain.

  • Worked in a finance department in undergrad, then moved to higher ed.

  • Started in registration then moved to graduate college.

  • Supports Dean Waldron

  • Second line of defense after Alexia

  • Serves on the Graduate review committee.
Questions:

- **Ph.D. Philosophy**: Challenge in delay in the first paycheck. Is that on the radar and how might that be addressed?
  - **Michele**: BG Payroll is a two-week system. The first set works and the second set gets paid for the first.

- **Representative at Large**: Is there a possibility for a scholarship to cover the first month rather than change the pay schedule?
  - **Michele**: Scholarships are used to award for academics traditionally. Those who do awards for other things are typically from outside sources.

- **Representative at Large**: Can there be an emergency fund set up like the COVID-19 one?
  - **GSS President**: The emergency fund is available, and you are eligible once a year.
  - **Vice President**: The maximum amount funded is $500.
  - **Dr. Ludy**: If you are concerned about someone you know having enough money, or food or having a housing insecurity you can report the concern on their behalf at the following link:
    
  - **Emergency fund application link**:
    
    https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?BowlingGreenStateUniv&layout_id=4

- **Katie Beradi**: The online students would like to know if we can have grant funds for PD?
• **Dean Waldron:** Eligible for funds through GSS!

- **Catherine Wilson:** Activities should be geared toward networking and meeting others. Disconnect between classes and what they need to do after work.

  - **Dr. Ludy:** Might need to get information about what they need or want from their department program or certificate group, so these activities can be structured better.

- **Michele:** Maybe make an “only if I knew” packet for incoming students.

**Officer Reports:**

- **President David M. Fisher:**
  
  - Welcome to GSS
    
    - Why are you here?
      
      - We should ask ourselves this question often.

      - What binds all of us together?

      - What can GSS do to be in better alignment with your values, goals, and strategies?
        
        - Look around and see what needs to change as you go around campus.

      - How can you serve the graduate student body and GSS?

        - It serves us and we serve it.

        - First, you were yourself.

        - Then you became a graduate student

          - Take chances, make mistakes, and get messy.
Important to make mistakes.
If you avoid making mistakes, you learn nothing.

- Be good, be well, be kind, be vulnerable, be humble.
  - Be good: aligns with the university.
  - Be well: Take care of yourself, and protect your wellness.
  - Be kind: Can be difficult to achieve, can argue while being kind to each other.
  - Be vulnerable: Be authentic in your vulnerability, be honest if you feel more vulnerable.
  - Be humble: We’re in a position if we don’t come back to humility, we’ll lose our support. Even if we know what we want well, try to remain humble.

- Strive for an ideal.
  - We need big ideas.
  - We need to work together to get the best for grad students.

- I want to help.
  - Why do you want to help?
    - Myself (1 Person)
      - Good to help yourself, it’s not a problem.
    - My cohort
    - My degree
    - My department
My school... my college. All 3000+ grad students at BGSU.

I want to help as many current and future grad students of BGSU as possible.

- What will be the legacy of GSS?
  - Want to help for longer than we’re here for
  - Building sustainable changes for more than just ourselves
  - Many changes won’t affect us, but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t strive for it.
  - Our legacy should be about learning, not just doing.

- The responsibility of GSS and you as a member of GSS
  - Make sure everything we do this year transfers to next year.

- Vice President: Christopher Chandler
  - New Senator Training
  - Attendance:
    - Come to every meeting.
    - If you can’t come to a meeting, find a proxy, or email the VP at gss@bgsu.edu
    - Missing two consecutive meetings or three in a semester will result in censorship.
    - Censorship means your program loses its rights to funding, awards, and honors.
Commitment:

- Come to GA meetings.
- Remain in attendance and be engaged.
- Communicate with constituents.
- Serve on one university standing committee, or GSS committee, or make up the hours doing service.
- You must be present to be able to vote.

Roberts Rules of Order:

- Promotes democratic decision-making by the general body.
- RRO provides a fair hearing for members of the Senate.
- RRO conducts business in an efficient and timely manner.

Making a Motion:

- Each active senator has the right to make a motion, every motion must be seconded.

Examples

- Adjournment
- Recess
- Raise a question of privilege.
- Call for the orders of the day
- Main Motion

Subsidiary Motions (Happens after the main motion):

- Laying on the table
- Previous question
- Limit or extend debate.
- Postponing
- Referral
- Amend
- Postponing Indefinitely

- Incidental Motions:
  - Point of information
  - Parliamentary Inquiry
  - Division of the assembly
  - Division of a question
  - Withdraw a motion.
  - Objection to consideration
  - Suspend the rules.
  - Appeal from the ruling of the chair
  - Point of order

- Old Business
  - Nothing!!

- New Business
  - SEC Elections
    - Secretary:
      - Carren Burkey
o Submitted virtual video.

o Was a secretary in a mental health organization.

• Gnanna Tulasi Makineni
  
o No Show

• Mir md Tasnim Alam:
  
o No Show

• Gertrude Futi Amewuda
  
o Switched quickly into leadership.

  o Sees everyone as a part of the team.

  o Wants to give people the opportunities she has gotten.

  o Not just about notes, but also about advocacy.

• Mian Adnan:
  
o Last academic year in the dept of Math and Stats (PhD)

  o Management, budgeting, advising, staffing, event
    coordination, university committee servicing,
    communication, reviewing, and chairing committees
    experience.

• Hallie Ruby:
  
o The purpose is to represent her department and get them
    resources.

  o Secretary at the Children Resource Center
- Housing plans, outreach, facilitated planning, and notetaking.
  - The adult facility works as well.
  - Helped underprivileged students find housing and jobs.
    - Punctual, hardworking, good listener, and good support.
    - Have trained others and a good leader.
  - Gertrude Futi Amewuda was voted as Secretary.

- Treasurer:
  - Gnana Tulasi Makineni: Not present
  - Rachel Kielar: Not present
  - Eli Bachman:
    - Graduated BGSU Spring ’22
    - No experience
  - Kellyanne Bunkley
    - Treasurer for the curling club
    - Good with excel
    - Ungrad in math
    - Graduated BGSU Spring ’22
  - Kellyanne Bunkley voted as Treasurer.

- Environmental Affairs Representative
  - Kaylyn Flanigan
• Ph.D. in Psychology, MA in Biology from BGSU
• Currently working with NOAA as a policy analysis fellow
• Strong environmental academic and research training, experience in policy and diplomacy, interest in conservation and preservation and preservation of environmental resources, communication, collaboration, and coordination skills.
• Hope to serve the BGSU graduate students, have positive interactions with BG leadership, and want opportunities to enhance the graduate students.

• Madamuk
  • Experience working with government groups working in communities to keep the environment clean, also done this in the classroom.
  • Wants to contribute to the BGSU community. Not just about giving back to them but learning from them.

• Kaylyn Flanigan voted as Environmental Affairs Representative

• Announcements
  • NA

• Adjournment
  • 5:36 PM