

# USG General Assembly Meeting

The Official Agenda of the Undergraduate Student Government General Assembly  
On This Day, 10/1/2012  
(Business Formal Attire Meeting)

I. Call to Order

- a. 7:30 P.M.

II. Roll Call

- a. 28 Present  
b. 11 Absent

- i. Burley, Clevenger, Croft, Ellis, Harbauer, Lampton, Morrison, Neely, Schnerer, Schubert, Stauffer.

III. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes Approved

IV. Swearing in of New Officers

- a. Laura Bender- Proxy for Senator St. Peter  
b. Adriana Darris- Proxy for Senator Cassie Berry

V. Open Forum

- a. President Mazey

- i. I want to recognize Jill Carr, our Senior Vice President for Student Affairs, as well as Jodi Webb, Alex, and David for all of their hard work. I want to say a few words about our plan. One plan is to increase student enrollment to a 25,000 head count. We will be implementing aggressive recruitment for the typical first year student, as well as expanding to older learners, online learners, and transfer students. We want to create a unique undergraduate experience, innovative programs, capstone programs, and intertwined curricular and co-curricular activities. When I look at our rankings and I see that we are first in enrollment vs. actual expected graduation rates, it makes me proud.

We are also looking at accelerated bachelors and masters programs, as well as targeted professional graduate programs. We recently received the largest grant ever, as well as \$500,000 from the Department of Defense. We will be using that to move forward with research efforts.

I also can't thank the Legacy Campaign enough, and that campaign will go down in history, and I will do all that I can to support it. This is going to be an exciting year. We've got a great agenda and master plan. We have a whole array of buildings we want to build and renovate- South, University, Mosley, and Hannah halls are all being renovated. We are going to renovate Eppler, renovate the Business Building, take down the Administration building, and so many other exciting things.

What I need from you is to help recruit students and help us retain them, because that is one of the many ways we can make our university better.

1. Juzkiw- I've heard that there is going to be more of a focus on quality rather than quantity. How will that work with the increased head count?

- a. Mazey- I think we will be okay. We have already increased the GPA requirement this year, and in the future we hope to go from a 22 ACT score requirement to a 24, and a 3.4 GPA. There will be a number of students who will apply to BGSU, and we want to build a partnership with Owens and have some of those students go there their first year, and even have dual enrollment to have a seamless transfer for those students. We just signed 22 articulation agreements with community colleges to have more transfer students from them. Partnerships with community colleges really help with these efforts.
2. Chair Durkit- With the increase in students will there be more of a focus on recruiting high-scoring students, or is it more general recruitment?
  - a. Mazey- Both. When you are looking at recruiting those high-scoring students, they are going to want more scholarship funds, so it does depend on how fast we build our scholarship funds. We are also looking at building a new honors college, as well as an honors residence hall, which will certainly attract more of those high-scoring students.
    - i. Chair Durkit- What is the time table for those things?
      1. Mazey- I would say if we want to get aggressive, the next two or three years. I was pushing for that this year, and I got a little push back. I've got about 18 recruitment visits this year, and I want to have good things to talk about. Changing the honors college name to a dean is revenue neutral, and it is a fairly easy change to make.
3. Chair Post- You spoke a lot about retention as a priority. What is the role of students in that?
  - a. Mazey- Students are critical in that. Peer-to-peer is the best way we can increase retention. Link-courses are in the works, because a lot of students come to campus and they don't know anyone. The sooner they get attached to someone, the more likely they are to stay. Each freshman next year will have 3 linked courses- 2 small and 1 large. Student to student interactions are very important. I am pleased to see that administrators are picking up student mentees, and they have asked to start an actual mentoring program. We have to make sure that every freshman feels as though this is a welcoming environment. Most freshman feel this is a good environment, but we have had a decline in our retention rate that we have to get back up.
4. Pokorny- You said we have plans to overhaul the grad program. What are your hopes and plans for that?
  - a. I have an example for you. When I was at Starbucks, I was in line with a post-secondary student. I said to her, if we had an accelerated bachelors/masters program, would you like that? She said she would love it. In this kind of program, X number of hours would count for both your bachelors and master. In order to do that you would have to qualify and have a certain GPA, but

we would really be a model for the rest of the state with that. And in 4-5 years students could have both their degrees. We also want to develop more professional masters degrees. Today the masters degree is the signature degree. We need to find both bachelor degrees and masters degrees that are in high demand in terms of the future labor force, and I think that will draw more students to BGSU.

5. Neely- Last year our retention rate was 69.5%. What are your short and long term goals for those numbers.
  - a. Mazey- I would really like to see a 2% increase in those numbers every year. So in 5 years I'd like to get that up to an 80% retention rate.
6. St. Peter- Can you expand on the freshman linked courses?
  - a. Mazey- If I am an incoming freshman. I will be taking a lot of general education classes. I may have a learning community class, GSW, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> class in the sciences or humanities. The same 25 students will have all 3 of those classes together. Once the registrar gets it down it's really easy, and it's just block scheduling.
    - i. Dzienny- That's time.
      1. Puccio- Motion to extend time by 10 minutes.
        - a. Pokorny- Seconded.
      - ii. Dzienny- Time extended by 10 minutes.
7. Durkit- You mentioned advising. Have you thought about changing it at all?
  - a. Mazey- I think it needs to be changed. I have seen a few things at other universities. I would say advising is a problem all across the country. If you want to change from one major to another, it's not so easy to do. We need a good degree audit system so you can see what you need, and what you need to change, what have you taken that is going to count, and how much longer will it take to graduate. I need something that is easily automated. I also need to be able, once I switch from one college to another, you should be able to get a meeting very quickly and easily. Advisers aren't always very pleased with me, but I think that advising should be 24/7 because I know that sometimes your night time is my day time. It's about service. We are looking at getting online advising, so you can get a question answered any time, and extending in-person hours. I know that we need an up to date degree audit system. Advisers should also know the requirements for colleges across the board.
    - i. Juzkiw- What about the possibility of installing peer-to-peer advising?
      1. Mazey- I think that's very good. You often ask those older students for advice anyway. What we want to see is a shorter time to completion. We don't want you to take 150 hours when it's

120 hours to graduate. The sooner you get your degree and graduate, the better.

8. E. Johnson- Diversity has increased a lot. Do you have any plans to recruit multicultural students?
  - a. Mazey- We still want to recruit a diverse student body. We plan to have a greater amount of international students. I've looked at the statistics- we have 643 international students. Kent has 1,500. We should strive to recruit another 1,000 international students. At the same time, we need to increase the diversity of our faculty and staff to have them serve as role models. We need to increase the diversity of our law enforcement agency on campus and in the city as well.
9. Frailly- What about programs for any incoming freshman who don't have to take perspectives?
  - a. Mazey- The link courses could be for every freshman. All you do is take the same 25 students and put them in the same 3 classes together. This is just a registrar issue. If you have the same classes with the same 25 students, you are going to get to know each other.
10. Solis- Can you comment on the passing of the strategic plan? What are the next steps, and what will the role of USG be?
  - a. Mazey- I was surprised that we hadn't already signed it. When I got here I was really surprised at all of the sustainability programs that we have here that weren't anywhere else. I immediately bought No Impact Man and read it, and thought that we were already reading the best books on the subject. The author chastised us for not signing the President's Climate Initiative. I set up a task force with representation across the board, and they drafted a broad plan that has been approved. Now we need to decide how to implement that plan. We've already been LINK certified in all of our buildings for a long time.

This is the world we live in- we all want to be energy efficient and have less dependency on foreign products. We need to get off that now to wherever it need to go now that it has been signed off.

    - i. Dzienny- That's time
      1. Pokorny- Motion to extend time by five minutes.
        - a. Chair Durkit- Seconded
    - ii. Dzienny- Time extended by five minutes.
11. Wilson- About advising- is there possibly going to be a set up where the advisers can only teach a certain amount of classes or have a certain amount of students? I know it's a problem that advisers have too many students and don't know a lot of their students. Is there any way to monitor if they are contacting their students?
  - a. Mazey- There should be. I know that there has been an effort to really change advising. I know there is a plan. You will find on

most campuses that there are way too many students per advisor and many members of the faculty do advising. There is a lot of debate whether faculty is the best advisers, or whether it should just be the professionals. If you have 300 advisees per person, there will be no personal attention. This is definitely a work in progress.

12. Pokorny- How do you go about overseas recruitment?

- a. Mazey- A number of universities use agents. I firmly believe that we have quite a number of international faculty and alumni, so why not use them? Dr. Chan, the Chair of Math and Stats is a native of Hong Kong. In Hong Kong they can only accommodate 10% of their 18 year old population in their universities, and who better than Dr. Chan to recruit them? I think it's how you target certain areas of the world using students from there, their alumni members and the faculty. China is where you find the fastest growing international population on campus.

13. Puccio- are you going to focus on other places than China?

- a. Mazey- I am meeting with a Korean affinity group that will be looking at Korea, China, India, Brazil, and the Middle East. You find that the largest segment of the Middle Eastern population is just an hour north. Even Canada, we should be recruiting there. We don't want to go where other Ohio universities are, we want to come up with our own targeted areas. Indonesia and Africa are important areas as well.

- i. Dzienny- That's time.

1. Puccio- Motion to extend time by 5 minutes.

- a. Goldsberry- Seconded/

- ii. Dzienny- Time extended by 5 minutes.

14. Puccio- Will we be building a better relationship with places we do study abroad programs with?

- a. Mazey- I haven't seen all the agreements, but my guess is we have a lot of agreements with European nations where it is more difficult to recruit. We have to go where the market is. By all means, we are open to exchange programs, but it is more difficult to recruit 18 year olds in European nations. We want to increase our international student body any way we can.

15. Pokorny- One of my friends is from Mumbai, and one of his complaints is that there aren't a lot of things for the Muslim faith. Can we incorporate more of that if we have more international students?

- a. Mazey- We should. Our campus is very open to what we will need. We just want to be open and diverse. Diversity is a very enriching part of life, and it is a very important part of the real world.

16. St. Peter- Has there been any consideration given to giving urban Detroit students in-state tuition?

- a. Mazey- I would say that out of state recruitment does have a large emphasis. As I understand it it's not in-state tuition, but if Michigan residents meet a certain ACT score, the out-of-state tuition isn't much higher. They are at least very comparable to the tuition rates in Michigan. The east-coast has also had a large recruitment effort, as well as Texas, and the states adjacent to us.

17. Sosa- What would you do about housing all of the new students?

- a. Mazey- If we go to 25,000 that will not necessarily be a larger freshman class. The freshman and sophomores are required to live on campus. We are also looking at a new honors residence hall, and more Greek housing. We are looking into recruiting more online and graduate students, so I think we would have to wait and see if this would be a problem. There is a lot of student housing just next to the university as well, and it is in good condition compared to other universities. We are also looking into another renovation of Mac, and as soon as Greek housing is resolved we will be taking down Harshman, and that area can be turned into more student housing if need be.

b. President Solis- Smoke Free Campus Initiative

- i. Solis- I'd like to address the letter that Sanderson gave me as a recap of our surveys regarding the tobacco free campus.

- 1. Sanderson- Last week we had union tables set up to discuss this issue, as well as a meet and greet at the Enclave. I presented data from both of those. On Monday and Friday we had tables in the Union. In total 206 students came to us to state their opinions. 132 students supported the initiative, 74 were against. The people that supported the initiative stated reasons such as smoking health issues, the smell, and people not being courteous. Reasons that the people who were opposed stated were that the ash trays were too close to the buildings, and that is why they smoke close to the buildings. Both sides of the argument raised the point of how this would be enforced once this takes place.

On Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> we went door to door at the Enclave to ask them if they do or do not support the smoke-free campus initiative. Approximately 336 residents were asked, and no more than 10 said that they did not support it or had no opinion. They stated the same reasons as the students who came to the union tables.

- ii. Solis- That being said, Dr. Mazey is asking for letters of support or not support from different organizations. I would like to open the floor to help me field the feelings on this letter I am going to have written by Halloween.

- 1. Pokorny- I don't think the sample size is large enough. This is something that will affect the entire student body, and it shouldn't just be decided by 200 people.
- 2. Adamski- This is a good idea, and the presentation last week said that other campuses have done this.
- 3. Juzkiw- Considering our on-campus population and how many people spend all day every day on campus, I think it's really tough to say that

they should have to give up tobacco because this is their home, and it really is tough to say that this can't be like your home.

4. Post- If you look at sample sizes in general, a sample size of 30 or 40 is sufficient. We did get a representative voice from the students, and we probably even got a larger proportion of students who were against it to respond because those people have a vested interest.
  - a. Pokorny- What about the students who didn't have the chance to get to the Union, and didn't have a chance to see the poll? It may have been a sufficient number, but it may not be representative.
5. Solis- Does anyone have any ideas for reaching more students?
6. Puccio- I think this is a very good idea to go forward with. When we were doing the tables in the union, a lot of people who didn't even smoke but who have friends that smoke think they shouldn't be taking away people's rights to smoke and what they do to their bodies. I think if we do go forward with this plan, we should have a designated area for smoking. We shouldn't just go with the majority and suppress the minority. This is their second home, and we should have accommodations for them to show that we are listening.
7. Chair Durkit- My only issue with the home analogy is that we aren't saying that you can't smoke ever, it's just that you can't smoke in this environment where there can be blow-back to other people who don't smoke. They already can't smoke in the rooms, and with this there will be no chance of blow-back in through people's windows and into their rooms. We aren't trying to crush rights.
8. Pokorny- How far is this going to reach? For example, if I am smoking in my car and happen to be driving across campus, can I get in trouble for that?
  - a. Solis- I believe this will cover smoking on campus lad.
9. Frailly- I am extremely sensitive on this issue because I know people who have died from cancer from second-hand smoke. It is not smoker's rights to affect other people. Smoking is something that affects other bodies around them.
10. E. Johnson- My only problem is that it doesn't have a plan. When you ask people the question it is very emotionally charged, and people don't know exactly what is going to happen. I don't know how we can support something when we don't know the exact plan. That was the concern of a lot of students.
11. Juzkiw- I do think that all this is backing up smoking designated areas. I think that it's awesome that we had the survey at the Enclave, but I think we should put more of a focus on the on-campus population because people who live on campus don't have anywhere else to go.
12. Solis- Can Preidis touch on RSA's thoughts on that?
  - a. Preidis- RSA is taking it to hall councils, and they are planning on voting on how they stand on this issue in a few weeks. They are leaning towards the idea of designated smoking areas on campus, because we don't want to take away from the minority and we want to respect their wishes that they want to be smokers.

13. Puccio- I have a question for Chair Durkit. I understand that the home analogy is a bit of a stretch, but where would you suggest that people who live on campus smoke? They shouldn't have to walk off campus just to smoke a cigarette.
  - a. Chair Durkit- I think that's where it gets a little dicey, because people can't really be expected to quit cold turkey. We need to keep this removed from class buildings and residence halls. I think that we do need designated areas, but how far can we take this before it becomes an issue of convenience? How far would they be from the residence halls? I don't think the intent of the act is to make people quit smoking, but the large issue is moving the smoking away from residence halls.
    - i. Dzienny- That's time.
      1. Appt- Motion to extend time by five minutes.
        - a. Juzkiw- Seconded
      - ii. Dzienny- Time extended by five minutes.
14. Wilson- I know that there is a Survey Monkey tool that we can use and send out, and that way many students can have a say. It may have to be set up by different people, but when I used it we had 200 or so people respond, and that way you are opening it up to a lot of people.
15. Goldsberry- We are looking out for the health and wellness of all students. None of us are trying to revoke rights, and we want to cater to all of our students. The 35 feet from a building plan is hard because it is a grey area. If there is a total ban, it's black and white. Either you are using or you're not, and you can get a more definite answer. That makes it a lot easier to work with. What President Solis is trying to do is set up a plan because what he has to do is send a letter, and he wants to be sure about it. Right now we are not sure. One option we have is to say yes we do support this, but only as long as we have certain things. The majority of students want a tobacco free campus, and we just have to look at initiatives to support the minority.
16. Dettrow- I would be frustrated if someone told me I had to walk a mile to do something. It's not far at all to get off campus, though, if you look at where most residence halls are.
17. Solis- This year President Mazey has made strides with the community members, but one thing I don't want to see is frustration because students are crossing into city property to smoke. The ripples of this go past just the university.
18. Appt- A lot of people don't smoke at home, and they expect an environment where they don't have to worry about it. Second hand smoke is an issue, and some people believe that they have the right to breathe clean air just as the others have the right to smoke. I think off-campus students also have a vested interest, as they can spend most of their time here.
19. Pokorny- On campus there are installed ash trays, and this could create a mess off-campus if it were to pass, because people would just be putting their cigarette butts everywhere because there are none of those ash trays

off-campus. Also, having them walk all the way off-campus to smoke would be inconvenient.

20. Channell- We spoke about a smoke-free campus in Kohl hall council. There were a lot of concerns about taking away students' rights, and they also thought that designated smoking areas were a good idea. They support this.
21. Senator Durkit- I think the majority would support it, but we have to focus on the minority. We also have to think about enforcement. Will there be a punishment system in place for this?
  - a. Solis- We are still in the beginning stages of developing that. I don't want this to be a UPD issue, and I don't want to see the Dean of students taking on a lot of conduct cases for this. We don't have a draft for that yet. I know they have been referencing Miami University for a lot of these things, because they went smoke-free 4 years ago.
22. Puccio- This really needs a more elaborate plan, it needs a backbone, and it needs structure. We need to accommodate the minority, think from all different angles, and make this a sound plan. A smoke-free campus is very vague. All students will questions what our plan is, and we need to come up with something to accommodate from all angles.
23. Chair Durkit- Alex needs to write a letter. We need to come up with some sort of opinion on this. The options are to say that we have no opinion, or that we support pending a plan, or that we do not support this. We just need to come up with an opinion so Alex can write a letter.

VI. Lobby Time

- a. N/A

VII. Old Business

- a. N/A

VIII. New Business

- a. N/A

IX. Executive Branch Reports

- a. President – Alex Solis [asolis@falcon.bgsu.edu](mailto:asolis@falcon.bgsu.edu)
  - i. I did present to the board of trustees on Friday. The Greek housing update was also presented at that meeting. They will be making their phase 2 adjustment into phase 3 starting soon. Dr. Mazey will be moving forward with the President's Climate Commitment. The Health Center lease was signed to Wood County Corporation for a 40 year stint. They are still looking at South College and Wooster for that location.
- b. Vice President – David Neely [dneely@falcon.bgsu.edu](mailto:dneely@falcon.bgsu.edu)
  - i. The strategic planning forum on Wednesday went well, and we are planning on doing another one next semester. Many students attended, it was very informative, and we look forward to next semester and hopefully growing attendance. One initiative that was talked about was Greek housing, and each chapter has a preference form due on October 5<sup>th</sup>. This will be presented during the December board meeting. Please keep your constituents informed and bring

feedback to GA in regards to all things. If any questions are coming up, please bring them to GA and we can make sure that those are answered.

- c. Cabinet Reports
  - i. N/A
- X. Procedures and Appeals Reports
  - a. Chief Administrator – Evan Colyer [ecolyer@falcon.bgsu.edu](mailto:ecolyer@falcon.bgsu.edu)
    - i. N/A
- XI. Treasurer’s Report
  - a. Treasurer – Jon Zachrich [jdzachr@falcon.bgsu.edu](mailto:jdzachr@falcon.bgsu.edu)
    - i. Purchasing forms have been approved, I will pass them around. Start proposing things, and we can start spending our money.
- XII. Speaker’s Report
  - a. Speaker of the Senate – Melissa Dzienny [mdzienn@falcon.bgsu.edu](mailto:mdzienn@falcon.bgsu.edu)
    - i. Next Monday we will not have a GA, and instead we will have a workshop day for senate. There will be three 20 minute sessions. New senators will be required to attend all 3 of the workshops, returning senators will be required to attend 1. These sessions will be on how to write legislation, how to ask good questions, and how to speak to administrators and press. It will be in room 404, the GSS office, and conference room. Also please make sure to do office hours this week.
      - 1. Adamski- Will the workshops go in the same order you just said them?
        - a. Dzienny- They will be going on at the same time, and there will be a rotation.
- XIII. Committee Reports
  - a. Academic Affairs – Kallie Durkit [kdurkit@falcon.bgsu.edu](mailto:kdurkit@falcon.bgsu.edu)
    - i. N/A
  - b. Auxiliary Affairs – Katie Post [kpost@falcon.bgsu.edu](mailto:kpost@falcon.bgsu.edu)
    - i. N/A
  - c. Internal Affairs – Benjamin Goldsberry [btgolds@falcon.bgsu.edu](mailto:btgolds@falcon.bgsu.edu)
    - i. Everyone get your picture taken for faces of USG. We are also looking into a USG camera for everyone to use. If you haven’t given me your info, I can give you a post it to fill that out. That’s for everyone. About the grade and conduct check form- please sign it if you haven’t yet. There will be no office hours this week. If you have a deficit, please use this time to take care of those. Going to all 3 sessions next does count as an internal office hour. The collaborative events sheet, I won’t take down until later tonight, so if you haven’t filled that in please do. Make sure you come to GA. You only get 2 unexcused absences. Also go to committee meetings. I will have a quick committee meeting after GA.
      - 1. Post- Harry goes to senator Dettrow.
      - 2. Banham- Charley goes to Res Life Liaison Preidis
  - d. Student Affairs – Jordan Sanderson [jmsande@falcon.bgsu.edu](mailto:jmsande@falcon.bgsu.edu)
    - i. N/A
- XIV. Senator Reports

- a. N/A

XV. Advisor's Remarks

- a. Webb- I'd like to reiterate that we have a lot of money to spend, and if you see something that we need, please generate some ideas and get that money spent. I think you all had lots of good questions for the President tonight, and we have started to identify issues that need to be addressed. I appreciate what the student affairs committees have done as well as the survey that was done at the Enclave. Please keep asking those questions.

XVI. Closing Remarks

- a. Wilson- I know there has been a lot of confusion about where money is going, so I'd like to make it clear that the Health Center is privately funded, and the Rec center is funded partially by students.
  - i. Post- What is currently going from student dollars to the health center is being reallocated to the rec center, so it is just a reallocation of dollars, not taking more.
- b. Neely- Voteless People is a Hopeless People are going to have union tables all week, so please stop by.

XVII. Adjournment

- a. 8:57