

USG General Assembly Meeting

The Official Agenda of the Undergraduate Student Government General Assembly
On This Day, 11/5/2012
(Business Casual Attire Meeting)

- I. Call to Order
 - a. 7:30 P.M.
- II. Roll Call
 - a. 5 Absent
 - b. 1 Proxy
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Approved
- IV. Swearing in of New Officers
 - a. Kimberly Rose – Proxy for Senator Bingaman
 - b. Joe Gallo- At Large Senator
- V. Open Forum
 - a. Admissions Update- Mr. Gary Swegan
 - i. I am delighted to have the opportunity to be here. I am excited to have the chance to speak to you and remove some of the mystery of what we do. I know that I have limited time, so I want to be brief. I wanted to share a little about myself. I came here 30 years, and I have been on the admission staff since 1989. There is a lot of change afoot, and I want to talk to you about that today. The university has 8 major goals driving the next year. 2 of them pertain to my little corner of the world. These are - how many students we want, and how we are going to increase the quality of the students that come here. Dr. Mazey has put in front of us a goal, that by 2020 we want to have 25,000 students that the university. Just to give you some perspective, our highest enrollment has been in 2006 we had 21,000. While there was a rabid decrease for a few years, the last several years we have been increasing. I have a sheet that has about 13 years of data on it, 25,000 by 2020 is a big task. At the same time, we want to increase the quality of the freshman class. In the short term we will increase the quality, meaning that our gains will come from international, transfer, graduate, and increasing our presence online. Retention is going to be a much bigger issue going forward. We want to get up to 80% of our freshman class returning for their Sophomore year. Over the past few years it has been 72 and 70 percent, so you can tell that is a rather large goal

Approaching freshman quality- we will be changing admission criteria. Does this mean that there will be a cataclysmic shift? No. roughly 3-4 percent of the Freshman class with particularly low grades will not make it in. We've already made a change to our scholarship program, for the last 3-4 years we have made the change to a 4 level scholarship programs, to make our college more appealing to better students. Our ultimate challenge will be some of those students who got 1,500 dollars last year will maybe get 1000 dollars next year, and how we can keep recruiting those students.

We have a lot of momentum this year. We have had 16,000 freshman applications in the past few years, and we look to still be increasing. We began this last year to make some small changes. The last class was the largest aggregate grade point average we've ever had. At the same time, we have been able to maintaining historic highs with diversity. The emphasis will be on trying to recruit slightly better students that we have in the past. Are there any questions that you have?

1. Juzkiw- when students are admitted to the college of musical arts they are admitted twice, will the admissions to the college change?
 - a. Swegan- I suspect not. The college of musical arts has the best profile by far as far as grade point average is concerned, so I don't really think this will have too much of an impact on that at all.
2. St. Peter- In regards to the scholarship incentives; I am a first year student. My question is - are the changes going to affect current students or just new students?
 - a. Swegan- Just new students.
3. Durkit- For the new scholarship incentives, are those aimed to the 24-29 scholarship bracket?
 - a. Swegan- A 3.5 with a 24-25 ACT that would be representative of a student that would earn the 4,000 reward. The 8,000 would be those top students, those that are the hardest to recruit.
4. Wilson- As far as admissions go, I know some of the schools we are competing with have an essay, are we thinking about adding one so we can compete better?
 - a. Swegan- Not if I have anything to say about it. There is a long history of evidence that this is not a good idea, such as University of Cincinnati, they are sitting down 25% this year because they complicated their application project. I don't see that happening to us any time soon.
5. Frailly- Will the current scholarship competitions still remain intact?
 - a. There are 30 students who are invited to a scholarship competition, and 25 are selected to receive full rides. Those are still in place.
6. E. Johnson- Underrepresented students scholarship, what about that?
 - a. Swegan- It still exists at the same funding level, the change that you've probably heard is that it has changed. In the past the student would only need 1 dollar of need. We have shifted to a model that takes into account the expected family help. In the past students would get varying amounts, and it actually happened that the more needy a student they would get less because they were getting more aid. We have made it a flat rate of 3,500. All we were doing was moving resources for students who are the neediest. For any of these, please contact me if you have a question.
7. Post- You talked about using scholarships as incentives, can you talk about how it will be funded?

a. Swegan- It is a complete reallocation. There is no additional funding, it is part of the plan that I don't particularly care for. I wish that I didn't have to reduce any scholarships, but we had to move funds to the top and middle. There may be an increase after year one, but it will be offset by an increased revenue.

8. Durkit- How will all of this factor into the decreased time to graduation?

a. Swegan- The way that all universities are being funded is by course completion and graduation in 4 years. Because of the way the funding model has changed, it is good for us to encourage and support students to come out on time. A lot of the strategies that you see will be on that. I am sure that you all are seeing the issues around student debt, and that Bowling Green doesn't sit very well with that.

i. Durkit- is it playing into the admissions process in any way?

1. Swegan- No, at this point, it isn't really impacting admissions, except that we want to moderately increase the quality of our students.

9. Juzkiw- With the increased focus on quality, how will that affect the UPASS program?

a. Swegan- That program is not going away, it will level off a little bit lower. We have been bringing in 250-270 students to the program, we want to have it around 200. There will be a group of students that will not be offered admissions, and that's really where that decrease will come from.

10. Post- can you talk about the success rate of the UPASS program?

a. Swegan- It is lower than the typical student success rate, but not as much as you may think. Where overall retention is about 75%, the UPASS student is generally in the mid to upper 60s. When you get past that and they start to get into their colleges and their majors, our sense is that they graduate at similar rates, but I don't have hard data on that.

11. Durkit- What were some of the main reasons for enrollment decreases?

a. Swegan- It was a 40% decrease in financial aid and scholarships. The university reinvested in the operation, we added 6 staff and added a lot of dollars to the recruitment effort. In my 25 years here I have learned that if we invest we can return.

12. St. Peter- In regards to scholarship incentives, is that more directed to the incoming freshman, or does that include transfers?

a. Swegan- It is directed to the incoming freshman.

13. Juzkiw- How is the diversity of 'other' ethnicities at 0?

a. Swegan- It's just because we made a change to a new system and it no longer has that category.

b. Student Union Update- Mr. Patrick Nelson

i. Nelson- I have now been here a little over 4 months, and I came here from New Mexico State. I come from a very open business acumen, and I tried to look at

this opportunity as an opportunity to grow and highlight BGSU, and to find ways that we can be more efficient across the board. We worked pretty hard on that effort. I was caught off guard by what the policies look like now, and it's a bit hands tied as far as special requests, and people seem to be frustrated by the processes you have to go through. I am working closely on trying to streamline that process and automating that process. The goal would be that you come into the student union administration office and we can handle your problem as soon as you come in, and everything else would be online.

I know in the past scheduling for next year has happened in November, we are not changing having students be the first priority for scheduling events. Essentially on February 15th will be open to students. The process isn't any different, except that we want to get closer to the timeline so you aren't rushing to grab a space, this gives everyone the opportunity to breathe a little bit. I think people are surprised to hear that when we run space utilization reports, like this semester we have just slightly over 70 events per week, meaning 1 event per room per week. I know it doesn't seem that way, but I think when you grab that scheduling event so far ahead of time you grab 4 hours that you don't need, and we really need to reign that in and tighten that up. When I mentioned 70 events per week, only about 40 organizations use that. We really need to look at that really hard and figure out a plan to move forward. Most rooms are used less than 40 percent of the day. We want to capitalize on funding opportunities, cutting energy costs, but not looking to cut any staff or student opportunities. We've added an entire division and a student media team. We are doing a weekly series called the Falcon Focus which highlights events going on in the building. I would like some feedback and questions from you about this process of tightening up

1. Durkit- I think the simplification of the scheduling will really help. I had a question, is there any plans for the greenery to be changed at all?
 - a. Nelson- Nothing is currently on the table. What they were able to do is add the bistro to the pub and combine two places into one, and opens up some space. We moved the TV lounge upstairs, and there are two other places that are designed as workspaces. We also moved the printer into that space. We are open to ideas. Our next project for the facility is actually the space that separates the ballroom from the kitchen, we want to reduce noise through there. We are actually also doing a major lighting change in Olscamp 101.
2. Juzkiw- One thing that I've noticed is that all of the changes have made the Falcon's nest has made it all meal plan. Is there any possibility that we can get anything like the Wendy's we had last year for students who live off campus and maybe aren't on meal plan?
 - a. Nelson- I know that outtakes just got the equipment to make sandwiches and soup which are a friendlier price point. I don't really have any details on that, though.
3. Adamski- What is happening right now in regards to the renovations at the bookstore?
 - a. Nelson- The Ziggabytes store is moving into the Peregrine shop, they are opening up the bookstore better for more flow and help move people in and out more smoothly. That is already underway; the goal is to have that finished in January.

4. Wilson- I know sometimes the shift between events and rooms doesn't happen smoothly. Is there anything that can be done to make those changes more quickly?
 - a. Nelson- That was a bit of a different circumstances. I am trying to get my professional staff here more often to have that become less of a problem.

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
 - i. Neely- I am combining our reports. CASGA applications are due in November, the trip is paid for by USG, and it's a great opportunity. This month director of Marketing and Communications, Preidis, Solis, and myself are going to each residence hall just to get some USG visibility and talk about resident issues. We are just trying to fulfill our campaign promises, when we said our presence in the halls wouldn't stop after the elections. Polos have been ordered, get money into Alice Cook, please put it in an envelope, and all checks should be made out to BGSU. Solis is finishing letter to Mazey about smoke free campus, and next week in exec we will host a rep from wood county hospital.
 1. Post- I just wanted to make sure everyone knows that Alice Cook's desk is in the GSS office and she is there during normal office hours.

- b. Vice President – David Neely dneely@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. N/A

- c. Cabinet Reports
 - i. N/A

X. Procedures and Appeals Reports

- a. Chief Administrator – Evan Colyer ecolyer@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. N/A

XI. Treasurer's Report

- a. Treasurer – Jon Zachrich jdzachr@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. N/A

XII. Speaker's Report

- a. Speaker of the Senate – Melissa Dzienny mdzienn@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. CASGA is a unique opportunity available to us, please apply, it is a great opportunity to build leadership skills, please don't hesitate to ask questions. New senators, I apologize for not adding you to the listserv. As far as St. Baldricks goes, we have done well, want to do more. Committee competition, so during each meeting please bring in money and start donating to the great cause. On

December 3rd the winning committee will be getting cookie jar provided by me at the general assembly meeting. There will be no GA on the 26th, and it will be replaced by a caucus day, which is mandatory. This will be an opportunity to benchmark outreach progress. This will be in replacement of our GA meeting.

1. Durkit- Will there be a GA on the 12?
 - a. Dzienny- No, because there are no classes on that day.
2. E. Johnson- How many senators to go to CASGA?
 - a. Dzienny- Between 3 and 5

XIII. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Affairs – Kallie Durkit kdurkit@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. N/A
- b. Auxiliary Affairs – Katie Post kpost@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. N/A
- c. Internal Affairs – Benjamin Goldsberry btgolds@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. We have a lot of projects that are coming to a close. I want to stress the importance of doing office hours. We did pass an amendment that if you miss an office hour, you make up an office hour. If you look at the office hour sheet, your deficits may be larger than you thought they would be.
 1. Shearer- Harry to Clevenger
 2. Durkit- Charley to Gombash
- d. Student Affairs – Jordan Sanderson jmsande@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. N/A

XIV. Senator Reports

- a. N/A

XV. Advisor's Remarks

- a. Webb- The dates for CASGA are Feb 23-26th. For those of you who live on campus, you probably received another e-mail related to identification if you plan to vote tomorrow. That went out because the board of elections questioned the initial e-mail that went out. It has been approved, and the board of elected will accept that. If you live in a res hall, anything that you can do to spread the news, it says to take that copy with them. Just want to stress that, and let you know why that went out. I sit on the Stroh center planning committee. We had a meeting on Friday, many of you know that there have been some attendance problems in Stroh, a couple of things that are in the works, the Stroh center has hired a sales and special events coordinator. They will be responsible for finding people to perform in the Stroh, when events happen there do benefit the Stroh, I think it is a good thing that they have made a coordinator. There is a concert on November 29th. Chris Young will be coming to campus. I stress this event because this is being coordinated with LiveNation, the first one coordinated with that. BGSU wants a good turn out, because they want to keep the partnership. LiveNation is better at bringing in a wide variety of performers. I do think a lot has been learned in relation to the Stroh, a lot of things to benefit our community. I will say that I think athletics has become more receptive to negotiating pricing. I encourage you to talk to the staff there when you are planning your large programs.

XVI. Closing Remarks

- a. Post- We are in a penny war with UAO, put pennies in our jar and nickels and quarters into other jars. You get positive points for pennies, and negative points for every silver coin and bill in the jar. There are other offices participating, I will print off the list before GA and pass it out. There is a prize, I forget what it is, but I'll figure it out. It's either pizza or something, and you get different amounts for whoever gets the most money, and whoever gets the highest score. Some offices have already gone through two jars, so we need to get going. Also make sure to promote it with UAO. This is also to benefit United Way.
- b. Goldsberry- We are having an election, I want to stress the importance of voting. Please vote.

XVII. Adjournment

- a. 8:31 P.M.