

USG General Assembly Meeting

The Official Agenda of the Undergraduate Student Government General Assembly
On This Day, 03/25/2013
(Business Formal Attire Meeting)

- I. Call to Order
 - a. 7:30 P.M.
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Minutes Approved
- IV. Swearing in of New Officers
- V. Open Forum
 - a. Chair Goldsberry and Senator St. Peter- Senator Transition Forms
 - i. Goldsberry- Just a quick update on the senator resource binders- what is going to be happening is every position of USG is going to have a binder. We will be handing out these forms and you put down your information about your position in USG, and things that senators filling your position next year should know. We will be putting these in the binders so that the people starting next year won't have to spend much time learning, and will be able to hit the ground running. Please return these by the end of the meeting, but do not work on them while Provost Rogers is speaking.
 1. Frailly- Is this based on this years' constituency?
 - a. Goldsberry-Yes.
 - b. Dr. Rodney Rogers, Senior Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs & Provost- Changes for the next Academic Year- Rrogers@bgsu.edu
 - i. Rogers- A couple of items I need to talk about was a little about general education reform, the education experience, and class size. I'd like to address these three things specifically. Being a Provost is about ensuring that the academic programs at BGSU are as good as we can make them. I think about what we are doing to make these programs better, and making sure that every day they are getting better. It takes 3 things to do this- we need great faculty, which are at the heart of what goes on, great curriculum, and great students, because students in classrooms are the ones that bring that education alive. In my roll my job is to make sure that the curriculum is designed in such a way that it creates an atmosphere for education, and it is to recruit and maintain great students. One of the areas of concern is about the general education reform. We have been talking about this for many years. It is a very political and sensitive issue when we begin to talk about curriculum. I am very pleased in terms of some of the changes that have been made, such as- teaching grants, we have had 6 teams of faculty members that have gotten these, because we are interested in making sure that the pedagogy that we are using are at the cutting edge, and we are making a lot of changes to facilities, we have done a total review of over 300 general education courses, universities use a lot of different approaches to general education. General education is very important to me because it is the foundation of your education. We have to ensure that the general education curriculum really develops the learning outcomes we want them to have. We have gone through a

review to make sure that these are more focused. The other aspect that we are working on is linking the Freshman education experience at BG. 85 percent of the freshmen next year will be taking 3 classes in a cohort, a group of 24 students will take a GSW course. Those same students will be in another course together, and then another large course together. Those students will have the opportunity to engage in the academic core. We tested this in the Business college, and we will be rolling that out in the fall.

There has been a lot of discussion around class sizes, and we have tentatively come to an agreement with the Faculty Association in regards to a contract. This will be the first time this has happened at Bowling Green. We have spent a lot of time bench-marking against other Universities, we have put together and come to an agreement that comes to a mean of the salaries of those universities. Great faculty are key, and I think compensation is a great way of recruiting and retaining those members. Another thing we have been benchmarking is tuition. The things we can do to decrease or stop the increase of tuition we think about every day. It is becoming more and more expensive to attend a higher institution, and we want to help in any way we can. We have the largest student to faculty ratio in the state. We have begun to say that we need to make sure that we are staffed in an appropriate way in that we have enough staff to service our students, keep tuition down, and make sure we can compensate our staff members. There was concern that the goal was to make our classes really large, and that is not the goal. 80 percent of the classes in an Undergrad were less than 30, and 93 percent were less than 50. We are really looking at a few students extra per class, so there will only be a small adjustment in class size. We want to make sure that when we do offer classes they are at the right time, so that students can complete their degree in a timely matter.

1. Juzkiw- You mentioned that the freshman experience will be based around GSW, what about students who don't have to take GSW?
 - a. Rogers- We have also adjusted for students who have come in with certain credits, so they will be in different sets of building blocks.
2. Neely- We talked about how tuition increases and how to add value to our experience, how do the linked courses and new classrooms add value to the experience?
 - a. Rogers- The linked courses are unique to the 4 corners. The school that we modeled this after is Arizona state, and what they have done very successfully is create an academic community, and they have seen a great increase in retention and community. In terms of the changes to the classrooms in Olscamp, they will look very different, but there will be more flexible seating, more white boards, more technology and more ability for students to use and display and share things with their fellow students. Our goal is to make Olscamp the edgy space in terms of making that the most interesting space for student learning.
 - i. Neely- Will these be full time classrooms?
 1. Rogers- Yes. Right now we are working on identifying faculty members for the next term that will be using that space. Some of those linked courses, 3 faculty members have wanted to be in the space together. What we will begin

to see with the linked courses will be faculty working together.

3. S. Durkit- Are there any specific academic areas that you are looking to reduce in size?
 - a. Rogers- Not really, but we have to be in compliance with the OTM. What that does is talk about 3 different domains of knowledge, and our curriculum falls within those domains. We just want to ensure that the learning outcomes that the course is delivering is in line with the outcomes of the university, and that we have confidence that the course is a building block that will prepare students for the rest of their education. This past academic year of the Faculty Council has reviewed all 300 courses already. Some of those courses while they have been approved have not been offered in a long time, so there are about 50 of those that are not being offered anyway. The faculty may say that they are not interested in those 5, so some of that may come down organically due to those changes. The other step would be looking at those courses that have very low enrollment. We want to give student choice, but the more complex and the greater the choice, the more the cost. This summer we will start to focus on those that don't seem to
4. Juzkiw- Do you have any numbers on how the pilot of the freshman linked programs helped retention?
 - a. Rogers- I don't know the exact numbers, but I know it is at least 4 to 5 points higher than the retention of the general population. The University of Arizona I think saw a 9 point increase in retention. I wouldn't draw a huge scientific conclusion from that, but from what we have seen
5. Neely- I know GeoJourney was under review, can you give us an update on that?
 - a. Rogers- This was a very expensive program to run, was running very large deficits over the year, and when we think about which programs may need to be subsidized we are always looking at tuition and how we need to balance certain things. Subsequently, the professor that really was the lead faculty member has resigned, and I can only tell you that this is a personnel issue, and part of the agreement was that the name of the program would go with the individual. That program in its historic form would not longer at Bowling Green would no longer be here. Dr. Wallace has already in the department of Geology already do other forms of active learning experiences, and they are talking about having a GeoJourney type experience that would be more sustainable, and have that experience available to other students.
6. S. Durkit- I know that we compare to Kent State, and they have a cap on the credit hours. Is that something that we are looking at doing?
 - a. Rogers- We have no plans to mess around with that that I am aware of. We are interested in ensuring that students can complete the degree in a timely matter, and it is down to the cost of your education. I won't guess on what the strategy was for

Kent State, but we are looking to keeping the rules of the game the way it is.

VI. Lobby Time

- a. Alison Cupp– International Student Volunteers. Me and some other students will be going on a trip to Costa Rica where we will be working with their community with prevention erosion in the local area. We will be hoping with fertilizing their coffee plants with natural fertilizer. The ISV is recognized as one of the best service organizations in the world. The cost of the trip is 5,000 dollars, and that covers all of our expenses and there are 6 of us going on the trip. We have raised 560 dollars and we are looking for some sponsorship on that.
 - i. Neely- When is the trip, and when do you need funds by?
 1. Cupp- The trip is on May 3rd, and we need funds by the trip.
 - ii. E. Johnson- How many people are you looking to get sponsorship?
 1. Cupp- As many as possible.
 - iii. Pokorny- How long is the trip?
 1. Cupp- We will be going for 4 weeks.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

IX. Executive Branch Reports

- a. President – Alex Solis asolis@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. I wanted to give 4 quick updates. Our state house visit to Columbus which is an opportunity for us to meet with our local and state legislators. The trip is happening on April 9th. I have a list of 4 people in my inbox of people who want to attend, but I will open the floor to people who are willing to attend. University Council met today, mostly focusing on the Higher Learning Commission. They will be making a 2 day visit to campus on the 15th and 16th and they will be having 3 open forums for the public to attend, research, planning resources, teaching and learning, integrity, and mission. The leadership that is in charge of making this happen really stressed that they want to see undergraduate students there. David and I will be at most of the sessions during that visit. Dr. Pat released a statement about the FA and BGSU, and they are entering the final conversations about that agreement and we should have more info on that soon.
- b. Vice President – David Neely dneely@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. An open forum is being held by USG on Thursday in 315 from 6-7 which will take place instead of the normal presidential debate that usually happens during elections. After the Open Forum if everyone should please attend this week's WNIT game, we would love to see some student support this weekend. Tickets are free, the first 300 people to come will get a free ticket with a student ID. Tonight our nominations have been submitted, and we will make secret ballot votes on the categories. That is all for my report, thank you all, and those will be announced at the banquet.
- 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. Contracts for SBC Funding need to be turned into our office Sunday by 5.

XII. Speaker's Report

a. Speaker of the Senate – Melissa Dzienny

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i. Senator reports should already be in to me. I am planning on organizing a transition day. We won't be doing a full retreat this year, but I am leaning towards Saturday the 6th or the 13th in the afternoon. This will include your senator resource binders, and exec members will have to be transitioned at a later date.

XIII. Committee Reports

a. Academic Affairs – Kallie Durkit

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i. Rogers talked about general education reform in regards to the Ohio Transfer Module so that transfer students will have an easier transition. All of the programs were changed to 36 hours, and all of our other classes were changed to level the playing field. There has been a lot of talk at the state level that a lot of degrees be moved to 3 year models to make sure that students are moving through in a timely matter. Obviously some programs won't work in a 3 year model, but some will. Changes to the BGP have been approved and is moving on to another committee. We talked about a new program that BG is created that if you are interested in teaching online courses you can take. If you are an education major this is something to look for so you can teach at these online academies. We talked about the HLC, and there is nothing expected to be a hang up in getting accreditation so there are no worries on that. I am also the only person in this room to have gone on the State House visit last year, so if you have any questions about that let me know.

1. Senator Durkit- Can you explain the 3 year time table in a little more depth? Do you mean they will encourage students to take more credit hours?

a. Chair Durkit- It's just something that the governor has said he would like to happen, but it isn't very clear. Some programs I think would be stepped up, or restructuring programs so that they are set up to be a 3 year model.

b. Auxiliary Affairs – John Clevenger

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i. N/A

c. Internal Affairs – Benjamin Goldsberry

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i. Goldsberry- Faces of USG binders are completed and wonderful. It is great because we have a strong foundation in next year to get these done within the first few weeks of the new administration. An update on the senate transition binders, please don't forget to fill in those sheets. If you do not finish it by the end of the meeting please put them in my mailbox. It's going to be a really important resource for the next administration and the administrations coming out of that. It will help our organization grow so much more and please be as helpful as you can. Make sure that you are doing your office hours. If you did not turn in your senator report by Friday you have another office hour to complete.

Collaborative events are just about at a close, and please complete those and write them down.

1. Charley to Speaker Dzienny
2. Harry to Senator Diener

d. Student Affairs – Jordan Sanderson

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i. N/A

XIV. Senator Reports

- a. Puffenberger- Unfortunately the town hall meeting didn't capture any students. It seems to be a little harder than I thought to capture non-traditional students, so please let them know that they have a representative and that I would be happy to meet with them. I really want to meet the constituency that I represent. I went to the committee meeting with Chair Goldsberry and Senator Gombash and we seemed to be in the final steps in approving the BA requirements in the college of business, it seems to me that it offers a little more flexibility for students to get their classes in where they ended them and complete their degree.
- b. Diener- If anyone is interested in helping with the off campus WYMO event, please let me know. I am trying to get some volunteers and also get the word out.
- c. Devereaux- I have been in contact with Deb Busdeker about gender neutral bathrooms in the new health center, and if you would like to be a part of the dialogue please let me know.

XV. Advisor's Remarks

- a. Land- Elections begin next week. We do need help getting out the word, there are a lot of positions open in the senate, and we need them to give their opinions.
 - i. E. Johnson- How will students be finding out about the elections?
 1. Webb- it will be visible through all forms of social media, and information will be e-mailed out to them as well.

XVI. Closing Remarks

- a. Solis- I wanted to offer an update on e-books for next year, and that contract has been signed and they will begin training the faculty this April and it will be open to students in August. Not all books will become e-books, and about 40% of the books instructors will use will be available through e-books.
- b. St. Peter- It is really important that if anyone is available to come to the WMIT game that you do come and support our team. If you can please come and get into the game it would really help the girls, it helps them play better. I know it has been said, please try and get people to go. If you are done with the senator transition forms, come here and hand them to me.
- c. Juzkiw- I know a lot of you were curious, so the list of people who are running next year is up on the USG website. If you see an open spot, please talk to people about eventually becoming a part of our senate.
 - i. Durkit- People can run as a write in election, but please fully explain the responsibility of being a senator to them so we don't get as many people who come to the first few meetings and then leave us.
 - ii. Dzienny- There also should be no written documentation of a write in campaign, so no posters, no fliers, no Facebook groups.

XVII. Adjournment

a. 8:52 P.M.