

USG General Assembly Meeting

The Official Agenda of the Undergraduate Student Government General Assembly
On This Day, 02/04/2013
(Business Casual Attire Meeting)

- I. Call to Order
 - a. 7:03 P.M.
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Minutes Approved
- IV. Swearing in of New Officers
 - a. Mike Ankele – City State N. Liason – mankele@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - b. Justis Davis- College of Education – jmdavis@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - c. Matthew Oczypok – P and A Board moczypo@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - d. Jeff Knight – P and A Board – jeffrek@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - e. Ethan Byrum- P and A Board- ebyrum@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - f. Adam Hasken – Morrison Proxy – Haskena@falcon.bgsu.edu
- V. Open Forum
 - a. Mr. Patrick Nelson- Student Union Updates
 - i. I met, as many of you know, with Ex Afficio on Friday, I think I tried to cover a lot of things in a short period of time. I think it really made an uncomfortable situation as we look at some of the rules for booking space for 2013. The overall mission for students is to increase access and ensure fairness to all BGSU students Organizations, enhancing services, tech, meeting environment, and marketing outreach in support of student events. The office provides event management services for BTSU, Olscamp, and Prout. Our goals are to provide a clear and simple reservation experience with answers and solutions to questions and concerns. To provide you with one person to help you with all your special event needs- one call, one person. To minimize unnecessary processes that take up your time and decrease frustration.

Analysis of operation- we asked ourselves these questions: how are we using the facility? How does that usage vary? What are the space utilization trends indicating? How can we be better stewards of students' general fee dollars? In what ways can we improve efficiencies?

We have some data from fall 2012, specifically when we looked at how this facility was utilized; we started to break down the frustrations that were coming to us. Sunday nights through Thursday nights are where the most events occur. In a lot of the instances rooms were being booked for too long. Over the 5 nights, in 13 medium rooms, we have an average of 58 meetings per week. If we only had one meeting per space in a week we would have 65 meetings. Of those 58 meetings, 42 meetings per week are

the groups that meet over that week. The potential for 4.5 hour time blocks at 2 meetings per room per week would be 130 meetings per week.

Scheduling major events vs. scheduling recurring meetings. Major events will be available for scheduling 1 year out on a moving schedule. What we are looking at is the master schedule as it applies to recurring meetings. Starting one week from Friday, you will be able to submit the meeting requests for next semester. The new rules for fall 2013 are as follows: Rule one is that rooms 314, 315, 316, and 318 must stay in Base set up- the furniture will remain in the room between set-ups. Moving furniture in and out of the room makes for a very complicated, labor intensive program. There will be a 35 dollar fee if groups really want the furniture to move. We need to not think of it as a cost, but think of it as the furniture is always going to stay in the room. We are going to be very careful about how many people will be going into those rooms, and make sure that the size of the group is comparable

1. Juzkiw- Does it make sense to look at a more efficient way to flip the rooms? It just doesn't seem like it should be taking that long to flip a room?
 - a. Nelson- We just have to be in all places at all times, if we had people to dedicate to each room, then that would be easy, but we can't do that. We are looking into getting new furniture, but once we have to take things out and move them into storage that adds a lot of time to our room flipping.
2. Zachrich- What happens to student organizations that may not have the funds to pay that fee? Can they move the chairs themselves?
 - a. Nelson- For a group like that we would be able to move the tables into the storage closet, and stack the chairs, so the room would be completely empty other than the chairs.
 - i. Zachrich- would that service incur the 35 dollar fee?
 1. Nelson- No, that would not.
3. Colyer- Where would you draw the line for charging a student organization?
 - a. Nelson- It would be right there. We need to think about there is no fee, the furniture is just going to stay there. We will move furniture as much as we can, but the reality is that there are some things that will not fit in the storage we have in the room.
4. Zachrich- As these rules are written, are these the policies that are being put into place? Or is this just the generalities being put into place?
 - a. Nelson- I am doing my best to give you the rules that will be in place.

- i. Zachrich- Is this exactly how this will be written in the handbook, though?
 1. Nelson- Yes, this is what will be added to the handbook.
5. Zachrich- Are these proposed? Or are these already happening, and you are just letting us know?
 - a. Nelson- Both.
6. Solis- Are we running out of storage space?
 - a. Nelson- We either increase the labor in order to flip the rooms more efficiently, or just find a way to do it more efficiently and not move all of the furniture out of place.
7. Durkit- Just for clarity's sake, would it be better to say that the furniture will remain in the room, rather than that it must remain in base set?
 - a. Nelson- I think that is a change that could be made, but what I wanted to convey is that if you request a room for 12 you will see a room for 30.
- ii. Nelson- Rule number 2 is that rooms may be only reserved during the following hours for Fall 2013- Monday-Thursday (7-11), Friday (7-12), Saturday (9-12), Sunday (9-11). A lot of money is associated with keeping these rooms open late, and what we ask of you is to use your booking time in the room, and then at eleven, if we are waiting to get into that room we will ask you to conclude your meeting and you can go to the first floor and the falcon's next, the 4th floor to find some place to finish your meeting. Keeping areas open is costing us a lot of money; we probably won't be doing anything on this floor after 11 because that is not very cost effective.
 1. Goldsberry- I know that you moved the times about half an hour earlier, how many meetings would you see before 8 and 8:30.
 - a. Nelson- That change was just because we are here, we are open, and the building is clean, so why not open it up? If we are here and we have opened it, why not allow people to use it? It's a little different than keeping it open later at night.
 2. Juzkiw- there was a slide that said that there was more traffic 9-12 on Sunday through Thursdays, what was the rationale on closing those hours?
 - a. Nelson- Friday and Saturdays the rationale on extending those was more special events happening around those times, and it will give us more time to clean those rooms because it doesn't open to late.
 3. Durkit- Will the student staff be looking at a loss of work hours because of this change?

- a. Nelson- No, we are re-appropriating jobs, and the only shift we are looking at losing is 11-3 A.M, and we may not replace the two that we lost with another new person.
4. St. Peter- You are saying that you want most of these groups as close to eleven P.M. as possible, or is that the latest you can schedule a meeting?
 - a. Nelson- The system will stop you from scheduling at 11, we will be telling groups to try to be finished at 11. Please also remember that there were 5 total meetings that were happening after 11.
5. Solis- I know that Ex Afficio you talked about a 75 dollar fee for running a meeting past eleven, how is that going to work?
 - a. Nelson- That fee would be more for extending building hours, not for meetings who happen to run a little late.
6. Solis- I am concerned that you want to increase the number of meetings that we have, but you are cutting the hours that you allow students to have meetings.
7. Juzkiw- When it comes to the cleaning of rooms at the end of the day, do they clean as a whole team, or do they go individually?
 - a. Nelson- They divide and conquer, but if all the rooms are open until 11, we may be here until 2 in the morning. But if we are all waiting around for one room to be cleaned, that's where the costs will be incurred.
8. Solis- You said you were looking at opening the building at 7 A.M. because you are already here?
 - a. Nelson- Yes, because the building is already clean and we are already here.
 - i. Solis- So, is there a demand for meetings at 7 A.M. for those meeting times, because it seems to me that there would be a bigger energy waste being open that early.
 1. Nelson- It's not a perfect scenario as far as opening at 7 and having a cost, but it can't be helped and it is very small. At night, there are 2 air handlers on the 3rd floor, and we can power them down entirely. If you just power them down one hour earlier a day you are looking at saving 10 days of systems running over the course of a year.
 - a. Solis- Knowing that there is no cost makes me a more comfortable about opening that much earlier.

9. St. Peter- If you are trying to cut the amount of cleaning between 11 and 5, and you still want these rooms cleaned after 11, I don't know how that will work?
 - a. Nelson- It is a different clean- it is the student set-up crews that clean after 11, and then the general spaces will be cleaned in the morning.
10. S. Durkit- If there are meetings in the other academic buildings and they also have to leave by eleven, do they have places that they can go within those academic buildings to finish their meetings?
 - a. Nelson- No one will be kicked out of those rooms, they are cleaned by different people, and they usually don't clean those until the morning.
 - i. Durkit- As a part of an organization that does use those academic buildings and does go past 11, how do we communicate to you that we need the room past 11?
 1. Nelson- We are making the rules for the union, but we also schedule the other buildings as well. There is no way we can know until we actually look at the demand and groups let us know why they need that extra time.
 - iii. Nelson- Rule three is that a registered student organization can book only one recurring meeting room at 2 hours in length Sunday – Thursday nights. Special exemption requests will begin being accepted starting on Feb 13th, and those can be booked on the first Friday of the semester. We are trying to get as many people to use the building as we possibly can, we understand that there are certain groups that represent many organizations, that represent a larger conglomerate of Greeks, more than just an xyz club. If there is a group that usually meets 3 times a week, we will look at that and see if maybe one of those meetings can be moved to another building to give another organization a chance to have a meeting in the Union. We are willing to take a look at why meetings are lasting more than two hours, and there are only 8 groups that schedule more than one meeting a week in the union that we need to have a conversation with. There are 14 groups that schedule meetings more than 2 hours. I think of that 14 half schedule times for 2.5 hours. We are not going to turn away a reasonable request, and we are going to look at what your group does differently from other groups. Submit, come talk to us, we will look at your request. Everyone is eventually going to know if you take that forward that you are going to have an exemption, and we will also have conversations about those individual needs.
 1. Solis- Is there a reason that departments are not affected by this rule?
 - a. Nelson- I don't know a single department that are not affected by this rule, they don't tend to meet that often in

the Union or for that long. This is present to make sure that all students have a change to use the space.

- i. Solis- Is there a way that we can add them into this rule, just in case they do end up having a meeting that is longer than two hours, just to make this more fair for everyone.
 1. Nelson- We can look into doing that.
2. Durkit- Is there a plan to make these rules more public so that everyone will know about the change?
 - a. Nelson- We have 2 open forums Tuesday Feb 12th, 206 3:30-4:30 P.M. and Wednesday, Feb 13th, 206 7:30-9:00. This rule also allows for people not to have to worry, because each group can only grab one space, and then they have to wait, so they don't have to worry that someone has taken all the space.
 - i. Durkit- What about groups that don't know when their event is going to happen?
 1. Nelson- That's tough because they are blocking off space that other people could use for other events. I see this happening as a conversation that would need to happen. We can't block multiple days and then drop the ones that they don't need. The bonus for this is that the days won't be swallowed up because everyone can only schedule one at a time.
3. C. Durkit- I am confused, because you said 58 meetings per week, and that includes groups that are meeting more than once a week, so we aren't already at capacity, so why the change?
 - a. Nelson- If we were able to get 2 events a night, we would be able to get 130, but as of right now we are only at 53.
 - i. Durkit- We are not maxing out capacity as it is, so why are we trying to increase capacity more?
 1. Nelson- There are an additional 2,113 meetings that happen across campus, if we can expand 3.5 meetings a night, we could eliminate opening 16 other buildings across campus and that would come at a tremendous saving for us. We are trying to determine with those 58 meetings, there are another 80% of student orgs that want that space and they are always in our office looking for space. And it is really about people booking for too long a period of time. What people used to do is book a room

for 4 hours and figure it out later, and we weren't getting that information.

4. Colyer- My worry is that you are going to see a lot more traffic and are you going to be able to have enough personnel to clean?
 - a. Nelson- There really isn't any personnel cost associated with bringing those events here, and the benefit outweighs the costs.
5. Colyer- Instead of giving groups an exception, have you thought of putting people in an a probationary period and watching over the first week and evaluating their usage, and then move forward with their allotment after looking at that?
 - a. Nelson- What we want to do is make a rule for the majority, for the 98%, and then look at those who are the minority who may need an exception. There are a lot of ways to look at it, and we have spent hundreds of hours as a staff and we have decided that this is the best way to do things.
6. Solis- You mentioned that you didn't want to put it on any student to make the exceptions, but you are going to take it to a committee?
 - a. Nelson- We will have these conversations with the committee, but they will not make the final decision.
 - i. Solis- So your office at the end of the day will make the call on who gets the exception?
 1. Nelson- Correct.
7. Solis- How will any organization know outside of USG know that they can even file for an exception, because when they see the policy they won't even know. This is step one, and I don't like that there is no criteria and obviously there is student opposition to this in this room.
 - a. Nelson- All I would say is that I don't want to say no, and our offices are going to work with you on this.
 - i. Solis- I just don't understand why there isn't going to be a punishment like Colyer talked about, rather than putting these rule into place that you are just going to make exceptions to anyway.
 1. Nelson- I am going to work with the committee to work with the teeth that will work on tackling that over usage.
8. Zachrich- What I see is you keep talking about what students need, but you aren't asking about what students need. I think this exemption committee really opens the door to stepping on more people and the grey areas are where new groups are not going to

know that they are allowed to apply for an exception, and feel as though because they may not have as much clout as USG so they don't have a hope of getting an exception.

- a. Nelson- I don't really see there being any grey areas, you get one meeting for two hours, and if you need an exception you need to tell us why. We are trying to get more people into the union, and all we are trying to tell you is that you are going to have to have one of your meetings in Olscamp, rather than in the union. Everyone will have a spot, but not everyone will be able to have their meetings in the union.
9. Durkit- Your presentation says that your info sessions are happening on the 12th and 13th, and the master calendar is going to go out on the 15th, that seems like a really short amount of time.
 - a. Nelson- They can schedule any time after the 15th.
 10. Dettrow- Does this rule take into account executive boards? I don't know many organizations that have more than one general meeting every week, but I know several groups that have executive meetings every week as well.
 - a. Nelson- I know there are several groups that hold those meetings back to back at one hour each, or twice a week for an hour, and we would probably just let you do that.
 11. Solis- Did you look at other universities for this model, or just something you came up with?
 - a. Nelson- We looked at all the other MAC schools, and we looked at all the other ways they did things. It is specific for BGSU to maximize what we do there, and there are a lot of other schools who have gone to a pure business model, and they charge a small fee for every meeting. There were a lot of things that we saw that could solve our problems, but we don't want to do that.
 12. E. Johnson- I see you as having the main concern of giving students a mile, and they only take an inch, but I think you are really taking that back to only giving them an inch. I know you said you weren't interested in adding fees, but wouldn't it be easier to give a fee to student orgs that happen to be no-shows?
 - a. Nelson- No shows are a problem, but we also have groups that just book large times and don't use all of them, and we are trying to get at that as well.
 13. Colyer- How are these exemptions going to be weighted? I don't see how one group is going to be weighted in comparison to the other.
 - a. Nelson- We will just have to look at where the exceptions are, and where they can be booked. Those buildings that we

want to close are already in use anyway. We are going to accommodate everyone we can, everyone will have a spot, it just may not be in the Union. I am not trying to make it seem as though this is biased or unfair. We are trying to bring more groups into the union, and we want to have a policy in place for students who abuse that space. We have to all hold ourselves accountable for the time that we use.

- i. Colyer- I would just caution the entire process to explain in detail what the exception process, and we don't want groups to feel as though they are less important and being moved across campus because they couldn't be accommodated in the Union.

1. Nelson- I understand that it frustrates you that I can't give you the rule today. I just don't know what is going to happen, and how many groups aren't going to have a problem with that. At the end of the day, I can't give you the answer, but I will when I have the data, once I have the requests.

VI. Lobby Time

VII. Old Business

a. S.R. 2012/2013- 03

- i. Juzkiw- This resolution formally states that USG will support the change from Alert BG from an opt in system to an opt out system.

1. Dzienny- With a vote of 18 ayes, 0 nays, and one abstention the resolution carries.

VIII. New Business

- a. Colyer- The senate has to approve the election packet and date for us to move on with elections. There was only one change in language, which was in section 3.8, it used to read that the statement was turned into the chief administrator, instead those statements will be submitted to Alice. The 4 info session dates and times are listed. Other than Thursday, they will be in Olscamp 217. This packet will be available for anyone who wants it, the petitions, platforms, and budget is all due to me on Thursday because I will be out of town on Friday. Elections will be held Monday – Thursday, so we can announce winners on that Friday. If you can't make any of those days, please contact me and I will meet with you individually.

- i. Goldsberry- I just have a few amendments that I would like to make before we put it to a vote.

1. Amendments accepted.

- ii. Dzienny- with a vote of 19 ayes and 0 nays, the legislation carries.

IX. Executive Branch Reports

- a. President – Alex Solis

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i. I wanted to give a brief update from last week, we had the chance to follow up with Rogers about academic affairs, and the 100 faculty reduction. With current negotiation talks he really couldn't talk about too much. At Ex Afficio, the talk had the same reaction as we had today, and I have been contacted by 6 groups asking USG to do something about this. He went into a little more detail on the fee side of things when he spoke to us last week, but I thought we had a good discussion tonight as well.

1. Durkit- Is it your opinion that we should move forward with a resolution opposing these new rules?

a. Solis- Absolutely.

i. Durkit- Would you like to see committee chairs taking this to discussion?

1. Solis- Yes, I would like to see this go through the leadership discussion

b. Vice President – David Neely

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i. Neely- I sent out some e-mails about picking up polos, if you haven't paid or haven't picked up one, so if you are one of those people please go up to the office and pick that up. Board of trustees applications are due on the 17th, so please send those in if you want to.

c. Cabinet Reports

i. Preidis- RSA is asking for a little bit of money, they want 380 dollars, for the sibs and kids carnival. They always bring in caricature artists for the carnival. They are funding 5 artists, and they want us to fund another for them because the lines are usually so long.

1. Goldsberry- Just for everyone, how do you think this is benefiting the students we represent, as opposed to just their siblings?

a. Preidis- They will add our sponsorship, so we will be getting our name out there in a good way, as well as publicizing the event for them.

2. Goldsberry- How much money do we have in our collaboration budget?

a. Zachrich- About 4000 dollars and I would like to say this is a good idea. I know that the carnival is something that people remember doing with their older siblings, and this could be a recruitment tool.

3. Neely- I also think this is a good idea to support our goal of collaboration and supporting RSA as an organization.

X. Procedures and Appeals Reports

a. Chief Administrator – Evan Colyer

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i. Please let everyone know about those elections, if there are any questions please ask Jodi, John or Alice.

1. E. Johnson- will you send out the packet through the listprocs?

a. Colyer- Yes, we will send that first page of dates through the listprocs.

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. I would like to thank you all for your contribution this evening, I chose not to exhaust time because the questions were new and fresh and they needed to be heard. I do look forward to seeing what our response to this discussion will be. Senator reports are due next Tuesday. I will be sending out my template tomorrow. In the event that we do not have quorum, I do have the power to call emergency meetings throughout the week as needed, the election guidelines have to be passed this week, so we will have to discuss the possibility of scheduling an emergency meeting later this week if we do not get quorum.
- XIII. Committee Reports
 - a. Academic Affairs – Kallie Durkit kdurkit@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. In my smaller committees there have been a lot of policy changes, so I would like to have a meeting with the senator of the college of Arts.
 - b. Auxiliary Affairs – John Clevenger johnc@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. Sanderson- Please pass on the water bottle refill station survey on to your constituents. If you have any concerns about the union updates that we had tonight, please forward those the chair Clevenger.
 - c. Internal Affairs – Benjamin Goldsberry btgolds@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. One thing to note, if you leave before the meeting is over without submitting an excuse, you are considered absent. Please make sure that you are doing your office hours, without voting rights, bad things happen. Please make sure to mark your collaborative events. It would behoove all of you to look over Roberts rules of order, and I think you should be using those resources.
 - 1. Sanderson- Harry to Senator Juzkiw
 - 2. Neely- Charley to Wysocki
 - d. Student Affairs – Jordan Sanderson jmsande@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. N/A
- XIV. Senator Reports
- XV. Advisor’s Remarks
 - a. Webb- I know this is a long meeting, I know we are going to have many more discussion about this issue. For folks who are going to COSGA, we need to meet on the 18th of Feb to finalize travel plans.
- XVI. Closing Remarks
 - a. Goldsberry- Make sure you are doing your office hours, for those of you who didn’t get one, I have Nelson’s business cards.
- XVII. Adjournment
 - a. 10:01 PM