

USG General Assembly Meeting

The Official Agenda of the Undergraduate Student Government General Assembly
On This Day, 1/13/2014
Room 308 BTSU
(Spirit Casual Attire Meeting)

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Minutes stand approved.
- IV. Swearing in of New Officers
 - a. Clayton Wood- At Large Senator
 - i. Questions
 1. Puccio- Goals you would like to accomplish?
 - a. Wood- Just want to get involved. Do the best that I can, be involved as much as I can.
 2. Mazur- Are there things you would like to see changed?
 - a. Wood- I'm involved in Greek like. Situations that come up/
 3. Puccio- I know the time commitment can be hefty. Do you have the availability?
 - a. Wood- AMA and PhiPsi, other than that.
 - ii. All officers were sworn in.
- V. Open Forum
- VI. Lobby Time
- VII. Old Business
 - a. Elections Packet – Danielle Parker
 - i. Parker- Going to discuss this one last time. Open to any friendly amendments.
 - ii. Please see attached.
 - iii. Debate
 1. Durkit- The main question at hand is if you can lead USG without experience, or are required to be in this body for a semester. Brian just made a point that you wouldn't be able to walk up to dance marathon and say, "I want to be president". One way to assay this is to have this policy take effect in the fall.
 2. Post- Can you outline the election process?
 - a. Parker- If you are a senator, you would attend an information session. Give them a sales pitch, tell them what they can do, what is required. From there, they would submit a budget. From there, they campaign, and turn in paperwork saying what they spent the money on. We make sure we have their petition. Once

that's all clear, they're good to campaign. For right now, the requirement is just a year at the university.

3. Juzkiw- We need to think about the person in those positions. President and Vice President are people that senators look up to. If the president/vice president don't have that experience, it will hurt development.
4. Puffenberger- I wanted to respond to Chair Durkit's comments. I think that having a semester of experience is very important. Those who want these positions will groom themselves for that. Those who want to take on that responsibility must be cognizant of that job. Our President and Vice President do a lot, and have a vital role. Not all institutions have this.
5. Dettrow- I think the word experience is flexible. Those who sit in the room might count that as experience. As well, a proxy could make the
6. Timbrook- I think that instituting this rule now looks underhanded. Might look like USG is being discriminatory. I don't think we can institute that rule now.
7. Mazur- We can't instate a policy to restrict someone's opportunities without providing an opportunity. I do absolutely support USG experience. It's hugely important, and it's something the University invests money into. I don't think you can get the kind of experience from the outside. If we institute that now, people coming from the outside will not have their opportunity. It's not as simple as pushing it back.
8. Juzkiw- You mentioned proxies. The problem I see is that we don't take attendance for proxies and those in the lobby. I bring up the point that if someone truly wanted to make a difference, they would have come to USG sooner.
9. Puccio- This is something that we should either pass now, or scrap this part. If we were to pass this for a later date, we would be passing this off to the next senate. Also, it's going to affect everyone in some form. Every single one of you have completed a semester of experience. I would like to here your feedback.
10. Johnson- President and Vice President are paid positions, this is like a part-time job. When looking at resumes, you look for experience. It's not
11. Harris- There are senators who have been doing great work, but came in during the semester. How would we compensate for that?

- a. Parker- That's what this conversation is for. We can define experience. We can make it whatever you want it to be. I'm open to any friendly amendments.

12. Dudek- I agree with what is being said. As I stated last meeting, this is vital to this university. I propose an amendment. Create an appeals board to oversee petitions.

13. Chair Juzkiw moves to extend time by 20 minutes

- a. Seconded by Chair Durkit

iv. Debate continued

1. Senn- I completely agree with Senator Dudek. If you look at this from a business standpoint, CEO's can come from outside. I'm sure there are certain things that the Senator or Chairs know about the President/Vice-President positions.
2. Puffenberger- When we first talked about this, I suggested some sort of appeals process. There would be a concern about subjectivity. You would have to establish a standard. I would be concerned that this would create a whole other criteria to decide on. The marketing of it, campus needs to be made fully aware. Do we have enough time to make everyone aware.
3. Dudek- The vote of the entire senate is favorable is because....all this is doing is removing the generalization that if you are not in USG, you don't have the experience. I would think that the vote of affirmation should be 2/3 or 3/4ths. If this person doesn't have experience, we should reject them.
4. Webb- Another way to look at this is if we don't make the change, is to really dig into this process. Have them present, grill them for their experience. We've had debates. The debates have been not well attended.
5. Dettrow- I think that our organization is based around giving students a voice. It should be up to them. If they want to elect someone, it is their right. Ultimately, it is up to the student body.
6. Solis- There's a lot of good conversation around the table. As someone not coming back, there are some differing viewpoints. At the end of the day, it is up to the student body. As the president and vice president, you wear this dual hat. The decisions you make affect not only USG, but the entire student body. The senate should start working on this edit, instead of expanding out.

7. Neely- I'm in a strange position of being in the role. I think it's vital to allow the student body to keep their student body. I think USG experience is vital, but I think it is the student's responsibility to vote responsibly.
 8. Webb- Friendly amendment. Change Section 5 to reflect the new Presidential spending cap.
 - a. Parker- I accept.
 9. Dudek- There are how many members on the board?
 - a. Parker- Seven.
 10. Dudek- This would be a better amendment.
 11. Parker- I have a question. If the P&A board were to accept petitions for this, the time line would be very tight. My first information session will be February 17th. I don't want to push back.
 - a. Dudek- We will settle this tonight.
 12. Durkit- Does this election packet contain the experience at this point?
 - a. Post- Yes.
 13. Puccio- There have been a lot of great revisions. I think it's crucial for us to pass this tonight.
 14. Juzkiw- In regards to the timeline, you are the timeline. If you do not allow it to take any time, then it won't. Having a system like that won't push back the system.
 15. Puccio- I like the idea that Chair Juzkiw brought up. Maybe let them know at every info session. Maybe a deadline
 16. Parker- The first info session is February 17th, last is the 26th. All must be completed by March 7th.
 17. Puccio- Yes, have that be the final dealine for everything.
- v. Motion to suspend Article III, Section C, subsection 4 of the bylaws, and to extend time by twenty minutes
 1. So moved by Senator St. Peter
 - a. Seconded by Senator Timbrook.
 - b. Passes.
 - vi. Debate Continued
 1. Johnson- At this point, might as well let them run.
 - vii. Chair Juzkiw motions to strike from Section 3a, "Both President and Vice President Candidates must have at least one full semester of Undergraduate Student Government experience prior to holding office."
 1. Seconded by Senator Clemmens
 2. Discussion

- a. St. Peter- Doesn't Dudek have a motion on the floor?
 - i. No.
 - b. Clemmens- To date, we have no had a problem of this.
- 3. Vote passes.
- viii. Vote to approve the proposed changes
 - 1. Chair Juzkiw
 - a. Seconded by Senator Timbrook
 - 2. Vote passes with 24 ayes, 1 nay.

VIII. New Business

IX. Executive Branch Reports

- a. President – Alex Solis asolis@bgsu.edu
 - i. I want to thank Chief Administrator Parker for taking on the task of revising this election packet. There was good discussion, there were well thought-out thoughts. As we start outlining the goals of the semester, initiatives will roll over from last semester.
 - ii. Smoking Ban Policy
 - 1. Went into effect January 1. There were some educational pieces. Want to be clear on what direction the University is taking. Dean Jodi Webb sent out an e-mail outlining the changes. I'm sure there are many students who are frustrated with the change. The information is online, outlined there.
 - iii. Website
 - 1. Chief Communications Officer came into the Exec board last semester. The CIO [John Ellinger] came into Exec, explained there are 33,000 pages on the webpage. 12,000 are currently converted.
 - iv. Arts & Sciences
 - 1. Major revisions to the checklists. Lou Katz is the point person of this project. Came to me for appointments of 3-5 students to go over the revisions, provide comments.
 - 2. There is a dean search ongoing. They have asked USG to submit 5 names to sit on the A&S dean search.
 - v. Recruitment & Membership
 - 1. It's very important that we remain at capacity. Making sure we have the proper amount of representation. If you have anyone who might be a perfect fit, senator recommendation forms are in the USG office.
 - vi. Cabinet
 - 1. No cabinet tonight.
 - vii. Questions

1. List of openings
 - a. Refer to Speaker Post.
 - b. Vice President – David Neely dneely@bgsu.edu
 - i. Glad that tonight came to a resolution
 - ii. Standing Committees
 1. There are many senator vacancies. I'll send out an e-mail at next GA.
 - iii. Akron Conference
 1. Please be thinking if you would like to attend.
 - iv. Nominations & Elections for Awards
 1. Given at the end-of-the-year banquet. Student leader of the year, senator of the year. Exec member of the year. I'll send out those nomination forms next week.
 - c. Cabinet Reports
- X. Procedures and Appeals Reports
 - a. Chief Administrator – Danielle Parker dnparke@bgsu.edu
 - i. No report.
- XI. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Treasurer – Ebonee Johnson eboneej@bgsu.edu
 - i. It's annual funding time.
 - ii. We have already funded MLK day of service. The Library Collaboration as well. We did a collaboration for the Senior Welcome, Jabbawock, NPHC Step Show, Not in Our Town. If you have any suggestions, please let us know. Always want to give back to the students.
 - iii. SBC
 1. There are training sessions for annual funding hearings. This are MANDATORY. Must attend in order to apply for funding. They are January 15th and 16th.
 - iv. Dining
 1. Meal plan rates will not increase, but catering rates may increase. Make sure you put that in there. Max of 3% increase.
 - v. Questions
 1. Huggins- When could we expect to know where our funds are?
 - a. Johnson- Right now. Our funds are at \$20,213.12, compared to the 41,764.97 we started at. That includes what we were allocated, and what rolled over.
 - i. 10,264.97 Rolled over
 2. Harris- Bring collaborations to you?

- a. Johnson- Yes. Use the form that I e-mailed to you, will send it out again. I now have a form.
- 3. Trzaska- The meetings were at what time?
 - a. Johnson- Sessions at 5 and 6 PM.
- 4. Harris- Where are these?
 - a. Johnson- Theater
- 5. Senn- When are budgets due
 - a. Johnson- February 1st.

XII. Speaker's Report

- a. Speaker of the Senate – Katie Post kpost@bgsu.edu
 - i. I want to thank you all for staying and voicing your opinions. It's important to take everything seriously.
 - ii. I received 9 senator reports. That's pretty low. This month, if you do not turn in your senator report this month, I will give you a 1 hour deficit. They are very helpful. I hope you appreciate my feedback.
 - iii. I want to stress how important it is to fill the senate. It's important in order to get the work done that we need done.
 - 1. If you do not feel engaged, please talk to your committee chair or me.

XIII. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Affairs – Kasie Durkit durkitk@bgsu.edu
 - i. Academic Affairs votes on the student handbook change concerning absences this Wednesday.
 - ii. Join my committee if interested.
- b. Auxiliary Affairs – Matt Mazur mmazur@bgsu.edu
 - i. No report.
 - ii. Questions
 - 1. Solis- Is PCC meeting?
 - a. Mazur- Yes.
 - 2. Dudek- Progress on padfolios?
 - a. Mazur- They are in. Working it out.
- c. Internal Affairs – Eric Juzkiw ejuzkiw@bgsu.edu
 - i. Open Positions
 - 1. Mac, Conklin, Falcon Heights.
 - ii. Harry & Charley
 - 1. Dudek- Charley goes to Senator Senn.
 - 2. Trzaska- Harry goes to Chair Puccio.
 - iii. Questions

1. Harris- What's happening for the Diversity Affairs position that Senator Devereaux left?

a. Working on it.

d. Student Affairs – Nic Puccio

npuccio@bgsu.edu

i. SA

1. Please stay with me. Will not be meeting tonight. Send me your availability by Friday at 5PM. Doing team-building and meeting next week.

XIV. Senator Reports

XV. Advisor's Remarks

a. Certainly an interesting and lively meeting. What happened tonight was important. Ultimately, we have a process in place for elections next year. Hopefully many of you consider running for whatever position suits you. We need that our full student body gets involved and votes.

b. Another event honoring Dr. King is that on January 29th. John Quinones. 7PM in the ballroom.

XVI. Closing Remarks

a. Post- If we're in the process of discussion on any piece of legislation, and are unsure of what to say, just say it. Part of my job is to help you say it.

b. Post- We voted on the amendment tonight because it changed the content of the document.

XVII. Adjournment

a. The chair entertains a motion to adjourn.

i. So moved by Senator Dudek.

1. Seconded by Senator Henry.