

# USG General Assembly Meeting

The Official Agenda of the Undergraduate Student Government General Assembly

On This Day, 10/27/14

Room 308 BTSU @ 7:30pm

{Business Casual Attire}

- I. Call to Order
  - a. Meeting called to order at 7:31 pm.
- II. Roll Call
  - a. Absent:
    - i. Senator Deans, Senator Dortch (late arrival), Senator Grohe, Senator Harrison, Senator Menapace, Senator Ungemach, Senator Vaughn
- III. Open Forum
  - a. Michael Penrod/ Director of Public Library
    - i. Thank you for having me this evening. I wanted to start by saying Wood County Library is your library. We open to the entire community, especially our students. I want to ask how many of you are registered to vote? Some of you. We really view additional student population as part of our library district and we keep this in mind as we transition to new and dynamic services. Public libraries are currently transitioning. We still do a lot of the same things as 50 years ago. However, now we have services that can be used without entering library grounds. We offer the use of eBooks, Freegal, where you can download various music and keep forever. We offer services through Hoopla, a service which provides access to thousands of movies, audiobooks, and other interactive entertainment options. In short, we want to be your (student) public library and we want you (USG) to give this message to students. Go out and talk to everyone locally. We put our levy on the ballot during a gubernatorial election to be noticed at polls. This levy is a simple renewal of funds for library. We can no longer depend on state of Ohio for (97%) funding. We have done private fundraising in addition to taxes, a balance between the public and private funding to keep our library funded. We play a role in community that is diverse, everything from check out books, to book delivery, other services. We have a grand piano, which is used for many concerts. Opera singers and other performers who are required to do public performance, use our atrium as multipurpose space. We have held

open forums for city council outside council chambers, as the Council Chambers are too small to fit the forums the Council chooses to have. We are always trying to do new and diverse things. For the levy we have endorsement of local chamber of commerce and the mayor serves on committee for it. Members of both political parties support the levy and have representation on the committee as well. Major landholders support the levy. Property tax increases of the levy will be \$24.50 per year for anyone who receives over \$100,000 per year. We are proud of partnerships with the university/campus community. We are proud of archives for community. At CampusFest last year partnered with Common Book project. We offer various classes on how to use iPads. A Postcard of levy literature is being passed around. It shows that this levy is a simple renewal. Librarians are frugal, will get by with the increase as we are exceptionally lean in our spending. We are on the lower end of spending for library personnel (56%) when compared to other public libraries in the state (close to 60%). We save money. Provided the levy passes, we will have an increased maintenance of these services. We made promises to the community five years ago during Great Recession, and we have kept these promises. We have found we have extremely supportive community, and its heartwarming. Before I leave I have three quick stories I would like to share. First, about a lady who lost job after working in the same factory for 34 years, so the last time she typed a resume was on a typewriter. She had to come into the library and had to figure out how to make resume again. She was in at library for 4-5 hours a day. Additionally, the library was a source of entertainment for her kids because of cost restrictions for everyday living, they could not afford any entertainment since there was not an income. After a few weeks, she got a job. What this story shows is that everything we do at library is about relationships. The second story is about a young man in the Navy who downloads eBooks while on a ship overseas. He's still thinking of library and he can check out books from library. Finally, a little boy named Noah, who participated in our summer reading program. He used to get a wagon load of books for reading for the program. After using this program, he still gets wagon of books to read whenever he comes in. We value learning and education. If we can get

every child in our community to learn, like Noah, then we will make the world better. We are to help people help themselves.

ii. Questions?

1. Chief of Procedure & Appeals Administrator Miesle: What kind of cut backs will occur if levy does not pass?

a. 42% of everything would go. Staff for story time programs would be cut and we would have to cut back on library hours of operation. In particular, our Sunday hours, which have high foot traffic for families and some campus life. These cuts would have to be across the board. We would learn to live on a declining budget, especially since State budgeting for funding public libraries is based on 1998 funding without accounting for inflation.

2. Resident Student Association President Rose: What is the selection like of non-fiction books for research?

a. It is amazing how foot traffic drops when the University is not in session. We buy a unique collection of items for student use. A lot of foreign films and best new international fiction works. We buy things not purchased near other universities in state. We buy a lot of experimental literature. This makes for a wide diversity of topics both fiction and non-fiction. Right now, if book under \$50, bought and placed on reserve for use, then kept at the library for further use by others.

IV. Lobby Time

V. Swearing in of New Officers

a. Senators

- i. Philip Zitko (At-Large)
- ii. Nicholas Hauck (Off-campus)
- iii. Houston Burrow (Off-Campus)
- iv. Michele Mathis (Diversity Affairs)
- v. Julian Gillilan (Off-Campus)
- vi. Lauren Howald (Off-Campus)
- vii. Cassandra Wylie (Health & Human Service)
- viii. Kaylee Meade (At-Large)

ix. Catherine Peterson (National PanHellenic Council)

b. Procedures & Appeals

i. Drew Hosler (P&A)

ii. Andrew Allman (P&A)

iii. Lyndon Adanich (P&A)

VI. Old Business

a. No old/previous business to discuss.

VII. New Business

a. SAAC Resolution Review

i. Chair Devereaux: The resolution calls for an amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws to create a Senate seat for Athletic Affairs. This resolution was drafted by myself as the Internal Affairs Committee Chair and Multicultural Greek Council Senator, and was sponsored by Nadia Oehler, Student Affairs Committee Chair and At-Large Senator. It reads as follows. *Read through of Resolution 2014/15 – 03 Amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Undergraduate Student Government for the Creation of an Athletic Affairs Senate Seat.*

ii. Questions

1. Senator Mazur: Are College senators included in the first section in which all the types of Senate seats are mentioned?

a. Chair Devereaux: It will be added.

2. Senator Racette: How will the Senator seat be selected?

a. Chair Devereaux: SAAC (Student Athlete Advisory Committee) will select a representative internally much like Residence Hall and Greek Council Senators are selected.

3. Senator Senn: Since SAAC is selecting them, will this Senator seat be representative of varsity athletics only or will this include intramurals as well?

a. Chair Devereaux: The seat will be representative of varsity athletics only.

4. Senator Watabe: Could there be representation of intramural sports to show support for the intramurals?

a. Senator Mazur: Although understand concern, it is not so much about student support but representing a student population.

- b. Chair Devereaux: Just to add to that, intramurals, we felt, are represented in a variety of other ways on campus through other seats, whereas varsity athletics were not because the majority of varsity athletes time does not allow them to be represented properly in other ways.
- 5. Senator Senn: Will the creation of this seat also create a new internal committee for athletic affairs (like internal affairs, student affairs, etc) or just a new senate seat?
  - a. Chair Devereaux: The resolution only calls for a new senate seat and representative much like that of Diversity Affairs, not for the creation of a new internal committee.
- 6. Senator Mazur: Is the resolution title correct? The resolution is titled 03? What were the other resolutions prior to for this Senate?
  - a. Speaker Durkit: There were two resolutions after the elections in the Spring 2014 that were presented to the Senate.
  - iii. Speaker Durkit: Entertain a motion to table Resolution 2014/15 – 03 until General Assembly meeting November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014.
    - 1. Moved by Chair Puffenberger.
    - 2. Second by Senator Mazur.
- b. Sustainability Report from Tess
  - i. *Presentation on the proposal for the Sustainability Themed Community by Residence Life Liason Tess Janczarek. See attached Prezi presentation with the minutes.*
  - ii. Questions
    - 1. Senator Hall: Will this be considered a new Living Learning Community?
      - a. RL Janczarek: This will be a themed community. Themed community.
      - b. Senator Hall Follow-up: Is there a difference?
        - i. RL Janczarek: Yes. Living Learning Communities typically have classes attached to them and therefore have a different experience. They have that extra class. Themed communities do not. Themed communities refer to communities where

like-minded and similarly interested students can live together and participate in activities.

2. Senator Dortch: Is there a particular student population/type of student this community is trying to attract?

a. RL Janczarek: The community is open to any year student and any type of major. Students do not have to be environmental science majors. Just a way to get students involved.

3. Chair Puffenberger: Will we have access to the Prezi used to present this information.

a. RL Janczarek: I will give it to Jeff and Kasie to send out with the minutes.

4. Chair Timbrook: The surveys you mentioned for us to get feedback regarding the sustainability community, how are we supposed to administer them? By email, paper?

a. RL Janczarek: They can be administered in whatever way Senators can contact and get feedback from their constituents.

c. *Extension of Discussion Election Packer under Procedure and Appeals report.*

i. Speaker Durkit: Entertain a motion to table discussion of the Election Packet.

1. Moved by Senator Katz.

2. Second by Senator Wood.

d. *Extension of Speaker's Report for Vote for Approval of Spring Dates for USG General Assembly meeting.*

i. Speaker Durkit: We will move into a voice vote. All those in favor of the dates say "ay." All those oppose say "Nay."

1. Passes.

## VIII. Executive Branch Reports

a. President – Brian Kochheiser

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i. First, I would like to welcome all of our New Senators. I know Chair Devereaux has been working very hard to fill those vacancies.

ii. Its on Us

1. I just wanted to give an update regarding the Its on Us campaign. There has been a working committee and group created for the

campaign. Representation is diverse and from a wide variety of campus populations from Greek Life to athletics and other student organizations as well as USG. The committee has been tasked to create an event for the week of November 17-21<sup>st</sup>. If you have any ideas for the event, please see myself.

iii. Orientation Leader Applications

1. Just to give a heads up, Orientation Leader Applications are now open so spread word. It is a great opportunity to get to know and work with first year students.

iv. Bleacher Creatures

1. Finally, I just wanted to give you all an update regarding the Bleacher Creatures so that you can communicate this back to your constituencies. Currently they are petitioning to become a spirit organization, which is different from a student organization. Spirit groups are on the same level as the SicSec and the Birds. Jill Carr has created a process to become a spirit group which consists of a committee with representation from SicSec, the Birds, Chris Bullins of the Office of Campus Activities, and USG who will make a recommendation.

v. Questions

1. Senator Wood: Who will sit on the Committee (*see Bleacher Creatures above*) for USG?
  - a. President Kochheiser: Nicole and myself will select who sits on that committee.

b. Vice President – Nicole Neely

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- i. I only have one thing to report on tonight and I will start by asking how many of you are registered to vote? Good. As part of the campaign #turnupforwhat, we will be holding an event Thursday at 7:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room. Randy Gardner will be the keynote speaker and there will also be a panel of people to answer questions about voting and its importance.

ii. Questions

c. Cabinet Reports

- i. Chief of Staff Danielle Parker

1. I wanted to report tonight to give members of the Senate a general idea of what my position entails. Aside from scheduling Brian and Nicole's meetings, I also oversee the Cabinet and any projects they are working on currently. In addition to that, I also spend a lot of my time looking for initiatives that the Cabinet or Brian and Nicole can work on. I am constantly in meetings and acting as a resource for people. If Senators have ideas, I would love to hear them so I can bring them to Brian, Nicole, or other members of the Cabinet to pursue.
2. Questions
  - ii. Residence Life Liaison Tess Janczarek
    1. Just wanted to let everyone know that Resident Adviser Selection is starting. If you are interested or want to know more information, please come talk to me. It is required that anyone who is interested in the position must attend an information session.
    2. Questions:
      - a. Senator Wood: When is the last info session and latest that an application can be turned in?
        - i. RL Janczarek: I will give that information to Jeff and Kasie to send out with the minutes. But the applications are typically due by December.
  - iii. Director of Marketing and Communications Alexa Woodburn (Parker for Woodburn)
    1. The Faces of USG Campaign kicking off soon, so be on the lookout for that. If you have not sent in your information to her, please do so as soon as possible. She will be sending out another email blast soon with all the information. Also, she will continue to use social media and other methods to get publicity out for the campaign as well as USG in general.

IX. Procedures and Appeals Report – Bryant Miesle

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a. Election Packet Update

- i. Just wanted to present the changes to Election Packet. There are not a lot of changes made to the packet. The most significant changes are that the dates were moved earlier for information sessions. Also signatures were changed to endorsements and there is a new structure that will be used for



filling out endorsements using grids. There were also changes to reflect Kathy Newman as the secretary. Also, there was a write-in candidates who campaign will be disqualified because they will not have filled out the packet and since the packet pertains to campaigning, all candidates who campaign have to do a packet.

- b. Questions
  - c. Refer to New Business for tabling of the Approval of the Election Packet.
- X. Treasurer's Report - Reece Timbrook [reecet@bgsu.edu](mailto:reecet@bgsu.edu)
- a. I just wanted to report tonight on what my position entails. As the treasurer, I oversee the budget for USG and I also serve as co-chair for the Student Budget Committee (SBC). If you have any budget requests for your student organizations, I'm your guy.
- XI. Speaker's Report
- a. Speaker of the Senate – Kasie Durkit [durkitk@bgsu.edu](mailto:durkitk@bgsu.edu)
    - i. Thanks for participation when speakers have come in to speak to the Senate. It is a lot of information that they present and so it is great when we have a lot participation and questions. Barbara Waddell is coming in next week to speak. If you have any questions for Barbara, please submit them to myself by Wednesday afternoon. I will send out an email reminder. Finally, I want to go over Spring dates. *Presented on screen.* Thoughts?
      1. Chair Puffenberger: Will the first meeting be on the first day of class (Jan.12<sup>th</sup>)?
        - a. Speaker Durkit: Yes. There is an important speaker coming in that meeting.
      2. Senator Wood: In February there are six meetings in a row. Can we have one of those be a night off?
        - a. Speaker Durkit: As long as everyone is okay with we can. (*general agreement among Senate body*)
      3. Vice-President Neely: Just a note, April 13<sup>th</sup> will be the USG banquet.
        - a. Speaker Durkit: Our last meeting will be April 6<sup>th</sup>.
    - ii. *See vote for Approval of Spring Dates under New Business.*
- XII. Committee Reports
- a. Academic Affairs – Amy Puffenberger [apuffen@bgsu.edu](mailto:apuffen@bgsu.edu)

- i. Committee will be meeting in here after the meeting tonight.
- b. Auxiliary Affairs – Aeden Timbrook [atimbro@bgsu.edu](mailto:atimbro@bgsu.edu)
  - i. Committee will be meeting in the back of the room tonight after meeting.
- c. Internal Affairs – Jeff Devereaux [jdevere@bgsu.edu](mailto:jdevere@bgsu.edu)
  - i. Internal Affairs will not be meeting tonight as I have a phone-conference at 9:00 pm I will need to call into. There are still vacancies in the Senate that I will be working to fill over the next couple of weeks. Just a reminder that we have moved to bi-weekly reports and that the first bi-weekly report will be due by 5:00 pm on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Finally Harry and Charlie.
    - 1. Senator Dortch: This week I will be giving Harry to Chair Oehler for all her hard work in the Senate.
    - 2. Brian and Nicole: This week we will be sticking to the pairing and be giving Charlie to Danielle and Bryant for all their work in the cabinet.
- d. Student Affairs – Nadia Oehler [noehler@bgsu.edu](mailto:noehler@bgsu.edu)
  - i. Just wanted to give a brief update that Student Affairs is working on an initiative to get Student Ambassadors in Admissions, where current students will go to high schools and talk about their student experience in trying to recruit students to come to BGSU. Committee will be meeting in the GSS Office after tonight's meeting.

### XIII. Senator Reports

- a. Senator Mazur: Update on President's Climate Commitment
  - i. *Senator gives Presentation on updates regarding the President's Climate Commitment. See Powerpoint attached.*
  - ii. Senator Mazur: we are looking to determine where we can cut carbon expenditure. The Committee has created a 25 page document to create change. I will send the document for feedback from Senate. January 15<sup>th</sup> is final deadline to Board of Trustees.
- b. Senator Dortch: Opportunities for the Senate to participate
  - i. Relay for Life is an event hosted by the student organization Colleges against Cancer and will begin at 6:00 pm on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> and will go until 6 am on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>. I think it would be great to see USG sponsor a lap to show that the University supports them. Just something to consider as the Senate.

- ii. This Thursday the Black Student Union will be hosting an event called Talk to Me Thursday: Need for BSU to talk about what the Black Student Union is and to become more knowledgeable about it. It will be November 6<sup>th</sup> and it would be great to have representation there.
- iii. Finally, the Dean of Arts & Sciences is looking to hold an event called Cupcakes with the Dean. We are looking to have the event in collaboration with other deans on campus.
- iv. Questions
  - 1. Senator Katz: What is the date for the event?
    - a. Senator Dortch: One has not been made yet, but if your Dean would be interested in collaborating, one could be made soon.
  - c. Senator Bumbaugh: IFC Update
    - i. Recently there have been expansions with IFC, with the re-chartering of Sigma Chi and Kappa Sigma. Additionally, Phi Mu Alpha is looking to join us as well. Last week, IFC took the Pledge Against Sexual Assault. IFC also sponsored a screening for Girl Rising. Last week, IFC also held a workshop about Greek history. IFC will also be doing an activity to review the National Collegiate alcohol week.

XIV. Advisor's Remarks - Dean Jodi Webb

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- a. Thanks for involvement tonight, I know we covered a lot in tonight's meeting. I want to introduce myself to the new Senators. My name is Jodi Webb and I am the adviser of USG. If you ever need anything, please contact me and I will be more than willing to help. Also, there was a lot of information covered tonight and I know things are often sent out prior to meetings. I encourage everyone to please read through the things sent out prior and be well informed on them for discussion and upcoming votes that may happen. Also, our guest from the Wood County Library left postcards with information regarding the levy. Finally, I want to take the time to recognize some individuals. First, Chair Devereaux and those who helped fill the vacancies in the Senate. I know that at the beginning of the semester there were a lot of vacancies and it has been a lot of effort to fill them. Also, Chief Administrator Miesle for starting on the Election packet so early. This will allow us to hit the ground running in the Spring semester.
- b. Questions

XV. Closing Remarks

a. Senator Wood

i. Happy early Birthday to Nicole Neely!

XVI. Adjournment

a. Moved by Chair Oehler.

b. Second by Senator Vandevort.

c. USG is adjourned at 9:01 pm