

USG General Assembly Meeting

The Official Agenda of the Undergraduate Student Government General Assembly
On This Day, 2/10/2014
Room 308 BTSU
(Business 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. Joncarlos Urrutia- Off-Campus Senator
 - i. I am a junior political science major.
 - b. Alex Crank- Falcon Heights Senator
 - i. My name is Alex Crank. I live in Falcon Heights. Sophomore, Individualized Business major
 - c. Trent Hall- Proxy for Senator Menapace
 - d. All officers were sworn in.
- V. Open Forum
 - a. Mr. Rodney Fleming – Student Legal Services
 - i. I am with Student Legal Services, I am the managing attorney. I am here to tell you what we do, and to ask for your support for a fee increase from \$7 to \$9
 - ii. We recently moved to the Wooster Street center. Currently trying to educate students as to where that is. We moved from South Hall, as a result of the renovations.
 - iii. Please see attached.
 1. To give you an office overview, there are 3 fully licensed attorneys providing confidential legal advice and advocacy. The \$7 fee is the only source of revenue for our office.
 2. 88% of students participate in the program, the last fee increase was 10 years ago. Unfortunately, we need a fee increase to continue the level of service that we currently provide.
 3. There are two areas in which students need our services. Criminal/Traffic settings, and Landlord/Tenant.
 4. A lot of advice involves alcohol or drug charges.
 5. Ohio has a very strong landlord/tenant law, so students can focus on their studies, not their legal issues.

6. We do a lot of document preparation review and prep.
 7. That's kind of in a nut shell, what we do.
- iv. We always ask that students come in, and we can refer you to someone who can help you, if we cannot.
 1. There are certain programs restricted by law. Cannot be involved in actions between the student and the University, or Trustees, Faculty/Staff, or other students.
 2. We do not do contingent fee cases, federal and felony cases, and
 3. We can still make phone calls if matters are outside Bowling Green, just cannot go to court.
 - v. We discovered that a downtown vendor was violating the Consumer Sales Practices Act. That vendor has been forced to change how they do business.
 - vi. We discovered the towing company was charging fees that are above the limit of the law. Looked at the signage, was not using signage required by law. Everyone benefits because now this towing company, and others, know that they cannot charge this fees.
 - vii. A student came here for Graduate studies, lender defaulted them, caused them to start paying. Made the lender change how they do business.
 - viii. Over 1,500 students a year come through our office. A lot of it is advice and counsel, so that court can be avoided. Almost 1165 students use the service for court appearances.
 - ix. We saw our biggest hit to revenue when the green fee was first introduced. Not as many students as we used to, no longer have a paralegal, no longer an administrative assistant.
 - x. What we've been using is our reserves.
 - xi. Motion to extend time by 10 minutes
 1. So moved by Chair Durkit
 - a. Seconded by Senator St. Peter
 - xii. Our student legal services is a full law firm. We are the least expensive. Even if we approve the fee increase, we are the least expensive program. Our fee is in line with other universities.
 - xiii. Many students do not qualify for a public defender; must pay a \$25 application fee, only for criminal cases. Legal Aid of Western Ohio is another service, must meet the low income eligibility requirement. They

have mostly civil service representation. What we do is kind of a legal insurance. Everyone has pooled their resources, get the best benefits.

- xiv. Typically, pre-pay services charge 20-30 per month, refer you to local lawyers who promise to “charge you less”.
- xv. Most local attorneys are charging 100-250 per hour. Typically a 500-1500 retainer. Most students we deal with do not see that as a financial option.
- xvi. Questions
 1. Chair Durkit- Thank you for a very complete presentation. Is there a threshold for cutting your services off? Do students take too much advantage of this?
 - a. We’ve never had to cut anyone off. Some end up getting into more trouble than others. At some point, the Dean of Students’ office gets involved. Many times, when there is a criminal case ongoing, a Code of Conduct investigation is ongoing. As far as the civil stuff, I can say that we’ve never had anyone come close.
 2. Durkit- How many on your staff?
 - a. 3 full time attorneys. 4 students working as office associates. Light secretarial work.
 3. Durkit- 9 Dollars seems very reasonable. Vast amount of resources available.
 - a. If you ever drive a car, and get a ticket, we can save you more in that single incident, than you will ever pay in student legal services fees in your entire college career.
 4. Timbrook- You held this [fee] for 10 years. How long do you think you can hold this?
 - a. When I first asked [for the fee increase 10 years ago], I projected 5 years. That’s what I can safely project now. Maybe our 88% participation rate goes down. I expect that we run in the black for a couple years, even out the next year, and run off of the excess for the last two.
 5. Solis- When you sign up for the fee, is that [the service availability] for any student, or full time students?
 - a. The Bursar oversees that threshold. Not full time, but must be taking a certain number of hours.

6. Solis- Can I utilize the service over the summer, or do I need to be enrolled in the summer?

- a. Must be a student in that semester, must pay that fee. In reality, if a student needs our services at the end of the semester, we still represent them, we don't cut off services. Cannot ethically cut off services if it is to the detriment of the student. Typically, courts will grant continuances until the fall semester. Most civil things go on for months, that's not an issue. It's no problem to wait until the fall, statute of limitation for landlord/tenant issues is 10 years.

xvii. Motion to extend time 5 minutes

1. So moved by Chair Puccio

- a. Seconded by Senator Billings

xviii. Questions cont.

1. Johnson- Can definitely see that theory come into play. When do you see yourselves adding the paralegal, office administrator?

- a. All depends on how much we take it. Relatively quickly, hard to say. Want to expand the service to Perrysburg. People coming down [State Route] 25, [Interstate] 75, getting speeding tickets, run ins with the law. The next logical expansion is to the Perrysburg Municipal Court. We're trying to educate the incoming freshmen about our services. Every year, it's the same, "My friends told me about this". It's hard. The more difficult way, is if you call up, and you waived it, and we have to turn you away.

2. Puccio- Will this power point be available to us?

- a. Yes. I encourage that [share with your constituents].

3. Timbrook- Can you opt-in half-way through the semester?

- a. No. Cannot operate on an opt-in basis.

VI. Lobby Time

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

IX. Executive Branch Reports

- a. President – Alex Solis

asolis@bgsu.edu

- i. I encourage everyone to share the information with the constituents. Outreach is vital. I echo that same ask [support to the raised legal fee]. If senators are interested in drafting this, work with the chairs, and Speaker post, to move forward with this.
 - ii. Lenhart Scholarships
 - 1. Small applicant pool. Great resource.
 - iii. Accenture
 - 1. If you have met with your report-out committee, please include any updates in your Senator Reports.
 - iv. Website
 - 1. Encouraged to give feedback. Please provide that feedback to me. It's a phased process.
 - v. Questions
 - 1. Billings- Is there any date for the old myBGSU link to be shut down?
 - a. Webb- Some of those communities have to move at the end of April.
 - b. Solis- End of April.
- b. Vice President – David Neely dneely@bgsu.edu
- i. Standing Committees
 - 1. Three left to fill. Leaving this upstairs. Every senator is required to be on a standing committee.
 - ii. Nominations
 - 1. Those templates are available. If you can send those back to me by the 28th.
 - iii. Banquet
 - 1. April 14th. Will send out invites. 7:30-9. Please RSVP.
- c. Cabinet Reports
- i. City/State/National Liaison – Ethan Byrum ebyrum@bgsu.edu
 - 1. 770 tons of salt left. The first massive snow storm was 500 tons. When you're driving around, please be very safe, avoid the roads.
 - 2. Creating the City/University Relations committee. Created to address concerns, create a viable community for BG and BGSU. 5 BGSU students, 2 from GSS, 5 BG residents. 7 Ex-officio members (government officials, people the mayor appoints). The board will have its own governing body. Will work on its own.
 - 3. Questions
 - a. Solis- When we run out of salt, what happens? Does the city have a reserve fund?

- i. Byrum- There's 440 currently in reserve. 330 available.
Toledo has excess, in discussions with them.

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. No report.

XII. Speaker's Report

- a. Speaker of the Senate – Katie Post kpost@bgsu.edu
 - i. Career Day
 - 1. Career fair tomorrow. Really great opportunity to network, pitch an elevator speech.
 - ii. Senator Reports
 - 1. Were due Friday. If you did not turn it in, please do an extra office hour this week.

XIII. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Affairs – Kasie Durkit durkitk@bgsu.edu
 - i. Senator Ladden
 - 1. During a dinner conversation, I spoke to something that AA might want to work on. Get a hub in the Union for the library. He worked with the library. Not able to do it, but good initiative.
 - ii. Last Lecture
 - 1. February 12th, 7PM in the theater. Based on the Randy Posh book "The Last Lecture". Very inspiring speech. He's put a lot of effort into this.
 - iii. AA
 - 1. Meeting in the Committee Chair office.
- b. Auxiliary Affairs – Matt Mazur mmazur@bgsu.edu
 - i. Accenture
 - 1. We met for two hours. I don't think I can go into much detail, and keep you all engaged. 5 tasks chosen. Some already underway, report affirmed them. Bruce Meyer oversees two tasks. As we continue to meet, I will keep you updated. If you're interested in what we're doing, look at the Accenture document.
 - 2. We don't have an active role in changing the operations, we are a reporting out group. Giving some input, bring it back to our constituents.
 - ii. AA

1. No meeting tonight. We're working on recruiting and retaining senators. That's a really good project for my committee to work on.
- iii. Environment Action Group
 1. Meeting with them in two weeks. They're really trying to push for 100% clean energy. I tried to speak to them about what is possible within the framework of the University. We signed the PCC, working towards clean energy, but some are unsure on where the University is heading.
- c. Internal Affairs – Eric Juzkiw ejuzkiw@bgsu.edu
 - i. Office Hours
 1. If you get an e-mail from me, you have 3 office hours to do.
 - ii. Archiving
 1. If you are interested in helping, please let me know.
 - iii. IA
 1. Come with updates. Meeting in the USG office.
 - iv. Ten40
 1. They won their regional tournament this weekend. They go to Semi-Finals in Ann Arbor March 15th.
 - v. Harry & Charley
 1. Kochheiser- Harry goes to Liaison Janczarek.
 2. Post- Charley tonight goes to Senator Oehler.
- d. Student Affairs – Nic Puccio npuccio@bgsu.edu
 - i. Student Affairs Committee
 1. Meeting cancelled due to the weather.
 - ii. SA
 1. Meeting in 308 after GA

XIV. Senator Reports

- a. Timbrook- Chi Omega moonball is coming up, please e-mail either me or Speaker Post. It's good to see everyone outside of USG.
 - i. Post- I'll pass around a sheet.
- b. Billings- On Wednesday, the Delta Gammas are having a fundraiser at Delta Gamma. 50% proceeds go to charity.
- c. Huggins- Education Platform meetings. Want to focus on non-traditional students. Focus on high growth programs. We're trying to take Internships and Co-ops. Talk about making that part of required curriculum. 3 themes right now: rationalizing general education. 300 general eds. Accenture recommended dropping all the way down to 150. We really want feedback, please give me feedback.
 - i. Demand a base of past statistics. There will be a 38,000 student shrinkage in the Midwest by 2020. Either we will have to shrink the university with that, or find

other means. It's a big task to work around. Everything said at this meeting was really interesting.

- d. Robinson- Job Fair is tomorrow in the field house.
- e. Juzkiw- The Office of Equity & Diversity is planning an event on April 15th. Look out for more updates from me.
- f. Post- If you did not do your senator report, please use your office hour to do your senator report.
- g. Ladden- Recyclemania is now in effect. It's run by Dr. Henessey. The amount you recycle is subtracted by the amount you put out. Kohl hall has one 7 years in a row?
 - i. Solis- Do Greek Units count?
 - 1. Ladden- Not sure.

XV. Advisor's Remarks

- a. There were some really good questions asked tonight. Given the opportunity that this service provides, I do know that that support is very helpful, does not add additional financial strain.
- b. Keep in mind that the first USG election info session is next week. We do not have a meeting, so I encourage you all to attend. I also want you to promote these sessions.
- c. I want to acknowledge a couple of USG members, and the hard work they provided. This past weekend was the first weekend for the annual funding process. Senators Robison and Dudek are members of that process. Finalizing those requests, not an easy process. 1.6 million dollars, 420k to allocate. That is the budget that funds not only USG, but UAO, and all other organizations. I appreciate their work. Their efforts benefit many.

XVI. Closing Remarks

- a. Neely- With election season around the corner, if you are interested in a position, talk to them about their position. Learn more about USG as an organization.
- b. Parker- If you want fliers, we're going to be distributing them. If you have any ideas on places for these, let me know.
 - i. Clemmens- Residence Halls, directly to the RAs.

XVII. Adjournment

- a. The Chair entertains a motion to adjourn.
 - i. So moved by Senator St. Peter.
 - 1. Seconded by Senator Robison.