

USG General Assembly Meeting

The Official Agenda of the Undergraduate Student Government General Assembly

On This Day, 10/5/2015

Room 308 BTSU @ 7:30pm

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Swearing in of New Officers
 - a. Garrett Mayleben- Communications & Political Science major. I am filling the position of the Student Athlete Advisor Committee. I play men's basketball.
 - b. Ben Forester- Finance major. I am a stand-in for Centennial Hall director.
- IV. Open Forum
 - a. David Levey, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and Megan Newlove
Thank you for letting us come and for all that you do. Victor comes to all our meetings and reports to us about what you do here. Before I get into questions you sent in I want to share about myself. I was here in 1967-1971 and a 1971 graduate and there were a lot of things (good and bad) going on here. Mostly it was student engagements with women's rights and the war going on. You all are very engaged and I hope you continue to be engaged when you leave BG. I bumped around and worked some different good and not good jobs. I worked a political campaign and sold old women's coats at a department store. I've lived in Akron all my life. I was the executive director of the Housing Authority and got great experience in housing, zoning, government plans, finance. Then I went to Forest City in Cleveland where I worked for Terminal Tower and built apartments for 32 years all over the country, and then I retired this year. If you told me when I was a student that I would be the chairman of the board of trustees I would have said that was not possible- I was against the man and now I've become the man. Don't put you blinders on whatever you think you're going to do. You have great opportunities here at this great school.

Megan: I'm not quite as interesting as David. Born and raised here in Bowling Green and went to Miami where I was on student senate. I'm an attorney and I was active in student government in law school so I've had a similar experience to what you guys have here and that experience is what started my interest in law. I now live here with my husband who is a teacher at the high school and 2 little boys. Between work and the three of them that's pretty much all my time.

David: What does the board of trustees do? I'm still trying to figure out what we do- I've only been on the board for 7 years (hahaha). We are a group mandated by law to govern the university. Out of the 9 members (which are appointed by the government), none of us work at the university or have PhDs. We are all very diverse- men, women, and democrats. We are relayed workers (no pay). We do this because we want to help be good stewards of the university and we've reached the point in our lives where we want to give back and give/raise money for scholarships. Our only real power is to hire and fire the president. We handle oversight, approve budgets, listen to constituency groups, we approve capital expenditures above a certain amount. You can see all the great new changes on campus currently. The administrators run the whole show and the provost runs the academic part and the president is involved in everything. Government and guidance are our main things. We try to make decisions based on what is best for you guys- student tuition and loan costs are going up and we don't want you leaving here with tons of debt. The athletic part is also important because it teaches a lot outside the classroom. I did okay in the classroom but I really learned how to get along with people, work together and get things done, and to do the wash, stuff like that. I learned a lot of life lessons. Our oversight- 9 members by statute and 2 student representatives appointed by the governor (1 undergrad student, 1 graduate student) on board who do not vote according to the law. They bring good perspective that we don't have. We were trying to figure out what kind of Greek housing we wanted to do (size, location, style of houses) and what it would cost the students to live there. The students helped with areas we wouldn't have known about. Do you think more student involvement with the board would be helpful? Yes! More student involvement would be great. Victor comes and reports to us and it's great to hear that information. It's important for us to hear from the students in our meetings 5 times a year. We are here for the students; we want you to get the best education. It's your job to prepare for the kids coming here in the future and help them get the same education as you.

Megan: We're always raising money for student scholarships especially, and an initiative that provides endowments for professors. The diversity on the board is very helpful and we come from different places and experiences- figuring out all the Greek housing was right up David's alley, and me living in town gives me a

different perspective than those who come from Cleveland or Columbus or elsewhere. We have expanded the board to contain some out-of-state non-voting alumni members (1 in Florida, 2 in Michigan). The statute states that voting members must be residents of Ohio but we have alumni all over the world that want to be involved so that's a chance for them to give their input.

David: Megan organized the WBGSU auction. We, as a board, didn't understand what all that decision involved. The president listened and inter to students and communities who are affected by that, input we got from faculty students gov't officials, we understood it was more important to keep the facility for the students than make a couple extra bucks (\$10 million). We are redoing south hall to turn it into a world-class facility- media and communications building.

- i. Berry- How are you planning to incorporate more diversity into the cabinet members? The cabinet is not highly diverse which is unfortunate and especially since the student body is [diverse], we're working on getting better in that area. We actually talk often about it.
- ii. Johnson- How often are you on campus in order to be accessible to students? Well, we're not very accessible in person. We meet with your elected leader and we as a cabinet only meet about 5 times a year. I like to hear from the students but I'm not around here much. Students and professors come speak to us in our meetings sometimes. We're accessible as we can be- feel free to shoot Megan or me an email anytime.

Megan: In the last 2 years we've made a real effort to bring students to dinners and meetings in the limited time we have. The undergrad and graduate students on the board help a lot with that.

- iii. Francisco- What are some projects you're working on? Megan: We've spent a lot of time on capital for infrastructure on campus. Eppler, University Hall, and several classroom renovations are happening currently and we are discussing as a board how to finance those great things.

David: Recruitment is important. College population numbers are going down in Ohio. We need to have a product kids want. Retention- It's important to find something the kids are interested in in the first couple weeks they're here. Everyone in this room help a lot with that. Education

is important too. We want everyone to graduate on time and debt-free. We definitely don't run the place but we help direct the administrators back toward those 4 values. You guys help your classmates out a lot with all 4 of those things.

- iv. Oehler- Thank you for coming. If state law were to change surrounding this issue, would it be more helpful to have formal student voices in voting or is it okay as it is now? I think it's fine how it is. We had no student involvement when I was here and that was troubling to us. You need to have some life experiences and failures before you can really help out and have a highly valuable ability to make decisions like that. That's not the official opinion for the board, it's just my opinion.

Megan: The student trustees have a voice and really help the board since I've been around and are a very valued and part of the decisions. I don't know how much difference it would make.

- v. Dortch- What are you looking for from us as the student government?

Megan: Your engagement in being here is great and also any information that you send through Victor we value and take into consideration.

David: You guys need to be representing your classmates and if they need their voices heard, then do something. Your representative is Victor- he comes to the board to report and when there's something we need to be working on, we take time to address it. If you have something to say to us, let us know through him. What do you have to say about that, Victor?

Victor: Any concerns we have raised are always addressed; we interact a lot with them and make voices heard. This whole campus of faculty is really good about that kind of thing.

David: we love hearing from you, all ears.

V. Lobby Time

- a. Senator Garcia- I am the VP of BG Undead. We've heard that BGUD hasn't had much accessibility and openness for new members, so we wanted to talk to the student body about what we do and how you can do it, too. BGUD is a game of tag (humans vs. zombies). The game is 1 week long during October and March. We wear bandanas and run around playing with Nerf guns (we call them blasters). It's coming up this semester- Oct 22-29. We will have informational meetings

Oct 14-19, in BA room 119 at 7pm each of those days. It's \$5 to play for the whole year. We would love to have you. (Passed out flyers)

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

VIII. Executive Branch Reports

a. President – Victor Senn

vsenn@bgsu.edu

- i. I want to update you all on the senate/executive committee- this week talked about the academic honesty policy. As things change, I will pass that information along to you. The graduate certificate (about strategic communications) was brought up, for people who are looking for certain skills. We also talked about what will be going on with the faculty/student standing committees. Director Dortch, Nadia Oehler, VP Parker, and myself went to Columbus for OSGA this past weekend. There were 7 institutions from around Ohio (14 total universities represented) that came together to have a meeting. We brought up the smoke- and tobacco-free policy and also discussed some old business items. President's council will be a new group- comprised of the 14 public institution's presidents in Ohio. We will set the agenda items for OSGA moving forward. Lastly, we have started the video series. I want to have executive council, directors, and senators speaking about what they do on a regular basis. Website: www.keymagazine.org Congrats to Parker for finishing the LSAT this weekend.

b. Vice President – Danielle Parker

dnparke@bgsu.edu

- i. Meg Burrell is the undergrad student trustee (she was sitting in the back during the meeting). Contact her for any comments/questions/ideas; she wants to represent you all. Email: burrem@bgsu.edu Victor and I met this morning with Bruce Meyers and Nick Henesey to talk about sustainability at BGSU. Fun fact: the green fund spent \$1,400 to make campus greener last year alone. This month is campus sustainability month, so be on the look out for event information on the campus update. Victor and I are meeting this week with Dr. Sydney Childs, so if you have any questions you want to ask, email them to either of us and we will pass them along.

c. Cabinet Reports

- i. Barker- I have a quick update. Danielle and I attended a creed card meeting this morning. We created a marketing plan (you can see it afterward if desired) on how we plan to implement creed card. We are doing events during homecoming that Danielle or I will attend to talk about creed and possibly doing a call-and-response. This Wednesday at 4pm we are going to take a whiteboard down to Union to get students' feedback on the creed.
- ii. Dortch- I just emailed Meg Burrell to ask her about coming to do a little training on the "Not In Our Town" initiative. Let's play a game- I want 1 person (not on cabinet or executive board) tell me when the "NIOT" week is this year. You will get a free meal in the pub on me. We will be meeting in our committee today to talk about improving student safety.
 - 1. Cunningham- Oct 15-22
- iii. Stanberry- We still don't have a music affair senator, so talk to your chairs if you're interested in being on that panel of about 10 people.

IX. Procedures and Appeals Reports

X. Treasurer's Report

XI. Speaker's Report

- a. Speaker of the Senate – Ebonee Johnson eboneej@bgsu.edu
 - i. **No meeting next week**- this weekend is fall break. Thank you for submitting senator reports. The participation was much better than last time. Some of you still have not sent one; it is required in your senator duties stated in the bylaws. It's good to get an update on what you're working on. Next month I want 100% participation, please. I want to make a clarification on absences for everyone- you (as a senator) are allowed 2 unexcused absences (including attending another organization's activity) and 2 excused (academic or family/personal emergency) per semester. You can swear in a proxy, and that will not count as an unexcused absence. If you're going to be late, please come in from the back door. When we have speakers, be conscious of your body language. Also, no texting or having your phone on for everyone- I am speaking to everyone in the room. Let's be adults about it. If you're taking notes on there, I suggest you get an actual notebook. We will have a meeting the

week after fall break (October 19). Our speaker will be Chris Bullins who will be speaking about OCA. Submit questions to me by **next Tuesday** to help him prepare for his presentation. By Wednesday, I will send out a tentative list of speakers for next semester. Nothing is guaranteed, but most of them are USG regulars, this list is just a heads-up. If you have any suggestions feel free to let me know. We've had our senator training, so I'd like to see committee meetings go in the direction of "What are we doing now? Who's doing what?" I will be sitting in on some of the meetings to hear about what you're doing.

XII. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Affairs – Austin Hall austijh@bgsu.edu
 - i. I don't have much to report. I will report more in 2 weeks. Committee meeting upstairs after meeting today.
- b. Internal Affairs – Alexa Woodburn woodbua@bgsu.edu
 - i. You should all be signed up for office hours. The schedule is up on Orgsync. Don't forget to fill out the form after you are done. You are to answer the phone and greet guests, direct them as best you can, etc. It's up to you to do it- be accountable.
 1. Hazenfratz- How do we go about saying we can't make our office hours? It's up to you to switch with someone. Send an email to someone individually- no mass emails. Please let me know about any switches so I am aware of what's going on.
- c. Student Affairs – Keith Johnson keithlj@bgsu.edu
 - i. Committee will be meeting in the office across the hall, not this room.

XIII. Senator Reports

- a. Berry- I'm on the Student Union Advisory Committee. We are on our way to begin construction! The union parking lot construction will begin in January 2016, adding 150 new spots. It will be kept fairly green and eco-friendly. The union will be under construction starting March 2016. The career center is moving to the Union. In addition, the bookstore, Stampers, and the multi-cultural student lounge will all be moved to the multipurpose room for the rest of the semester. Any large events will be in Olscamp 101, and since that room will be getting so much use, they will be getting new carpet and décor in that room. We

are still cloudy on how the 1st floor will be remodeled. Basically, there will be less walls.

- i. Johnson- Will there be another parking kiosk added? There will either be a gate system implemented or a display inside the building where parking can be paid.
- b. Puffenberger- I am meeting with Marv Henry to discuss non-traditional and military student services. There will be more programs for veterans (like myself), National Guard, and active students. Students currently can use military benefits to go to school here. The Office of Sustainability is holding several events for green month which are noted in campus update emails. They need volunteers for events this Saturday Oct 10th and at the football game for homecoming weekend. You can sign up on their website.
 - i. Sakaroun- Where can we sign up to volunteer? greenbg@bgsu.edu
- c. Garcia- I am also on the Student Union Advisory Committee and ... Nelson, who is in charge of the union overall, wants to have some large group events and activities for students at Campus Fest and places like that. If you have ideas for large group events on campus- send them my way.

XIV. Advisor's Remarks

- a. Dean Jodi Webb jwebb@bgsu.edu
 - i. I really don't have anything to say today. Have a great fall break.

XV. Closing Remarks

- a. Parker- Congrats to Director Woodburn and Senator Savette on being selected for homecoming court.
- b. Dureiko- I am on the Homecoming Events Committee. There is a homecoming event next Friday with Sicsic, the birds, and President Mazey. There will also be a BBQ with a lot of food on Thursday. The pep rally is on Saturday. Look for the details in the campus updates.
- c. E Johnson- I want to shout out the legislative secretary- I don't have to fix anything in her reports and she's even getting all your names and spellings right. Also, congrats to everyone who got shouted out today- your hard work does not go unnoticed.

XVI. Adjournment