

USG General Assembly Meeting

The Official Minutes of the Undergraduate Student Government General Assembly

On This Day, 3/30/15

Room 308 BTSU @ 7:30pm

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
 - a. Meeting called to order at 7:32 pm
- III. Swearing in of New Officers
 - a. Provost Rodney Rogers
 - i. Nineteen questions were submitted to me ahead of time. Great questions. I thought it would be better if I responded to these questions rather than give a whole long speech. My responses will be fairly short to ensure we get through all of them
 - ii. How will a state credit plus program affect our programs?
 1. This is an option replacing post-secondary courses on campus. There is a lot of uncertainty of how this plays out. We are working with a variety of high schools across northwestern Ohio and central Ohio. Schools that invest in our values that give a quality education to its students. It's a program Ohio is on the cutting edge on this type of program. There are still a lot of unknown what this looks like. There is a law that states that all high schools must now have a 15 credit hour pathway towards college. All state schools are involved in this process just as we are. There can be up to 10-15 agreements that we sign with high schools from all around the area. These are high schools you would recognize, I cannot talk of them specifically.
 - iii. How will new renovations affect class scheduling?
 1. There is a lot of investment that is being made in infrastructure all across the university. Some of this includes residence halls, dining halls and the greek village. There are also renovations in Hannah, Eppler, University hall and various academic buildings. There are also on going classroom upgrades. Any classrooms that are not

being scheduled for renovation will be used this summer. These moving pieces will make us sure that we are very efficient in scheduling. We are not in a shortage with classrooms. Some classrooms will have 10-15 percentage usage and some have 90 percentage usage. Those that are renovated are more utilized. As we upgrade quality of all classrooms we will have adequate room to hold all students and this won't affect scheduling. We are also thinking through about how that class grid is scheduled, and whether or not students would have an extended day class. The busiest time on campus is at midnight. That is when you are all up studying and working on other things.

iv. How does BGSU compare to our peers academically

1. When you look at our academic profile you will see that we are in the middle of the group in our peers. Where we are towards the top and are one of the very best at is student engagement. The high level of student engagement is a great testimony to all of the great work being done on campus. This allows our students evolve their leadership skills and style in a more developed way.

v. How will Ohio Senate Bill Four affect our campus?

1. For those of you that do not know, this bill will reduce 5 percent of student cost on campus. Student cost is very attributed to people taking longer than four years to complete a degree. We want to make sure our students are getting a meaningful and time friendly time on our campus. That is something that we are all very concerned about that. There is ways to do this besides a tuition decrease. We want to protect the integrity of our academic programs.

vi. What programs are starting to lose numbers compared to other programs?

1. I will list the five most selective programs and the five programs that allowed the most people.
 - a. AYA programs, sport management, music education, art and have seen the largest decrease in acceptance over the past years.

- b. Communications, computer science, political science, Food nutrition and social work are the five programs that are letting in the most people.
- vii. How are programs related to recruitment working, and how are we meeting the needs of non-traditional students?
 - 1. Our retention rate for next fall looks very good. Our fall to spring persistency, which means people returning to school after enrolling in the fall is the highest it's been in our history. Making sure our students are aware of our programs if they need some help and increasing the way we run our orientation. We've had a lot of discussion with our faculty to give early and often feedback so that students can know how they are doing in classes to address those needs.
- viii. How are we trying to deal with non-traditional students or "post-traditional" students?
 - 1. Several types of new programs such as online, evening and weekend programs will be launched through the trustees innovation fund. These are tailored to post-traditional students.
- ix. Is BGSU in the process of adding any new majors over the next couple years
 - 1. Any university is doing this. We have gone thorough and noted the programs that are being more successful in Ohio. Some of these include more forensic science programs. Data science, we are the first in Ohio to have a analytics as an undergrad and the second to have a graduate program in the major. We are second only to Ohio State with faculty in this area. Software Engineering is another one of these. The opening of south hall for media and communications in order to present those programs more. We have a chance to move the needle on new academic program
- x. Where do you see the academic climate of BGSU going in the next five years or ten years
 - 1. This is a tough question. But I hope all of you that are coming back to BGSU in the future for whatever reason, we hope that you know

that the institution is invested in our academic programs and student engagement. These have led to very high levels of student engagement

- xi. How have you affected the academic climate at BGSU?
 - 1. We have a group of various people all across people who are invested in student success. Just focusing on that is important. We want to be a student centered university.
- xii. What do you think about making a course for personal finance?
 - 1. PNC holds personal financial planning and money management. We need to do a better job of letting students know that these are going on, as attendance isn't as great as we had hoped. Student turnout isn't as great as we had hoped. We've talked about adding new programs to opening weekend and helping new students paying for their education and handle their funds better.
- xiii. What's the perception of our academic climate at BGSU compared to the schools you have worked at previously
 - 1. Hheres what I think BGSU offers that the various schools do not. The academic climate here is very invested in our student involvement, our academic community is fantastic and very involved. We have a very immersive education. It is the right size. A student told me recently "Every day I see someone I know, but every day I meet someone new". At BGSU, the campus is very diverse with all kinds of different studies and backgrounds
- xiv. How does the learning commons choose the courses that it chooses to cover?
 - 1. We look at classes that have high drop and fail rates. We have staffed up to cover courses that will be in high demand.
- xv. Is the learning commons being threatened by financial cuts to the university.
 - 1. The learning commons has been very effective to help our students be successful, so no the learning commons is not being threatened.
- xvi. Talk about increasing our relationships with Canadian institutions.

1. Whoever wants more information about that, catch me after this meeting and I can go into more detail. There is a lot of activities going on to support those. There has been a lot of talk about how we can talk to Ontario, which is relatively close to us.
- xvii. Which programs have yet to be accredited?
1. We're working on that. We have worked with NAB which works with architecture.
- xviii. We see faculty advisors, serving as advisors to residence halls
1. We started with centennial and we've added a few more for this fall. We are expanding the program, we've found that both students and faculty have found this to be a very meaningful process. It is very helpful for students to make good relationships with faculty as well.
- xix. Additional students
1. Senator Berry: I know you talked about in state students getting credit through in state institutions, what about out of state students?
 - a. We will take credits from any accredited program. It does depend on the college program as well.
 2. Liaison Johnson: What is the process the university goes about with consolidating programs that are decreasing. How does the university go about those decisions
 - a. We have just started a program review process. Every 5 years every academic program will be fully reviewed on campus. What we've added to that is a cluster review program. We will cluster them by common themes of programs. We look at overall data, sustainability, successfulness and placement of students. We are hoping that faculty will compare their notes to improve their programs
 3. Senator Mathis: You talked about decreasing the size of programs, can you talk about that a little more?

- a. Sport Management is one of those that I want to highlight. We wanted to see that the programs were more aligned with the faculty available. We wanted to make sure that when students come to bowling green they know that there are career opportunities out there that meet their interests.
4. Liaison Johnson: Have you guys explored options for Weekends, night classes or online programs for normal undergraduates as long with non-traditional students?
 - a. The answer is yes. In the past we have provided incentives that online courses be delivered. We are trying to make sure that we are doing a better job of identifying courses that are in high demand. We want to identify courses that are in high demand that we can offer in hybrid settings or possibly online.
5. Chair Oehler: Is bowling green taking steps towards accommodating 7th and 8th graders for college credit. With the new Ohio credit plus program going on?
 - a. There are still hurdles that these students need to meet. The piece to keep in mind is that college credit plus is a transcript grade. If I take a class in 8th grade and get a c, that grade stays with me for my college career. WE are talking to institutions and letting them now that these are transcript courses. We are making sure that the students that are taking these courses are taking these courses and going to the correct university as well as being prepared for their time at that university. We are trying to be very careful for all of our high school partners.
6. Senator Dowel: Currently I don't believe there are any professional programs for BGSU students. Are there any works to create professional programs
 - a. That depends on someone's definition of professional programs. Accounting is sometimes known as a professional program. Nursing is considered a professional

program. Our partnership with the University of Toledo is going well in that aspect. I think that ten years looking back, you will see more engineering type programs. WE will have various engineering degrees of the 21st century. Architecture is also considered a professional program. That will eventually be a master's program, but you can still get an undergraduate degree. That will be NAB accredited.

IV. Open Forum

V. Lobby Time

VI. Old Business

- a. None

VII. New Business

- a. Senate resolution 2014/2015- 07 Senate Resolution
- b. Voting Results: 27 Yes, 0 Nays and 5 Abstains. Motion passes

VIII. Executive Branch Reports

- a. President – Brian Kochheiser

briantk@bgsu.edu

- i. No report

- b. Vice President – Nicole Neely

nneely@bgsu.edu

- i. Thank you for all the questions for Provost roger
 - ii. April 13th, 6pm will be swearing in of new officers in the falcons nest.
7:30 the banquet will be in this room. Dress will be business casual for the banquet

- c. Cabinet Reports

- i. Chief of Staff- Parker

- 1. I sit on the parking services revenue committee. The director of parking services has given us a few issues with parking services. He needs undergraduate student input for possible increased fees. Parking services is now in charge of the roads on campus. They have used their reserves in order to cover their costs. They need to increase fees across the board. Contracts will be going up,

permits will be going up by 30 dollars, overage on parking meters will go from 10 dollars to 15 dollars. Student fees are also subject to change. Starting in Fiscal year 15, the annual pass is 100 dollars, the fee will go up 15 dollars next year, in another five years, and the pass will go up another 15 dollars. The other option is 130 dollar increase next year with no other increases. In 2016, lot 12 will need to be completely revamped. They took out a 2 million dollar loan out from capital planning recently. They are trying to come up with the money in order to finance a couple different project going on. We really need some feedback

a. Questions or Points of Discussion?

- i. Senator Mullins, do you know how long the fee will be higher?
 1. The charts have only gone into 2026, the prices will go down after this.
- ii. Senator Berry: What exactly is wrong with Lot-12?
 1. It will need to be completely repaved or realigned, because of its size, he estimates that the cost will be around 2 million dollars
- iii. Senator Mathis: My opinion is to increase it 15 and then another 15. I work in the office of admissions and people do not like 100 dollars
- iv. Senator Puffenberger: It is very expensive to repair roads. You would have to think that it would cost more increases down the line. Do you have any information on how long that 100 dollar fee has been in place?
 1. Even with a 130 dollar increase, the parking service fee would still be on the low end of peer institutions.
- v. Senator Dowell: I don't know that doing it all during one time would be the best idea. I think that spreading out the construction over multiple years could increase the possibility of doing this without increased cost.
- vi. Chair Timbrook: I do agree with the 130 dollar increase
- vii. Senator Baumbaugh: With perspective of USG being against budget cuts for the university, I don't know that supporting increases for parking services is the best move right now and might be something we would want to work for in in the future

viii. Director of Communications Woodburn: I don't know that asking for increases in parking from students is the best with all of the construction going on on-campus. A lot of those being student lots

d. Director of Communications Woodburn:

i. We will be continuing having union tables for student appreciation for this Tuesday and Thursday from 11-3. If you have interest in doing these please let me know.

IX. Procedures and Appeals Report- Bryant Miesle bmiesle@bgsu.edu

a. There have been a lot of questions about write in candidacy. Any person's name used in social media or written campaign that are running from write ins are prohibited. Any candidate that had any interest in running was supposed to go through the formal campaign process. Are there any questions?

X. Treasurer's Report - Reece Timbrook reecet@bgsu.edu

a. No report

XI. Speaker's Report

a. Speaker of the Senate – Kasie Durkit durkitk@bgsu.edu

i. The monthly reports to the speaker were due tonight, so send those in before midnight tonight.

ii. It was brought up last meeting that there are senators that will be continuing to serve for two weeks after the introduction of the new administration. For those senators that are in those seats that are running for other seats: if you are elected you will have to give up your seat for the next two meetings. Your constituents can assign a proxy to serve in your place.

XII. Committee Reports

a. Academic Affairs – Amy Puffenberger apuffen@bgsu.edu

i. Thank you for those of you who came to lunch with USG last week. Thank you for that. The next one will be April 9th from 11-1 in the falcons nest, Wednesday the 29th of April. Stop by if you can. If you have any feedback for how we can improve that next semester, feel free to let me know.

b. Auxiliary Affairs – Aeden Timbrook atimbro@bgsu.edu

c. Internal Affairs – Jeff Devereaux jdevere@bgsu.edu

- d. Student Affairs – Nadia Oehler noehler@bgsu.edu
 - i. Thank you to my committee because they were pretty good submitting reports

XIII. Senator Reports

- a. Senator Mullins: We discussed with the associate vice president of capital planning to report gender-neutral bathrooms. If there is a better term for the name gender-neutral bathroom, please let us know. What he told us is that they already have building standards. They would have to put that code into those standards in order to get those in.
- b. Senator Berry: I met with some of the multicultural organizations on campus. They want to be educated by USG, they want to be inspired by USG and they want to be represented by USG.
- c. Senator Young: The student athlete advisory committee will be holding a talent show Sunday April 12th at 6pm in the Stroh center. It will be 2 dollars at the door and all of the proceeds will go towards the Special Olympics.
- d. Senator Claywell: Did You Ask 5k and Dog Walk will be April 11th at the Student Recreation Center. We are looking for volunteers, and also volunteers to push the it's on us movement. I would appreciate it if you could get this out to your constituents. The office of residence life has endorsed the Its On Us campaign into residence halls.

XIV. Advisor's Remarks

- a. Dean Jodi Webb jwebb@bgsu.edu
 - i. Keep in mind that tomorrow night is the President and Vice-President debate.
 - ii. Thursday this week there will be a campus wide email message with the election process and that on Monday morning they will receive an email to vote in the USG elections
 - iii. I would encourage all of you to think about this parking fee increase. Usually fees come to USG for some sort of endorsement. I think that you need to be asking questions about fee increases.

XV. Closing Remarks

- a. Liaison Johnson: I forgot I had a report. I was finally able to get some more information in the fire department strategic plan. They want to educate the fire department on false alarms. The plan is for the department itself to get educated on how that happens and how to continue to prevent that. In 2014 alone there were 636 false alarms. There were 281 actual false alarms that come from BGSU itself. Majority of them are coming from the newer dorms. In the new dorms, the sensors contact them based off of heat more than smoke.
- b. Chief Administrator Misele: Since the debate is tomorrow, please go on social media and support the messages to get them out more.

XVI. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm