

# USG General Assembly Meeting

The Official Minutes of the Undergraduate Student Government General Assembly

On This Day, 4/6/15

Room 308 BTSU @ 7:30pm

- I. Call to Order
  - a. Meeting called to order at 7:30
- II. Roll Call
- III. Swearing in of New Officers
- IV. Open Forum
  - a. Chief Financial Officer, Sherri Stoll
    - i. Rather than having an agenda and holding all of your questions at the end, I used your questions for the basis of the agenda that I would cover. As we move through the material, it's important to realize that we will be covering the questions from your group. A lot of questions pertain to the cost of tuition, where that money comes from, senate bill four and how we spend our money.
    - ii. How does the cost of BGSU compare to other schools?
      1. We are not the highest, but we are not necessarily in the middle. If you add in room and board, the cost to attend BGSU is \$18,834 dollars per year. This is the third from the least total cost to attend amount in Ohio.
    - iii. How are these dollars handled?
      1. Tuition dollars get put into primary unrestricted operating budget. Also called educational and general fund. This is the budget that provides all of the support for our academic units, any general administrative department.
      2. General fees are used to support nonacademic support services. At BGSU this includes the Union, Athletics, Rec Center, Organizations etc.
      3. The biggest chunk of dollars in the revenue budget come from Tuition, the second biggest is the state support funds and then Transfer or other funds. The other income is revenue income, such

as sales that an academic program can generate as well. Over a six year period, the universities unrestricted fund has not changed significantly. The percentage of student tuition made just under 64 percent of all of those funds in 2010. In 2015, student tuition fees have jumped up to just under 72 percent. The state of Ohio used to contribute around 50% of the universities funds back in the 90's.

iv. How are these dollars spent?

1. We account for all of our spending by making sure we have enough resources to cover them. The amount of salary in 2010 made up 42 percent with benefits going to 12 percent. In 2015, we have spent more on those two. We have cut down on operating costs and increased salaries and benefits.

v. Where does general fee money go?

1. The university posts all of its budgets on the university budget page. If you go through the university "a-z" links, the link can be found under "B" for budgets.
2. The auxiliaries generate revenue from other sources that get added to the general fee dollars. BTSU received 790,000 dollars of general fees. But it is expected to generate 7.1 million in revenue. The 12.1 million for athletics is expected to generate 7.1 million in revenue. Most of this comes from ticket sales.
3. BGSU has almost 100 million in its endowment. For a school in its 100<sup>th</sup> year as of 2010, that is a very modest number. The biggest reason for this is that we have only done one full capital campaign where we tried to raise capital funds. In 5-7 years, our endowment should look a lot more like our peers. There's also another 20 million held on our behalf. An endowment is called a corpus or a principle. Legally, you cannot spend that portion of the contribution. The earnings from the endowment can be spent and under current federal law, they must be spent. The vast majority of our endowments are to support student scholarships. The universities current largest endowment is about 20 million dollars

donated by a man named Bill Frack. He left this money to the BGSU men's basketball team.

- vi. Several of the questions I got dealt with tuition and tuition increases.
  - 1. I decided to go about this on a ten year period of time. From 2007 to 2010, tuition and general fees at BGSU remained flat. In 2011 they increased just over 3.4%. There was no change going from 2014 to 2015. In state undergraduate tuition increases have been governed by the state budget law. The governor's budget permitted a max tuition increase of 2%. Ohio does two year budgets at a time. The out of state tuition surcharge is required by law. It is silent on the amount but it does require it. BGSU has not increased the out of state surcharge since at least before 2007. The board has asked us to consider an amount to increase in that area, which we estimate to put at 2%. The change will happen in 2016.
- vii. Other potential increases that we might want to know about
  - 1. We are currently reviewing our technology cost, this is for specific uses of technology based instruction. We are one of the only institutions to not give a technology fee. If this were to get implemented it would be an increase based on a student's number of credit hours. This provides a sliding scale rather than just a flat amount. The public safety advisory committee is contemplating an increase in parking fees. The premise under parking services is that they are supposed to be self-sustaining. The surface spot lifetime that they offer is somewhere between 15-20 years. They use these costs and lifetime to oversee the parking increases. The room and board plan increases were taken to the board in February and these are going to be from 2.6% to 3% increase.
- viii. Why is this happening?
  - 1. Cost for Technology and utilizes are increasing dramatically. Adobe, acrobat had some of the largest increases I have ever seen in software in the past ten years. They have cornered that market and now they can increase their prices. They do not have a lot of demand. The second reason is that we have tried to hold our

increases to as low as possible. Last year we did not increase any tuition fee or room and board. The third reason is that the support from the state of Ohio has decreased a significant amount.

ix. How do we manage this?

1. Managing the cost is a partnership. A partnership between the University, the state, the student and the student's family. The state of Ohio should increase their funding towards public university. We should also increase the amount of credit hours that students take a semester in order to graduate in time. If you take more than 16 credits, your tuition is the same that you pay at 12 credits. That is a significant potential savings, and something well worth considering as you do your time at BGSU. The need to continue to focus where we can find opportunities for operational efficiency. This includes energy, utilizes, and personnel.

x. There is one piece of legislation sitting in Columbus right now, senate bill four

1. It is unclear how this legislation will be operationally executed and carried out on campuses. The best and greatest way to reduce costs for students is to ensure that they move through their undergraduate program in four years. We need to make sure that we give them all of the resources that they need in order to graduate on time.

xi. Questions:

1. Chair Puffenberger: Why do athletics get so much of these funds?
  - a. There are probably around 10 and 20 universities across the country that are completely self-supporting and don't rely on any fees. We all know the one in the state of Ohio. Most of these rely on general funds
2. Liaison Johnson- What plans have the university made in order to increase support for organizations?
  - a. The number of undergraduate students has declined over the past couple years somewhere around 10%, the number of students is smaller, but we have increased the amount of

money going towards undergraduate student organizations. We can't escape the fact that the quantity of students is smaller, if you're increasing the amount of organizations, the spread of the money will go around more thinly.

3. Chair Devereux: What role do you see USG playing in the process of increasing state funding to our school?
  - a. Vote, one of the most important ways on how to express your opinion on how the state directs its resources. 65% of us will not do that. The second way, is taking contingent groups to the state house that is an incredibly powerful message to send.
4. Chair Devereux: How can USG ensure that our constituents are taking that 15 credit hour level?
  - a. Come up with a slogan, a marketing campaign and make sure that students take it upon themselves to do this. This fact would not have registered with me when I was a college freshman. I would encourage USG to take this up as something that is important. This is a critically important item, no one is going to make you take these credits, so we should encourage them to do so.
5. Treasurer Timbrook: About Ohio senate bill four, what is first on the chopping block to cut those student costs?
  - a. Those terms are undefined in state law. It is impossible to say how we are going to do that without defining that term. When the university built centennial and Falcon Heights, we opted to do that project through a public-private partnership. We could do those projects in under 20 months because of this. Those two residence halls, those two corporate entities issued debt. They pledged the receipts from the room rates. If that legislation were to apply to those room rates that corporate structure would potentially be in default of those bond covenants. I can't imagine 13 public universities being in major debt conveyance, and

that being okay. We have to see how this is going to play out.

6. Chair Oehler: We have seen a decrease in student organization funding because of the increase in organizations. We see some increases in university facilities and AV costs and room rentals in the union. How do you think that those are effecting each other?
  - a. That doesn't have a simple, noncomplex answer. Let me let you look t that in a different viewpoint. If any of those items that you were thinking, if there wasn't any fee associated with any of those. The premise is that there shouldn't be some basis for causing some users to think about the quantity of how much they use something. I will acknowledge is part of the conundrum of that process. I hop that you are providing feedback to where you see that happening

V. Lobby Time

- a. None

VI. Old Business

- a. None

VII. New Business

- a. None

VIII. Executive Branch Reports

- a. President – Brian Kochheiser [briantk@bgsu.edu](mailto:briantk@bgsu.edu)
  - i. There two items going to faculty senate. One being student absent policies and honest agreements.
  - ii. The Hatch is Wednesday at 6 pm at the Stroh center.
  - iii. I'd like to thank everybody for this year.
- b. Vice President – Nicole Neely [nneely@bgsu.edu](mailto:nneely@bgsu.edu)
  - i. The banquet will be next Monday at 7:30. If you have any allergy or diet restriction let me know via email.
- c. Cabinet Reports
  - i. Tess Jansrick- Res Life Liasion

1. The Be Green community will be highlighted during the fall of 2016. The two advisors will be Holly Meyers and Dr. Hennessy
  2. We will be creating a survey that will be going out to the environmental science department.
- ii. Liaison Johnson- city, state, national liaison
1. I would love to see a lot of people submit an application for the State house visit. It is important for us to have strong representation and attendance at this event.
    - a. Questions: Senator Dowell: What day is it?
      - i. April 29<sup>th</sup>, all-day.

IX. Procedures and Appeals Reports [bmiesle@bgsu.edu](mailto:bmiesle@bgsu.edu)

- a. Great first day of voting, keep reminding you constituents to keep voting. If someone hasn't voted, they will continue to get emails.
- b. Union tables tomorrow from 11-2 for people to vote. IF they vote they will receive a 5 dollar voucher to Dunkin or Pinkberry.

X. Treasurer's Report - Reece Timbrook [reecet@bgsu.edu](mailto:reecet@bgsu.edu)

XI. Speaker's Report

- a. Speaker of the Senate – Kasie Durkit [durkitk@bgsu.edu](mailto:durkitk@bgsu.edu)
  - i. First, really nice job with CFO Stohl. Thank you for coming with open ears and great questions
  - ii. Second, don't forget to vote.
  - iii. This coming Monday is very important for anyone who's up for elections, it will be when you get sworn in. It is at 6 pm in the Falcons Nest. After that, we will be going into internal elections, which will be on Monday.
  - iv. I want to mark on all of the wonderful things that USG has accomplished this year.
  - v. Thank you to my Legislative secretary, Aaron Hinkle for sticking it out this year and doing a wonderful job.
  - vi. Thank you to Will Channel for coming to our meetings, and also your drive and passion to USG.
  - vii. Thank you to Dean Jodi Webb for everything you have done for us.
  - viii. Thank you so much for making USG one of the best experiences that I've had in college.

## XII. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Affairs – Amy Puffenberger [apuffen@bgsu.edu](mailto:apuffen@bgsu.edu)
  - i. Lunch with USG is 11-1 this Thursday in the Falcons Nest.
  - ii. I want to announce that there is a very prominent speaker for water problems coming to speak Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm in the union theatre. The talk is called Blue Future. She will be talking about the Great Lakes system.
- b. Auxiliary Affairs – Aeden Timbrook [atimbro@bgsu.edu](mailto:atimbro@bgsu.edu)
  - i. No report
- c. Internal Affairs – Jeff Devereaux [jdevere@bgsu.edu](mailto:jdevere@bgsu.edu)
  - i. I want to give a big heartfelt thank you to USG. USG has always had and will always have a special place in my heart.
- d. Student Affairs – Nadia Oehler [noehler@bgsu.edu](mailto:noehler@bgsu.edu)
  - i. I want to reiterate what was said, state legislators want to know about your personal experience. That is how we make change. Sign up for the state visit
  - ii. 11:30 to 1 at the Stroh will be a literacy event. The author of “if you give a mouse a cookie” will be there.
  - iii. The student affairs advisory committee is working on updating the student code of conduct.

## XIII. Senator Reports

- a. Senator Murray: We have the first Earth week meeting today. Based on the first feedback that we got, we will be planting a tree.

## XIV. Advisor’s Remarks

- a. Dean Jodi Webb [jwebb@bgsu.edu](mailto:jwebb@bgsu.edu)
  - i. Just a reminder, we will be announcing the results of the elections at noon on Friday in the Falcons Nest.
  - ii. I want to thank Bryant Miesle and the rest of the PMA for organizing the debate last week, it has been a while since we have had one.

## XV. Closing Remarks

## XVI. Meeting Adjourned at 8:46