

# USG General Assembly Meeting

The Official Agenda of the Undergraduate Student Government General Assembly

On This Day, 8/24/2015

Room 308 BTSU @ 7:30pm

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
  - a. Absent- Hinkle, Francisco, Reinhart-Anez
  - b. Tardy- Dowell
- III. Swearing in of New Officers
  - a. If there are any new officers, including cabinet members, that need to be sworn in this evening, please come to the front. Seeing we have a wide variety of folks, I think it'll be good to have everyone introduce themselves.
    - i. Amanda Dortch- Junior, Director of Student Safety
    - ii. Bryant Miesle- Senior, Chief Administrator
    - iii. Nadia Oehler- Junior, Director of Campus & Governmental Relations
    - iv. Elyssa Moore- Senior, Off-Campus Senator
    - v. Emmanuel Mensah- Sophomore, Senator for College of Health and Human
    - vi. Quentin McKinnon- Junior, Treasurer
    - vii. Ryan Queen- Junior, IFC Senator
- IV. Open Forum
- V. Lobby Time
  - a. Daniel Gordon: Thank you Mdm. Speaker. It's been a while since I've been in this room to talk. I was a member of USG in 2010-2011. My name is Daniel Gordon, I'm your representative on Bowling Green city council. Came to welcome and congratulate the new president, vice president and speaker on their new leadership roles. Looking forward to helping you with issues affecting both the campus and the city of Bowling Green. Sometimes the amount of collaboration between the student gov't and the city gov't fluctuates and I hope that we can see more engagement this year. Always good to see younger people taking an active role in the community and they really bring a smile on people's faces when they see us taking the lead on issues affecting us. Brief update on

things that have been going on in the city over the summer- the biggest news is that the first ever-public park in our district in the city is going up. It's actually up right now but we're still putting in amenities. That's Rich Park on Rich Street, which is just a couple blocks away from us to the west, and any day now we'll be seeing the playground equipment being put in, bike racks, new trees, benches, a lot of good stuff. Beside that we're also busy working on legislation called "Complete Streets" which will hopefully make us able to be in a position to install and maintain bike lanes in Bowling Green. I hear from a lot of people who want to ride their bikes around town but it's not always safe or practical to use your bike to get around town, so this is definitely something we want to work on, along with improving our sidewalks. Aside from that, I think those are the two big issues right now. We're also, right now, looking for any engagement from the university and from the city in terms of residents to get involved in a number of other developments we're seeing that are currently in process- namely the green space on the corner of West Wooster and Church. That space is going to be some kind of green space but they're still looking for more feedback from people in town in terms of what they'd like to see there. Outside of that, I don't know if we want to drag this up, but you can find my contact information on the city of Bowling Green's website ([www.BGOhio.org](http://www.BGOhio.org)). You can also find a directory of every other member of city council so you get to know your other representatives- I'm one of seven- and you can feel free to call me or send me an email anytime. Anything you'd like to work on I'd be happy to help out, I think I'll be working with Nadia in particular. Nice to meet you and looking forward to all of that.

- VI. Old Business
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Executive Branch Reports
  - a. President – Victor Senn [vsenn@bgsu.edu](mailto:vsenn@bgsu.edu)
    - i. Welcome back. Really excited to have you back, we were here all summer and there was nobody here so it gets a little boring. Everyone on campus makes it a lot nicer and makes it feel a lot more like home. Speaking of summer, we did have a bunch of meetings and a couple initiatives that went on. We had about 60 meetings with some faculty/staff/administration, which was a great opportunity to build

relationships, and we're hoping to bring more of that to USG in the upcoming year which I'll talk about a little more in a minute. Off of those initiatives we did have some boards we were sitting on- myself and Jason Barker sat on the shuttle route committee. We did review some of the shuttle routes and determined there were a couple additions needed. One of those was down to the Sebo Center and then down to the Stroh as well. Those were only covered on some special days, like basketball games and football games possibly, but they'll be covered full-time now to accommodate some of our student athletes as well as anyone traveling down to that area. Not many more updates on the shuttle route as we move forward to assess the necessity and workability of those routes, we'll give you more information. The other committee we sat on this summer was the First Year Common Experiences committee, maybe your first year read- you get a book, you read it before you come here, and then you talk about it in your GSW class or in your halls or wherever it may be. What we will look forward to doing is maybe changing that up a little bit- nothing has happened yet, we are still discussing, but maybe a movie or something with the book maybe a little later in the semester, but like I said, no final decisions on that. Any questions on that, come to me and ask, and I'll keep you updated when we make a decision. Moving on to cabinet updates- we did change cabinet up a lot. We removed a couple positions and changed some around to reflect the promises Danielle and I made throughout our campaign and more of the mission of USG and other BGSU pieces. So we have our Director of Outreach, Jason Barker; Chief of Staff, Hannah Stanberry; Director of Campus and Gov't Relations, Nadia Ahler; Director of Student Safety, Amanda Dorche; Chief Administrator, Brian Beasley. So those were a reflection of our position points when we ran and growth that USG has experienced. We will really reach out, through Nadia, to the statehouse, making sure we're working out there for you, and like Daniel said we will be working with the city as well. Amanda's position is new. To us, student safety means safety and comfort on campus for everyone in their identity. We talked about this a ton on our campaign and she will be highly utilized. With those positions

we will be creating good liaison relations with administrators, deans, faculty and whatnot, so three of our directors will work with different administrators monthly, as well as two of our executives and some of our senators. Lastly, outreach is going to be huge for us this year because that was one of our main priorities when we won because we noticed that USG's communication was slightly lacking. So with Jason's new position, we will really focus on outreach to student organizations and students, but I'm going to personally do a much better job of being active, so if you all have something going on, feel free to email me, my phone number is (440)-749-2332. Feel free to let me know what's going on, I'd love to show up and be present. Also, I'm on Instagram and I'm really good at it, so follow me. We will be working on videos with Key. Key magazine will be releasing videos weekly about USG featuring myself and possibly Danielle. We will highlight some cabinet members and senators. It will be a good way to build transparency and visibility. As Danielle said, "Visibility is accountability." We're really excited to have you this year.

1. Berry- "Do you follow back?" Yes- only until 200.

b. Vice President – Danielle Parker

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i. I look forward to catching up with everyone and greeting those I haven't met yet. I'm the vice president, I'm a senior Political Science and history major, this is my 3.5 year mark in USG, so I'm very excited for this upcoming year and what we can do together. A few updates to build on what Victor said- this summer was indeed busy and exciting for both of us. Rec center hours have been officially extended which is a big win for students and a popular topic throughout our campaign. Unfortunately it won't be opened 24/7, but Mon-Thurs. opened till Midnight, and Sunday they will be opened at 10AM rather than noon. That's a good start and we're going to be tracking usage to make sure we're keeping up with the students' needs. Also, you'll be seeing the tobacco free policy start coming up. That came up a little bit this summer. There's a standing committee on that right now that I've been sitting on and we're still in the discussion phase of what we really want to do- implementing and

enforcing it is kind of difficult, so we're doing some research at other universities to get a more BGSU perspective on how that would roll out. Dr. Faith Yingling is leading that project. She is coming to speak September 14<sup>th</sup>, so she'll have a lot of research and information, and she really just wants our feedback, so be active when she comes. State of the University address this Friday- President Mazey is delivering that this Friday in the Wolfe Center at 10:30AM, so I encourage you to go if you can. It's always a good time to hear about what the university is looking forward to doing this year, learning about what we did this past year. I'm sure with construction she'll be talking about that, so that'll be fun to hear about. 10:30AM in the Wolfe Center this Friday. And then lastly is the BGSU creed. I really want to talk about that for a second. This is a USG initiative. About a year and a half ago, Brian Kochheiser and Nicole Neely, who were president and vice president at that time, really started this initiative. They were researching ideas to bring to the university and they stumbled upon it and thought "Wow, cool, let's bring this back to the university and start a new tradition." So as soon as they were elected they started working on it. They brought together a group which was myself, Ryan Dacole, Amanda Dortch, Devon Rice, and Alexa Woodburn. SO we sat around a table for days and thought about how we could make the core BGSU values attractive to students and make them feel like this is what they should believe in. I think that's what we accomplished, so 17 drafts later this is what's on the card. We worked with the office of the president, marketing and communications, and a variety of others to get this going and we're launching that now. We introduced it at RA training, and this past Sunday all the incoming first years said it in unison with Victor, which was really cool to see. When you read it as an individual I hope each line really connects with you and what you think about your life at BG. And when you walk across the stage to receive your diploma from the university, I hope all those lines really connect with you not only as an individual but also as a falcon in this community. "This is your BGSU experience- own it."

c. Cabinet Reports

IX. Procedures and Appeals Reports

X. Treasurer's Report

XI. Speaker's Report

a. Speaker of the Senate – Ebonee Johnson

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- i. I like to think I'm the most lively. Welcome back to our newly sworn-in senators- welcome to the USG family. Lot of fun here, but lot of work, I'm really going to put you to work this year. Welcome back to everyone, hope your first day of class was good. Orientation for those who have not done so yet after GA. This is a good time to knock it out. You need to have it done ASAP- cannot vote without going through orientation. If you cannot meet with me after GA let me know, we will set up a time this week. The next announcement is the Academic Affairs Chair's vacancy- this position is on the exec board. This person will oversee a committee that will focus literally on academics- dealing with everything from advising to class scheduling, BGP's, anything that relates to the most important part as to why you are at this university. This is a very vital position and we will be having elections next week. If interested in being a candidate, you will do a 3 min (no more) speech, then we will vote, and we will have our Academic Affairs Chair. If you have any questions, contact me and we can discuss the position and what was effective and what was not. Also contact Amy Puffenberger- she was our Academic Affairs Chair last year chair- talk to her for more info. Next is Campus Fest- next Thurs 11AM-3PM. We want people there the whole time, so I have a sign-up sheet starting around 10AM for set-up crew because apparently spots are first come first serve, so if you sign up for that, be there so we can get a good spot. I would love at least 2 people there at all times. Sheet is being sent around, sign up. If you need to think about it, check your schedule and I will have the sheet back here next Monday. Next Monday we will have our first open forum speaker- Van Wright. Van is the assistant to the Provost for strategic enrollment planning. You all need to have questions for Van sent to me by Wednesday night so I can send them to him for Monday. SEND QUESTIONS. Anything about admissions. At least 3 questions, not too many to ask. Lastly, special

announcement- we will be having a senate retreat this year. It will be a great time, and I'm giving you a save-the-date now- Sunday, September 27, 12PM-6PM. I am only keeping you half a day instead of all weekend. There's going to be a lot of fun, leadership and diversity training, training on how to be the best senator you can. Let me know ASAP if you have conflicts- attendance is cordially required, so be there or you're getting a call.

1. Where is the retreat? Mileti Alumni Center off Wooster across from Harshman. I will send directions via email. Food provided.

## XII. Committee Reports

- a. Internal Affairs – Alexa Woodburn [woodbua@bgsu.edu](mailto:woodbua@bgsu.edu)
  - i. In terms of positions I'm in charge of filling, we're looking at at-large and off campus senators needed. If you know anyone who would be good, send them my way, send me an email. I've had quite a few emails from people reading campus updates who are interested. If you see any incoming 1<sup>st</sup> year students interested in USG remind them that there are residence hall senator positions opened and available to them and they can look in their residence halls for those positions. If you are interested in internal affairs committee (has to do with issues in USG rather than the university such as retreat, other potential events, etc.), let me know so I can get an idea of who wants to be on that committee with me.
- b. Student Affairs – Keith Johnson [keithlj@bgsu.edu](mailto:keithlj@bgsu.edu)
  - i. I'm looking for people for my committee- next Monday there will be an update. Let me know after this meeting, I'll get your contact info.
    1. Puffenberger- We changed the structure right? Will we be having sub-committees? Yes.

## XIII. Senator Reports

- a. Puffenberg- There's a focused outreach in the library for Vets. I'm looking to reach out more to nontraditional vet students. I have a couple ideas about initiatives so far, so I will give an update soon.

## XIV. Advisor's Remarks

- a. Dean Jodi Webb [jwebb@bgsu.edu](mailto:jwebb@bgsu.edu)

i. I'm the USG advisor so please let me know how I can be of assistance to you. The room looks pretty empty, and we still have about 20 senator positions to fill. I know Alexa and Ebonee worked to fill as many positions as possible but most of the vacancies are tied to residence halls, which we can't fill until everyone's back. It's important that the size of the group doesn't slow us down, and I know tonight's meeting was a little different because we're getting back into the swing of things but Ebonee has done a great job of securing guest speakers at almost every meeting this fall semester. You'll have the opportunity to access some key individuals. You are to send questions ahead of time to Ebonee and I think that's important, but I also know questions come up while the speaker is here, so ask during meetings as questions come up. They will be prepared to hear from you and answer questions. MZ is a great resource; he is here to learn about BG but has a large background with gov't. Also as a final note to everyone when speaking- you need to hold the microphone closer to your mouth when speaking because otherwise it gets quiet, especially back here. What Ebonee did today where she didn't stand behind the podium was also great, we could hear and see her a lot better.

1. Michael Zingle- I'm grad student in the College Student Personnel Program. I did my undergrad at the University of Washington where I was involved in student government there.

#### XV. Closing Remarks

a. Director Dortch- The library has a lot of hidden resources such as academic coaching and leaching commons for 1<sup>st</sup> years and students typically don't go there because they aren't aware of these programs. The LC is a hugely underused resource. Academic coaches help students write out their schedules class by class to help them manage time and assignments and also to learn better study skills. Get the word out about the LC. Also, for people who are directors, keep in contact with the deans of your departments- they want to hear from you and they will help make changes for constituents. Invite people who can sit in on meetings so they can present ideas during lobby time- we want to encourage people to be involved with their gov't. Also, a final welcome to those sitting here in the back.

- b. Johnson- Explain USG to your classmates, let people know about what we do here and that they are welcome to get involved either as a constituent or if they like, to fill a vacant position.
- c. Oehler– RSA is holding a casino night this Tuesday, 8:30PM-11PM, anyone welcome.
  - i. Where is the event? BTSU Ballroom
- d. President Senn- We need to be speaking as voice for our constituents. Also, I am dealing at casino night so come out to support the cause- it's also a great opportunity to make some connections. Correction- starts at 8PM on Tuesday. Lastly, after the GA there will be a special surprise upstairs in office.
- e. Parker- creed.

XVI. Adjourn