

# USG General Assembly Meeting

The Official Agenda of the Undergraduate Student Government General Assembly

On This Day, 9/14/2015

Room 308 BTSU @ 7:30pm

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
  - a. Absent- Dowe, Molyet
- III. Swearing in of New Officers
  - a. Christina Moore- Founders
    - a. I wanted to become involved in USG and I'm also interested in having a leadership position later on.
  - b. Hallie Newson- Falcon Heights
    - a. I have been interested in USG for a while and felt like this was the next step in leadership here on campus, and why not? It seems fun.
  - c. Rachel Renou- Harshman
    - a. I was involved in government in high school and I wanted to continue that throughout college.
  - d. Joseph Cunningham- Kohl
    - a. I researched on the BG website and saw hall council and thought it was worth trying out. Being a senator is similar to my position in the senate in high school, and I liked being a part of doing things for students so I wanted to do that here.
  - e. Nick Faust- Offenhauer
    - a. I wanted to put this toward becoming an RA next year and thought it would be a good opportunity. I'm looking forward to this opportunity and the knowledge I will gain.
  - f. Kaitlyn Sheridan- McDonald
    - a. I've never had a leadership position so I'm trying to get into more leadership things and I'm here now.
  - g. Frankie Pinckard- Kreisher
    - a. I was interested in USG so I contacted someone over email and had an interview where I said I wanted to get involved and they said this was the best way.

Please raise your right hand. “I, (state your name), do solemnly swear to support and uphold the constitution of USG and will faithfully perform the duties of the office.” Your new senators, everyone.

#### IV. Open Forum

##### a. Claire Semer- Office of Residence Life

I work with the health dept. at BG, and have been working on the clean air board for the past couple months. Since the spring my colleagues and I have been benchmarking, looking at data, researching, and contacting other schools to bring this new policy to our campus. Thank you for listening for the next few intimate minutes. Tobacco is one of the leading preventable causes of death in US. The department of health & human services has made it easier to implement this policy by supporting and promoting tobacco free policies across the board in higher education. People don't start smoking after age 25- they are typically exposed to cigarettes before or around age 18. Currently 811 universities are 100% tobacco free across the country. Our current policy says you must be a certain distance from the buildings or Most universities are moving to this 100% tobacco free as well, even though it's a slow process. Most schools are considering tobacco free rather than smoke free to cover every product. E-cigs are gaining popularity in residence halls and other buildings and cause many problems.

##### b. Christian- Committee Member

Our current policy is the clean air and smoking policy. Smoking is defined as inhaling, exhaling, or burning any device that's used for ingesting tobacco. Currently smoking is banned on campus except for specific areas. The tobacco free policy is defined as any tobacco product that can be smoked, dipped, or simulated smoking will be prohibited on campus property or any leased area. No designated areas, how to report “hot spots”. The key to the policy is educating students about the policy as well as educating staff and faculty. Violations will be addressed in our new online system, and that's where you can also report hotspots that will inevitably pop up. Enforcement and the success of the policy will really come down to education and the cooperation of everybody. Violations can be addressed by conversations and educating them.

##### c. Faith Yingling- Director of Wellness Connection

One of the biggest issues we see on campus are the butts littered which creates too much work for campus operations. We want to promote student success and safety because students do better when they're healthy and safe. It is much more beyond cigarette use. Tons of different products on market contain or mimic nicotine, and also many different drugs can be put into vaporizers that are illegal and we can't tell just by looking at them what's actually in there. We need to decrease second-hand smoke for students around campus because these products release a lot of toxins into the air. We have seen many positive results in our research so far. When students were surveyed in 2010 on tobacco use we got a certain percentage, and those numbers have dropped even more over the past 4 years. However, cigarette use has decreased while smokeless tobacco products have gained popularity. We have a higher rate of smokeless tobacco use than ever. Almost every MAC school has some kind of smoke and tobacco free policy. Preventing negative health effects and the success with smoke free policies at other schools make the policy worthy. USG can support by helping to draft a letter to present our research and ideas for the upcoming board of trustees meeting. Please email me with any further questions.

d. Jackie Nelson- Marketing and Communications

We have been speaking with constituents and educating them about the policy that we want to implement. We are getting a lot of opinions and questions in letter form right now. Hopefully by end of December, the policy will be implemented. By Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, we are talking about starting education about tobacco and how it effects the campus overall because most people have no idea. We have come up with some very creative ways to educate, and will continue through the summer and into fall 2016. We are coming up with marketing strategies- we are working on developing a tagline that's catchy yet informative. Greek members, health science & nursing program students to help us softly enforce. We want to teach students to have a conversation if they see people violating the policy. We will be having events on campus, bringing surveys and speakers, etc. We also want to put signage on every road coming into campus, and plan to put the policy on every screen on campus as well as social media, alum magazine, The Blade, etc., to get word out about policy. It will be made big during campus

fest 2016 to start off the year educating everyone. We are doing all these things so that no student can say, "I didn't know about it."

- e. Sandy Heff from HR and Jeremy Zilmer from Office of the Dean of Students have also been part of our committee.
- f. Email: [cleanair@bgsu.edu](mailto:cleanair@bgsu.edu)

#### Questions

- g. Johnson- Why are e-cigs being banned from campus? The most recent research shows they produce toxins that are equal to second hand smoke to people around. As I mentioned earlier many different drugs can be put into these e-cigs making it hard to tell what's in there. Library has implemented their own policy because the toxins are destroying books. Residence life has a policy as well because of too many fire alarms and damage to property.
- h. Berry- I heard you mention marijuana several times. Are you creating this policy because it will benefit the university or because it's coming up on the ballot in the fall? It's going to benefit the university. It's hard to tell what's going to happen regarding marijuana. I have been to many conferences regarding marijuana so I am pretty up to date on what's going on with that. As we mentioned e-cigs and vaporizers can be used to smoke marijuana and we don't want that around campus. It is currently illegal from a federal government standpoint. We are under federal funding and therefore do not want to allow students to do that drug on campus. Colorado has legal use of marijuana but still universities do not allow it on campus.  
Berry- In the event that it's passed on the ballot will it be allowed on campus? It will only be legal for those over 21, and we will be under government funding, so no. The ballot would only make it legal in Ohio, not at the federal level.
- i. Gucker- How will it be enforced? There's a wide variety of methods in different campuses from no enforcement to tickets. The data shows it to be a problem in education. People aren't comfortable walking up and telling someone to stop so it's hard to address the situation. Hot spots will pop up around where people will start smoking. There will be an online version of reporting. We will take care of most people, but if someone consciously chooses to continue, after the education, they will be referred to head of their college in same discipline of violation of a policy. It's not a criminal offence- it's a violation of policy.

- j. Johnson- Why will people want to listen if there's not a consequence? We feel like research shows that it won't be a big battle. When designated areas were implemented, tobacco use dropped by 80%. Education is the answer.
- k. Why don't we just do smoke free vs all tobacco free campus? Smoke free does not encompass dip. Dip affects everyone because people are spitting and reaching into their mouths and their bodily fluids is everywhere- door handles, bathrooms, etc. because they aren't able to wash hands immediately all the time.
- l. Garcia- This may be personal but do any of you smoke?
  - a. Christian- I understand addiction, I smoked for 25 years and I quit 10 years ago. We need to challenge ourselves to be better and not rely on a vice. I quit to make sure I was around for my kids.
  - b. Claire Semer- I love smoking personally. I smoked for a very long time and I also understand the addiction. I have colleagues who smoke and we all understand the addiction. Smoking is very disrespectful to people around us who are trying to learn and live in this community so we feel the policy is worthy.
- m. Katz- Why would there be a media push outside campus? Not a push, mainly just a press release that states we will become another Ohio university that joined this policy. We don't even know that the release will be picked up.
- n. Dortch- Where *can* people smoke? Anywhere off campus. They cannot be on any campus property. They can get in cars, go across the street, etc. We won't direct people on where to go, it can be up to them. The change will happen over time- we won't be able to get people to just switch cold turkey because no one likes that much change.

You are welcome to email us with more questions and we will be sending out our Powerpoint so you can read more of the information.

## V. Lobby Time

- a. TOMs Campus Club- We started a new fundraising event "Giving Spree". We wanted to have a shopping spree for others. Teams- \$25 for team of 6. They will have that \$25 plus we will match that for a total of \$50 per team. Whoever can make \$50 go the farthest will win, and get to donate funds to a charity of their choice. We are working with project connect- who provides for homeless people in the area. Their event is Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> at St Marks' in town, and there will be many

different resources for homeless people. Students who are struggling are also welcome. Sign up [tomsbg.com](http://tomsbg.com) make a team. We will also have a table on campus. Money will be in the form of gift cards, and we will have buses taking students to and from. It will be a late night event at Walmart. We are also looking for about 30 event volunteers. Minute-to-win-it games will be played to get each item needed. USG could have a team!

- a. Dortch- Great idea! How will people volunteer? They will sign up online ([toms.bg.com](http://toms.bg.com) and click on “volunteer now”) and we will have one short meeting beforehand. We will have a coupon war- put coupons in a jar to help out with costs at Walmart (coupons are counted positively, change is counted negatively).
- b. Where will the buses pick people up? Behind the union.
- c. Hall- Are you renting out Walmart for the night? Not many people shop there on Friday nights. However it will be opened to regular business but students will be told to be respectful. Walmart said yes immediately to hosting the after we pitched the idea to them.
- d. Puffenberger- Will this event count toward service hours? Yes- service hours will be available to volunteers and teams.
- e. Johnson- What’s the starting point? Check-in for the teams is at home & garden center, and then teams will start from there. Oh and another thing- alcohol cannot be bought.

## VI. Old Business

- a. Bylaw Revisions 2015-2016 & Constitution
  - a. Woodburn- Vote- must have a 2/3 majority to pass. Cannot vote if you were sworn in today or have not gone through orientation.
  - b. Johnson- what were the changes?
  - c. Constitution changes passed.
  - d. Bylaw extensions have passed.

## VII. New Business

- a. E. Johnson- motion to defer budget update to next week (presenter could not attend today).

## VIII. Executive Branch Reports

- a. President – Victor Senn

[vsenn@bgsu.edu](mailto:vsenn@bgsu.edu)

a. First off, last week in our meeting the faculty senate that I am the student representative for, welcomed the CIO John Ballenger to talk about Dropbox and other technology updates. We are debating whether to open personal dropboxes for professors or if they should buy one from a corporate sponsor. Cabinet is working this year to start some new liaisonships and initiatives and what they want to accomplish this year, which will be discussed at our meeting tonight. Two weeks ago we discussed the event policy that OCA is putting out- I now have an FAQ list for everyone that will be public on their website.

1. Are all events required to be registered with the OCA? No.
2. How was registration done before? The person in charge would contact the facility manager who would contact OCA; OCA staff would contact the Student Event Coordinator who would conduct an audit, and after that you would need to go to two or three other people. That was too many stops- now you only have to go to one person who will know the answers to your questions.
3. How will that improve student experience? You'll only have one office to contact.
4. Does it always take 45 days to approve an event? No, not always.

Smoke policy leaders- thank you for input tonight, you were wonderful representatives for your constituents. USG, thank you for being active in the discussion and asking questions, we will keep giving you more information and discuss further with the university. Don't discuss anything with constituents at this time or jump to any conclusions. The university is looking for our best interest and really wants to include us in these decisions. I ask that we are respectful of them, and I ask that we are not sharing our personal opinions or being negative in any way.

b. Vice President – Danielle Parker [dnparke@bgsu.edu](mailto:dnparke@bgsu.edu)

a. Reminder: President Mazey's event this weekend is at her house and is a good bonding and networking activity. Her cabinet will be there along with the deans- college senators, introduce yourselves to your college administrators and get to know one other. Mingle and get some free food while you get to know your fellow cabinet members and senators.

It's 2pm-3:30 this Sunday and attire is business casual. RSVP by September 17. This week there is a board of trustees meeting where Victor and I will attend and give an update on our organization. Sept 25<sup>th</sup>- Victor and I will have a meeting with Steve Krakoff of Capital Planning. We are discussing a new initiative for more streetlights around campus, especially in old campus where it gets very dark at night. We will continue to update you on that. Speaker Johnson and I met to assign you to standing committees. Please represent student body and report back, that's all you have to do. The list will be announced by next meeting and you can look at it and start attending meetings. If you have any issues, let me know and we can have a discussion on what your options are. Happy birthday to Mark Garcia.

c. Cabinet Reports

IX. Procedures and Appeals Reports

X. Treasurer's Report

XI. Speaker's Report

a. Speaker of the Senate – Ebonee Johnson

[eboneej@bgsu.edu](mailto:eboneej@bgsu.edu)

- a. I will announce the senate retreat details every week- Sunday Sept 26, 12-6pm, Mileti Alumni Center (dark brick building across the street from Harshman. You can come even if you have a meeting during that time. If you cannot come you need to let me know by tonight; no response means you will be in attendance. I need a final count by tonight- I am ordering food based on the number of people. It will be a great event to bond and get to know your fellow senators. President Mazey's open house is a great opportunity. New senators got an invitation email from me. If you can drive please sign up; some people don't have cars and since the house is off campus we need to help each other out. Committees will meet today after GA to discuss updates. Senator reports during each meeting are for anything else you have accomplished as a senator. Feel free to share with us what you are doing for your constituents. Residence hall senators should come meet me after the meeting to be placed on a committee so they can go to their meetings after GA. If you were sworn in and have not gone through

orientation- you need to set it up with me ASAP in order to be a voting member of USG. I want residence hall senators to become acquainted with committees today and also to send me an email by next week with blocks of availability. Orientation should last about 30 minutes. Thank you for a good discussion today. You were very attentive and had great questions. Discuss this policy idea with your committees today and what your opinions and next steps should be. Welcome to new senators, we have been waiting for you forever!

## XII. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Affairs – Austin Hall [austijh@bgsu.edu](mailto:austijh@bgsu.edu)
  - a. No report.
- b. Internal Affairs – Alexa Woodburn [woodbua@bgsu.edu](mailto:woodbua@bgsu.edu)
  - a. Email with sign-up times for office hours will be coming soon.
    - 1. Puffenberger- Will you explain in the email the rules for office hours in your email? Yes.
- c. Student Affairs – Keith Johnson [keithlj@bgsu.edu](mailto:keithlj@bgsu.edu)
  - a. I had a meeting with the interim from Student Affairs who wanted to make sure USG and the constituents are supporting him so he can do his job effectively. He is not here to destroy any relationships we had with the old student affairs leader; rather he wants to build on those. I sent out an email last night to the people involved in my committee- we will be meeting tonight.

## XIII. Senator Reports

- a. Puffenberger- I met with the new director of off-campus student services. There will be an off-campus housing fair soon- spread the word. Hazel H. Smith scholarship- off campus student scholarship, so be on the lookout for that. They want to us to work together in the future to help them publicize their events. My constituency is generally off campus. I will have more updates soon.

## XIV. Advisor's Remarks

- a. Dean Jodi Webb [jwebb@bgsu.edu](mailto:jwebb@bgsu.edu)
  - a. I am the Dean of Students and also your advisor. I am happy to be a resource. Remember to RSVP and make sure you attend Mazey's event- it will be a great event.

- b. Michael Zangl mzangl@bgsu.edu
  - a. Michael- I am a grad student advisor. I am here to help with senators getting started with initiatives, so please direct any questions to me.

XV. Closing Remarks

- a. E. Johnson- meet at union parking lot for people who need a ride at 1:30 to pick up people.
- b. Berry- Registration for DM and Bikes for Tikes is this weekend- This Sunday at 10am, Olscamp 101
- c. Barker- Tickets for athletic events are online now! Let people know so they don't show up with their student IDs on Saturday. All online now. [bgsufalcons.com/studenttickets](https://bgsufalcons.com/studenttickets) All current students have an account already, password: student ID number minus first 2 and last 2 digits- 6 total numbers. (Example: 0020248399, password would be 2024839.) Guest tickets can also be purchased via that website. There is free student parking (student parking pass or student ID) for games is to the left of the Sebo Center. There will be a tailgate this weekend for family weekend with a DJ, food, etc. Be there!

XVI. Adjournment