

USG General Assembly Meeting

The Official Agenda of the Undergraduate Student Government General Assembly

On This Day, 9/28/2015

Room 308 BTSU @ 7:30pm

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
 - a. Absent- Katz, Gangwani, Faust
- III. Swearing in of New Officers
 - a. Beau Mouer, Centennial Hall Representative- The lack of involvement in my high school career made me want to get more involved now. I would like to use my experience here for my future career.
- IV. Open Forum
 - a. President Mary Ellen Mazey, President of Bowling Green State University
 - i. You've submitted 10 questions to me that I will go through and if there's time I will answer additional questions. First, what are your daily duties as president? I'd like to say that each day is the same. Friday I was on campus all day meeting with various administrators, and then Saturday I was on a bus to Purdue with the Falcon Fanatics from about 7am to 8pm when we brought home a great win which was great. Sunday I had more meetings with alumni and administrators. Today I had dinner down in the Black Swamp and now I'm here. As the president of the university, you need to be structuring your time and always thinking about the students.
 - ii. What's your favorite part about being president? It's all about the students and their experiences inside and outside the classroom!
 - iii. With the increase in student retention, what would you contribute this success and how do you hope to continue that in the future? Retention is tricky. It's something that everyone needs to work together on. What's helping in the freshman class is the linked courses. As a freshman you don't know anyone- might have come from a small high school. These classes give students common classmates and people to study with. The sooner a student connects with a faculty member, the more likely they are to stay. Outside the classroom, involvement in various groups is really important too such as student government. And a big part of

retention is you guys- how you make people feel welcome and supported and make a great community here. I remember my freshman year like it was yesterday and how homesick I was. I came from a small town to a big school. Making those connections is so important especially during their first semester. Currently we're at 77.5%. Miami is currently the highest at 92%, and we can get there. Next year we ought to be at about 80% and we plan to climb 2% every year. We're on our way to get that same high rate. This is the best community of students I've seen on a campus.

- iv. What do you want to do for the '15-'16 school year? Continuing to define the unique BG experience. We are a high-end research institute and our outside funding is at around \$15 million whereas it should be around \$30 million. We want to increase the scholarships to students by 1,000- that's a tall task. There's a lot of connections we can make within the university as well as throughout the state, the nation, and internationally. We want to recruit more in other countries. We currently have around 700 students from 46 countries but we need to make a more supportive environment for them and increase to 2,000 international students on campus. Non-traditional students, veterans, online students, and out-of-state students are all examples of where we can increase. Last weekend we had STEM in the park where we welcomed 5,000 young people- that's an extremely important program. My biggest one is, we can always be rivals on the football field but I think we can increase relations with UT. I was there last Friday for their new president, Sharon Gaber, the investiture dinner. She and I are former colleagues from my past institution so I'm excited to see how we can work together in terms of building this region.
- v. What are some initiatives on campus the university plans to pursue having to do with diversity and inclusion? Taking the "Not In Our Town" project to its next generation. It has been a huge success with the community, students, and faculty and we've been recognized nationally for that program. We need to celebrate our successes more, maybe hold an international festival to recognize racial unity and see what we can

learn from one another. I have really used study circles, where a smaller group gets together to read about and discuss what other places have done well so we can work together. In terms of diversity we need to increase our numbers in faculty and staff because they should represent the student body.

- vi. What are some plans to improve safety? “It’s On Us” campaign is great and has a lot of support. We need to continue to have training on race and sexual assault. With today’s world you can do that online. I was at a meeting today and I thought about how we need to check if we’re in line with our policies and how we help people feel safe. We are one of the safest if not THE safest campus in the country. Chief Mall is a great person to have and is student-oriented. I would suggest you have her come speak. The police force is very student oriented.
- vii. How do you try to connect with student organizations? I like to be involved with as many organizations as possible. I love to be invited and visit and be a part of things. I didn’t make it to DM last year, which I was sad about because that’s a great event.
- viii. Are we on track with all our future plans to renovate? All projects are on schedule and on budget. Greek housing coming next fall! We have consulted experts (Dr. Ainsley Carry) and have been told we’re doing it correctly by putting sororities and fraternities all together. South Hall opens Fall 2016. Mosely Hall, University Hall open Fall 2017. We are currently working on plans for Hanna Hall which would be the new college of business with some additions, opening in Fall 2019. We are renovating classrooms- you’ve seen Olscamp as well as 100 other classrooms over the last 3 years to make sure they are technologically up-to-date.
- ix. What do you hope graduates of BGSU say their favorite experience was here? It goes back to the creed and I congratulate student government for their work there. They are proud to be a falcon and have had learned a lot inside and outside the classroom. The fact that you guys come here and spend hours together on Monday evenings working on leadership and commitment to BGSU is amazing. Students should be improving

the community and changing the world. Next fall we will be seeing a very active national election and we hope to see some candidates, as well as presidential candidates, right here on campus. "Excellence in all we do"- whatever you do after school here do it with excellence. You will always be part of the Falcon Family. I hope you keep this creed forever and live by it even after your time here because there are some great values there.

- x. Having served in your roll for 4 years, what do you view as your greatest accomplishment? Without a doubt the university's greatest accomplishment- and it's by no means the president's accomplishment- is the enrollment turnaround and retention rate that has us known across the country. This year we are up 12% for our freshman class- that's remarkable. We've had national recognition- faculty, students, and student organizations. April is so fun to me because it's recognition dinner after recognition dinner and that's great because we're recognizing their accomplishments. Also, what we've done on the football field where we've beat several Big 10 teams (Purdue, Maryland) is getting us so much national recognition because it's remarkable. These things make us proud to be here at Bowling Green State University.
1. Francisco- You mentioned that the Hanna Hall renovation will become the new business building; where will women's studies program go? That renovation is so far off that we have no definite plans for that building yet, we're still fundraising. We have so much space on campus and we want to improve all that space. The earliest that renovation will be done is Fall 2019/2020.
 2. Johnson- How will you continue retention rate growth? To put freshman in 3 courses together. We also need to make sure students have the opportunity to be in state-of-the-art classrooms. You're not a generation of students who want to sit and listen to the talking head, which I respect, so we need to cater to that. Giving students the opportunity to be a part of undergraduate research and service learning, national competitions opportunities

to bring national recognition. In another university I taught a freshman course and I had a young man tell me he was gone after that year. I got him involved in model UN and he ended up being the lead delegate. Just giving him the opportunity made a huge difference.

3. How much has beating two B10 teams done for our football program and our university? What I didn't realize until I came here was that we are one of 16 universities in the country who has D1 football AND hockey, so that makes us truly unique. The hockey season opens next week and I know the students are so supportive; I've never been on a campus with hockey until I got here and I love watching it and all the student support. Last week were ranked 16th in the country for hockey this year so that's great. To beat two B10 teams on their own turf gets us nationally recognized and that's amazing. I call that "free-R"- people on the national news talking about us. We were on ESPN on Saturday. People are really talking about us.

How much effect does this recognition help us raise retention rates? That's hard to track but it helps getting our name out to out-of-state students. I'm amazed how many students are college-football centered and want to be on campuses with D1 teams. The MAC Championship helped us 2 years ago when we were the only game aired on that Friday night. That helped with student AND alumni support. That's how many out-of-state alumni keep track of us is through our sports- football and hockey.

4. Woodburn- How are we connecting with alumni who aren't donors? When I arrived here we didn't do many alumni activities and we now target 25 cities and work to develop our contact databases. Now I send out an electronic monthly newsletter and we're up to 90,000 email addresses that receive that- newsletter is all about the university's accomplishments over that past month. The alum love to stay updated on us. An alumnus who graduated in 1970 and moved to the West Coast for the ROTC program- "I

love to hear about the good things happening there instead of only being asked for donations.”

5. Queen- How is the university planning to have more cultural diversity and inclusion programming? I would like to see more of that and get everyone collaborating. Since I've been here we've been more and more decentralized as student organizations take on more programming. A university calendar where we can all see activities going on would likely bring people together. For example an international festival would be really neat but would require many different groups coming together to make it happen.
6. Hendricks- Thank you for approving climate action plan, which helps our university become a fully green sustainable university by the target year 2040. What measures would you like to see students taking to move this initiative along? – I was so glad to approve that. When I got to campus my first year I was so impressed by the green nature of the campus of the campus and I think Nick Hennesy has done a great job as well. All the programs you can major in are also unique and innovative. I think we need to work with the city to develop designated bike path through campus and downtown through Baltimore. This is a great part of the country for biking and just the sustainability movement as a whole. I'd like to see this neighborhood across from campus belong to faculty and student housing so they can walk and bike ride to work every day. I want to have to put in more bike racks because they're all filled. The country is becoming very sustainability-oriented.
7. Dilley- You said we would be connecting more with UT- are we going to do the same with other MAC schools? To a certain extent. we already have several joint programs with UT- nursing, public health. We're known as a center for health and wellness and they have the medical school and programming. We are known for having a high-achieving education program so the new president and I are talking about how we can team up on our strengths and

help each other out. For the second year we've held some meetings with administrators to discuss how we can maximize our strengths together. Something the students help with is the competition for the food drive is a great thing to benefit the community. We are 2 major universities in this region so we need to team up and make it better. Nationwide only 30% of adults have a college degree so you're all lucky. In Ohio it's 26% and the majority of our students still come from Ohio. Northwest Ohio it's 24%, and in Toledo it's 17%. We've partnered with Toledo high schools to recruit more students and raise those percentages.

8. Hazenfratz- I know the architecture program is currently getting accredited, are there any others? The architecture program is going to move into it's own building this January and I'm currently looking for someone to name the building after. The engineering program has 2 new programs (ABET). Also, NCATE program is coming to the College of Education and is expected to do very well and attract even more students. Those are the ones right off the top of my head. I am always willing to come back to see you guys and I think it's great what you do here.
9. E Johnson- If you ever have more questions for President Mazey let President Senn or VP Parker know and they will connect you.

V. Lobby Time

VI. Old Business

- a. USG Budget Approval- Treasurer McKinnon
 - i. Budget has been approved.

VII. New Business

VIII. Executive Branch Reports

- a. President – Victor Senn vsenn@bgsu.edu
 - i. Thank you for your great questions today. If you have any further questions, we meet with her monthly and see her regularly so we are happy to communicate those questions with her. SEC- Senate Executive Committee for which I am the representative. Other representatives include faculty members and members from GSS. Provost Rodney

Rogers was in attendance he gave us some updates on academics. We discussed House Bill 64- 2% decrease in tuition over the next 5 years and how to put that in action. We talked about changing the student academic policy- changing some things in there that were already in place as well as new policy implementations president-recommended panel. President's Panel- Danielle and I attend once or twice a semester. We submit questions to President Mazey and she answers them. It's with other constituent groups- GSS, faculty senate, classified staff council, administrative staff council. When President's panel comes up we will let you know so you can submit questions for us to ask. Video series- Keymagazine.org/undergraduatestudentblog on the top corner of the webpage. We will shoot Sunday mornings and air it on Monday evenings. The links will be posted on Twitter and Instagram, please tell constituents to watch it so they can see what USG is doing as a way for us to be transparent with them. Cabinet process- we are working on a set process so they can be the most productive. Each director will identify 2 initiatives they are working on and meet with administrators/deans, then respective colleges. Then, at executive meetings they will look for updates on if we are moving forward with hose. Great see you at the retreat can't wait for a great year.

b. Vice President – Danielle Parker

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- i. Great retreat- I hope it becomes a tradition. Last week Victor and I met with Steve Krakoff about street light initiatives. We are going to move forward with this initiative- next step is to have a “light walk” where you will walk around with campus operations and campus police to see what areas need addressed. If you are interested let your committee chairs know and they will help you get connected. We are talking about combining the streetlights with the sustainability initiative- LED lights. We want to sit down with the faculty committee to discuss and revise the academic honesty policy. This Friday President Senn and I, Director Dortch, and Director Oehler are heading to Columbus to talk with other student government representatives about issues facing their schools- to

see how they do things and what's working for them to help us be a more well-rounded government. We will update you next Monday. I am taking this LSAT this weekend and am trying to study this whole week so please send emails to Chief of Staff (Hannah Stanbury) and she will take care of things.

c. Cabinet Reports

- i. Barker- Each cabinet member has projects and my biggest one is the creed card. President Mazey loves it and wants us to think about it every day. We need to be working on passing the card out to spread those values around. Me, Danielle, Victor, Sarah Waters (Residence Life), Lisa Matise, and Jackie Nelson (Director of Marketing and Communications) had a meeting today for marketing- digital marketing budget. I am coming up with a video of students- students write their favorite line of the creed and say the whole thing, talking about what it means to them. We want to get this done before homecoming for alumni who are coming back because school spirit is very high at that time. I have a meeting with some college heads to help teachers promote the values in the classrooms. We will be having different translations on the back of the card- Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Braille, and ASL, also looking at adding German and French too so everyone can read the creed, not just English speakers.

1. Puffenberger- Will the video represent diversity? Yes.

IX. Procedures and Appeals Reports

X. Treasurer's Report

XI. Speaker's Report

- a. Speaker of the Senate – Ebonee Johnson eboneej@bgsu.edu
 - i. Thank you for coming to the retreat. We will be trying to continue doing this yearly, so please give us feedback. Senator reports deadline pushed back- Tuesday at midnight. Let me know if you can't make the deadline. If you don't fill out a report you're not fulfilling one of your duties as a senator, so let me know if there's any problems; I'm pretty accommodating. Smoke-free policy- having a union table is a helpful way to get the word out and to get that student voice. Next week is

another business formal week- a member of the board of trustees coming (what you're wearing today is perfect). Send questions by Tuesday night so I can send them on to him and he can be prepared- macro-level questions like you asked President Mazey today. Give me suggestions of administrators you'd like to see- I already have a tentative list such as Rodney Rogers next semester, feel free to let me know if you have any other suggestions.

XII. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Affairs – Austin Hall austijh@bgsu.edu
 - i. Committee will meet tonight in the same place.
- b. Internal Affairs – Alexa Woodburn woodbua@bgsu.edu
 - i. There's a form on Orgsync (under "forms" page) to fill out once you complete your office hours. If you have not been fulfilling your duties as a senator you will receive an email from me discussing and listing the next steps. If you receive an email it should not be a surprise. Sorry I haven't done so already but I will send you the bylaws and constitution by Thursday- if I don't come to USG office to remind me. We will send out an official survey form about the retreat so don't bombard Ebonee with emails on your comments or opinions. We hope you enjoyed it as we want to make that a tradition of USG every year. Committee meeting after meeting today in the same place, so make sure you're there and you are contributing.
- c. Student Affairs – Keith Johnson keithlj@bgsu.edu
 - i. Retention rate for faculty and staff of color- trying to figure out why they don't return and how to fix that. Subcommittee meetings- hope to see you all there, need to show up because otherwise it stunts our progress. Retreat purpose was to make sure you learned and use those things in GA.

XIII. Senator Reports

- a. Berry- Met with Faith Yingling today- wants me to take on dining hall initiative, if you want to help with that let me know since I do not live or eat on campus I don't know a lot so I would appreciate your help. Also wants a student or a cluster of students to take on the smoke/tobacco-free initiative.

- b. Puffenberger- Test driving an electric bus for a week in October- an alumni has a connection for us. Green games- football games that support recycling and sustainability. I will send out dates and get some more details.
 - i. Dilley- Is this event only for USG people? No- everyone is welcome. Invite people to come. Your Fellow Falcon is offering free items as an incentive.
 - ii. Cunningham- Is there a certain number of volunteers needed? Not sure- the more, the better.
- c. Dilley- Anyone here not registered to vote? Everyone has? Good.

XIV. Advisor's Remarks

- a. Dean Jodi Webb jwebb@bgsu.edu
 - i. Thanks to committee chairs and Speaker Johnson for what they did with the retreat yesterday. Leadership Academy- registration deadline Oct. 3rd. One-day event, designed for newer members on campus. Free, very beneficial. We want high attendance, great way for newer members to get into leadership.

XV. Closing Remarks

- a. Johnson- Come to subcommittee meetings tonight after GA.
- b. Woodburn- Join our Facebook page.
- c. Senn- Sen. Dilley killed it today with taking notes and asking questions. I'm sure you all did well but sitting by him I personally witnessed his work today.
- d. Dilley- I propose a congressional tap.
- e. E Johnson- Mix it up today and get to know people. Please don't make me split you up- you know who you are.

XVI. Adjournment