

Official Minutes of the Undergraduate Student Government General Assembly

On This Day, October 17, 2016
Room 308 Bowen-Thompson Student Union at 7:30 pm

- I. Call to Order (7:31pm)
- II. Roll Call
- III. Swearing in of New Officers
 - Senator Vazquez
 - Senator Burrell
 - Senator Bertke
 - Senator Hermann
 - Senator Singh
 - Senator Taberner
- IV. Reading of the BGSU Creed
- V. Open Forum
 - a. Chris Bullins, Associate Dean of Students in the Office of Campus Activities
 - Are there any questions about Greek Housing? Good, because it's done!
 - The mission statement for the office describes how we are connected to the institution to engage students to the institution. We believe alumni are more engaged and satisfied with the institution when connected to the university.
 - Working with groups with finances is a giant part of our organization as student groups do not have access to outside funds for their groups. Working the Greek Life organizations and their councils. Priorities for this year are to do a better job with student advisor area and registering student organizations as a whole. Leah Howell is one who works with connecting student groups with their advisors. The Greek Housing provides housing for 422 tenants. Institutional pride is something OCA is proud to take part of especially with the BGSU Creed.
 - Things I am pleased with are the Falcon Family Connection, to where the parents learn what it will be like for their students here at BGSU. Spirit camp was brought

to BGSU this year instead of the traditional location in Wisconsin. CampusFest hosted 320+ tables for student organizations to advertise themselves and provided a map for students to easily navigate through all of the orgs they wanted to meet. Looking ahead, we can always reach more students. First year students who join an organization are far more likely to return to the university the next year. How do we reach first-time college families? We are approaching ways to connect those students to organization opportunities, job opportunities, financial knowledge of maintaining their enrollment, etc.

OrgSync provides a number of options for students to utilize but knowing everything available to them is where training becomes key! Teaching a member of each organization on how to utilize each of the portals available to them on Orgsync is a great step forward in the population learning about OrgSync.

For this fiscal year, we have about half a million dollars available for student organizations to utilize. Ways the organizations have access to these funds in through requests such as the Coke Funding request. The number of folks asking for money over the years has remained about the same. We cannot evaluate which organization is better than another based on this. There are ways, though, such as requests for travel funds and space for the org to utilize.

Generally, we are able to grant space to student organizations of up to 55 requests. We have seen anywhere between 32-38 requests each year over the past few years.

Event management, there are always questions about the food policy and for the food provider. It goes back to how student needs are becoming more and more complicated, such as food allergies. We try to eliminate the risk and exposure the bests we can and it takes time to process all of the needs.

Another area to work on is engaging the student population on all of the events happening on and around campus.

Senator Tansey – If you use training to engage OrgSync for organizations to utilize OrgSync, but then what about the students not in orgs? Then CampusFest is a great thing but it is only offered one day a semester. UT has a program called AskRocky which is a program to reach out to students...

Senator Davis, B – I think OrgSync is great, but there are problems. How can OCA utilize OrgSync to reach orgs who do not know about it to help their organization. Next, the shell for OrgSync has so much room to grow. There is a lot of potential for it to be transformed and we need to take advantage of the potential to make it something great.

Dr. Bullins – I believe streamlining the options for students to utilize the access of information OrgSync has to offer is something that we are working on and need to be assertive in finishing.

Chief of Staff Traylor-Gilmer - My concern is with the training provided to student organizations to utilize these options for them to be connected. The training is typically done when we have classes and would like to see it be more flexible around class schedules for more students to be able to attend the meetings and training.

Chief Administrator Katz – Any tips and tricks to have our events approved quickly?

Dr. Bullins – Turning in an event 45 days in advance is the suggestion, but we are certainly able to scramble to get the event quickly. The committee to approve such events meets every other week and they do bring up events that have been turned in within the past few days before the meeting.

Senator Davis – What can OCA do better about doing Webinar to train folks about completing these forms and utilizing the training available?

Dr. Bullins – Not just relying on in person training is something we have to expand on. OCA is never going to be open at the times that you need and we are working on making the technology available for you to utilize and access the information that you need.

VI. Lobby Time

Chair Renou – St. Baldrick's raises money for research for childhood cancer and we have a big event coming up in February. I am letting you know that we are having union tables over the next few days to reach students interested in shaving their heads, donating hair or even just donating money for the organization. Next, we are having a fundraiser at Buffalo Wild Wings soon and would really appreciate seeing you come and support our efforts to raise money for St. Baldrick's.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

IX. Executive Branch Reports

a. President – Amanda Dortch

adortch@bgsu.edu

Did everybody receive an email from President Mazey over the break? Some graffiti was done on the spirit rock. The term left on the rock was in reference to a “coon”. I wanted to ensure everyone was aware of the situations not only on campus but all around the world. How do you combat that? Well, from Oct. 20th we will re-initiating the Not in Our Town pledge. No matter where you are coming from, we are all residents of Bowling Green. From 4-5pm there will be a reaffirmation of NIOT. If you can be there it would be greatly appreciated.

The second thing, next week Sarah Waters is a person full of resources and knowledge about resident’s life. Please take the time to ask questions and express concerns.

Standing Committees, if you are having issues with your committee, please let me know. Some committees have not met yet, but a lot of them have. If they have not met, please let Nadia or I know.

Ex-Officio is a subcommittee type group, it is an opportunity for student orgs to collaborate and talk about all of the concerns and questions about anything across the university. A lot of big names will be there and we are interested in all that you have to say. Next Thursday at 8am is the next meeting. All orgs, big and small, get together and just chat.

b. Vice President – Richie Racette

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We have a town hall coming up. It will be in the theatre with the topics being student safety and parking. They will set up and present on the things they want to present on then open the meeting up for questions and concerns. It is a pilot program for OCA to take part of and it will be a swipe to get in event to gauge how student involvement is on-campus. If everyone could get there at about 5:45pm and become prepared, that would be great.

Thank you to everyone who came to the retreat. It was a great opportunity and if anyone wants to talk about retreat planning for the future, I am open to talk with you all.

c. Cabinet Reports

X. Procedures and Appeals Reports

XI. Treasurer's Report

XII. Speaker's Report

a. Speaker of the Senate – Nadia Oehler

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When we have quests, please ensure that when we are to ask questions... please, utilize the opportunity to send those questions ahead of time so they can better prepare for the question. Also, phrase the questions in the form of a question and not a statement.

Next week I will be in Orlando then Philly. So my office hours will not be done this week but the following week.

If there is a concerned student org or event an org excited about something they are doing, encourage them to talk to me about coming to Lobby Time.

Try to get to your committees as soon as possible.

Sarah Waters is coming next week. So send me questions Wednesday by noon in regards to all things Residence Life.

XIII. Committee Reports

a. Academic Affairs – Hannah Barnes

hanbarn@bgsu.edu

I met with Dr. Fisher about advising concerns. There is a lot to cover with that so if you have anything pressing to ask please see me and I will outreach to him.

b. Internal Affairs – Nathan Burkholder

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For all of the new senators, please see me to sign up for office hours. Office hours have been going really well so keep that up! Apparel requests can be done online and please have them completed by Oct. 26th when it closes.

Lunch with USG will be held on Oct. 27th and the second one will be held on November 9th. Please see me to sign up to participate in each of these events.

Also, send me a picture of your headshot for me to advertise who you are at the events.

We will be starting archiving this week so if you are interested please see me for that as well.

c. Student Affairs – Rachel Renou rrenou@bgsu.edu

Just so we have more productivity in my session, if you are meeting with Nathan or Nadia about something please be at the meeting so we can get out at an earlier time. We will be talking about subcommittees before you break off into your other sections of Student Affairs.

XIV. Senator Reports

Senator Davis, B – Please, look into the history of NIOT as the organization and movement started because of a situation just like this.

I have been in contact with the Wellness Center and Woman’s Center about menstrual aid. We would like to see it become a free service and not a paid service provided to the students of the university.

Senator Tansey – I was UT over break and there was a lot of great things... especially with their advertising of student orgs. If there could be greater way for us to work with student orgs other than OrgSync.

Speaker Oehler – USG has utilized a system similar to this in the past and it didn’t work but we are definitely open to other options to reach student orgs.

XV. Advisor’s Remarks

a. Dean Jodi Webb jwebb@bgsu.edu

The process of becoming an orientation leader has begun and I encourage you all to take advantage of this great opportunity. If you are free the last couple weeks of the summer, it would be a great experience and a lot of fun for each of you to consider.

In the midst of this election season, I would like to stress that USG needs to remain neutral in its political stance. I know a lot of you all are active in political communities and you need to be aware that you do not wrap or project that USG has the same political affiliation.

XVI. Closing Remarks

XVII. Adjournment