

The Official Agenda of the Undergraduate Student Government General Minutes

On This Day, October 31, 2016

Room 308 Bowen-Thompson Student Union at 7:30 pm

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Swearing in of New Officers
- IV. Reading of the BGSU Creed
- V. Open Forum
- VI. Lobby Time
- VII. Old Business

S.R. 2016/2017 – 03 (Pass: Yay – 31, Nay – 0, Abstain – 4)

Creating a Diversity Statement for the Undergraduate Student Government

Read by Senator Davis, Bryce

Senator Tansey: I want it to be in all nonviolent efforts, there is work that needs to be done and there is a lot of awesome people out there but... nevermind...

Senator Pamer: How will we be presenting this to the rest of the university?

Senator Davis, B: This will be primarily presented through social media outlets and there will need to be approved posters to post this around campus.

Senator DeWalt: How can we obtain a copy of this for our own.

Senator Davis, B: Speaker Oehler and Secretary Ladden have all of your emails so if you would like to have an electronic copy they can send it to you personally, if not, send it through list-proc.

Senator Kobbs: So this is just a statement? What kind of “passing legislation,” as it states, will we be doing?

Senator Davis, B: The resolution states this just as a guideline on how we need to review over the past and future legislations passed by this organization to ensure that we as a whole are supporting a culturally inclusive environment.

VIII. New Business

IX. Executive Branch Reports

a. President – Amanda Dortch

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So will happen here is we will present a Faculty Senate Resolution and is being presented on their floor of new business. This is a resolution to spearhead to decrease the prices for textbooks. They want to decrease the price of textbooks by fifty percent. This is not saying that the price of textbooks across the board will be cut by next year, so don't be looking for lower prices next year. The resolution is asking for a task force to research and review possible ways to reduce the price for books. We will be sending this out through email so you all can physically read this resolution. The intent would be to have the whole process completed by May of 2018.

Senator Snyder: Have we spoken with faculty who have written their own textbook on what they think about this issue?

Pres – This does happen a lot and was brought up initially when this legislation was being written. Those who have written their own textbooks will certainly have their opinion heard once the task force begins their research.

Senator Tansey: Go Faculty.

President Dortch: Put that in the minutes!

Secretary Ladden: Already on it.

Senator Davis, B: Have the faculty considered the factor of reducing the cost of the textbooks with the university picking up some of the price of the textbooks?

President Dortch: I do not know all of the details of what this task force will look over as they have not begun reviewing ways to reduce the cost.

Senator Tansey: If we get the best ideas forward I think that 50% is viable.

Senator Hasseltine: We also have to realize that professors who write these textbooks are doing it as a source of income as their tenure leaves them with limited income. They are, "Ballers on a Budget," and are looking for ways to increase their income to make ends meet financially.

President Dortch: So everyone is generally interested in pursuing backing the Faculty Senate? Okay, great!

Next order of business, we had a person come and speak to us about research on amnesty policies of this university and of our sister university. Research about how two underage students were drinking with one of those students getting to the point where they need medical attention and the second student is afraid of calling the police in fear of getting in trouble with underage intoxication.

Senator Baldwin: Captain Campbell had said if they put it in writing if it is their first offense and the first time they called 9-1-1. This may not be their regular activities and just a coping mechanism they sought to get past a certain point in their life. As long as it isn't a regular occurrence in their life, they will not be directly punished for such behavior.

President Dortch: Our role with the students returning next year is communicating with these students about finding housing for those not being granted on campus housing for the upcoming year. Look at this for the good of the student. Do not wait until March to have this conversation with these students.

Senator Aspinwall: There are still people who have no clue about where they are living in the upcoming year and are still looking for opportunities in where they want to be housed in the upcoming year.

President Dortch: Yes, and make sure we are vocal about the Off-Campus Housing Fair on November 16th.

Senator Goolsby: This is going to be important not only for this upcoming year, but for years to come to promote this housing fair. If we reach more people this year then that is more people who are knowledgeable in the future to help inform in the upcoming years.

Senator Davis, B: With this cutting of beds, my understanding is that everyone on campus will be first and second years. This may even affect a few people beyond that with scholarships offered to live on campus.

Senator Smith: I talked to Sarah Waters and with the students who receive the scholarship to live on campus, they will do their best to vouch for those students

who are granted the privilege to stay on campus beyond their first and second years.

President Dortch: We are looking as a restructuring of a new Town Hall meeting with housing, dining and other public needs. This needs to be on our radar. There was more of a question and answer feel with this past meeting and we want to move more towards us gathering as much information to reach out to have a more diverse information presentation to those who attend.

Another thing we need to look at are other factors that will play with the increasing off-campus population. One big one will be meeting the transportation needs of this population as many of them may not have the transportation to reach campus on time.

b. Vice President – Richie Racette rracett@bgsu.edu

c. Cabinet Reports

Director Cubberly: I will be talking about Legal Services on the fact that there are a lot of off-campus students who are having legal troubles with their landlords.

We will try develop guides for students to follow in an effort to resolve their issues.

X. Procedures and Appeals Reports

XI. Treasurer's Report

XII. Speaker's Report

a. Speaker of the Senate – Nadia Oehler noehler@bgsu.edu

Senator Reports are due at the first of the month. With me going to Philadelphia in the upcoming week, they will be due next week and not tomorrow. Proxies need to be an extension of your seat here in the senate to represent your constituency. With parli-pro, proxies do not have voting rights so if you all are wondering for those proxies who did not get a vote, this is the reason why they were not called during the roll call vote.

I need you all to send me the time and date you will be in the office working on the projects you have posted on the white board in the USG office.

Please, reach out to lobby speakers so we can meet with them in advance to go over everything they would like to address during their time in front of the Senate.

If you are new this week, please, see me after this meeting so I can get your information.

You have the power to make change here at the university. Example being Ay-Ziggy Zoomba was written up by a student and USG wrote a resolution to make it the official fight song of the university. The whiteboard ideas are great in projecting your ideas to everyone but don't let them stop at being ideas on the wall. Let's work on putting them into action in creating physical change here at the university.

Senator Pamer: Can we make a way to format the chart into a new format and send it out to everyone so people can work on things outside the office.

XIII. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Affairs – Hannah Barnes hanbarn@bgsu.edu

Great work so far this week, other than that please meet in our usual location.

- b. Internal Affairs – Nathan Burkholder nburkho@bgsu.edu

What I will be passing around is the sign up for Relay for Life. This event will run from 7pm – 7am the night of event.

Senator Smith: What will we be doing when we sign up?

Chair Burkholder: We will be doing a fundraiser to raise money during the event and with that we will be setting times for when people will be working and walking around the event. If you want to stay the whole time but not work at the USG station the whole time, just let me know.

Next, we will be cancelling the apparel orders as the price per piece rose ten dollars more than we expected.

Finally, we will be exercising ideas for the Relay for Life team.

Senator DeWalt: Will we receive a confirmation about a refund on the apparel order?

Senator McMillen: My understanding is that the charge should still be pending, if not, there should be a refund send to the account where you bought the apparel from.

Senator Aspinwall: Also, we need to keep in mind that there might be a fee to participate in Relay for Life. When you create a team, each person may be

subjected to pay their fee instead of USG being able to cover the cost of the whole team as it is an individual sign up and not a group sign up.

If you do fundraising as a group, ensure that you split the money raised evenly among the group members.

Dean Webb: USG can do sponsorships, though, how much and what they can cover is something I would have to look into.

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

If you are not in the Student Affairs committee, please leave the room right after the meeting. Tonight's meeting will be meeting in the task forces in accomplishing the specific tasks before moving onto the next task.

XIV. Senator Reports

Senator Snyder:

The new searchable scholarship guide went live over the weekend and I had the privilege to be one of the people to test drive the new guide.

Here is the route to take to find the guide. (Route is located on the BGSU Financial Aid webpage).

You can create your specific profile to centralize all of the scholarships you are eligible for and will have an apply all. Some will require essays and recommendations for you to fill out as well, though, that will be annotated for you to fill in that information.

Senator Aspinwall: Is there a workshop for students to attend to learn about this?

Dean Webb: Yes, the workshop will be held on November 2nd.

Senator Singh: Is this for all of the student, including international students?

Senator Snyder: The international students should be able to access the same amount of scholarships within the department they are in.

The issue that they may be facing is that the academic department that they participate in does not offer very many university scholarships available for students to apply.

Senator Singh: Where would I go about to find how to increase the amount of scholarships my department can offer?

Senator Snyder: With that, you would have to go to the Financial Aid office and not the department office to seek options for the department to take in order to offer more scholarships and grants.

Senator Pinckard: The Green Fund passed

Senator Davis, B: I am working on getting menstrual aid provided here on campus. If you are interested, please let me know.

In response to the vandalization of the rock, there will be a new response team in developing ways in how we should approach addressing this issue.

Senator Shieberl: On the whiteboard upstairs I expressed the idea of the “Cookie Cram” for finals week for us to order as many cookies as we can to provide to those students participating in finals week study sessions. We would like to work with resident halls in promoting this event and we were wondering on who all to reach out.

Senator Davis, B: I would start with reaching out to Hall Councils and RAs.

Senator Hairston: Firelands feels like they are disconnected from main campus and if you are interested in collaborative events with Firelands Student Government, please let me know!

Senator Sakairoun: In regards to the Town Hall meeting, I will be meeting with the member of parking services. He said he met with USG in the past and they were in favor of some of these services. So with that I would like to arrange a panel to address some of these issues we feel are happening with the services.

Senator Smith: Does this have to be only for USG members or can outside members be in it as well?

Senator DeWalt: I talked with Mike Paulus about extending the hours of the Falcon’s Nest. If anyone is interested as well to help talk about hour extensions, please let me know.

Senator Smith: Next Wednesday, is the Dining Advisory meeting and anyone interested in gaining more information or wanting to sit in. Just let me know!

Senator Singh: I am also on the committee, so if you don't see Senator Smith, you may talk with me as well.

XV. Advisor's Remarks

a. Dean Jodi Webb

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XVI. Closing Remarks

XVII. Adjournment