

The Official Agenda of the Undergraduate Student Government General Assembly
On This Day, October 30th 2017
Room 308 Bowen-Thompson Student Union at 7:30 pm

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Swearing in of New Officers
- IV. Open Forum
 - a. Andy Alt, Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
 - Plus/Minus grading scale potentially to be implemented
 - Alt has been at BGSU for 10 years
 - Chris Cox and Mark Seals also present
 - Chris Cox- Registration and Records
 - Mark Seals- School of Teaching and Learning
 - Timeline- first meeting in 2017, possible implementation in 2018
 - Voting and deliberations occurring in November 2017
 - Fall of 2018 is the goal, fall of 2019 would be the backup
 - Gotten feedback from most colleges, BGSU Firelands, Graduate Student Senate, Senior Advising Council, Learning Commons, Honors Student Ambassadors, Math in ACTION students, Res Life Student Leadership, USG, etc
 - Advantages of plus/minus grading system-
 - Provide motivation for students on academic border
 - Faculty can assign grades with greater precision
 - Avoiding clustering of grading
 - Alignment with career institutions
 - Disadvantages of plus/minus grading system-
 - Current low A's (4.0) would become A- (3.7)
 - More negotiating and advocating for grade improvement

- May be difficult to implement for faculty who use a holistic approach to grading
 - Concern about the effects on grad school admission
- Almost all other Ohio colleges already have implemented this
- Wright State, Youngstown State, and Central State are the only other state schools that have not moved on to this scale yet
- Questions-
- Willis- Will the retake policy change with this grading scale change?
 - The retake policy is also being considered
- Fort- How is this beneficial for students when it seems like GPA will decrease?
 - It may not benefit all students, but it will benefit some. There are very small margins for AB students. It will mainly effect students in the middle.
- Glenn- I believe this will decrease motivation. Do you believe you are rewarding students that work less hard?
 - I believe it will increase student motivation. For example, if a student has a solid B in a class, they may not even need to show up to the final exam to keep a B. This grading scale would motivate to keep trying throughout the semester.
- Ashford- Are there any setbacks in this, aside from the fact that students don't support it?
 - Your feedback is extremely important to our considerations. Lots of conversations have happened with many groups over this.
- Cubberly- How does this impact students now that every final exam is extremely important and make or break?
 - We will take this into consideration
- Bates- What implications does this have on scholarship options?
 - My job is to help students to be here and be successful. My intentions are only for the best for the students. For students who are around the middle 2.0 GPA, this may actually help them maintain scholarships.

- Bates- in addition, I think it is important to explore scholarship options before this is implemented. If we do not understand negative effects before implementation, it could be devastating for students. It doesn't make sense to change from something that already works to something that we don't understand.
 - I agree. The challenge goes back to the points earned in your classes, which we do not have data for.
- DeWalt- How will final transcripts look for students transitioning systems? Will old grades be preserved, and will anyone be grandfathered?
 - There is not much of a way to grandfather people because instructors would have to use different scales for different students. It also may cause misrepresentation of student grades. There will a be notation on the transcript and the old grades will be kept.
- Gorman- Many classes need a prerequisite of a C to pass. How will this work?
 - There will be no C- in the system
- Shull- How will this work with the honors college?
 - Honors student advisory board has been consulted and this discussion has taken place with them
- Motion to extend taken
- Rachel- Have you considered the decline of students being involved in other extra curriculars because they have to work harder in classes?
 - This has not yet been considered
- Thompson- How will this effect GPA requirements in the Greek community?
 - There could be implications for the population of Greek students that need to be considered
- McVicker- What grade would be considered an A-?
 - Parameters are decided by individual professors
- Brown- Getting into grad school is hard enough now. Have you considered how this will effect students not making it into grad school because of this?

- On average, there will only be a .01 difference on grad school-seeking students
- Goolsby- Aside from telling students that this is happening, how will you help motivate students to work harder?
 - From learning commons to advising office to student support services, there is a lot of outreach
- Reese- Will the GPAs earned prior to this change?
 - There will be no retroactive effect on GPA
- Fort- Is there any idea of raising the A+ grade?
 - There is not
- Cubberly- Is there a possibility that this will not be put forward because of student backlash?
 - This decision has not been made yet, there is absolutely a possibility of this not going forward
- Ashford- Are there any alternative ideas to motivate students than this?
 - Yes, however there are many other points to this than just motivation. We have a lot of positive research about this idea.
- Payne- This could potentially could be negative for classes where it could be very difficult to earn just an 80.
 - Thank you
- Katz- Are there any talks about running simulations about this to see what the change would be?
 - Students can experiment with this on their own with their own GPAs and use it in your discussions over the next month or so. We cannot dig through student records. That is a great suggestion to use for us.

V. Lobby Time

- Brad Holmes, here to talk about charter amendment
- Local issue on ballot
- President of environmental action group
- Nexus pipeline is taking fracked gas across Ohio to Michigan
- This is relevant to us because it is running 700 feet from our water treatment plant

- Health concerns considering we get our water from that
- Public officials knew about this proximity 2 years before the public did
- Bowling Green Charter Amendment- we will be voting yes or no of whether we want this legislation in our constitution
- This is designed to give Bowling Green the platform to resist this type of damaging pipeline or gas being implemented in the future
- This will allow legal and peaceful protest
- Gathered petition signatures- 1200 signatures
- We were put on the ballot
- If you haven't heard of this, it is because the issue of whether or not this will be on the ballot was still being heard into the Ohio supreme court until about 2 weeks ago
- Questions
- Ashford- what would you encourage us to do besides spreading the word?
 - Vote and go to city council meetings. City council recognizes when students show up. Advise your constituents to go to these meetings.
- Betts- Why do most city council members do not support this?
 - There is a clause that says if BG fails to support this amendment, people can take it into their own hands. They see this as an undermining of government power.

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

VIII. Executive Branch Reports

- a. President – Richie Racette rracett@bgsu.edu
 - Met with President Mazey
 - More discussion of SOAB
 - More objective process with application
 - Discussed grade policy change
 - She informed that the administration does not have a preference
 - This is not set in stone
- b. Vice President – Jauntez Bates batesja@bgsu.edu
 - Town Hall on Wednesday with his fraternity

- c. Cabinet Reports
 - Emailed Dr. Gibson- forming a committee about increasing traditions on campus
- IX. Procedures and Appeals Reports
 - a. Chief Administrator– Khory Katz kkatz@bgsu.edu
Election packet will be gone over in the next few weeks, considering eliminating signat
- X. Treasurer’s Report– Brianna Willis bwillis@bgsu.edu
- XI. Speaker’s Report
 - a. Speaker of the Senate – Hannah Barnes hanbarn@bgsu.edu
 - If our voice is not heard, Undergraduate students have no representation. Make sure you are attending your standing committees. USG will have a table at the dance marathon benefit dinner Friday at 7pm. It is white dress.
- XII. Committee Reports
 - a. Academic Affairs – Kristen Hermann keherma@bgsu.edu
 - b. Internal Affairs – Janelle Bollheimer jbollhe@bgsu.edu
 - Please continue to attend your office hours
 - c. Student Affairs – Hannah Cubberly hcubber@bgsu.edu
 - Bowling Green Human Relations meeting Friday at 8 am
- XIII. Senator Reports
 - Payne- met with Holly Cipriani to discuss representation of college credit plus students. There is a luncheon and anyone is welcome to come. December 7th
 - Goolsby- working on campus climate survey. USG will aid in outreach for survey completion
 - McVicker- wants to set up university wide poll about grading scale, looking for help
 - Glenn- meeting Wednesday at 8 am at the rec center about tobacco free campus
 - Garbarino- unanimous support for tax levy renewal. Issue 1 is controversial and many city council reps do not know much about it. Issue 2- Daniel Gordon will be voting yes on. School bond issue also has unanimous support.
 - Morris- ESL for students

XIV. Advisor's Remarks

a. Jodi Webb

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- Filling a variety of positions in student affairs
- Women's center candidates will begin visiting campus next week- will give us dates

XV. Closing Remarks

- Katz- the hatch application deadline is this Friday at 5pm

XVI. Adjournment

XVII. Internal Committees