



## CGS Executive Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Stephen Post, Sarah Light, DaVonti' Haynes, Katie Conner, Leila Vieria, Jenna Greve, Kathryn Holt, Abigail Grieff, Maddy Lomax-Vogt, Rania Khamees, Michelle Scott, Wanderson Novais Pereira, Melika Shahhosseini, Aviva Neff, Conner Sarich

**Absent:** Raven Lynch, Verdaynea Eason, Jack Brandl

### 1. President's Report

- 1.1. Next year, election day will be a full holiday.
- 1.2. In talks with Jay Casey- there will be election shuttles, probably CABS). Also possible to partner with Lyft for this (could be free rides since lyft is already offering a 50% price reduction for rides on election day).
- 1.3. A family housing study was presented to Vice Provost McPheron and President Johnson and they received it well. There are plans to create new housing with 350-450 units. They are going to present this study to the Pregnant & Parenting student group. It will likely be accomplished through a public/private partnership.
- 1.4. Grad students are now included in the surveillance testing program. We need to address the fact that some students are not coming to campus at all but have been chosen for this testing. The turn-around time for results has decreased to a few hours.
- 1.5. Football is back starting in October. Off-campus families in neighborhoods are very concerned. There will be no fans in the stadium but unclear what the traffic might be. Athletic council is drafting some messaging to go out to all OSU fans next week.
- 1.6. Hopefully we will know the new grad trustee soon. Our request to have the student president sit on the board as ex office members was denied.
- 1.7. Senate approved a pass/no-pass option for undergrad students this semester. The response of the faculty was very encouraging, and we will likely have support for something similar at the grad level. Bertone seems positive about the possibility of keeping this option past the end of COVID.
- 1.8. The statistics about anxiety and depression amongst grad students are very high and people expressed specific concerns about this. We are getting updated data about grad student usage of the Buckeye Alliance food pantry.
  - 1.8..1. The student wellness center has struggled to connect with graduate students in general. We are focusing and marketing this as by student for students.
  - 1.8..2. If grad students are not feeling comfortable with being on campus, how do address this?
  - 1.8..3. Many students over their 5 year funding guarantee have been told that they will have to wrap up and graduate.

### 2. Vice President's Report

- 2.1. We are launching a grad student engagement fund to give money to departments to

program for students to address social, mental, and physical well-being.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

- 3.1. We are still in a spending freeze.
- 3.2. We are working on ways to reallocate funding that we know we won't be able to spend this year.

### **4. Secretary's Report**

- 4.1. We are working with Kerry and Teresa to increase the efficiency of grants reimbursement and reduce the confusion amongst students during the process.
- 4.2. Working on CGS anniversary efforts still. No updates yet.

### **5. Committee Member Agenda Items**

#### 5.1. Academic Affairs

- 5.1..1. The committee is working on a resolution to address a more equitable time to degree extension granting process.

#### 5.2. Graduate Caucus

- 5.2..1. The senators will be sitting on faculty council this year and this will allow us to keep an eye on how faculty are feeling.
- 5.2..2. They are looking into changing the rules for handling cases of faculty misconduct.

#### 5.3. International Student Affairs

- 5.3..1. International student support task force is asking the university to create a quarantine space for next semester as some international students will be returning/coming back to the US as travel restrictions are being lifted.
- 5.3..2. For students who were not enrolled, many were still charged some of the campus-associated fees.

#### 5.4. Health, Wellness, and Safety

- 5.4..1. The committee is working on ways to transition the annual spring wellness event to a virtual platform.
- 5.4..2. The wellness survey will be sent to exec for approval before it's sent out to all students.
- 5.4..3. The committee is working on a social media plan for sharing tips for dealing with stress while working from home during COVID.
- 5.4..4. Sub-group is looking into the effectiveness of the new wellness app.

#### 5.5. SERC

- 5.5..1. We are looking into the feasibility of doing a recyclable gloves program – maybe partner with a company and
- 5.5..2. Case competition for projects related to sustainability goals
- 5.5..3. Planning a webinar (Oct 7<sup>th</sup>) with the sustainability institute for people to ask questions about the power plant.

#### 5.6. External Affairs

- 5.6..1. Working on a survey to gather information about what specific concerns graduate students have in the big picture. This will help us to create a database of available resources within OSU and the greater Columbus area.

#### 5.7. Arts & Culture

- 5.7..1. The committee is keeping a close eye on the budget cuts. Will possibly write a resolution in support of arts funding.

#### 5.8. Internal Affairs

- 5.8..1. Planning to host a virtual delegate trivia night

- 5.8..2. Maybe do a social media campaign to get people talking about their favorite restaurants, books, TV shows, etc. that they have enjoyed during quarantine.
- 5.9. Government Affairs
  - 5.9..1. Touching base with OSU votes to put together packets of all the absentee ballot form with envelopes and stamps.
- 5.10. Graduate Student Affairs
  - 5.10..1. The committee is working on a graphic to promote voting during the election, in collaboration with Government Affairs.
  - 5.10..2. There is a general concern about the reliance of students on their laptops since everything is virtual and what may happen if a laptop dies in the middle of the semester.

## **6. Old Business**

- 6.1. None.

## **7. New Business**

- 7.1. We are talking about creating a formal resolution about the GCBC stipend recommendations to push through these increases to begin January 2021. This traditionally hasn't been necessary because the initial recommendations were simply adopted. It may not be appropriate to ask for admin pay cuts in a formal resolution, but we can certainly present that data.
- 7.2. We do not agree with the decision to completely cut spring break, but we would like to advocate for an extra day to be added to each of the current instructional days off planned for the spring semester. CGS should write a resolution on this topic. This issue will likely be brought up at the administration level because there was a lot of backlash already.
- 7.3. We are now getting weekly updates from the President's cabinet.
- 7.4. Other universities offer travel money for dependents and child-care assistance for student parents. Housing & Family Affairs is drafting a resolution requesting similar funding.
  - 7.4..1. Could maybe ask the university set aside a certain number of slots for graduate student parents.
  - 7.4..2. Karin Jordan and Dr. Moore from ODI will both be very helpful and already on board for some of these asks.
  - 7.4..3. Grad students get 6 weeks of maternity leave and if you need to take extra leave, you are not allowed to work. Might be good to include a specific ask for a fellowship specifically for new parents who need to take more time and relieve them of their GTA duties and still be able to work on their research.

## **8. Open Floor Announcements**

- 8.1. Next delegate meeting October 2, 2020 @ 3:30 PM

## **9. Meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.**