



Delegates Present: Luke Andrejek, Selasi Attipoe, Ada Barach, Om Prakash Bedant, Polina Berezina, Jessica Blackburn, Anthony Bowersock, John Bundschuh, Yu-Chun Chang, Steph Charles, Kacey Clark, Carrington Conerly, Katherine Conner, Robert Cremins, Adam Culiver, Robert Dahlberg-Sears, Archit Datar, Riley DeBacker, Austin DeGroff, Todd DeRose, Kendra Dickinson, Ty Drayton, Benjamin Duran, Story Edison, Megan Espana, Caroline Fitzpatrick, Bethany Frick, Jahmour Givans, Annedra Gladney, Robin Gordon, Colby Gregg, Paul Gregor, Jenna Greve, Sarah Haines, Keira Hambrick (ALT: Ellis.850) Jordan Hartman, Lindsey Hernandez, Christian Hines, Sarah Hyman, Gregory Jameson, Noor Khalayleh, Ellia La, Yifan Li, Javonte Lipsey, Madeleine Lomax-Vogt, Xinyue Lu, Alan Lujan, Charles Mace, Zari Mahmoudi, Doricka Menefee, Benjamin Mertus, Alexander Milder, Madison Mize, M. Dominique Nagasawa, Laura Neese, Aviva Neff, Wanderson Novais Pereira, Shane O'Neil, Brian O'rourke, Felipe Pacci Evaristo, Jaychandran Padayasi, Maritza Pierre, Kelsey Pinckard (AIT: Abdebaky.1), Rosie Rabati, Swetha Rajasekaran, Bryan Remaily, Lauren Riley, Marie Rineveld, Morgan Ross, Mary Sagatellova, Ashweta Sahni, Erik Scaltriti, Michelle Scott, Karla ShockleyMccarthy, Kye Stachowski, Goran Stevanovski, Matthew Stuckey, Garrett Tatum, Ekaterina Tikhonyuk, Jamie Utphall, Ana Maria Velasquez Giraldo, Ericka Velez-Bonet, Derek Walton, Brett Wedding, Yitong Xin, Megan Zib

Delegates Absent: Ali AsghariAdib, Rob Barry, Fouad Choueiry, Jacob Compaleo, Paul Consiglio, Meaghann Dynes, Steph Fanelli, Nathaniel Heiden, Morgan Heyde, Shontiera Johnson, Ashwin Kane, Pouya Kousha, Ho-chieh Lin, Krutant Mehta, Armando Roman, Akanksha Sahni, Melika Shahhosseini, Daniel Smith, Kumar Somnath, Greyson Teague, Andrew Wilson

Senators Present: Aaron Beczkiewicz, Jenna Greve, Gala Korniyenko, Laine Rumreich, Dustin Servello

Senators Absent: Shahwar Ali, Akshay Asaithambi, Tyler Beauregard, Conner Sarich, Utkarsh Shah

Executive Committee Members Present: Katherine Conner, Caroline Fitzpatrick, Brandon Free, Jenna Greve, Abigail Grieff, Kathryn Holt, Sarah Light, Madeleine Lomax-Vogt, Raven Lynch, Nick Messenger, Aviva Neff, Wanderson Novais Pereira, Stephen Post, Conner Sarich, Michelle Scott, Carrie Anne Thomas, Leila Viera

Executive Committee Members Absent: Melika Shahhosseini

1. Guest Speaker: Dr. Melissa Shivers, Senior VP for Student Life

1.1. Currently, there is a task force that is planning for reactivation of all campuses in fall of 2021, focusing on issues of student living in residence halls, sports, in-person teaching, etc. The university is recommending but does not have plans to require or mandate the vaccine. Testing done throughout the semester has revealed that there have been very few instances of virus transmission in classroom settings.

1.2. Questions:

- 1.2.1. Dickinson.130: If most GTAs are still not vaccinated by the start of the fall semester, how will the university ensure that graduate students will have a fair opportunity to opt for online teaching rather than being required to teach in a hybrid or in-person format?
 - Hopefully, everyone who wants the vaccine will have it by then. This is a topic that the task force will discuss.
- 1.2.2. Shockleymccarthy.2: Do we know anything about if GTAs may be eligible to get the vaccine at an earlier date if they teach college credit plus students?
 - Answer unknown but will inquire with Dr. Thomas.
- 1.2.3. Novaispereira.1: If the state lists some of the public health and safety guidelines as number of cases fall, will the university still enforce masking and social distancing in the fall semester?
 - Dr. Fairchild has predicted that mask requirements will still be in place, but the distancing guidelines may change as more people are vaccinated and the recommendations change.
- 1.2.4. Holt.351: Is the university advocating to the state to include GTAs in the group of higher ed

professionals who will become eligible for the vaccine soon?

- No determinations have been made yet, but the university is also thinking about RAs and hall directors in this group.
- 1.2.5. Lipsey.25: Will there be representation from the Pregnant and Family Support Committee on the Campus Reactivation task force?
- Each of the student governments will be making recommendations for people to join this task force so we can ensure that there are.
- 1.2.6. Korniyenko.1: Does Student Life have plans to reopen the child areas and services offered by the RPAC?
- Yes, but the timeline is not known yet.
- 1.2.7. O'Neil.175: Is there a vaccination plan for biomedical research staff and students in the med center?
- Not sure but will ask.
- 1.2.8. Sagatellova.2: Does OSU intend to continue to monitor and police public safety measures on campus in the fall if and when guidelines change and discipline students who violate them?
- Yes, the plan is to still monitor these things and the accountability structures are still being worked out.
- 1.2.9. Geisse.1: If by the fall semester, many GTAs have still not been able to be vaccinated, is there a plan to include hazard pay in GTA contracts, especially for those who do not have a choice about teaching in person?
- Not sure.
- 1.2.10. Drayton.18: The gyms in the Gateway graduate dorms have not been reopened and it's been a drain on mental health to not be able to exercise. Can this policy be revisited?
- Yes, will send a note to get more information and ask if we are at a point where they can be safely reopened.
- 1.2.11. Stuckey.56: What is the long-term vision of Student Life post-COVID?
- One of the things is to focus on graduate and professional student support and engagement with a dedicated person overseeing these things. The new portfolios and priority areas are Health & Wellbeing, Belonging & Inclusion, Student Support & Engagement, Academic Partnership & Career Success, Administrative Excellence, and the Residential Experience.
- 1.2.12. Edison.22: Is it possible to create a database with information about positions providing graduate student funding as many people have lost departmental funding because of budget issues?
- Hopefully Workday will be helpful for this and this is something that Student Life will consider.
- 1.2.13. Vieira.31: Can the community center gym at Buckeye Village be reopened?
- Will investigate.
- 1.2.14. Holt.351: Where is the university currently with plans to address concerns about policing and OSU's relationship with CPD?
- The Safety & Well-being task force has been working over the year and one of the main goals was to refrain from rooting all safety concerns in policing and focusing on other types of support services. There are no plans to defund or scale down the CPD relationship. The Anti-Racism task force is also making recommendations soon which may address some of these topics as well.

2. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 4:09pm

2.1. Statement of Purpose

- 2.1.1. To effectively advocate and program to ensure that The Ohio State University graduate student experience is the best it can be.

2.2. Land Acknowledgement

- 2.2.1. CGS acknowledges central Ohio as the traditional homeland of the Shawnee, Miami, Wyandotte

and other Indigenous nations who have strong ties to these lands. Today, individuals from a broad range of Indigenous backgrounds call Columbus and central Ohio home.

2.2.2. There have been some conversations about why we started doing a land acknowledgement and how we can ensure that it's not just performative. We are still working on conversations with the Multicultural Center and other groups on campus. If you are interested in being part of these conversations, please let Stephen know.

2.2.3. Some more resources and information: <https://youtu.be/9eIYCfRPIPU>; Native American Indian Center of Central Ohio (<https://www.naicco.com/>)

3. ROLL CALL

3.1. Carmen log-in

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1. Minutes from February 5, 2021

4.1.1. Minutes approved.

5. OFFICER ELECTIONS

5.1. Treasurer Elections

5.1.1. Michelle Scott is elected.

5.2. Secretary Elections

5.2.1. Alissa Geisse is elected.

5.3. Vice President Elections

5.3.1. Candidates briefly address the delegate body and answer questions.

- Abigail Grieff
- Anabella Petronsi
- Logan Sherman

5.3.2. Abigail Grieff is elected.

5.4. President Elections

5.4.1. Nick Messenger is elected.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Act 2021-005: An Act Updating the Attendance Policy As Described in the Bylaws of the Council of Graduate Students

6.1.1. Light.109: The purpose of this act is to alter the attendance policy for delegates to more closely match the policies used across the university and to be more flexible when emergencies happen.

6.1.2. Questions:

- None.

6.1.3. Discussion:

- Dahlberg-Sears.1: In instances where no one in your department steps up to be your alternate when you are unable to make multiple meetings, could we add in language that considers this as an excused absence or allows more flexibility in who your alternate can be?
- Post.144: The proposed language here does allow for flexibility and leaves some decisions up to the discretion of the Secretary. In unique instances like this, the Secretary can consult with the Organization & Elections Committee and work with the delegate to find a solution.
- Light.109: Per our governing documents, an alternate must be from the same unit of representation. This can make it difficult in small departments but it's important because it ensures that the alternate is bring the voice of and voting on behalf of the same group of constituents.
- Holt.351: We already have a lot of difficulty filling delegate seats so is an attendance policy really necessary?

- Light.109: Attending delegate meeting is one of the primary jobs of a delegate and recording attendance holds people accountable within CGS and also to their constituents.
 - Velasquezgiraldo.1: Having an attendance policy is important because so much information is communicated during delegate meetings so if people don't come because they aren't required to, they will miss a lot of important information that they should be passing on to their constituents.
 - Conner.280: Could we track delegate attendance in some other way that ensures accountability but doesn't punish people? We don't want to have negative consequences that will discourage people from running again or being active in CGS.
 - Post.144: There is a balance here but to clarify, this act would make the current policy even more flexible than it is now.
 - Givans.2: If we are trying to ensure fair representation, maybe we should institute a recall policy that allows departments to remove delegates rather than having it come from CGS leadership.
 - Messenger.37: Another we could do in the future that maybe would improve upon all this would be to codify the procedure used by Organization & Elections to determine whether a delegate will be removed. So rather than an automatic removal after 2 absences, it can be discussed on a case-by-case basis.
- 6.1.4. Act is voted on via Carmen survey.
- 6.1.5. Act passes (63 Yeas, 3 Nays, 7 Abstentions).

6.2. Act 2021-006: An Act Updating and Clarifying the Language and Organization of the Standing Rules of the Council of Graduate Students

- 6.2.1. Light.109: This act contains a multitude of content updates to the text of the CGS Standing Rules to clarify questions of procedure and more closely match how CGS operates in practice.
- 6.2.2. **Questions:**
- None.
- 6.2.3. **Discussion:**
- Givans.2: A specific time deadline should be added In Lines 58-59.
 - Amendment accepted as friendly and the deadline is clarified as 3:30pm.
- 6.2.4. Act is voted on via Carmen survey.
- 6.2.5. Act passes (66 Yeas, 0 Nays, 3 Abstentions).

6.3. Resolution 2021-016: A Resolution Requesting a More Inclusive Extension of Time to Degree to Better Recognize the Demands of Teaching and the Strain on Research Productivity During the COVID-19 Pandemic

- 6.3.1. Neff.336: The purpose of this resolution is to push for time to degree and fee extensions for graduate students who have been negatively impacted by the pandemic. The language used here is intentionally broad because the solutions to some of the problems are not clear and we may receive pushback on them.
- 6.3.2. **Questions:**
- Tikhonyuk.1: Could we clarify how a student would prove that their work has been specifically impacted by COVID?
 - Neff.336: One of the asks here was to broaden the guidelines used by the university to make these distinctions and make them less arbitrary.
 - Post.144: The argument could be made that every single student has been affected. Also, the MFTA program has been very successful and we encourage anyone worried about funding to look into that. There is also more federal money coming in that should hopefully be distributed to address these budget gaps as well.
 - Tatum.71: Are the decisions about time to degree made at the graduate school or departmental level?
 - The only thing at the graduate school level is the MFTA program and most of the decisions are being made by departments so one of the main things here is to ask for a long-term policy that would cover all graduate students, regardless of department.
 - Also, faculty were given extensions on their tenure clocks and so it makes

sense that something similar should be offered to graduate students.

6.3.3. Discussion:

- None.

6.3.4. Act is voted on via Carmen survey.

6.3.5. Act passes (73 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Abstention).

6.4. Resolution 2021-017: A Resolution Affirming the Need for Improved Bike Infrastructure

6.4.1. Dahlberg-Sears.1: There are a lot of roads throughout campus and there is a dire need for better safety for non-vehicular motorists. OSU is currently at a silver level for Bicycle Friendly Universities, which puts us toward the bottom when compared to benchmark institutions.

6.4.2. Questions:

- Tatum.71: What is involved in reaching platinum level by 2031. Is it possible for that to be achieved sooner?
 - The proposed timeline was based on the history of reaching different levels in the past and what changes would need to be made to get to the next levels.

6.4.3. Discussion:

- None.

6.4.4. Resolution is voted on via Carmen survey.

6.4.5. Resolution passes (63 Yeas, 1 Nay, 1 Abstention).

7. OFFICER REPORTS (as submitted in Delegate Meeting Packet)

7.1. President (Post.144)

7.1.1. We have a little more information about travel exemptions. Currently, who is receiving these exceptions is still pretty limited (mostly research and extension-supported travel within Ohio). We are still waiting on a list of what criteria are being considered.

7.1.2. In response to some recent changes in interpretation of tax codes, The Office of Business and Finance is proposing that GAAs would become hourly employees, which would mean that their tuition and fee authorizations would be taxed (up to a limit of \$5,500). As this would have a negative impact on these students, we think it would be better to instead reclassify GAAs as either GTAs or GRAs. This would affect about 230 students currently starting in Fall of 2021.

7.1.3. Questions:

- Korniyenko.1: Do we have representation on the search committee for the new VP of HR?
 - No, we were not consulted. We are trying to impress upon all administrators that when these types of searches happen, all student governments should be part of the process.

7.2. Vice President (Messenger.37)

7.2.1. Please sign up to be a volunteer for Hayes! <https://forms.gle/tG4YKYinyejPDk9d9>

7.2.2. The task force for campus reopening has been meeting a lot and there has been discussion about using the new federal funding to improve the classroom infrastructure in a more long-term way that will better support hybrid teaching formats. If you have experience teaching or attending a hybrid course, please reach out with some feedback.

7.2.3. The process of the senate review and restructure is going well and there will soon be better infrastructure for elevating issues related to equity and sustainability with new committees.

7.2.4. The Grad School is planning to launch the new orientation for grad students starting next fall. Once we have a draft, we will want feedback.

7.3. Treasurer (Lynch.389)

7.3.1. We will carry forward about \$65,000 into our budget for next year so committee chairs will have a lot of funding for programming.

7.3.2. 3 applicants were awarded in the last cycle of Ray funding for the year.

7.4. Secretary (Light.109)

- 7.4.1. Nominations for the annual CGS Awards are now being accepted. Please nominate your peers at <https://cgs.osu.edu/awards/>.
- 7.4.2. 2020 Global Gateway winners were granted a funding extension through December 2021. We don't know yet about whether applications will be accepted this summer.

8. COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES (as submitted in Delegate Meeting Packets)

8.1.1. Equity, Inclusion, & Diversity

- The committee is working on a climate survey to assess internal operations of CGS. It will be incorporated into the agenda for our May delegate meeting.

9. SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS

9.1. Delegate Issues & Concerns

- 9.1.1. Pierre.77: Some grad students are applying for in-state tuition because they have lost funding and now have to pay out of pocket. There are only 2 counselors in the office who deal with these applications and students are having to wait weeks to have questions answered. Additionally, the information being shared is confusing and contradictory and is resulting in students being denied.
 - Post.144: This has been brought up a few times in Senate and we are advocating for a working group to be created to find solutions for this. We are also advocating for more counselors to be added to help deal with the tremendous backlog.
 - Hodak.2: In the past, CGS has worked with other offices to host clinics where students can meet with these counselors and many applications can be worked on together. It would be in the best interest of graduate students and the university for most students to apply for this regardless of their funding situation because it would save money so this may be something that CGS should advocate for moving forward.
- 9.1.2. Tikhonyuk.1: Many departments have certain courses that are always taught by lecturers and graduate students and many of them are now in-person or hybrid. For Fall 2021, students who have to teach are very concerned about safety protocols and vaccine availability.
- 9.1.3. Velasquezgiraldo.1: Across the university, many graduate students are denied vacation time by their advisors or if it is granted, it is treated as a favor rather than a right for the students.
 - In the past, CGS has worked on pushing implementation of the leave policy. The language in the Grad School policy handbook has changed over the years and this is something we should address with the Graduate School directly. We encourage students to reach out to the ombudsperson if they are experiencing issues with being denied leave and vacation time.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 10.1. Next meeting is April 2, 2021 @ 3:30 pm.

11. Meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm.