



COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Delegate Packet

September 6th, 2024

Location: Ohio Union Senate Chambers and Zoom



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Agenda

General Delegate Meeting | 06 September 2024 | Senate Chambers, Ohio Union and via Zoom

- 1. GUEST PRESENTATIONS** 3:30 PM
 - 1.1. Dr. Melissa Shivers, Senior Vice President of Student Life
- 2. CALL TO ORDER** 4:00 PM
 - 2.1. **“To effectively advocate and program to ensure that The Ohio State University graduate student experience is the best it can be.”**
- 3. ROLL CALL** [5 min]
- 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** [5 min]
- 5. OFFICER REPORTS** [20 min]
 - 5.1. President’s Report – Sabrina Durso.19
 - 5.2. Vice President’s Report – Katie Conner.280
 - 5.3. Treasurer’s Report – Jon Fritz.288
 - 5.4. Secretary’s Report – Kaz Gary.102
- 6. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS** [25 min]
 - 6.1. Academic Affairs – ***Vacant***
 - 6.2. Arts and Culture – Holly Engel.210 & Nick Booker.200
 - 6.3. Diversity & Inclusion – ***Vacant***
 - 6.4. Government Affairs– Madeline Carrola.1
 - 6.5. Graduate Caucus – Peter Carrera.55
 - 6.6. Graduate Student Affairs – Chiranth Koratagere Nagaraj (KoratagereNagaraj.1)
 - 6.7. Health, Wellness, and Safety – Deb Pathak.89 & Luke Van Niel (Vanniel.5)
 - 6.8. Housing and Family Affairs – Syed Murtaza Arshad.32
 - 6.9. International Student Affairs – Kaustubh Kumar.889
 - 6.10. Membership Wellness – Aryn Robinson.2283
 - 6.11. Research and Data Operations – Bill Wang.13945
 - 6.12. Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility – Brittany Multer.3
- 7. OLD BUSINESS** [0 min]
- 8. NEW BUSINESS** [5 min]
 - 8.1 Introducing New OCCSE Position – Jennifer Kephas.1
- 9. SPECIAL ORDER ITEM** [30 min]
 - 9.1. Delegate Issues and Concerns
- 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS** [5 min]
 - 10.1 Next General Delegate Meeting: Friday, October 4 at 3:30pm (Senate Chambers & Zoom)
- 11. ADJOURNMENT** 5:35 PM



CGS Virtual Meeting Ground Rules

1. Be open, flexible, considerate, and kind!
2. Speak your discomfort if something is bothering you.
3. Challenge the idea, not the person.
4. You will be automatically muted when you join the meeting. Please keep your audio MUTED, unless asking a question.
5. You may ask a question by submitting it directly in the “Chat” box; or if you would like to ask via video/audio, use the “Raise Hand” feature in the “Participant” section and the chair will recognize you. Sarah will be monitoring to ensure they are brought up.
6. You may keep your video on or off as to whichever is most comfortable for you, but we may ask you to turn off your video should connectivity issues arise.
7. Please be visually presentable, if using video, and limit background activity.
8. This meeting will be recorded for note taking purposes, and in hopes to share our meetings in the future.



Meeting Minutes for Approval

General Delegate Meeting | 28 JUNE 2024 | Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER

3:32 PM

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

1.2. **Durso.19:** So will this Council of Graduate Students for the July 2024 year, please come to order and follow the codes and ethics of values throughout this meeting. Hi guys, Nice to see you all. I hope everybody's having a great summer so far. We won't be meeting again for quite some time so if you've got any delegate, any burning delegate issues and concerns, think of them now. Oh sorry, your attendance is being recorded. Katie's got your back. That's vote for the approval of the minutes from the last meeting.

2. ROLL CALL

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

3:33 PM

3.1. **Durso.19:** Do I hear a motion to approve these minutes? Yes. Do I hear a second? All in favor?

Thanks, Alan. I'll have to get to you. All opposed? Thanks Alan, I'll just make sure they all clear up.

- Minutes motion approved by **Annerino.2**
- Seconded by **Arshad.32**
- Motion passes with majority vote

4. OFFICER REPORTS

4.1. President's Report –

3:34 PM

Durso.19: Any abstentions? Solid. The minutes are approved. Onto the officer reports. For me, pretty cool news. Nick Booker is officially co-chair for arts and culture. I don't think he's gonna make it here today, but him and Holly are pretty excited to start working together pretty quickly here.

I'm gonna leave the child care committee stuff somewhere tells us so I can kind of keep moving forward.

4.1.1. Updates from the past delegate issues and concerns

So my report said this, so it's a delegate digest, but I have even more to update, right?

- So, with OPERS, no matter what, just like all other kind of 401k situations, you must be actively working for the state to contribute to OPERS. There's nothing Ohio State can really do about that. We could advocate for it in some way, but OPERS is a pretty big statewide thing.
- The Adobe access situation is kind of looking better than not. The site license for Adobe Creative Cloud specifically has now officially ended. But students can still access the software in university computer labs and purchase it for \$25 per academic year, which is a ridiculously reasonable price compared to what they actually charge. They haven't cut out all forms of Adobe. Again, there are Adobe Acrobat Pro is still available for all RA's and TAs. So all of that kind of access is good. I think that they're working on trying to figure out more negotiations, but this is just where they ended this year.
- Throughout the summer, I'm going to continue to advocate for CGS in all fronts. I had a meeting with Dean Stromberger this July to address some larger graduate student concerns, specifically about compensation and GTA summer employment that have been popping up.
- I also continue to work on the CGS statement on the April arrests on June 1st. Two graduate students and one non OSU community member were arrested during a protest within the union. I've met with officer. Well, she's a police officer with that. She has pretty much said that they were given about 20 to 30 minutes worth of warning and being told that they can stay outside of the union, but they're not allowed to enter inside and be allowed during the human rights gala. The students did so anyway, the human rights gala complains and that's when the arrests were made. So it was the official complaint being made that led to those arrests. I continue to work with Dr. Shibu on this matter, But again, it seems like she's really just taking this to the state attorney and is leaving it in their shoes.



- But I continue to work with faculty council with USG, CGS, IPC, all of us continue to work together as we navigate how to continue forward with making sure the statements acted upon.
- Oh, one more plus delegate issue I'm concerned I forgot to bring up is about the CSA funding issues for student orgs. This has been kind of the idea of falling behind on deadlines has happened quite a few times in the past. And while CSA should uphold these deadlines and such for the various reasons that they were put into place, currently there is no appeals process for denied audits for even accidental mishaps like missing a deadline by a few days because of an exam or something. So from my understanding Peter Carrera⁵⁵ is CSA chair is going to review the audit process with the appropriate people to see what can be done to fix this issue and has been working on it for the past year. Just takes a little bit of time.

But beyond that, yeah, so I'm keeping on keeping on and I'll be around but please give me like the fourth of July off so I can have five seconds to breathe because I've been working my butt off. If you have an issue I've not put touch based on whatsoever, please nicely call me out during the delegate issues and concerns with an emphasis on nicely.

4.2. Vice President's Report –

Connor.280: Two, Kay. Yeah, my only will A, happy pride to all my fellow queers. B, in all seriousness, the only real reminder I have right now is fill out the CGS involvement survey.

- No matter what role you're gonna be in next year for CGS, if you're a returning CGS member of any kind, please fill it out so we don't kill you with food allergens. So Erin can do cool membership wellness stuff and so that we can get to know you a little bit better.

That's all I have. I hope everybody enjoys the rest of their summer and much like Sabrina, call me out during delegate issues with certain things, but otherwise hit me up via email or text message and I'll respond.

4.3. Treasurer's Report –

Fritz.288: Awesome. John. All right, folks. A bit of a longer treasure report I think but just wanted to say apologies for not being around in May actually took some time off. I'm going to be here in the summer pretty consistently actually on campus so really appreciate reading Katie kind of holding down for it for a pretty big bonus of my roles, Cheshire.

4.3.1. Budget updates

- I'm regarding the fiscal year 25 budget. So if you still have any lingering questions about the budget that maybe went unanswered or you have other things that you'd want to talk about, I'm more than happy to meet or exchange or talk over email.
- And the other thing that I wanted to bring up is that, sorry, I was reading Zoom, is that Katie, Kaz, the CDG chair and I were planning to have a two hour joint race CDG application workshop in October. This is kind of the room that we have reserved currently. I expect more details to come, but we're excited to maybe offer a chance for folks within your departments and programs to actually engage with some of the judges and ourselves and ask them questions about the application processes and be a little bit more, I guess, front-facing and answering questions and showing what a really good application is to be competitive for these types of grants. It's also notable that these grants are going to be only more competitive in the coming years, right? More folks are applying for funding, more folks need funding, and the amount of spots that we have to give those have always been the same, but more folks are applying. So just kind of a heads up as we move forward.
- Can you go to the next slide please? So the only thing I wanted to report was our expenses for this past fiscal year. This is as of May 31st so we still have June to get the kind of final notes on but our funds were kind of split I would say kind of four ways I would say the first is really grant funding so that's all the funds that we've spent on CDG and on RAID, which is good because it was a big program, so a quarter that going to just graduate students is pretty phenomenal.

- I'd say another quarter is going to be encumbrance as administrative, so encumbrance is any money that from the last year we committed to paying with our money for this year. And so that was primarily from Gratitude Depreciation Week stuff. That's pretty much that income rents value. And then administrative is really capturing all the different like stuff we get for the office. It captures the money that we spend on the camps connections, speaker series, for the food during our meetings.
- And then the kind of another quarter is really Vice President's Projects, which it says Vice President's Projects, but really that is covering Grads to Depreciation Week and Hays for this year. So that's on the order of a few thousands, tens of thousands of dollars, which also makes sense.
- And then finally, off-squipment in technology, that's just mostly the money that we spend to keep our website running.
- So, yeah, you can go to the next slide. I just want to kind of give an overview of what those are. This is like breakdown. This is what every line item kind of is for those different components. So for what we budgeted, we actually think we're in a pretty good spot.
- We budgeted about 175,000. We're hitting about 154,000 given we have one month left. Carried forwards are the monies that we still have remaining that we can take into the next fiscal year. So currently, our critical endowment is any money we can carry forward to the next year to next 50 feet. We're expecting to carry forward that bit of money with our academic regalia project.
- And really my main takeaways for you all is like a delegate communities that we pretty much spent down our COVID monies. So all the money that we gathered year after year during 2020, 2021, and maybe even 2022, that kind of didn't really get spent that much. Those have been pretty much spent down. And so we are kind of like living paycheck to paycheck, so to speak, from fiscal year to fiscal year, which also means that rain, CDG will be much more competitive, I think, moving forward.

So that I think is the end of my report I appreciate you sticking through a long bit and if you have any questions or comments or anything I'd be happy to answer those as they come up.

Durso.19: Thanks John. Kaz has decided not to give a report. So on the committee share reports, Murtaza.

5. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

5.1. Housing and Family Affairs – Syed Murtaza Arshad.32

Arshad.32: Hey, hi, everyone. So the interviews for the new housing position in OCCSC were conducted and Sabrina and I were both for part of it.

5.1.1 OCCSC updates

- We liked the candidates. There were like two candidates. We liked one or the other. So hopefully let's see or it goes if that candidate is selected. But I think we can work with both and the base looking at the basis of when we hope that it starts before the fall semesters we don't have exact date as of now but I was thinking of getting in contact with OCCSC and ask them like if they have a starting date and maybe we can plan a couple of things for fall semester like a seminar for incoming students regarding housing and then giving some information.
- So this is something I think can be done with a partnership between us, OIA and OCCRC. We just have to make them collaborate and ensure that it's happening and we can give our feedback as grad students and international students like what information could be included in that seminar and how it would look like.

5.1.2. Graduate childcare

- So yeah, good thoughts on this thing. Can we move to the next slide? On the FAMB side, so, Rajasthan Karthir can be a Tritonikar committee. I could not attend it. I was busy in my candidacy those days, so thank you to Sabina and whoever participated with her.
- And so in that meeting, they decided that, okay, there is a need for, they increases for current staff for childcare and furthermore they are looking at affordability, accessibility and the quality of facilities that are already available.



- And that being said, as at CGS and Housing and Family Affairs Committee, we have been discussing some few ideas. So in other colleges, specifically, we got to know that in Milwaukee, they have this childcare community, a family program which is run by family volunteers. Like parents get together, they take care of each other's kids, take turns, so it's like a self-sustained childcare program. And something like this could be very low cost and can be effective.
- So we have been considering the feasibility of starting such program at WSU and it can be supported by community partners and can be supported by university. So like we have some resources, let's say the facility at RPEC, which is not being used as it now, if we can utilize that in this program or something similar. So this is something we think which has potential. So for this thing, we are looking for anyone at CTS who is interested in this.
- So it will look like sharing a survey among the grad students, like especially with families, will they be willing to send their kids to such a POA program or will they be willing to volunteer in such program and then even the general grad students, if they would like to volunteer, even if they are not with families, then we can also evaluate like community partners within campus, with outside campus, who would be like to fund such program.
- So idea is that we start small, like in a control experiment, and if it works well, then we can show this to university and can ask them to take over this thing, maybe include stuff. So this thing, so if you're interested, reach out to Sabrina or me, and then, yeah, we can start working on this. Yeah, that's all. Thanks. Thank you.

5.2. Membership Wellness – Aryn Robinson.2283

Robinson.2283: Hi, everyone. So, I just hope you all are staying cool and hydrated.

- I just wanted to point out that the Google form for the membership shoutouts is live. I'm gonna send it in the chat to see if it's have it. So there's that. The link is gonna stay the same for the whole year. So once you have it, you always have it. Or you can find it in the delegate packet. And sorry, now you're fine. You're fine. You have to mind if you're wrong. I'm just my attention isn't that good. So you can submit a shout out anytime and it'll be read at the next delegate meeting. I just want to point out the cutoff is 10 p.m. The night before the meeting. If you submit one after that it'll just be bumped to the next meeting so we will get to it.
- And I just wanted to kick off the shout outs by giving everyone, everyone for showing up today and all the great work we did last year. Let's keep it going in the next one. And then do the survey, do Katie's survey. It'll make her happy and it will give us lots of good information. So that's all I have.

Durso.19: Thanks Aryn. Yeah, do follow the survey. If anything, it's fun. It's like doing like your high school yearbook photo in your senior year. It's interesting. We don't have any old business. We have any new business? Okay, seeing none. Special order items, delegate issues and concerns.

6. OLD BUSINESS

3:47 PM

7. NEW BUSINESS

3:47 PM

8. SPECIAL ORDER ITEM

3:48 PM

Durso.19: What do you guys got for me? Oh yeah, go ahead. Okay. Yeah. And so, Yeah, and so couple of constituents reached out to me regarding the CABS Short Service during the summer.

8.1 Delegate Issues and Concerns

8.1.1 CABS Short Service

Arshad.32: So let me, for those who don't know about the CABS Short Service, I'll give you a little idea how it looks like in normal semesters by which I mean fall or spring.



- So it has some stops which are full day which are very common hospital sites and common labs and there are some overnight stops which is expanded to towns and off-campus locations. So the idea of CABS was that students don't have to, especially those who are doing research, they don't have to travel alone late when they're going back from their experiments late at night. So after nine, all the overnight stops get activated during fall and spring and you they run all night till 7am in the morning.
- So most of the students who stay at lab late and they have to run experiments they commonly use it and it's pretty wide network like students will have like an antenna type they also use it but over the summer they just run the morning service till 7 p.m. dAnd they don't have any overnight stops. So the students, and the point is that it's mostly for the researcher than the grad students. They can check, but I think that's their, most of their customers who are using the service. And for them, semester doesn't even matter anything. For them, summer, fall, spring, everything is the same.
- So they were like, okay, there is no overnight service during summer so they're still running experiments they are still going late from their labs So if it's a safety thing that they should be able to at least run one or two. I know that the usability wouldn't be as much as fall or spring. Their drivers can tell them better, but still I think they can reduce the numbers in some way if they would like, but not having the service at all, it creates a problem for the blasters. They're like, okay, they get used to it, they don't have cars, but eventually they'll realize, okay, they need a car just for someone. So yeah, we can talk to them if you know the contract or something.
- **Durso.19:** Yeah, I mean, I'll look into it if no one else has, it seems like something very simply fixed it just to ask, see what we can do. So I'll look into it. Thank you for bringing that to my attention.

Does anybody else have a delegate issue or concern?

8.1.2 International Student Resources

Unknown Delegate: Hi. I have a not a concern though, but very good suggestion I just so I was talking to like many international students who are incoming and I saw like I observed myself as well when I was coming that we don't have a particular place where there is a concise information package about general stuff so they have to like keep bringing people and asking people about very basic things that how do you do this, how do you do this right.

- And I think this question was brought up in the meeting as well but the point raised was that we are not a competent authority to have a statement that is that can be quoted that okay cgs and that so it should be true but I guess we can always have a like a package which can just Help people and say okay don't quote us, but this is what generally happened so You can have like a general understanding of how to do things, how to open a background, or any general stuff that you have to do when you're coming here.
- So we can have a PDF generated or a Q&A section that might be up on a website, something like that, which can serve one-stop destination and for at least 90% of the single staff that you purchase.
- Yeah, so I have a few reactions to that. So first there is the grad school has like the if you go to like grad school, gradssh.osu.edu.
- There is like a very small kind of graduate handbook that gives you the kind of what you need to know.

Durso.19: But we have been working, as Katie's saying in the chat, We've been working to get a comprehensive orientation for the grad school for, I mean, at least two years now on my end that I've been hearing about us trying to get it.

- And the grad school is thinking of ways of how this might work, but hasn't come up with it quite yet, which I think is unacceptable.
- We can bring it up. It's been brought up at every meeting I've ever had with Marianne, if that can happen. Oh, Dean Schromberger, if that can happen. But it's been slow going. So I will say that

graduate school, but also on the CGS website, I thought I brought this up at one of the meetings. I could have just like hyper fixated and done this thing.

- But there is a, in the Fundings and Wards and Resources, there's a general grad student resources that I would more than welcome getting advice about sending me an email, sending me an orcade, an email about what we could add to this list. I was aware that it's not extensive in all of the ways that it could be when we made it.
- It's updated from a few in the past and a few moving forward, but it does have self-advocacy things, so how to help your, you know, if you're new to OSU, you don't know all the offices, how you can get medical and mental health, housing, nutrition and wellness, including the Buckeye Food Alliance and the OSU Meat Shop, our grants.
- So the grants section for sure could be expanded upon to be different colleges and things like that. Then there's a little bit of stuff about research and fund activities at and around OSU. But yeah, we'll take university-wide things, college-specific resources, Columbus area resources.
- This is our website. We can do kind of whatever we want with it. So yeah, if you have anything, send me a link to a website, maybe like a brief sentence that you want put up there.
- But I think that this is something that all CGSers can continue to work on as we continue moving forward as an organization. But again, that's no replacement for an actual orientation, for an actual package on the graduate school's behalf that says all of this too. Not so much.

Unknown Delegate: I see the page is quite good I guess. But yeah, most of the people keep asking about it other than just like the general stuff.

- They also ask about like resources. I think many of them are listed here. But I was wondering if like we can have a very nice PDF that can actually comprise of everything with good illustrations and stuff because that's quite like catchy to go around people like see websites and see okay. They might not be very interested, though the information might be there on the website itself. But for incoming students having like a 10 page both with like really good illustrations and stuff like that, think that's something.

Durso.19: Yeah, I mean, I'm with you doing something that's, I mean, it looks like Aaron's saying in the chat to Some colleges and departments do their own online orientations.

- So yes, Erin You probably did what you did go to graduate school online orientation, but not all departments receive that But yeah, I think that's what the graduate school's trying to do is come up with an online resource that allows graduate students to kind of click through and understand an orientation as well as an in-person.
- But to make those click through orientations, It takes up to two to three years. And so I imagine that's kind of what's happening. It's a lot of licensure finding a company that will do it, then liking the company. I've been trying to have them do it with accessibility for the past two years too. So yes, I'm with you. I think it's a great idea to make something like that.
- I think CGS could start passing it out at our orientation events that we're going to by August. We can have something that does something similar, but please give me your resources guys. If you know something that I don't know, send them my way please, because I'm not a Columbus native by any means. And maybe Katie can put this in the delegate digest to remind everybody to push it.

Unknown Delegate: So my my follow-up question would be like is like what exactly are the complexities in this class like is there any compliances that we have to look into and make a medium like that or it can just be like our information gathered from different university websites combined together at one place should that be it or it's a mode to it that I don't know?

Durso.19: Can you if you want to answer first?

Connor.280: Yeah, so it's interesting because it's the actual task is very straightforward and I also would argue at least in terms of accessibility like we have Sabrina and a number of other people who are very accessibility focused. And so we have a great resource in that in terms of making sure that it's screen reader accessible and things like that.



- One of the Biggest issues that we have in terms of pulling this together is a obviously like we are only a couple of people At least if you're thinking about like okay like Sabrina and Katie and a few other people have started with some things So like a we need more resources because like Sabrina and I are both in Arts and Humanities and Arts and Sciences.
- We only know so many resources. One of the other big reasons that CGS has been slow to do this, and there's pros and cons to this, but is Because we have, I would argue, fair concerns about the fact that this task is larger than CGS and frankly should not be on CGS.
- Part of the reason that Sabrina finally went ahead and got this webpage pulled together is because the graduate school has been so slow to do this.
- Because OIA has been so slow to respond and do this.
- OAA was supposed to be, so Academic Affairs was supposed to help us, and then Charlene Gilbert left, and then that project fell by the wayside.
- So one of the issues is that CGS, you know, we have been slow to do it because we've been pushing it on them to do it because we're like, okay, Katie and Sabrina both get paid, but that is not our job.
- And frankly, this could be a full-time job for a single person to be constantly pulling these together. The other issue is that we have come across some weird territorial issues with some of the colleges.
- When Jorge and I first brought this up our first year, so 2022, 2023, and we brought it to some of the deans, some of the deans basically bulked and it was either it felt insulting that we were saying their graduate students weren't being on boarded which we had the evidence they weren't being on boarded because we constantly hear that students are like I don't know where I'm supposed to go to do this or how does my health care work or hey what about bank accounts or things like that.
- But then B also some colleges were like hey we don't want to share our resources with you because it's only for our students and we're like okay but we could still tell your students because clearly they don't know about them.
- So on its face is a very simple issue like CGS absolutely as a stop gap like and I think Sabrina agreed to this like we can pull together a PDF I think that's that's a bang an idea and we can have something ready to go for people come fall But in terms of the larger landscape of the issue, and part of the reason it has taken for so long, is it's just a lot of people not doing my hot take, a lot of people not doing their job, and then a lot of people trying to once again, push the work off onto CGS rather than actually taking the staff members who are and should be paid to do this work and make them do the work instead of having us do it. Rant over.

Unknown Delegate: Right, I think that makes sense. That's awesome. This is going to add to this point. I think what Ashutosh was suggesting was my type, like it's two dimensional.

- One thing is a list of resources on which you guys are already working, and put us to debt and we can all help. You guys want us to send emails like I can send us all and all the resources.
- Ashutosh has told me about resources I never knew after two years on campus so he can share the resources he knows.
- But I think the other thing he was saying is like a PDF which is like a guide, step by step guide, which is like according to the time frame.
- So like you are in your country and you're coming to Columbus, okay, what things you can do and what should be to consider. And that could be housing and those stuffs and we are already working on those things to our seminar to help students on housing and stuff.
- The next thing they could think about is like flights and then after coming here how to travel from airport to their place or campus and then how to get a SIM card, how to get insurance, all those things.
- So I think that's another task than resources. Resources are mostly for students who are already here and they should know what's available.
- And I totally agree with one of you that this task does not fall on CTS. It's, I think, more related to OIA. So if you guys want Sabrina, you or I can reach out to Caroline in OIA.
- They have invited me I think like a dozen times to speak on those issues and they always ask okay what was the thing you needed when you were coming here which you didn't get it from us and I always mention all those things. I have to still see how many things they incorporate.
- I have already told them about the transport like they never mentioned how to navigate around university.



- I had no clue there's a campus available in university and this campus is big. So when I came here, I was lost for a while and then some people come just two days before their classes.
- So they don't even know how to go from campus building to another.
- So I've already mentioned those things but I think we can give Ashutosh idea to them that you guys can work on a PDF and we can help on generating that PDF.
- We can give our feedback as a student or international student.
- So I think this task should be more related. OIA should be able to spread that PDF way more formally and then I can uniformly to students because in our case if someone reaches to us then we can share nobody goes to CGS directly.
- I came to know about CGS one year later when I was a student.
So I think yeah OIA should be the point of contact for that kind of period for guide.

Durso.19: Yeah I definitely agree that too that there is just different resources needed for international and domestic students in general.

- Whether you're from Columbus or from California, that's also just as drawing in some regards as well. I know a lot of my friends from New York come here and they're like, you need a car to go to the grocery store?
- That's most people do. But yeah, I'm wasting words. I think that this has been something that CGS has been working on, kind of historically, trying to get just better orientations for all of us, something that just makes more sense than putting it up to each department. So thank you. We saw like 15 minutes.

Unknown Delegate: I'll have just a last comment. So I think the idea of having a workshop and like a live session is great, I guess, but from personal experience, it's like always better to have a version that is accessibility all the time because people cannot attend the workshop due to many, many reasons.

- And even if they do, they might pocket where was the information. So I think we can prioritize this work and I'm willing to devote time over to summer. So yeah. Yeah. I'll reach out to you after this meeting and we can figure out what we might want, what we want that to look like.

Durso.19: And I do agree with you. This should be like housed not only on the graduate school's website, but on OIA's website. These things should be everywhere, should be accessible. Information should not be hard to get completely. Also links to CGS's website, all the links, all of the places, as many places, and we can get them to plug them.

Anybody else have anything for us? We have about 15 minutes left.

8.1.3 CSA

Carrera.55: I can talk, Sabrina, about CSA. If you'd like. So the student activity fee was distributed amongst a bunch of different beneficiaries.

- Less than 10% of it goes to student organizations, which is the funds that are used for programming and operating funds. Over the past several years, CSA has increased the amount of money that student organizations can get from about from around 3000 in one year to 5000.
- So the amount of money available for programming funds went up to 4500 or 3000, the amount of money that was available for operating funds, which you have a lot more flexibility with, went up from 200 to 500. When this happened, the number of requests that we received increased significantly. So like pre-COVID, we were getting about, I don't know, 700 requests a year. And once these changes were done, we would get 400 in half of the semester.
- So, you know, four times as many requests. The amount of staffing, full-time staffing that is available from Student Life to process all of these reimbursements and also process like the the so students members of CSA are the ones who approve whether or not something is fundable.

- Then once the event happens organizations either if it's held at an OSU location, Student Life can pay them directly. If not, the organization pays for it upfront and then gets a reimbursement. The reimbursement process is the one that we have the least oversight of from a CSA side.
- The student organization guidelines do not currently outline the timeline required for when an organization hears back from submitting a reimbursement, does not show how much time you have to correct something when there is an issue. So those things are missing and that's what we are currently in the process of updating the student organization guidelines so that it's clear to groups, okay, you can expect to hear back within one week, two weeks.
- If there is an issue, then you'll be able to, you have one week to correct that issue with your reimbursement to fix it. So this process takes time because allocations committee needs to need and update everything like create new guidelines.
- This is something that they do every single year. So every year they update it, a lot of changes went in last year, more will go in.
- But the focus on reimbursements, the reimbursement process and having transparency of that within student organizations and guidelines is the priority for fall semester. And the target is gonna be to have it updated, approved by CSA by end of fall for implementation in spring.
- So just so you guys are aware, the allocations committee is working on it. That's a group of students that handles a ton of requests.
- They handle 800 requests a year, which I think I was talking to John earlier, like, from perspective, I think, CDG, like, what CS, what CGS handles is like a tenth of, I don't know, maybe a fifth of that or a fourth of that. So that group is super busy, and then they're also updating the guidelines.
- They're working on it. Hopefully by end of fall it's implemented. But it's not on deaf ears. And then if any of you have knowledge of a very specific group, a specific event which someone had an issue with, if you send us that specific group specific event, then Jack Tomolte, who's the allocations chair, can follow up directly and like figure out what's happening with that one problem and try to resolve it.
- But if it's more of an overall thing, then there's not much that we can do outside of we're working on improving the process. Maybe they're gonna need another full-time staff, which you know, CSA began fun to help process these things. But that's the, that's more detail on that.

Durso.19: Thanks Peter. That's very informative, very necessary because assume activity is very confusing. Thanks CSA for being awesome. Does anybody have anything else for us? Oh, go ahead.

Unknown Delegate: Just want to confirm here what what Peter is saying it's a it's a really big issue regarding the time frame like I can tell you an example of last semester last spring I am from for another organization I organized an event and we used our own money and it was at the beginning of the semester and we did not hear back from them till the end of semester.

- I reached out to Jorge, he also talked to them and then after all that fuss like it took like four five months just to get our money back. And as grad students we know like even \$500 is a big amount, right?
- That's the maker break for us. So it's not like an easy thing to put our own money into these things and not get back from them. Like he's right, they don't even reply you within time. Certainly, you will hear from them. They will take a couple of months just to confirm.
- So you're also unsure whether it was approved or not, like are you received good or do you need something else? They take a couple of months and something, one thing is wrong when it goes back into processing again, they also take a couple of months. So yeah, these are very good points that this needs to be maintained and some oversight that this should be a time limit.

Durso.19: Yeah, I agree.

Carrera.55: To that point, so in the past year, CSA started processing a lot more. You know the office of student life within this that's handling the money. They can prepay for events if it's through



the union if it's through our packet It's through an OSU vendor they can prepay so we have been trying so there's a group of like 10 resource room student success coaches, student organization success coaches.

- We've been trying to have them focus and like when you plan an event, if you're able to do it on campus, if you don't have, you know, funds and you can't wait for the reimbursement process, which is a luxury for organizations, you can do it through the year and if you can do it through our pack, then you don't have to pay up front and you don't have to get any reimbursement.
- You kind of just missed all that, all those hurdles.
Now of course there's limited space, so you have to try and plan ahead of time.
- So I'd recommend if you have student orgs that are having this issue, try to plan it on university, through university vendors, so you don't have to pay upfront and try to plan early.

Durso.19: Do you think for anybody else? I do too think it's important to note too that the business office is incredibly short staffed this entire summer, as well as pretty much anybody that handles any kind of grant funding.

- Just in general, if something's taking a long time, I assume it's because we don't have great staff members. We have huge staff shortages all around. It's an epidemic. No one wants to live in a state where politics are tumultuous at all turns.
- So just be patient. CGS is working. If anybody has an issue, be assured it's a Katie and I, and we'll get on it right away. Sometimes our little tiny name of president and vice president scares people a little bit more than the average student. Go ahead, Katie.

Conner.280: Yeah, sorry, just a tag onto that. I know we say it a lot. And I know at times in the past, some officers have been slow to respond, email, email, email, email.

- Really truly like the paper trail is one of the biggest tools and weapons that Sabrina and I and other officers have because anytime they say, well, this isn't an issue or we've never heard this, that then means that we can say, we emailed you six months ago about this.
- Like we told you six months ago this was an issue or hey, we've got this email chain from X time. So please, please, please, You can email us on behalf of constituents.
- They can email us directly, whoever. But email is one of the biggest tools we have because it means that we have something like physical and irrefutable that we can then take to someone and say, this is what I have been told and this is an issue that's occurring. And truly if an issue is answerable easily and not even easily most of the time, actually some of them are pretty intense quickly.

Durso.19: Katie and I are on a 48 to 72 hour response time on every email that comes in through the CGS inbox or on personal inboxes running a tight ship thus far. I'm sure it'll get messy here and there, but truly emailing is great. I haven't let anybody down yet in the few months that I've been here.

So please seriously email me. I'm nice. I'm friendly. I tell you I help you enjoy the weather. I am Sabrina. How could I help you? Awesome. Do you have any other delegate issues or concerns guys?

8.1.4. Recreational Spaces

Soni.XXX: Hi, I'm not sure if I should bring it up, which is this round or somewhat about. So I have not been assigned to a committee yet. I had filled up like my choices like maybe and a year ago, I guess when I was appointed. But yeah, so whom should I contact with that?

Durso.19: Haley. Hit me up via email. But yes, we got you. Thank you. Anything else from anybody? We have about seven minutes left. Delicate issues and concerns. I think you should put a limit on one person renting a university, but I have one more thing to random out.



Arshad.32: Okay. I shared it earlier, I think in person chat with the ARPEC timings. In summer, ARPEC used to close at 10. In summer, I remembered last summer, but this time they just took it down to nine.

- So I think if they just keep reducing the time next year They will do it make it eight and then if we don't react and don't say anything They'll feel like okay. They can just reduce the resources, right? But it works for them. So I think we should reach out to them and ask them like do they have any reason?
- Is it lack of resources or did they feel like it wasn't being used after nine because I remember From nine to nine that that was the time I used to go and was very filled up. So I think yeah that's one thing I think we should bring it up to them or even if they are doing something like this there should be emails in advance.
- It should be like summer starts and then it starts to close at nine because last year it wasn't like this. So there was a change in routine or something. There should be a detailed email, the reason why they did this and why the change was implemented. Because they think they can get away with things like this every year then. I think we will end up with less and less resources.

Durso.19: Yeah, I've been meeting with Ryan Lovell. He's the Vice President of Health and Wellness for Student Life. I already had this on my agenda to talk to him about, so that's easy to do.

- I can at least get his response onto the reasoning why it happened and if it's going to continue happening or if anything can be done about it. I do imagine it's probably just due to staffing shortages in the summer.
- But also this emailing in advanced situation, I think there's something wrong with Health and Wellness' email system. We also, none of us got notification of the optometry services being moved to the College of Optometry Building instead of Student Health Center.
- It's important to know if you hadn't gotten that email. I'm working with them on that now. But I'll see about if they sent an email communication or meant to and getting that fixed as quickly as possible.
- But that's been an issue on a number of things. So I wonder how many things we haven't been communicated about that they've intended. But I'm sure it wasn't meant to be a secret. Thank you. I did get the email regarding the auto-meet treatment, not the email, but it's a message in my student health center for my book ID.
- Yeah, I know they sent out another one recently, but their exchange was made over a month ago. Yeah, so some people just showed up to Wilson were like, where do I go?
- Oh. Anybody else? We're about four minutes left or we can have a motion to close early. Delegate issues and concerns.

- **Arshad.32** motions to end early
- **Annerinon.2** seconds
- Motion passes with majority vote

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

4:17 PM

9.1. CGS calendar sent out

9.1.1 **Durso.19:** Awesome. Let's close that early. Let me go back to sharing my screen for just one more second, guys.



- We're almost out of here, I swear. Announcements, so we will not be meeting until September 6th at 3.30 at the Ohio Union in the Senate chambers and on Zoom of course a really kind of fun thing that I tried to do I copied Senate so if you're a senator you may have seen this before And this is a calendar of the next academic year, starting in September, going all the way until May, which is just about the time that I'm allowed to schedule events anyway.
- If you look on this, everybody got it sent to the delegate packet.
- Katie should be putting it in the chat for us. It tells you all of the locations of all of the meetings for this year.
- The only time we're not in the Senate chambers is when in November 1st we're in the Ohio State, in Traditions Room.
- But every other time we'll be meeting in the same room, which was amazing, and that Senate chamber room with all the microphones, so that'll be nice. I also listed all the executive meetings, which are the Fridays before the general meetings.
- If anybody ever wants to come to those, you just have to be invited, so please do feel free to ask. Sharing information is always better. Then we have important CGS events, which is that I marked them chronologically. So the Ray Travel Awarding Career Development Grant, Accessibility, Stakeholder Symposium, and the Hays Research Forum. This will be updated as we get more important CGS events.
- And then of course, it's the Ray Travel Award, a career development grants when they open and their deadlines are all marked on the calendar. And anything in gray is an academic holiday. I can't see this in the chat. So hopefully that's just awesome. So yeah, does anybody have any questions on any of that?
- Cool. Seeing none. I don't know why I have mine. We'll worry about that later. Anyway, with that being said, you guys, thank you so much. I will see you in September. Have a good rest of your summer. Don't work too hard. Read a good book and party it up on a beach or in a mountain somewhere for a second.

9.2 Next General Delegate Meeting: Friday, October 4th in the Senate Chambers (2nd floor of the Ohio Union) & Zoom

10. ADJOURNMENT

4:19 PM



Officer Reports

TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Sabrina Durso, President
DATE: August 31, 2024
RE: President's Report

Welcome (back) to CGS everyone,

I sincerely hope you all had wonderful summers full of adventures, good health, family and friends, and a perfect balance of rest and productivity—and I wish the same for this semester!

Over the Summer:

- **Childcare** Committee: President Carter convened a team of myself, CGS alum Ben McKinley.255, and various university administration to respond to numerous concerns brought to the University Senate. Said committee sent our official recommendations to President Carter last week regarding the development of childcare co-ops, drop-in facilities, child friendly spaces, educational resources, improved facilities, and more.
- **Completed Executive Orientation** last week! Everyone on exec is ready to work with their committee to fulfill their goals! Please read each Internal Committee's updated description on <https://cgs.osu.edu> to find out how to get involved.
- **Rocked Convocation and 3 Welcome Week Events!** Big shoutout to VP Katie, Treasurer Jon, M&W Chair Aryn, and HAFA Chair Murtaza for helping!

Working On:

- Seating ACADEMIC AFFAIRS and DIVERSITY & INCLUSION! **Help CGS get a full Executive Committee this year by chairing a committee!** Contact me if interested!
- Unfortunately, **President Carter** will not be able to join a CGS General Body Meeting but he looks forward to confirming other engagements with us in this semester. I remain hopeful he'll come if I keep bugging him every chance I get.
- Getting **CGS Newsletters** on an independent platform. In the meantime, you'll find CGS newsletters either sent out by the CGS email, alongside Katie's and my own, and/or on the Grad School newsletter.
- Pertaining to issues of **Advisor Abuse**, the University Senate and the Grad School are looking into ways to curtail these issues. Furthermore, the Accommodations Resolution addresses these concerns and more and is currently under review.

Updates from Past Delegate Issues and Concerns:

- **International Student Information:** Though CGS continues to advocate for improved orientations, there currently exists a list of information for new international students here: <https://oia.osu.edu/units/international-students/new-student-check-in-and-orientation/pre-arrival-messages/>
- **Discrepancies in Student Fees:** It was brought to our attention that student fees vary each semester in our payroll deductions and that these fees rise substantially in June and July. I am exploring this issue with the University Registrar's Office.

It's going to be a great year,

Sabrina Durso.19



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Katie Conner, Vice President
DATE: SEPTEMBER, 2024
RE: Vice President's Report

Hey y'all!

Intro & Misc.

Welcome to our first meeting packet of the 24-25 school year! My report will usually take the same format each month for ease to find relevant information. It'll start with Intro/Misc., then move to internal updates, followed by Hayes updates, and finally reminders/action items/conclusions. As with all officers' and chairs' reports, my written report will contain far more detail and minutiae, while my verbal meeting report will focus more on specific action items, or really important things I need to draw folks' attention to!

This month's report will likely be a little longer than normal as it's a sum up of the summer, in addition to getting rolling on Fall Elections and Hayes Forum fun! With all that having been said, here's the report for this month....

Summer Sum-Up

What exactly did I get up to this summer? Here's the final cumulative report on everything (still) in progress, and everything that got completed. If you have questions or want further details, I'm happy to chat individually or address questions.

- **In Progress** -
- **Hayes39 (2025)**
 - Application updates submitted to IT for judges (both OSU and nonOSU)
 - In building process now
 - Work w/ consultants about equity concerns
 - Microaggressions and poor judging practices, how to improve judging onboarding
 - Formalizing accessibility requirements and process for day-of content and for judges/participants/guests
 - Get in touch with Wellness Center about potential collaboration for a "wellness" decompression room for in between presentations and awards luncheon
 - Get Memorandum of Understanding drawn up with Grad School & ERIK to confirm all groups upping funding to \$12k a piece annually (increasing budget from \$30k to \$36k to reflect inflation and increased participation numbers)
- **Delegates/Elections**
 - Fall elections running!
 - Voting period starts 9/4, closes 9/11
 - Special election for Senator (will be done at the end of CGS meeting 9/6 hopefully!)
 - Application updates
 - Updates needed are noted, application to update will be submitted at close of Fall Elections with priority turnaround to limit down time
- **Misc.**
 - Bylaws Updates w/ Sabrina, Brian, Peter



- We've met once to discuss feedback and tweaks, now are in drafting phase w/ the goal of adoption in Sept. 24 when the full General Body is present
- Further website updates & Fixes
- Officer pages, contact sheet, etc. updated
- Getting IT to fix various forms and portals (Hayes, Ray, CDG, elections) as issues arise
- **Completed** -
- **Hayes39 (2025)**
 - Catalogue all current materials and swag remaining after '24 Hayes Forum
 - Close out Hayes '24 payments, prize payments, and getting reimbursement from ERIK and Graduate School for Hayes money CGS fronted
 - Confirm Hayes '25 room reservations
 - Application updates submitted to IT for participants (Built & Approved!)
 - Debrief Hayes 24 with various participant groups
 - Hayes 26 & 27 reservations made for future CGS/VP
- **Delegates/Elections**
 - Tweak & distribute senator committee & "get to know you" survey for 24-25 senators
 - Tweak & distribute delegate committee & "get to know you" survey for 24-25 delegates
 - Completing runoffs from Spring 24
 - Elected delegates' applications approved, assigned to seats, academic verification from dept and graduate school secured, added to mailing list, etc.
 - Work on committee assignments for 24-25 for all CGSers
 - All done with exceptions of final scheduling issues as they arise, and assigning any fall electees to committees
 - Delegate/CGS orientation done on 8/23 (thanks to all who attended and had incredible energy!)
- **Misc.**
 - CDG FP1 and FP2 Applications & Judging completed, applicants notified of status
 - Working w/ new financial associate Blair to finish closing out remaining FY24 CDG winners
 - Onboarding Kaz as new CDG chair to takeover in FP3 for CDG!
 - Helped draft, edit, & gather feedback on CGS statement
 - Posted on socials & website
 - Meet w/ Erica, Sabrina, Jon, and Kaz about 24-25 CGS goals, team dynamics, & workflow
 - Welcome week (planning & execution)
 - Got new hot sheets, gave out over 1800 pieces of swag across 3 events
 - Further website updates & Fixes
 - Officer pages, contact sheet, etc. updated
 - Getting IT to fix various forms and portals (Hayes, Ray, CDG, elections)

Internal Operations Updates

Fall elections are in full swing. Applications were accepted 8/28 through 9/1. Voting started 9/4 at noon, and will end on 9/11 at 5pm. There will be a reminder email sent on 9/9 about voting. I'll take a few days to confirm votes were valid, and to tally. Then at latest I'll reach out to new delegates on 9/18 at latest for confirmation/acceptance of seats, and get them onboarded so they can start ASAP and join us starting at the October full-body meeting. We have 12 people



running for the 15 open seats across 8 units of representation, so I'm pretty thrilled with the turnout at this moment. We have many more applicants, but unfortunately they are for seats that are filled. So I'll try to convert those to internal committee members so folks can still be involved in advocacy, even if not as delegates. Once elections close, I'll get on the hustle of contacting units specifically that still have open seats to try and get petitions or appointments going. I continue my elusive hunt for 100 delegates (#TripleDigitsOrBust). The graduate school has said they're happy to help me getting in touch with GSCs/DGSs, so I'll be pursuing that hard in addition to word of mouth and network building as always!

Hayes Advanced Research Forum 39 (Hayes 2025) - #175DaysTilHayes

Most of the substantive stuff is in my summer section above, but I'm excited for what's to come this year! Some continued tweaks and updates to the application process, hopefully continued growth of alumni and industry judges to help supplement really mercurial faculty involvement/investment. In August I got the marketing request in, confirmed (again) dates and times for the forum itself as well as AV and food requests, touched base with Erica about general planning, met with the grad school and OPA about postdoc involvement, and exciting new help publicizing through OAA and the Grad School more jointly/proactively as well! The aim is 500 applicants this year. We haven't seen that many since pre-COVID and as it's my last year, I want to really push hard on growing things to leave the next VP in good momentum.

Reminders, Action Items, and Conclusions

I've got some minor action items in my verbal report, mostly surrounding helping me get better contact info for each department/unit of representation. But nothing huge besides work hard, listen to your committee chairs and show up to things, and reach out if questions or concerns arise.

As always, folks should never hesitate to reach out to me. Feel free to pop into the CGS offices to see if I'm around as well! My fall '24 hours will be a mixture of in person and hybrid working, so email if you'd like to meet physically and we'll set something up! Generally I'll be on campus Fridays all day (9ish – 5ish) when I'm working from OH, and hoping to also be on campus Tuesday or Wednesday.

Cheers y'all!

Katie Conner, MA

VP of the Council of Graduate Students

Hayes Forum Chair

PhD Student, Linguistics



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Jon Fritz, Grants Admin Co-chair and Treasurer
DATE: September 6th 2024
RE: Ray Travel Award Chair and Treasurer's Report

Hey all! If you don't know me, my name is Jon Fritz (he/him) and I'm starting my fourth year as a PhD student in the interdisciplinary biophysics PhD program, with co-advisors in biomedical engineering as well as in internal medicine. Through my research, I use lab-on-a-chip devices as well as computational modeling to better understand how the lung responds to mechanical injury. This is my 2nd (!) and final year serving as the CGS Treasurer and I look forward to working with the officers, exec, and you all for the coming year.

Point of information: Traditionally, the Ray Travel Award (RTA) and Career Development Grant (CDG) Committees were standalone committees chaired by the Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Starting this year, the Ray and CDG committees are planning to be organized under a new committee, the Grants Administration Committee, with the Ray and CDG committees existing as subcommittees. The intention for this reorganization was to cross-train Ray & CDG folks to create a more reliable judging pool as well as structurally organize these two logistically similar committees under one roof. Moving forward for 2024-2025, Kaz and I would like to be co-chairs of the Grants Admin Committee. Although I would still be largely responsible for Ray, we would be working together to support heavy judging needs as well as larger structural changes to our grant operations (e.g. website, timelines, automated email responses, etc.). This restructuring will be proposed in the next vote for updates to our bylaws, so stay tuned!

Communication:

Please feel free to reach out to me if you need anything at fritz.288@buckeyemail.osu.edu or at jonathan.fritz@osumc.edu. I check my @buckeyemail.osu.edu frequently, my osumc.edu email once a week, and my osu.edu email does not work so avoiding emailing there! I will try my best to respond within 24-48 hours and, if I haven't responded within a week, *poke me again*.

Treasurer updates:

Nothing on my end currently!

Ray Travel Award (RTA) Updates:

We finished judging at the end of August for funding period 2 (FP2) and we funded 8 applications! We AGAIN have a large carryover in RTA funding from last year, so please encourage your constituents to apply. Thank you so much to those of you who judged for this funding period, especially given the transition to the new academic year.

FP3 applications will open on October 1st rather than the usual September 15th to allow for us to make some much-needed changes to the website. These apps are due by November 1st at 11:59pm for travel dates between January 1st - March 31st 2025.

For new committee members: I will reach out to you soon for training, a first meeting, future events/activities, etc. Thanks for your patience!

Thank you,
Jon Fritz.288



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Kaz Gary, Secretary
DATE: September 6th, 2024
RE: Secretary's Report

Hi everyone!

My name is Kaz Gary (he/they) and I'm your recently elected Secretary. I'm a 3rd year PhD student in astronomy with a research focus on exoplanets! I was elected in May's meeting and have been working hard with the other officers during the summer to get everything prepared for you all this year :)

I don't have anything specific to report, so I'll just echo what Jon said that I'm helping to co-chair the Grants Admin Committee. I head the CDG sub-committee and CDG stands for the Career Development Grant. Graduate students can apply for a CDG award of \$350 to put towards their professional career development. If you want more information on this award and who's eligible to apply, please see: <https://cgs.osu.edu/funding-awards-resources/career-development-grant>

In addition to the CDG, I also send out the monthly Delegate Packet and record our monthly meetings. If you ever have any questions or ideas to add to the monthly packets, please let me know!

Welcome back!

Thanks,
Kaz Gary.102

Committee Chair Reports



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: VACANT, CGS Academic Affairs, Chair
DATE: September 6, 20224
RE: Academic Affairs Chair Report

Dear CGSers,

The Academic Affairs Committee works closely with the Graduate School, the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA), the Council on Student Enrollment and Progress (CESP), and the Council on Academic Affairs (CAA) to ensure graduate students are receiving the best and most inclusive educational experience. The committee advocates for graduate students on issues related to academics, including research funding, faculty-student relationships and mentorship, and university/college/departmental policies.

This committee chair is currently VACANT. If you are interested in chairing this committee, please contact President Sabrina Durso.19.



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Holly Engel and Nicholas Booker, Arts and Culture Chairs
DATE: September 6, 2024
RE: Arts and Culture Chairs' Report

Greetings,

The Arts and Culture Committee is looking forward to holding our first meeting within the next few weeks. We're always looking for new committee members who will help us to contribute positively to arts and culture on campus holistically! So, please tell your friends and reach out if you're interested in sitting on the committee and/or collaborating! Holly will be taking the lead during the fall semester as Nick works on candidacy and research.

Sincerely,

Engel.210
Booker.200



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: VACANT, Diversity & Inclusion Chair
DATE: September 6, 2024
RE: Diversity & Inclusion Chair's Report

Dear CGSers,

The Diversity & Inclusion Committee is committed to bringing about mutual understanding and respect among all individuals and groups at the University and to eliminating all forms of discrimination. In recognition that the development of human potential is a fundamental goal in a democratic society, this committee promotes an education system that values cultural and ethnic diversity and understanding; that provides for the preparation of students for full and meaningful participation in a changing world; and that promotes equitable and fair treatment in every aspect of campus life and employment for all persons regardless of race, color, national or regional origin, sex, age, religion, veteran status, disability, and body shape or size. This committee is dedicated to programming centered on education, awareness, activism, and building social communities for diverse groups of graduate students.

This committee chair is currently VACANT. If you are interested in chairing this committee, please contact President Sabrina Durso.19.



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Madeline Carrola, Government Affairs Chair
DATE: September 6, 2024
RE: Government Affairs Chair's Report

Hello,

The Government Affairs Committee launched a voting sticker design contest on August 26, 2024 to promote civic engagement among graduate students. The Committee has decided to **EXTEND** the submission window until Sunday, **September 8th at 5pm**. The voting period will open on **September 23rd**. Please remind your constituents to submit a sticker design and then vote for their favorite one.

Voting Sticker Design Contest!

The CGS Government Affairs Committee invites you to enter our Voting Sticker Design Contest! With the upcoming election on November 5, 2024, we welcome artwork that encourages civic engagement. See the guidelines and details below.

Guidelines and Eligibility:

- All OSU graduate students all eligible to enter ONE voting sticker design
- All sticker designs MUST adhere to the following:
 - No partisan messaging
 - No OSU branding elements
 - No hate speech
- All eligible voting sticker designs will be shared with OSU graduate student body to vote for the winning design
- The winning sticker will be printed on a 1.5x1.5-inch square or a 2-inch diameter circle

Awards:

- **First Place:** The first-place winner will have their design featured on the stickers printed by CGS (1,000 stickers+), will be featured on a CGS Instagram/Twitter/X post, and will receive a **\$100 gift card**
- **Second Place:** The second-place winner will receive a **\$75 gift card**
- **Third Place:** The third-place winner will receive a **\$50 gift card**

Timeline:

- **August 26:** Sticker design submission period **OPENS**
- **September 6:** Sticker design submission period **CLOSES**
- **September 23:** Voting period **OPENS** for graduate student body
- **September 27:** Voting period **CLOSES** at 5PM EST
- **September 30:** Winners are notified
- **October 7:** Stickers with the winning design will be distributed on campus

**Enter your voting sticker
design [here!](#)**

Sincerely,
Carrola.1



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Peter Carrera, Graduate Caucus Chair
DATE: September 9, 2024
RE: Graduate Caucus Chair's Report

What is the University Senate and CGS's Graduate Caucus?

WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate is the shared governing body of The Ohio State University. Comprised of 141 faculty, students, staff, and administrators, the Senate's primary responsibility is to advise campus leaders on the key educational and academic policy concerns.

Purpose:

The University Senate benefits the university community by serving as a channel for communication between representatives of the faculty, students, staff and administrators concerning key issues facing the instruction.

Senate Makeup:

- 71 faculty ~50%
- 41 students 29%
- 17 administrators 17%
- 5 staff ~4%

CGS's Senate body, the Graduate Caucus, is excited to serve OSU's interests in the shared governance space of the university. CGS has 10 senators total. The Graduate Caucus has two primary objectives:

1. Present a unified, graduate student-focused presence in The University Senate when conducting Senate business
2. Having a transparent, two-way information flow with CGS members and constituents; sharing what occurs in the Senate and in turn receiving valuable perspective & information

There are 20 University Senate committees listed here: senate.osu.edu. CGS has senators on all committees that deal with students. Our current senators are listed below:



Committee	Senator	Senator
Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM)		
Council on Academic Freedom & Responsibility (CAFR)	Jorge ClavoAbbas.1	
Council on Enrollment and Student Progress (CESP)	Thomas Elton.21	
Council on Student Affairs (CSA)	Krutant Mehta.337	Peter Carrera.55
Council on the Physical Environment	Brittany Multer.3*	
Library Committee	Gabriel GuzmanCamacho.1	
Committee on Academic Technology (CAT)	Tony Annerino.2	
Diversity Committee	Deb Pathak.89	
Evaluation of Central Administrators (EOCA)		
Fiscal Committee	Gabriel GuzmanCamacho.1	
Graduate Compensation and Benefits Committee (GCBC)	Brian Rocha.51	Deb Pathak.89
Intellectual Property, Patents, & Copyrights (IPPC)	Brian Rocha.51	
Research Committee (URC)	Tony Annerino.2	Andrew Miles.375
Rules Committee	Jorge ClavoAbbas.1	
Steering	Sabrina Durso.19*	
Athletic Council	Katie Conner.280*	
Council on Academic Affairs (CAA)	Andrew Miles.375	

*are committee chairs or officers serving on Senate committees

In future months the Graduate Caucus will be giving monthly updates to CGS members on the work university Senate committees are conducting month to month. Please share and discuss any relevant information with your constituents. If you have any questions or want to share thoughts about what is going on in a Senate committee please contact the respective CGS senator.

Meanwhile, for those of you interested, every Senate committee creates an annual report outlining all their work done for the year. These are available on the [Senate website](#). I would like to particularly point out the reports by the [Council on Student Affairs](#) and the [Graduate Compensation and Benefits Committee](#), as these are both chaired by students who last year were both CGS members. Please take a look at any Senate committee's annual report and share whatever you're interested in with the corresponding senator.

In service,
Peter Carrera (Carrera.55)



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Chiranth Koratagere Nagaraj, Graduate Student Affairs Chair
DATE: September 9, 2024
RE: Graduate Student Affairs Chair's Report



The Graduate Student Affairs Committee is committed to solidifying a positive graduate experience at The Ohio State University for all graduate students. The committee, through a variety of collaborative projects, seeks to make positive change across all areas of the graduate student experience. The committee tackles a multitude of larger projects of its own volition, while serving as a reinforcing back-end support for the other CGS committees where and when assistance is needed. The committee intentionally leans into its broadly given name in order to be as ambitious and responsive to student's needs as possible. Alongside this work, the committee plans Ohio State's annual Graduate Student Appreciation Week.

Sincerely,
Koratagerenagaraj.1



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Deb Pathak & Luke Van Niel, Health, Wellness, and Safety Chair
DATE: September 9, 2024
RE: Health, Wellness, and Safety Chair's Report

Hey everyone,

The Health, Wellness, & Safety Committee aims to ensure the physical and mental well-being of all graduate students at The Ohio State University. At a time when universities across the nation are promoting dialogue on student wellness, such as discussing graduate student mental health, the HW&S committee seeks to support parallel initiatives on the Ohio State campus. Specifically, through a combination of research, university partnerships, and outreach initiatives the committee is focused on creating and promoting an environment of care and wellness throughout the university. As part of this mission, the Health, Wellness, & Safety Committee organizes the annual "Accessibility Stakeholder's Symposium" in the Fall, an event open to all Buckeyes to discuss accessibility resources and standards on the OSU campus. At this event, the committee partners with other organizations across OSU, including the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator's Office, Student Life and Disability Services, Buckeyes4Accessibility, and more.

The **2024 Accessibility Stakeholder's Symposium** will be held on October 29th in the Cartoon Room in the Ohio Union from 8 am to 1 pm. Closer to October, HW&S will be looking for a few volunteers to help hand out swag, pass around microphones, and of course, breakfast and lunch will be provided!

Current schedule:

- 8:00 – 8:30 am - Breakfast: Registration with a welcome from the head of CGS HWS
- 8:30 – 9:30 am - Panel 1: Professors of Disability Studies Discussion
- 9:30 – 10:30 am - Panel 2: Student Orgs come together to discuss issues
- 10:30 – 11:00 am - Break: Heads of Orgs come together to prep questions for Admin
- 11:00 – 12:00 pm - Panel 3: Stakeholders Roundtable based on questions--> with 20-30 min Q & A open to audience
- 12:00 – 1:00 pm - Lunch: Mental Health Debrief

While CGS is hosting the event, it is open to the entire OSU community (with a reservation system in place to manage attendance) and will also be available via Zoom. A registration form will be available soon!

Please also do not hesitate to reach out to us with any issues related to accessibility on campus that come up in the meantime. We look forward to an exciting year of advocacy!

Sincerely,
Deb Pathak.89 & Luke Vanniel.5



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Syed Murtaza Arshad, Housing and Family Affairs Chair
DATE: September 9, 2024
RE: Housing and Family Affairs Chair's Report

Hey all,

Welcome back to the returning members and for the new ones, welcome to this big, hardworking and supportive family!

This is Syed Murtaza Arshad, I go by Murtaza. I am a PhD candidate in Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) Program. I serve you all as your delegate for ECE and the chair of Housing and Family Affairs (HAFA) Committee. That means if you have any issues, ideas, requests or confusions regarding ECE, housing or family related things or feel free to reach out to me. If you approach me by email (arshad.32@osu.edu), I will make sure you get a response within 48 hours. If email is too formal for you, ask me for my Whatsapp contact. Coming to what do at HAFA,

"We are dedicated to enhancing the housing experience for all graduate students and improving the overall quality of life for those with families at The Ohio State University. We collaborate closely with the Office of Student Life (studentlife.osu.edu) and Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement (offcampus.osu.edu) to ensure access to essential resources for securing safe, affordable, and family-friendly housing. Our efforts include advocating for better graduate housing policies, connecting students with vital support services, and organizing family-oriented events and childcare programs. Additionally, the committee strives to support graduate student caregivers in balancing parenting, family responsibilities, work, and academic pursuits, ensuring a fulfilling experience at OSU."

With this mission we are happy to announce that with the help of whole CGS and our committee's efforts, grad students have a new resource at the campus, Jennifer Kephas, Sr.

Relationship Manager (OCCSE), started in August. Jennifer will help grads look for suitable, family friendly off-campus housing according to their needs. You will get to know more about Jennifer's role at the meeting.

Wishing you a wonderful academic year!

Be wise and kind,
Arshad.32



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Kaustubh Kumar, International Student Affairs Chair
DATE: September 6, 2024
RE: International Student Affairs Chair's Report

Hi Everyone,

The International Student Affairs Committee (ISAC) aims to create a more inclusive, assistive, and cooperative experience for all graduate students at Ohio State, particularly international students. The committee intends to facilitate useful information and resources (like news digests, tax information sessions, etc.) and advocate for a vibrant and interconnected student community so that international students have the support they need to excel at OSU. By improving communications and partnerships with the Office of International Affairs (OIA), the Graduate School, and other relevant offices and student organizations across the campus, ISAC fosters an environment in which they can effectively address the challenges and support the unique needs of international graduate students.

ISAC is looking forward to holding its first meeting in the second half of this month. We are always looking for new committee members who will help us grow and contribute positively to international graduate students experience at the OSU. So, please tell your friends and reach out (kumar.889@osu.edu) if you are interested in serving on the committee.

Wishing all a fruitful academic year ahead,

Kumar.889



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Bill Wang, Research and Data Operations Chair
DATE: September 6, 2024
RE: Research and Data Operations Chair's Report

Hi there,

In the past, the RDO committee helped other committees analyze their survey results.

In addition to our old role, the RDO committee hopes to hold a data camp this year for CGS members who are interested in learning about simple data analysis tools.

Best,

Wang.13945



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Brittany Multer, Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility Committee (SERC) Chair
DATE: September 6, 2024
RE: SERC Chair's Report

Welcome back everyone!

My name is Brittany, and I am your SERC Chair this year. I am very excited to get things started and have already been hard at work. Over the summer, I met with the OSU Sustainability Institute and the OSU Facilities, Operations, and Development Sustainability Team to learn about 1) what sustainability work is being done on campus and 2) what gaps exist in the work being done and how SERC can support these efforts. The main takeaway from these meetings was that there are many resources on campus available to students that are not known and underused. It would be great if you all could check out the programs listed below and share them with your constituents!

I hope to continue meeting with entities working on sustainability around campus, so if you know of any organizations on campus working in the sustainability realm, please let me know! **Also, if you have ideas for sustainability efforts on campus, bring them forward!** The organizations I met with are eager to hear student ideas for campus sustainability. This is not limited to physical changes on campus but includes teaching and learning, research and innovation, and outreach and engagement!

- **FREE** Reusable container program
 - <https://dining.osu.edu/sustainability/reusable-container-program/>
- **FREE** Mini compost bins for at home composting (drop off locations around campus)
 - <https://fod.osu.edu/compost#student-composting>
- **FREE** Zero waste dining kits (check out reusable plates/silverware)
 - <https://dining.osu.edu/sustainability/zero-waste-toolkit1/>
- Composting for meetings
 - <https://fod.osu.edu/zero-waste>
- **FREE** Green Buckeye Certification – Recognition for implementing sustainability practices in your campus office or lab (see attached flyer)
 - <https://fod.osu.edu/greenbuckeye>

Looking forward to a great year!
Brittany Multer.3



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Aryn Robinson, Membership Wellness Chair
DATE: September 6, 2024
RE: Membership Wellness Chair's Report

Happy start to the semester!

My name is Aryn Robinson, and I am the new chair of the Membership Wellness Committee. I am also starting my second term as the delegate for Speech and Hearing Sciences. The goal of Membership Wellness is to build a sense of community in CGS that will help support all members in their service efforts and professional development as they work to advocate for graduate issues and concerns

Meeting Activities

Membership Wellness will (technology permitting *fingers crossed*) be playing the songs submitted to the Get to Know You Survey in the time before General Delegate Meetings. So, pop in early if you are able and enjoy the music enjoyed by your fellow CGSers. There will also be sensory items and coloring materials available near the sign in sheet. Enjoy these items to help unwind during meetings. **Please return** the sensory items and colored pencils at the end of the meeting. This is to make sure they can be enjoyed by all CGS members for the entire year. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Buddy Program and Special Interest Groups

The Get to Know You Survey highlighted that CGSers are very interested in having a Buddy Program and Special Interest Groups. Membership Wellness is going to work on developing these programs at our first committee meeting.

Membership Shoutouts

Link for the Membership Shoutouts Form <https://forms.gle/Tpxf47dx9ZPm9Q7f6>

I will put the link in all my reports so this is where you should look when you want to complete a shoutout (or favorite it and keep it somewhere safe!). Please use Membership Shoutouts as a way to share good news in your life or to shine some well-deserved light on a fellow CGSer. The shoutout form will be monitored up until 10 pm the night before General Delegate Meetings. If you submit a shoutout after this time, it will be included in the next month's group of shoutouts

Wishing everyone an enjoyable semester,

Robinson.2283