



**COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

# Delegate Packet

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Location: Ohio Union Senate Chambers & Zoom



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# Agenda

General Delegate Meeting | 5 DECEMBER 2025 | Senate Chambers, Ohio Union & Zoom

1. **CAMPUS CONNECTIONS** 3:00 PM
  - 1.1 Membership Wellness Winter Party
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** [25 min]
  - 5.1. President’s Report – Sabrina Durso.19
  - 5.2. Vice President’s Report – Anna Zaitseva.1
  - 5.3. Treasurer’s Report – Adam Tjoelker.4
  - 5.4. Secretary’s Report – Kaz Gary.102
  - 5.5. Parliamentarian’s Report – Andy Vance.128
  - 5.6. Chief of Staff’s Report – Blue Lerner.111
6. **COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS** [40 min]
  - 6.1. Academic Affairs – Anastasia Shikanova.1 & Danwyn Aranha.7
  - 6.2. Arts and Culture – Holly Engel.210
  - 6.3. Diversity & Inclusion – Johnathan Chisam.1
  - 6.4. Government Affairs– Charlie Mace.103
  - 6.5. Graduate Caucus – Jon Fritz.288
  - 6.6. Graduate Compensation and Benefits – Bryan Perez Soto (PerezSoto.2)
  - 6.7. Graduate Student Affairs – Tinu Oduloye.1
  - 6.8. Health, Wellness, and Safety – Deb Pathak.89 & Luke Van Niel (Vanniel.5)
  - 6.9. Housing and Family Affairs – Lauren Levesque.31
  - 6.10. International Student Affairs – Ashutosh Soni.117
  - 6.11. Membership Wellness – Aryn Robinson.2283 & Katie Conner.280
  - 6.12. Research and Data Operations – Bill Wang.13945 & Shiddharta Ramprakash.4
  - 6.13. Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility – Casey Ortbahn.1 & Katelyn Amstutz.87
7. **OLD BUSINESS** [0 min]
8. **NEW BUSINESS** [0 min]
9. **SPECIAL ORDER ITEM** [30 min]
  - 9.1. Delegate Issues and Concerns
10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** [5 min]
  - 10.1 **Next General Delegate Meeting: Friday, January 16 at 3:30pm (Senate Chambers & Zoom)**
11. **ADJOURNMENT** 5:50 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 | 5 DECEMBER 2025 | Senate Chambers, Ohio Union and via Zoom

## 1. CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

3:30 PM

- 1.1 Ryan Lovell, Associate Vice President for Holistic Student Support and Well-Being

## 2. CALL TO ORDER

4:07 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

## 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Motion to approve by **Oduloye.1**
- Seconded by **Gokey.5**
- Approved by CGS majority

## 5. OFFICER REPORTS

4:10 PM

- 5.1. President’s Report – Sabrina Durso.19

### 5.1.1) General Updates:

- Wellness check-in
  - There are a lot of us struggling; you can reach out if you need support. CGS is here for you.
- Reminder to share CGS events and resources with your constituents, and listen to your colleagues to share problems with Sabrina Talked SB1 and 9-month to 12-month funding model for GAs

### 5.1.2) Over the Past Month:

- Exec Committee:
  - Welcome Anastasia and Danwyn to Academic Affairs, Johnathan to Diversity & Inclusion
- Ordered new CGS banners for events
- University Senate approved asynchronous voting day every 2 years
- Grad School
  - GradSERU should have been released but is not currently, Sabrina has reached out to Dean Stromberger to check on this
  - Let Sabrina know if you want to see an example of a department AI policy from the Department of Horticulture and Crop Sciences
- U of M is being chosen most frequently over OSU, but that gap is closing

### 5.1.3) Working on:

- 70th anniversary event scheduled for April 1, 2026, from 5:30pm – 7pm
- PhD Regalia Lending Library
- Purchasing 14 sets right now, hoping to purchase 25 more before Spring commencement
- Planning on making webpage and survey by December delegate meeting with Academic Affairs
- Connected with Commencement and Alumni Association for help
- CGS Getting Involved
  - Sabrina will look into a food drive with the Monda Student Resource Center for the next delegate meeting



#### 5.1.4) Updates from Past Delegate Issues and Concerns:

- Loss of access to federal databases
- Expecting that access will return when the government reopens
- This loss of access is not specific to international students, it affects everyone
- EHE Scholarship not being sent out
- Chief Admin Office doesn't see issues on their end, contact Sabrina if there is a specific issue
- Building concerns
- several departments will be moved around as buildings are repaired, Dean Horn is aware and considers this a high priority issue
- Contingent on state approving budget, top priority is moving Denney, Chemistry, and biological sciences to currently renovated buildings, hopefully by the end of 2027
- Parking
- Trying to schedule meeting with CampusParc, it seems like changing the contract will be very difficult to change

#### 5.2. Vice President's Report – Anna Zaitseva.1

##### 5.2.1) Hayes Forum 2026:

- Ordered decorations and swag items for 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hayes
- Met with Anna Sullivan-Kvam to discuss Hayes and figure out funding
- Please share the Hayes submission link and judge recruitment link within your departments

#### 5.3. Treasurer's Report – Adam Tjoelker.4

##### 5.3.1) Budget Amendment

- Further amending budget, related to Hayes funding missing payouts

##### 5.3.2) Ray Travel Award

- Funding period 3 just closed with some technical issues
- Preparing to assign submissions to judges

#### 5.4. Secretary's Report – Kaz Gary.102

##### 5.4.1) As Secretary:

- Please make sure you're signing in online with your first and last name and preferably name.# so we can take online attendance faster

##### 5.4.2) As CDG Chair:

- Outage issue with CDG submission portal, extensions were granted to compensate

## 6. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

4:21 PM

#### 6.1. Academic Affairs – Anastasia Shikanova.1 & Danwyn Aranha.7

##### 6.1.1) AI Fluency

- Hoping to get a survey out to grads asking how they feel about the current OSU initiative

#### 6.2. Arts and Culture – Holly Engel.210

##### 6.2.1) Last meeting:

- Arts Arts and Culture survey is finally live
- Open Mic night scheduled for Thursday, February 19 from 7-9pm in Sullivan 141
- Next meeting will be Thursday, November 13 from 10-11am in Hagerty Hall 206 or on Zoom



- 6.3. Diversity & Inclusion – Johnathan Chisam.1
- 6.3.1) **Looking for members!**
- To join, email Johnathan Chisam.1 and Anna Zaitseva.1
- 6.4. Government Affairs– Charlie Mace.103
- 6.4.1) **Voter registration deadline is October 6th!**
- OSU Votes will be Sent out Government Affairs Newsletter last Wednesday
  - Ohio redistricting issue resolved, congressional maps approved in bipartisan vote
  - Recent Elections: Passed bond measures for funding in Ohio
  - SNAP benefits status still unclear, being challenged in court
  - Monda Student Resource Center can help with food need
  - Legislation to keep an eye on
  - SB 293 moves absentee deadline back so that they must arrive by election day
  - SB 4 on election integrity makes alleged voter fraud prosecution easier
- 6.4.2) **Next Meeting**
- December 5<sup>th</sup> on Zoom! E-mail Charlie Mace.103 for the link
- 6.5. Graduate Caucus – Jon Fritz.288
- 6.5.1) **Compliance with federal government & AI:**
- Provost Bellamkonda presented his vision at the last University Senate meeting
  - International graduate students spoke about their experiences
  - More updates in delegate packet
  - Next Senate Meeting Thursday November 13, 3:30-5pm at Sullivant Hall 0220 or on Zoom
- 6.6. Graduate Compensation and Benefits – Bryan Pérez Soto.2 (PerezSoto.2)
- 6.6.1) **General Updates:**
- Continuing to recommend the same three points: raises, on-campus housing (Buckeye Village), moving from 9- to 12-month stipends
  - University of Delaware requested some data from us about stipends and enrollment
  - When we get a raise, enrollment increases
  - Continuing to look into this data for more evidence
- 6.7. Graduate Student Affairs – Tinu Oduloye.1
- 6.7.1) **Committee Updates**
- Next Finalized swag item selection, goal to finalize RFPs by December 1
  - Trying to connect with potential collaborators for GSAW events
- 6.8. Health, Wellness, and Safety – Deb Pathak.89 & Luke Van Niel (Vanniel.5)
- 6.8.1) **General Updates**
- Accessibility Stakeholders Symposium went well
    - Collecting feedback from attendees to try and draw a bigger crowd next year
    - Considering a smaller symposium event in the spring as well
    - Trying to maintain more direct open lines of communication with ADA and SLDS offices



6.9. Housing and Family Affairs – Lauren Levesque.31

6.9.1) **General Updates:**

- Housing and Education workshop on 10/27 was very informative, will post slides on the website for future reference
- Please fill out Housing and Cost of Living Survey
- Many grads are not aware that OCCSE and other housing resources exist
- Goal in the spring is to share this information with incoming students before they sign a lease
- Planning to have a packet of housing information for incoming students at next delegate meeting
- There is a whole department in city of Columbus dedicated to housing code enforcement, share this resource with constituents
  - You can report anonymously, there is an app for reporting as well, this data is very important for city of Columbus

6.10. International Student Affairs – Ashutosh Soni.117

6.10.1) **General Updates**

- Planning a game night around the end of the semester
- Trying to figure out an international movie night
- Need to go through licensed providers like SWANK
- Not many international options, looking into other places like Kanopy
- Still need a quote on cost and determining whether this will be a single event or a series

6.11. Membership Wellness – Aryn Robinson.2283 & Katie Conner.280

6.11.1) **Current/upcoming activities:**

- Fill out your wellness bingo cards to submit for a prize drawing
- CGS is having a Planetarium Trip
- Come to the Holiday Party before the December CGS meeting, from 3-4pm

6.12. Research and Data Operations – Bill Wang.13945 & Shiddharta Ramprakash.4

6.12.1) **Updates and upcoming activities:**

- Discussed issues with advisors stripping ownership of graduate students' work
- Planning to curate a document of existing policies to safeguard students and identify gaps
- Data bootcamp in February 2026
- Want to start a new series for information about data science called Data Bytes

6.13. Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility – Casey Ortbahn.1 & Katelyn Amstutz.87

6.13.1) **Meetings**

- Met with director of the Union and sustainability in student life
- Time4Change Week from March 29-April 5
- Planning a specific graduate student event for some time that week
- Let us know if you want help with sustainability for your events
- Fill out the survey to propose locations for new compost drop-off bins on campus

6.13.2) **Sustainability Tips**

- Before buying new decorations, can you use existing or borrowed items?
- Try not to buy cheap plastic single-use holiday decorations or products
- There are resources available if you have bought new items and want to dispose of them responsibly



## 7. OLD BUSINESS

5:01 PM

### 7.1 Updating Changes on Existing Voting Acts

7.1.1) An Act 2526-FA-001: An Act Updating and Clarifying the Language of the Constitution of the Council of Graduate Students

- Vote to approve via QR link

7.1.2) An Act 2526-FA-001: An Act Updating and Clarifying the Language of the Constitution of the Council of Graduate Students

- Vote to approve via QR link

7.1.3) An Act 2526-FA-001: An Act Updating and Clarifying the Language of the Constitution of the Council of Graduate Students

- Updates:
  - Adjusting Coca-Cola distribution to actual value
  - Modifying SAF distribution to be higher
  - Hayes budget is only listed as \$13k, we expect 30k but it was too late to update budget again
  - Big changes are pay for Treasurer and Secretary
  - Separated Hayes awards from Hayes budget
  - Updated amount spending on technology due to revised contract with Constant Contact

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

5:15 PM

### 8.1 Senator Elections

8.1.1) **Candidate: Kenny Saephan.2**

- Introductory Speech:
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> year PhD in agricultural communication, education and leadership
  - Previously served as a teacher in California working with underprivileged students
  - At OSU, working in educational policy and interdisciplinary framework to examine intersection of education decision-making between policy structures, people, and bureaucrats

8.1.2) **Q+A:**

- **Gokey.5:** What are you most passionate about advocating for CGS?
  - **Saephan.2:** Representing members, making sure their needs are taken seriously and not ignored. Navigating complex university structures.
- **Mace.103:** How will you resolve conflict if your constituents and you feel one way but CGS body feels another way?
  - **Saephan.2:** Put away own feelings, think about the needs of CGS as the actual body being represented
- **Fritz.288:** What did you know about CGS before today?
  - **Saephan.2:** About 2 months ago I learned about CGS more specifically, Andy Vance suggested I use my experience to represent the body
- **Levesque.31:** How would you interact with people trying to use their power to influence you?



- **Saephan.2:** I have experience standing up for myself as a high school teacher, but I am pragmatic and aware of power dynamics and knowing when to fight for something
- **Gokey.5** motion to end early
- **Mace.103** seconded
- Approved by CGS majority

## 9. SPECIAL ORDER ITEM

5:15 PM

### 9.1. Delegate Issues and Concerns

#### 9.1.1) Reimbursement for updated Tap IDs

- **Mace.103:** Concern from Dept of Physics constituent about updating doors to only use tap not swiping. Have to pay to update ID even though it is perfectly functional, just because someone has been at the university for a while and didn't originally get one with that RFID capacity
- **Durso.19:** I thought you could replace it for free if it was the first replacement, this is good to know
- **Harper.932:** I believe the upgrades are department-specific, not university-wide
- **DillmanHasso.1:** Our department said that they would reimburse us the \$5 after we pay and upgrade our cards
- **Mace.103:** Our department asked us to fill out a Workday request
- **DillmanHasso.1:** It costs a lot for some departments, based on expense to change the lock types
- **Durso.19:** It could affect many other places like library, RPAC, if we don't deal with it now
- **Smith.15196:** Card swipe doors can run out of battery, had a situation where office was not on master key and so could not get in without a screwdriver

#### 9.1.2) Data Sharing Concerns

- **Sen.130:** Situation with an international student who graduated last fall, advisor told the student to share their thesis data with others who wrote and published on that data; original student was made 2nd or later author on papers. The student felt uncomfortable and did not want to share data but was concerned about their advisor's power and their international student status. Can CGS do something to support students in this position?
- **Durso.19:** I will bring this to Dean Stromberger. Should be dealt with through the Grad Student Mentoring Initiative to better prepare students for this situation

#### 9.1.3) SLDS Concerns

- **Hill.2534:** Students concerned with SLDS signup being complicated, concerns about having to be remote for longer than 1 semester. How can we advocate for them?
- **Durso.19:** It will depend on the funding of the students
- **Hill.2534:** Students are funded by labs, the problems are not being able to attend classes because there is no virtual option
- **Durso.19:** Send me an email so I can help the particular student, I will try to work on global solution too with Health Wellness & Safety and SLDS

#### 9.1.4) Virtual Desktop Concerns



- **Parajuli.17:** Virtual desktop access ended over the summer. Students who need to use SAS for research can get a license from the department on windows but not mac, can we get access to virtual desktop again?
- **Durso.19:** University is moving from university-wide to making departments purchase Virtual Desktop for themselves. Send me an email and we can help the department with the purchase very quickly.
- **Chisam.1** Move to end delegate issues and concerns early
- **Oduloye.1** seconded
- Approved by majority of CGS

## 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

10.1 All votes passed, constitution bylaws and budget approved, Kenny Saephan.1 elected as senator

10.2 Next General Delegate Meeting: Friday, December 5 at 3:30pm (Senate Chambers & Zoom)

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

5:30 PM



## Officer Reports

TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Sabrina Durso, President  
DATE: November 21, 2025  
RE: President's Report

Dear Holly and Jolly CGSers,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving Break full of all the food and loved ones! As we approach Winter Break, I hope you all find time to enjoy the magic of snow and to celebrate all you've done this past year! It's been an honor getting to know so many of you, and I look forward to hearing of all of your accomplishments in the year ahead!

Repeating this information one more time: If you're able, this Holiday Season is also an excellent time to give back to your community by volunteering at [your local food kitchens or food pantries](#). I'm also aware this may be a difficult time for many of us financially—if you or your colleagues are struggling, do consider reaching out to [Student Advocacy](#) or the [Monda Student Resource Center](#). Both are very well-equipped to help those in need. Additionally, do remember all of OSU's wonderful [mental health resources](#) are largely free and available to all students!

### Over the Past Month:

- Executive Committee: We all sat in on a Student Life Strategic Plan Listening Session this past month. We have Vice Provost Randy Smith coming to talk to Exec in January about the University's re-accreditation review with the Higher Learning Commission. We have also worked with the Grad School to host a Mentoring Up workshop on February 4 from 3-4PM in the Senate Chambers to help share their new [Mentoring Toolkit](#). I also worked with a group of Big10 schools to establish ourselves as an entity among the Big10 Provosts.
- Student Life: Worked to hire a new Student Government Advisor and the Assistant Director for The Buckeye Commons.
- Graduate School: Grad Council is looking into making a formal AI policy, though it will most likely be bare bones to allow departments to have the biggest say in how AI is used in each department. They are also launching a new Wellness Grant for Grad Studies Chairs to apply for to help enhance the grad student experience in departments. Also, THE GRADSERU DATA IS FINALLY LIVE! [Check it out here and let me know if you have any questions or concerns!](#)
- University Senate: We approved the establishment of the [Appalachian and Rural Center for Health](#). ARCH's mission is to extend OSU's clinical, educational, and research capacity to rural and Appalachian partners, joining forces to create sustainable healthcare solutions. We also approved [a plan to create a new investigation and sanctioning pathway for research compliance cases](#). And to conclude the meeting, we had a discussion about the new Digital Accessibility Compliance. It seems some faculty are upset by the amount of time it will take for them to make their courses accessible, but I do believe Ally (our new accessibility checker embedded in Canvas) will do much of this work. Additionally, the federal government is largely looking for a good faith effort and are aware the university cannot make 100% of their websites and courses accessible within a year.



Working On:

- 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Blue and I will be sending invitations and finalizing plans over Winter Break.
- Academic Regalia Lending Library: **The website is now LIVE!** Commencement will be adding a link to their graduation letter so grads are made aware of the initiative in February. The regalia order is being shipped currently, and we will be storing the regalia in the Alumni Association's Longaberger Alumni House. I'm hoping to have a dry cleaner by the start of the new year.

Updates from Past Delegate Issues and Concerns:

- BuckID switch to Tap Cards: According to the BuckID office, some colleges/departments are already submitting a PO through workday to cover the cost of card updates. Additionally, they said that anyone who has an ID from the last three years already has tap capability. Furthermore, if a current grad happens to have an old undergrad ID, they are allowing those students to convert their card at no cost. If a department wants to cover the cost, they would need to send a list of names to the BuckID office so they can run a report to determine who will need an updated card (typically it's a small pool of people). That list can be emailed to [buckidcardservice@osu.edu](mailto:buckidcardservice@osu.edu).
- Parking: Unfortunately, it seems there is little leverage we can have when it comes to changing anything parking-wise with CampusParc. Their contract is tight. However, I will continue advocating for temporary parking near the RPAC, transitioning to a monthly payment system, and advocating for better parking at the Gateway Garage as often as I can in as many places as it makes sense. I'm now a part of the University Area Commission, so I feel we may make some headway there.
- Emergency Grant Distribution:
  - Not having a FAFSA on file is a small percentage of the reason for denial (7.8% in 23-24 and 4.2% in 24-25). Though SL realizes if folks know they will be denied because they don't have a FAFSA, that does impact the data.
  - The most common reasons for denial are something being an ineligible expense, lack of documentation, not being an emergency or no room for additional aid due to Cost of Attendance (though COA has changed over the past year so that went down significantly in 24-25).
  - Do let me know if you ever hear of students having issues accessing these funds so we can direct them to SL.

Demographics by approval status for emergency grants for academic year 2024-2025								
Category	Applications		Approved		Not Approved		All University Demographics SP25 (for comparison)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Total students	790		413		377		63,822	
Grants disbursed by student academic career								
Graduate and/or professional students	300	38.0%	175	42.4%	125	33.2%	14,394	22.6%
Undergraduate students	490	62.0%	238	57.6%	252	66.8%	49,428	77.4%

Demographics by approval status for emergency grants for academic year 2023-2024 <sup>6 7 8</sup>								
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Category	Applications		Approved		Not Approved		All University Demographics SP24 (for comparison)	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Total students	816		316		500		62,357	
<b>Grants disbursed by student academic career</b>								
Graduate and/or professional student	233	28.6%	102	32.3%	131	26.3%	14,060	22.5%
Undergraduate student	582	71.4%	214	67.7%	368	73.7%	48,297	77.5%

Have a Magical Winter Break,

Sabrina Durso.19



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Anna Zaitseva, Vice President  
DATE: December 1, 2025  
RE: Vice President's Report

Season's greetings,

GO BUCKS!! 🏈 I hope you enjoyed the game day spirit and all the celebrations!  
Winter break truly cannot come soon enough, however. Things have been busy around here.

**Hayes Forum:**

The proposal application period closes on Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are in a pretty good place and have a solid number of applications, so thank you all for applying, promoting it and encouraging your constituents to apply.

Currently, we have 85 judges registered, and we will keep recruiting to make sure we have enough judges to cover abstract evaluations and day-of judging.

PLEASE keep nominating and urging your favorite faculty, staff, and others with terminal degrees to apply! I would greatly appreciate it if you helped me with this part of the Hayes preparation process.

- Information for Hayes Applicants/Potential Applicants: <https://cgs.osu.edu/programs-events/edward-f-hayes-advanced-research-forum/information-for-applicants>
- Nominate someone to judge: <https://cgs.osu.edu/secure/hayes/judge/nominate.aspx>
- Judge application/signup: <https://cgs.osu.edu/programs-events/edward-f-hayes-advanced-research-forum/information-for-judges>

Looking forward to seeing you all at our December meeting!

Zaitseva.1



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Adam Tjoelker, Treasurer  
DATE: November 30th, 2025  
RE: Treasurer's Report

Hello everyone,

I hope you all enjoyed your Thanksgiving break (and the football game – GO BUCKS!!) I have a couple of updates to share with you about the latest Ray Travel Award winners and Hayes funding.

**Ray Travel Award:**

Congratulations to the 22 award winners from the Funding Period III applicant pool! We had another highly competitive round of outstanding applications. The winners selected this funding period were ranked by our incredible group of volunteer judges who reviewed and scored applications. The total number of winners was selected based on the top scoring applicants and a historic ~30% acceptance rate. I would like to give a special thanks to all of the judges who reviewed applications this month! We could not run the Ray Travel Award without the incredible support from our judges. If you would like to join as a judge for the Ray Travel Award, please contact me by email! I ran a training session recently for new judges in late October, and I will run another before judging begins for Funding Period IV in February 2026.

**Hayes Forum Funding:**

The Council of Graduate Students (CGS) receives annual support for the Hayes Forum from the Graduate School and ERIK (Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge). This amount has totaled \$20,000 each year, with \$10,000 coming from each sponsor. Over the past 4 years, the difference between the \$20,000 of support and the total awards paid out (with typical years distributing between \$11k and \$14k of awards), was not being passed along to CGS due to a lack of clarity of the agreement and procedure. However, this year the oversight was caught, and CGS is expected to receive a transfer of approximately \$30,100 to account for the residual between the total support and awards paid out by the grad school over the last 4 years.

I am currently working with Student Life to create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Student Life, The Graduate School, and ERIK, to codify the financial commitment from each sponsor to ensure that we can continue to receive support for Hayes, and that the residual will be sent to CGS to support our other costs for Hayes beyond the awards. We are also looking to potentially request an increase in support from our sponsors because of increasing costs since the verbal agreement that formed the basis of this support was initiated about a decade ago.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me!

Yours in service,

Adam Tjoelker.4



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TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Kaz Gary, Secretary  
DATE: December 5th, 2025  
RE: Secretary's Report

Fellow CGS'ers,

**As Secretary:**

- Nothing to report!

**As CDG Chair:**

- The CDG portal continues to be my worst enemy. I finally made judging assignments on November 21<sup>st</sup> and judges should be hard at work for Cycle 3! We had 27 applicants this cycle and results should be out before Cycle 4's opening date of December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Keep warm!

Kaz Gary.102



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## Committee Chair Reports

TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Danwyn Aranha and Anastasia Shikanova, CGS Academic Affairs, Chair  
DATE: November 23, 2025  
RE: Academic Affairs Chair Report

Good Day,

The Academic Affairs team is moving ahead with the GenAI Survey after deep discussion with the academic affairs team and the executive committee. This survey collects information about graduate students' experiences, practices, and perceptions related to generative AI tools at OSU. The goal is to understand how AI is used in teaching and research, identify what support students may need, and explore potential collaboration with instructors, professors, TAs, RAs, and the AI Fluency team to offer helpful workshops.

This survey is planned to be submitted in the December Newsletter.

The Academic Affairs Committee has secured academic regalia for graduate students through the CGS Regalia Lending Library to support equitable participation in commencement. This initiative helps reduce financial barriers so more graduate students can celebrate their achievements at commencement.

Thank You,

Aranha.7 & Shikanova.1



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Holly Engel, Arts and Culture Chair  
DATE: November 21, 2025  
RE: Arts and Culture Chair's Report

Good day,

Arts and Culture is moving forward steadily with its plans for Open Mic Night. Along with settling on a date and time (available in last month's report), we have created a flyer and signup forms for potential performers and audience members. We are still looking for a second MC for the event, so if anyone is interested, please contact me. Make sure to share [this link](#) with anyone who may be interested in performing and [this link](#) with anyone who would like to attend the event (but not to perform).

Otherwise, the [A&C survey](#) is still live, so make sure to share it with your constituents. The committee will be reviewing the survey results at our December meeting to decide what direction(s) we may want to take in the upcoming spring semester.

Our upcoming A&C meeting will be on **Tuesday, Dec. 9 from 9-10am in Hagerty 206** and [on Zoom at this link](#).

Goodbye,

Holly Engel.210



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TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Johnathan Chisam, Diversity & Inclusion Chair  
DATE: November 20, 2025  
RE: Diversity & Inclusion Chair's Report

Hello everyone,

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee is currently in the process of scheduling our first meeting. During this meeting we will be plotting the committee's course for the remainder of this academic year. We are always looking for new ideas and perspectives, so please reach out if you would like to join the committee!

Thanks,

Chisam.1



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Charlie Mace, Government Affairs Chair  
DATE: November 21, 2025  
RE: Government Affairs Chair's Report

The Government Affairs Committee last met November 7<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting we discussed the recent Government Affairs Newsletters, made plans for a potential newsletter in December, and discussed legislative and government updates such as the Department of Education's Compact for Academic Excellence. We plan to meet again December 5<sup>th</sup>, where we will finalize topics for the December newsletter and begin writing.

#### Federal News:

[The government shutdown has ended](#), and federal institutions are in the process of resuming operations. For the status of specific offices, make sure to check their official resources and contact relevant program officers for updated information.

#### State News:

Various state legislation is working through the chambers, it is not yet clear what bills will become law and what their final states will be. A few to keep an eye on (status as of 11/21):

- [HB324](#): drug regulation bill that could affect access to abortion medications (passed House)
- [HB486](#): Charlie Kirk American Heritage Act (passed House)
- [SB4](#): enhances Ohio's ability to investigate and prosecute election fraud (passed Senate)
- [SB293](#): shorten timeline to send absentee ballots (passed both chambers)
- [SB56](#): changes to marijuana laws, bans intoxicating hemp (passed both chambers)
- [SB485](#): requires public school students to be shown specific and controversial materials on fetal development (passed Senate)

#### Local News:

Columbus has passed [new pay transparency requirements](#), which will require employers (including OSU) to include reasonable salary ranges in job listings. Compliance is required by 2027.

Thank you,  
Mace.103



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Jon Fritz, CGS Graduate Caucus, Chair & Senator  
DATE: December 5, 2025  
RE: Graduate Caucus Chair Report

Hi all,

Below please find the University Senate committee names, grad representatives, and a summary of each committee's activities since the last CGS meeting on 11-7-2025 in a new, hopefully more easy-to-read format:

Athletic Council, represented by Anna Zaitseva.1:

No updates at this time.

Affirmation of Accreditation Committee, represented by Andrew Miles.375:

No updates at this time.

Committee on Academic Technology (CAT), represented by Sabrina Durso.19:

The ADA Coordinators came to talk the Digital Accessibility Updates due April 26. We also talked about AI Fluency. These were broad discussions that largely built off of conversation topics at Senate (like faculty reluctance and that 100% compliance isn't expected on April 26).

Council on Academic Affairs (CAA), represented by Andrew Miles.375 & Andy Vance.128:

No updates at this time.

Council on Academic Freedom & Responsibility (CAFR), represented by Rebekah Akintade.3:

I had an onboarding meeting. The 3 mandates of CAFR include:

1. Review and report all conditions that may affect faculty academic freedom and responsibility to the Senate.
2. Hear and investigate faculty complaints on infringements on academic freedom or responsibility, seek resolution and report to the Senate.
3. Hear and investigate faculty complaints regarding improper evaluations related to promotion, tenure, or renewal.

Council on Enrollment and Student Progress (CESP), represented by Braydon Lazzara.14 & Peter Carrera.55:

CESP met at the start of November and reviewed ongoing work for the recently passed Senate vote on the asynchronous day of learning for future elections (being sent to the board of trustees now). Reviewed material accessibility conversion. Subcommittee work beginning on student populations (admissions, enrollment, retention) and progress (withdrawals) and success (student tech needs). The next meeting is December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Council on Student Affairs (CSA), represented by Kirsten Myers.2377 (chair), Oluwadamilola Salau.2, & Gabe Myers.2039:

The Council completed its review of all student organization Programming Fund requests for the Spring 1 window. 1st round appeals of denials will be reviewed from December 1-5. At our meeting on November 3, we had Tori Rehr come to talk about the Student Life Strategic Plan and gather feedback. Our next full council meeting will be on December 1 from 3:30-5 pm. At this next meeting, we will be having Gladys Gibbs from Student Health Services come and speak with us. We have started to make the roster for the Code of Student Conduct targeted review and will continue to work with this new team into next semester in order to present at the University Senate meeting at the end of the Spring semester.

Council on the Physical Environment (COPE), represented by Casey Ortbahn.1:



Our last meeting was on October 31. Rebekah Gayley, Assistant Director of Facility Planning, gave a presentation on Framework 3.0. This framework envisions having more affordable housing for graduate students in the “Innovation District” of OSU that is being developed on West Campus. This is something that has been negotiated with the city of Columbus, and the affordable housing will be mixed-use (for both graduate and undergraduate students). Also, OSU applied for a grant from Dept. of Transportation “safe streets for all,” a multimodal plan for safe commuting for bikes, pedestrians, diverse users, and OSU has received an award letter. Funds could be used for improvements to Woody Hayes Dr. The COPE chair also updated us on the water issues in Denney Hall: there is a temporary fix in place, and this fix is temporary because OSU is planning to demolish Denney Hall (this is also part of Framework 3.0). Our next committee meeting will be on Friday, Dec. 5.

Library Committee, represented by Brian Rocha.51:

We did not meet this month, the next meeting is scheduled for early next semester.

Evaluation of Central Administrators (EOCA), currently vacant

Fiscal Committee, represented by Kenny Saephan,2:

No updates at this time, next meeting is December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.

Government Affairs, represented by Charlie Mace.103:

No updates at this time.

Intellectual Property, Patents, and Copyright (IPPC) Committee, represented by Jon Fritz.288:

No updates at this time, planning to meet in early December 2025.

University Research Committee (URC), represented by Courtney Jewell.196 & Holly Engel.210:

The main topics for the November meeting were OSU’s AI Initiative and ADA requirements for digital accessibility. AI Initiative conversation was nothing we haven’t heard before. For ADA, all digital content (including all content in Carmen courses) must be ADA compliant by April 26, 2026. Workshops and tools for compliance will be made available.

Rules Committee, represented by Jorge Clavo Abbass.1:

Rules met on 7 and 14 November. Now that the revisions to the so-called “04 Rule,” which regulates how faculty are investigated for any alleged misconduct, have passed, Rules is presently identifying action areas for the remainder of the academic year. At present, none of the potential actions would materially implicate graduate students.

Senate Steering Committee, represented by Sabrina Durso.19:

We set the schedule for this month’s Senate and discussed future agenda topics.

**University Senate mtg:** The most recent Senate meeting was on November 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm. Highlights include a renewed emphasis by President Carter on veteran/military student populations at OSU, proposals passed regarding an OSU rural health network and rules for research compliance, and a discussion of digital accessibility at OSU. The next mtg will take place in the new year on January 29, 2026.

All the best,  
Jon Fritz.288



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TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Bryan Pérez Soto, Graduate Compensation and Benefits (University Senate Committee) Report  
DATE: November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
RE: Graduate Compensation and Benefits Chair's Report

Bonsoir, bons amis,

The GCBC committee met on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Conversations with the grad school are being had in order to obtain access to GradSERU results as a way to include it in the committee's end-of-year report.

Conversations between Sabrina and some of the deans seem to point towards resistance on their end when it comes to moving 9-month appointments to 12-month appointments. The committee is coming up with ideas/recommendations to provide the graduate school to enhance the feasibility of these efforts.

Joueux Noël!  
Bryan

PérezSoto.2



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TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Tinu Oduloye, Graduate Student Affairs Chair  
DATE: November 21, 2025  
RE: Graduate Student Affairs Chair's Report

Hi everyone,

The Graduate Student Affairs Committee met on Monday, November 17. At this meeting, I shared updates on Graduate Student Appreciation Week (GSAW) planning, including submitting our first RFP for Donuts with the Deans and continuing to finalize the remaining RFPs for swag and other events.

I also met with Lauren, Chair of the Housing & Family Affairs Committee, and Jennifer from Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement to explore opportunities for collaboration during GSAW.

Our goals before winter break are to complete the remaining RFPs and continue outreach to additional CGS committees, OUAB, and other potential collaborators. We look forward to partnering with campus groups that support graduate students' well-being and community. If you are interested in joining or partnering with us for GSAW, please feel free to reach out.

Enjoy your winter break!

Oduloye.1



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TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Deb Pathak and Luke Van Niel, Health, Wellness, and Safety Chair  
DATE: November 21, 2025  
RE: Health, Wellness, and Safety Chair's Report

Greetings,

HWS met on October 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss feedback from the Accessibility Stakeholders' Symposium on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, and welcome a new committee member. HWS is in the process of brainstorming for a community-building event in the Spring, details TBD. We plan on meeting again in December to delegate work for Spring event planning.

Happy Thanksgiving/time off!

Best,

Pathak.89 & Vanniel.5



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Lauren Levesque, Housing and Family Affairs Chair  
DATE: November 21, 2025  
RE: Housing and Family Affairs Chair's Report

Hello,

Below are updates on all the different HAFA projects.

- Housing Survey
  - Goal: 800-1000 responses
  - Opened on November 3rd
  - Currently have 127 responses
  - Include on Campus Connections Newsletter?
  - Share on Social Media?
- Grad Roommate Fair
  - Tentative plans (stress on the word tentative)
    - Date: Wed, March 25<sup>th</sup> or Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>
      - Spring Off-Campus Living Expo is on Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, providing opportunity for us to table and advertise
    - Time: 5-7pm??
    - Location: Somewhere in the union
    - There will be catering
    - Submitted a Project Registration Form to the Student Government Support team and waiting to hear back.
- CGS 411 Webpage
  - Publish slides from housing workshop
    - We can do this now
  - Write-Up of the Student Q&A
    - Probably in FAQ form
    - Saroj is currently writing up
- Handout for grad student recruitment about housing and off campus living resources
  - Programs/Services to include:
    - OCCSE
    - SLS
    - CGS Off-Campus Living 411 page
    - Columbus Housing Code Enforcement
    - Monda Resource Center
    - Emergency Funds for Students
      - <https://advocacy.osu.edu/emergency-financial-assistance/student-emergency-fund>
      - <https://advocacy.osu.edu/emergency-financial-assistance/mental-health-care-grant>
      - <https://oia.osu.edu/grants-and-scholarships/international-student-grant>

Best,

Levesque.31



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TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Ashutosh Soni, International Student Affairs Chair  
DATE: November 21, 2025  
RE: International Student Affairs Chair's Report

Hi everyone,

1. We have our last event of this semester planned on the last day of classes, i.e. 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Name – CGS Game Night

Date/time – 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Location – Maudine Cow Room, Lower Level on Ohio Union

We have pizzas and soda available. This event would serve as a de-stress before exams begin. I hope to see everyone there!

2. Next focus – working to finalize the tax professionals for the tax workshop event next semester.

Thank you,  
Soni.117



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Aryn Robinson and Katie Conner, Membership Wellness Chair  
DATE: December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
RE: Membership Wellness Chair's Report

Hi everyone,

### Upcoming Events

- **Thursday, February 26 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM – Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center Tour**
  - Take a tour of the [Byrd Polar Center](#) with your CGS friends!
    - RSVP will be sent out in the new year

### Ongoing Events and Reminders

- **Emotional Wellness Bingo:** Check out this month's wellness bingo attached to the Delegate Packet email!
  - We want to know!
    - Monthly Bingo Prize Survey:  
[https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_a5HWBB1Zr0BMAB0](https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a5HWBB1Zr0BMAB0)
- **Adopt a Cat:** Check out Saup Services, run by an OSU Alum! Find more details at [go.osu.edu/saupservices](http://go.osu.edu/saupservices)
- **CGS Group Chat:** Please join the CGS group chat on WhatsApp to connect with other CGSers. QR code is in the meeting slides.

**Next Meeting:** December TBD. Please contact Aryn and Katie if you would like to attend

### Membership Shoutouts

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

Please use Membership Shoutouts to share good news in your life or to shine some well-deserved light on a fellow CGSer.

Thank you,  
Robinson.2283 & Conner.280



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TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Bill Wang and Shiddharta Ramprakash, Research and Data Operations Chair  
DATE: November 20, 2025  
RE: Research and Data Operations Chair's Report

Hi all,

There is nothing to be updated from RDO.

Best,

Wang.13945 & Ramprakash.4



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TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Katelyn Amstutz and Casey Ortbahn, Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility  
Committee (SERC) Chair  
DATE: November 30, 2025  
RE: SERC Chair's Report

Hi everyone,

We have set a tentative date for our Time for Change Week event: Thursday, April 2, 2026, from 5-8 pm. We are still working on the details, but will be partnering with OSU's Living Art and Ecology Lab to host an ecological art event.

Our committee is also investigating the sustainability impacts of AI use at Ohio State, and making a SERC website with links to sustainability resources on and off campus for graduate students to explore.

Take care,

Amstutz.87 & Ortbahn.1