



COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Delegate Packet

FEBRUARY 13th, 2026

Location: Ohio Union Senate Chambers & Zoom



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Agenda

General Delegate Meeting | 13 FEBRUARY 2026 | Senate Chambers, Ohio Union & Zoom

- 1. CAMPUS CONNECTIONS** [3:30]
 - 1.1 Research and Data Operations' Data Bootcamp
- 2. CALL TO ORDER** [4:00]
 - 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** [30 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** [30 min]
 - 7.1. Investigation Committee Discussion and Vote
- 8. NEW BUSINESS** [15 min]
 - 8.1 Officer Nominations
 - 8.2 Reapportionment Discussion
- 9. SPECIAL ORDER ITEM** [30 min]
 - 9.1. Delegate Issues and Concerns
- 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS** [5 min]



10.1 Next General Delegate Meeting: Friday, March 13 at 3:30pm (The Bolder Room, Raney House & Zoom)

11. ADJOURNMENT

6:40 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 | 16 JANUARY 2026 | Senate Chambers, Ohio Union and via Zoom

1. **CAMPUS CONNECTIONS** 3:30 PM
 - 1.1 Representative from the Office of Ombuds Services

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**
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
 - **Chisam.1** motions to approve
 - **Fernandez.412** seconds
 - Approved by CGS majority

5. **OFFICER REPORTS** 4:01 PM
 - 5.1. President’s Report – Sabrina Durso.19
 - 5.1.1) **General Updates:**
 - Delegates! - Grads Need Your Support, How Can You Help?
 - Please continue to share info about the Monda Student Resource Center, Student Advocacy, and Counseling and Consultation Services.
 - 5.1.2) **Over the Past Month:**
 - Exec Committee:
 - Discussion about Higher Learning Commission Re-accreditation
 - Meet with each Committee Chair and Blue to ensure this semester will go smoothly
 - Student Life:
 - Possible Joint Statement with USG and IPC on housing dilemma
 - Grad School
 - There’s a lot of smaller projects going on: Looking at NSF issues (largely staffing is making it hard to receive funding at NSF), Council of Grad Schools looking into faculty self censorship, looking into if they should follow through on investigations of falsified data in dissertations (currently do not), and discussion on lowering TOEFL requirements
 - Randomness:
 - Meeting with Doc, Meeting with Nebraska CGS, Meeting with Buckeye Commons, Working on making AI workshops for Grads affordable
 - 5.1.3) **Working on:**
 - 70th Anniversary
 - Meeting Wednesday (1/14) to finalize things -> TBU
 - Academic Regalia Lending Library
 - [The website is now LIVE!](#) (Email me if you see issues)
 - Still working with Commencement on Messaging and a Timeline
 - Meeting before CGS to see Alumni Space
 - Lots of Regalia BAD that I’m having troubles returning
 - DOC SHIVERS HELPING US GET EVEN MORE! Hopefully, 36 in total!
 - 5.1.4) **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.

- When You're Away on Holiday, Who Takes Care of Your Labs: It's on the Deans of each college to ensure each department has a plan. That being said, it seems like a lot of our researchers still made it to campus to ensure everything was okay. I'm not a fan of students being on campus during *their break* but I understand why that happens. If you ever feel you are being treated unfairly, do let CGS know.

5.1.5) **Officer and Senator Elections:**

- Please consider contacting officers and senators about their jobs!
- Do remember that the President and Vice President are 50% FTE positions!

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

5.2.1) **Hayes Forum 2026:**

- Shout out to Hayes committee members for their efficient work on reviewing the abstracts for compliance!
 - Judges received their abstracts for scoring on time and about 35% of them already completed it.
 - **UPDATE:** We're at about 75% as of today. I sent reminder emails to those who have not completed their judging yet.
 - We're still dealing with the issue of not having abstract judges for Humanities. I sent out emails to both Dean Horn and all of you to help recruit, and I pray that we will get 3-4 generous faculty to do this for us.
 - **UPDATE:** The Humanities are taken care of. Seven judges signed up to score.
- Volunteering info and signups will be going out in the next few weeks, so be on the lookout for that.
 - We are going to need all the help we can get, so please share widely with your constituents.

5.3. Treasurer's Report – Adam Tjoelker.4

5.3.1) **Ray Travel Award**

- Please email me if you are interested in becoming a judge! We have had many new judges join this year and we are always seeking more volunteers. It is an outstanding service and professionalization opportunity!
- Please remind your constituents to submit their applications as soon as possible before the Feb 1st deadline
- Concerns and Improvements to the Ray Travel Award
 - Kaz and I will be joining a meeting with Student Life Technology Services later this month to suggest improvements to the web portal interface. If you have ideas or concerns with your experience using the portal or being reimbursed, please email me ASAP (before Jan 20th!).

5.3.2) **Plan Events and Spend Money!**

- Please Remind Your Committee Chairs to *Plan Events and Spend Money!*
 - Many committees have untouched budgets going into the new calendar year. We only have limited time to plan events as the spring semester takes off!
 - Don't be afraid to share cool ideas you have with your committees! We are always looking for new and creative ways to serve the graduate student body using our CGS resources!

5.4. Secretary's Report – Kaz Gary.102

5.4.1) **As Secretary:**

- Nothing to report!

5.4.2) **As CDG Chair:**

- CDG Cycle 3 went out December 13th! We had 7/28 applications funded this cycle, with a 25% acceptance rate. This is lower than past cycles for a few reasons:
 - Cycles with less than 15 applicants over the past 5 years, but none this year



- Used the historical average acceptance rate of 57% for the last couple of cycles and anticipated this cycle to have fewer applicants
- Had to pivot to a smaller acceptance rate for this cycle as to not go over budget
- **Cycle 4 is now open until February 1st!**

6. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

4:10 PM

- 6.1. Academic Affairs – Anastasia Shikanova.¹ & Danwyn Aranha.⁷
 - 6.1.1) **Regalia Party planned in April 2026**
 - 6.1.2) **Gen AI survey data available (40 responses)**
 - We will try reaching out to more GRA/GTA in January for responses.
 - Use the data to coordinate with the Drake Institute/ University AI outreach team to implement instructional workshops on Gen AI in the graduate space.
- 6.2. Arts and Culture – Holly Engel.²¹⁰
 - 6.2.1) **Open Mic Night**
 - Thursday, Feb. 19 from 7-9pm, Sullivant 141
 - Sign up to perform or attend! Spots are limited.
 - 6.2.2) **Arts and Culture Pathfinder**
 - In the delegate packet and Delegate Digest
 - Send to your constituents! Or print out and post.
- 6.3. Diversity & Inclusion – Johnathan Chisam.¹
 - 6.3.1) **Sunrise Conversations**
 - The Sun will rise again! Sunrise Conversations will return! Please reach out if you know of any faculty who would make good panelists.
- 6.4. Government Affairs – Charlie Mace.¹⁰³
 - 6.4.1) **Last Meeting:**
 - Discussed newsletter for early 2026
 - 6.4.2) **Upcoming Meetings:**
 - Scheduling in progress
 - Planning for newsletter, sticker contest for 2026 midterms, other potential events
 - 6.4.3) **US Appropriations in Progress!**
 - 11/12/25: Continuing resolution passed
 - Funding extended to 1/30/26
 - 1/8/26: House passed three appropriations bills
 - Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
 - Energy and Water Development
 - Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
 - 1/30/26: deadline for all appropriations to pass
 - Or there is a government shutdown
- 6.5. Graduate Caucus – Jon Fritz.²⁸⁸
 - 6.5.1) **General Updates:**
 - Given the end of the fall semester, winter break, a Senate recess and dormant committee activity in December, no major updates to report at this time.
 - A few committees have elected to include updates in the Grad Caucus report, but most have no updates.
 - The next University Senate mtg will be January 29, 2026 at 3:30pm in Sullivant Hall. See you then!
- 6.6. Graduate Compensation and Benefits – Bryan Perez Soto (PerezSoto.²)
 - 6.6.1) **General Updates:**
 - GCBC meetings will restart on January 26th



- Work will focus on data analysis and report writing
- Exciting murmurs through the grapevine

6.7. Health, Wellness, and Safety – Deb Pathak.89 & Luke Van Niel (Vanniel.5)

6.7.1) **General Updates:**

- Not much to update – HWS discussed feedback for improving the next year's Accessibility Stakeholders' Symposium, and we're brainstorming a community building event in the Spring. Please share any ideas you have!

6.8. Housing and Family Affairs – Lauren Levesque.31

6.8.1) **Housing Survey**

- Goal: 800-1000 responses
- Opened on November 3rd
- As of November 21st, 127 responses

6.8.2) **Grad Roommate Fair**

- Tentative plans (stress on the word tentative)
- Date: Wednesday, March 25th
- Advertise at Spring Off-Campus Living Expo on Tuesday, March 24th
- Time: 5-7pm
- Location: Milestones Room in The Ohio Union
- Snacks will be provided

6.8.3) **CGS Off-Campus Living 411 Page**

- Publish Slides from Workshop
 - OCCSE
 - SLS
- Write-Up of the Student Q&A
 - FAQ form
 - Currently writing up

6.8.4) **Off-Campus Living Handout for Recruitment**

- Programs/Services to include:
 - OCCSE
 - SLS
 - CGS Off-Campus Living 411 page
 - Columbus Housing Code Enforcement
 - Monda Resource Center
 - Emergency Funds for Students

6.9. International Student Affairs – Ashutosh Soni.117

6.9.1) **General Updates:**

- CGS Game Night – December 10th, Maudine Cow Room (Lower Level, Ohio Union). We got pizza and drinks. Hope to see everyone there!!!

6.9.2) **Next steps:**

- Finalize the tax professionals for the ISAC tax workshop event next semester

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

6.10.1) **General Updates**

- Time for Change Week update: we will be partnering with OSU's Living Art and Ecology Lab to host an ecological art event during the evening of April 2, 2026.
- We are also investigating the sustainability impacts of AI use at OSU, as well as working on a website with a page of sustainability resources at OSU and the surrounding areas.

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

6.11.1) **General updates and reminders:**

- Emotional Wellness Bingo Challenge
- Find attached to the Delegate Packet email
- Challenge Update:



- Coming soon – submission form
 - Each completed Bingo challenge = one raffle entry
 - Tell us what prize interests you: QR code in slides
 - Reminder to join the CGS WhatsApp Group Chat!
- 6.11.2) **Upcoming Events and activities:**
- Upcoming event: Byrd Polar Tour
 - Thursday, February 26 5p-6:30p
 - RSVP will be sent in January
 - Go.osu.edu/mw_socials_poll
 - Help us show folks who we are!
 - "Lightning Round" Interview Series
 - Short questions to show people who our members are, what they do, interests, etc.
 - "Day in the Life" Posts
 - Showing videos and photos of an average day in a CGSers' life
 - Can be located anywhere (i.e., not restricted to Columbus Campus only)

7. OLD BUSINESS

8. NEW BUSINESS

4:45 PM

8.1. Executive Session

- **Durso.19:** An anonymous voting member of CGS has asked me to enter into an executive session without non-voting members. Do I hear a second?
- **Chisam.1** seconds
- Approved by CGS majority

8.1.1) Vice President Investigation Committee:

- **Durso.19:** Now that all members are back in the room, I again ask, is there any new business?
- **Oduoye.1:** We, the undersigned voting members of the Council of Graduate Students, move that the Council initiate an investigation into the performance of the Vice President, as outlined in Article 8, Section 7 of the CGS constitution. We further move that in the interest of maintaining the functionality and continuity of CGS programs and governance, the President be directed to appoint a co-chair for the Edward F. Hayes Graduate Research Forum, and appoint a co-chair of organizations and elections with a charge of completing a delegate seat allocation review and presenting findings to the Council.
- **Harper.932** seconds
- **Vance.128:** Madam President, so it has been properly moved and seconded that the Council of graduate Students undertake an investigation into the performance of the Vice President as outlined in Article 8, Section 7 of the Constitution. Per the Constitution, the next step would be for the Vice President to have an opportunity to respond at this meeting and then for the delegates to vote on moving forward with an investigation that requires a simple majority vote after the Vice President has had the opportunity to respond.
- **Durso.19:** Vice President, would you like the opportunity to respond?
- **Zaitseva.1:** I will take the opportunity to respond, though I'm not entirely sure what I'm responding to.
- **Durso.19:** There was a pretty substantial amount of concerns regarding the work you've completed over the semester revolving around delegate elections, reapportionment as well as some concerns regarding Hayes. I'm more than happy to share that document with you. In general, if you wanted to let the Council know if there were reasons that you may not have been able to perform your duties well, I think that was a major concern. We will be voting the next month for official removal, so if you'd be able to fix these things in a month, we would also like to know that. I don't think anybody here took this decision lightly by any means, shape or form and I think there's a lot of concerns and a lot of heart in this room for you. We would like to hear you out.



- **Zaitseva.1:** Okay, I'm just trying to determine the major chunks of information here so that I can address them one by one without going into too many details. I could start with the runoff election cycle, though I'm not entirely sure because the elections did happen in the fall and we did have people that were elected and appointed to CGS.
- **Durso.19:** It's important to note that all of these allegations would go under an investigation committee after tonight and so, the validity of all of these statements would be checked by non-partial members of CGS. You don't have to justify every single thing here on this list now, unless you want to, because CGS will investigate that and present their findings to you.
- **Zaitseva.1:** I do see some things, such as the record keeping and CGS website that I do admit feel through a little bit. I try to do my best to appoint people and update the website as they are coming through. I think the major thing about Hayes now is the judging recruitment concerns. There was more than one e-mail sent, but I'm not entirely sure how to even show that because it was through the system and portal and not through my inbox. I do want to say I appreciate all you guys bringing this up and obviously I don't take it lightly. I just feel like I need a bit more time to read through everything fully to understand the bigger picture. I would love to work with the investigation committee and keep this line of communication open. I don't think I have anything else of substance to say at the moment though.
- **Durso.19:** Alright, so Andy will go over next steps for Anna who was not in the room and then we'll go from there.
- **Vance.128:** Madam Vice President, the way the bylaws work as I mentioned, Article 8, Section 7, is that the Council will be voting momentarily to proceed with an investigation. The Constitution bylaws stipulate that there will be an investigation committee appointed who will look into all of these allegations. It's a lengthy document there as you're scrolling, so the committee will investigate all those items and then report back at the next CGS meeting That committee report will be presented then as part of unfinished business and then the Council will vote to take further action based on the results of that investigation into the necessity of removal or not. The next step then is for everyone to vote if they wish to proceed with the investigation or not.
- **Durso.19:** The QR code is now up and running for those who wish to vote. Please do remember that only voting members, so those that were in the executive session, can vote. We will be verifying those results like we always do. While people are voting, if anybody would like to co-chair Hayes or co-chair reapportionment, please do send me a message through my e-mail. If you have any interest in conferences, Hayes is a great line on your CV as well as reapportionment. If you're a current chair, I would say please make sure you're checking your bandwidth before you sign up to do something so intense.
- **Durso.19:** The results are in: 51 yeas, 0 nays and 3 abstentions to start the investigation process.

9. SPECIAL ORDER ITEM

6:25 PM

9.1. Delegate Issues and Concerns

9.1.1) Bridge Funding

- **Oduloye.1:** I have a friend who wanted to know more about bridge funding.
- **Durso.19:** Because bridge funding is specifically for graduate students who are having grants pulled, the general graduate student body is not supposed to know what the process is. If students need help, they need to ask their advisor to e-mail the graduate school about funding and they can start that process for them.

9.1.2) ASC Spring Career Fair concerns

- **Harper.932:** I think it would be appropriate if we spoke up about the decision to include CBP at the Spring Career Fair. Given the circumstances, it would not be wise to have that agency present at an academic event.
- **Durso.19:** Are you asking me to write an e-mail to, for instance, the people that run the ASC? Or would you like for CGS to make a statement on this?
- **Harper.932:** I'll leave that decision up to what CGS would want.



- **DillmanHasso.1:** As a graduate student, I did send an e-mail to some of the people who were organizing this event about my concerns. There are many others who did as well. I just got a response back about an hour ago from OSU's Arts and Sciences Marketing and Communications team. They said that the agency has been a participant for years and that there's many other people there and students are free to go talk to them or not. I think it was the same thing that everyone who sent an e-mail got back.
- **Anderson.4133:** I think if we were to send an e-mail, maybe adding something for us GTAs that we would not feel comfortable recommending students to go to the fair? Although, I'm not sure since Naseem has already gotten a response.
- **Durso.19:** I think we could make a simple statement that we could perhaps share online on our social media. I don't think it needs to be long and I don't think it needs to be something that's difficult. I could draft it over the weekend, and we could have an emergency meeting on Monday night to just simply vote on releasing that. I can draft something simple and we can meet just like we would at a normal executive session and finish writing it out and then vote on it right then and there. Everybody in favor of Sabrina drafting a statement and meeting Monday night to discuss it?
- Approved by **CGS Majority**
- **Durso.19:** Ah I'm sorry, Monday is MLK day and I don't think we're allowed to do official OSU business on that day. Is everyone alright with Tuesday night instead?
- Approved by **CGS Majority**
- **Miller.8871:** I was going to bring up something another CGSer said in the chat: there are other issues outside of the Career Fair both on and off campus. I would like us to make an additional statement regarding our want to protect graduate students both on and off campus and how we could work with OSU to ensure that is the case.
- **Connor.280:** I totally respect the want to write an additional statement. However, I would point out that traditionally the way that CGS operates is when we make a statement or pass a resolution, that is our public opinion on the issue until such a time that we write something retracting that formally and/or until we write another different opinion that then supersedes the previous one. Given that we already made a statement about this, it might be more prudent to continue to reiterate that instead of making another statement. However, I'm open to whatever the body wants to do.
- **Durso.19:** I'm not sure we've made a statement about this particular issue in the past.
- **Connor.280:** My apologies, I was getting it mixed up with a different statement.
- **Durso.19:** I hear what you're saying and before we vote on that, I want to make something clear. We decided last year not to make a statement on this for various safety reasons, and we voted on it as a delegate body. If we have quorum, we can put it back up to a vote.
- Not approved by **CGS Majority**
- **Durso.19:** The nays have it. I cannot add anything to our statement that we'll be working on Tuesday night. If, for some reason, people would like to put it to a vote again on Tuesday night, you all are more than welcome to.

9.1.3) Student Privacy Concerns

- **Amstutz.87:** I have students in my department concerned about their privacy. Some required programs now have a sign-in that requires a GPS tracking of your location to confirm you're in the correct room when you're signing in. I don't know what kind of data is stored by the University or how accessible it is. Perhaps there are data privacy things that we could advocate for around OSU to help keep students more safe in a less direct way.
- **Durso.19:** If you can send me an e-mail regarding this information, I can also pass this along to Cynthia Carnes who's in charge of the graduate schools' relationship with ERIK to ensure that all data is being saved for graduate students. Thank you for bringing this up.

9.1.4) Organizing Efforts

- **Miles.375:** There has been more discussions recently about unionizing OSU graduate students. I didn't know what CGS's position was on that. In terms of



advocacy, I've been suggesting to students that CGS, Senate, trustee positions, college-level leadership positions are excellent ways to get involved and get ideas heard at the highest levels. I wanted to make sure that was in alignment and okay with CGS.

- **Connor.280:** The official CGS position at this time is that we have no position. It was very explicitly voted on to not take a formal stance. In the past there have been numerous discussions regarding the safety of graduate students and how our involvement might not help the organizing process.
- **Miles.375:** That makes sense, I think joining CGS is always a great push for graduate students.
- **Durso.19:** We have supported these efforts in the past with providing financial information about how much money each graduate student department makes through the GCBC chair. I have done everything I can to reach out to these people.

9.1.5) Hybrid Classes Option

- **UlrichCech.1:** I have noticed that around campus, other graduate students have missed class over safety concerns. I was wondering if there was anything we could do to provide some support or help graduate students maybe feel more comfortable going to class. My professor seemed decently supportive but I just wasn't sure if there were any other accommodations that could be made.
- **Durso.19:** Thank you for bringing this up. I will definitely send an e-mail to the graduate school first thing tomorrow morning to ask them if they are going to issue additional guidance to instructors. I know Faculty Council are asking faculty members to be as lenient as possible with hybrid functions so allowing students to attend on Zoom but ultimately that is up to the instructor's discretion. I will try my best to advocate that the Graduate School issue actual guidance. Perhaps we can something to the statement we will be making to convey this sentiment.
- **Chisam.1** moves to end Delegate Issues and Concerns early
- **DillmanHasso.1** seconds
- Approved by **CGS Majority**

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 10.1 Research and Data Ops will be hosting a Data Bootcamp to start off next meeting!
- 10.2 **Next General Delegate Meeting: Friday, January 16 at 3:30pm (Senate Chambers & Zoom)**

11. ADJOURNMENT

6:45 PM



Officer Reports

TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Sabrina Durso, President
DATE: February 8, 2026
RE: President's Report

Dear lovely CGSers,

The semester is fully underway, and CGS is about to get busy! Please make sure to read through the packets in the coming months, as we will need as many volunteers as possible for various events like the Hayes Advanced Research Forum, Graduate Student Appreciation Week, and more! Volunteering at these events provides wonderful opportunities to meet with graduate students and to share the resources and information you've learned at CGS throughout the year! And do know, no matter the amount of energy and time you can provide to support graduate students, CGS is grateful for you!

Additionally, officer elections will occur at our next monthly meeting! ASK AN OFFICER ABOUT THEIR ROLE IF YOU'RE INTERESTED! We need good folks leading us next year!

Over the Past Month:

- Executive Committee:
 - Co-Chairs and Investigation Committee: Upon closing our last meeting, I tried my best to seat the investigation committee (completed by following Monday 1/19), and to find co-chairs for Orgs and Elections (sat the following Thursday 1/22) and Hayes (sat Wed 1/28).
 - Upon further concerns regarding Hayes at the Executive Committee Meeting on 2/6, the Executive Committee has decided to send a public apology via the Hayes Email to all students taking accountability of mistakes made and detailing how this will not happen in the future. This will be sent out shortly.
 - Statement about ASC Spring Career Fair: A statement was written and can be found [here](#). I met with Dean Horn to discuss the issue and he told me the Provost would be responding. A few days later, The Provost responded with the following:
 - "Thank you for sharing the Council of Graduate Students statement. I am responding on behalf of the university leadership who received it. We always appreciate hearing from our students, and I understand that there are strong feelings on this matter. Our student body is extremely diverse with students looking for employment across a wide variety of fields, and I believe that it is the university's role to provide the broadest possible opportunities for students looking for employment. One of the ways we do that is by not limiting lawful employers from engaging with our students and we want to be thoughtful in not to be making decisions for them. I am confident that based on the education and citizenship skills students gain at Ohio State, our students will make their own judgements in choosing to engage with employers that they feel are matches for their skills, experience and values. It is our responsibility as leaders to facilitate opportunities that are in service of the interests of all students, faculty and staff, even if some disagree with it. However, it is



never our intention for anyone to feel unsafe, and the university has many resources to support students. You can find information on [Ohio State's Key Issues page](#) and much more detail on the [Legal Affairs website](#). For students who need immigration-related support and assistance, the Office of International Affairs at iss@osu.edu has immigration coordinators and students can seek support through [Student Legal Services](#). Students can also seek more general support through the Office of Student Life's [Counseling and Consultation Service](#), the [Student Wellness Center](#) and the [Student Advocacy Center](#)."

- Ray and CDG: I worked hard to get them both emails and have received the green light to get both of those grant chairs paid \$2,000 per academic year—I'm just still trying to figure out how to get the money to them.
- Graduate School:
 - The Accommodations Resolution is being acted upon! The ultimate goal is to have college-level graduate student accommodation specialists that meet with the grad school and student life every semester to ensure all things are working well.
 - Leave Policy updates are coming! Last year I worked with Grad Council to make suggestions, and now that HR has looked them over, we're hoping to have real changes by June. It looks like bereavement policy updates will be easy enough to get, but parental and long-term medical leave suggestions are current sticking points.
- Steering:
 - Advocated for ICE Guidance and leniency for in-person attendance policies.
- Around the Oval:
 - The Thursday before our meeting, Anna and I will advocate for graduate student needs to the President's Cabinet. I'll largely stick to our survey results regarding AI and Housing and Family Affairs.

Working On:

- Academic PhD Regalia Lending Library: The website is now LIVE! Finalizing deadlines with Commencement! I returned 6 out of the 14 sets we had due to printing errors, so currently I'll only be launching the library with 8 sets of PhD, Scarlet and Gray robes. Another 22 are on order.
- 70th Anniversary: WE FINALLY FOUND A WAY TO CONNECT WITH CGS ALUMNI! YAY! We also plan to look through CGS archives this month!
- Exec Retreat: Location for bonding activity planned. Now Blue and I just need to finalize the agenda!
- Individual Student Issues: I typically work on five cases a month. If you have students who may need help in finding a good resource, please never hesitate to send them my way!

I hope you all have a lovely Valentine's Day and find all the ways to take care of yourself,

Sabrina Durso.19



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Anna Zaitseva, Vice President
DATE: February 8, 2026
RE: Vice President's Report

Greetings all,

First of all, I'd like to address the Motion of Investigation that was brought to the floor at the last CGS General Body meeting. It is my understanding that the Committee's report and my written response to the Motion will be sent to the Delegate body before the meeting on February 13th. I hope you take the time to read both reports prior to the meeting. Please know that I am more than willing to answer any additional questions and provide more context, so do not hesitate to reach out or bring them up for discussion during the meeting.

Next, I'd like to address the situation with the Hayes abstract acceptance rollout. After notifying the applicants of the initial judging results, it was brought to my attention that several subject areas (Engineering, FAES, Biological Sciences, Health Sciences, and Social and Behavior Sciences) had issues with the judging process. Specifically, multiple judges who signed up to score and provide feedback to applicants did not complete their reviews, which resulted in several abstracts not being evaluated fairly and properly. To remedy the situation, we decided to conduct a second round of evaluations only with affected applicants in identified subject areas. I reached out to judges who already completed their scoring to review additional abstracts, which some of them graciously agreed to do. After the second round of evaluations, I had to manually calculate the scores and averages across updated abstracts. Following the second notification of updated results to applicants, we realized that there was a discrepancy between my calculations and the Hayes portal calculations. In short, the portal normalized the average score in each subject area, whereas I simply calculated the average score.

This issue was discussed at the Executive Committee meeting on 2/6. With the majority vote, we decided to recalculate the results again. Additionally, we voted to issue a public apology taking accountability for these mistakes. This has added incredible stress to the process and I fully recognize the confusion and frustration it may have caused. All final notifications of acceptance will be sent out by the time of the meeting on 2/13.

Other updates regarding Hayes:

Complete:

- One day-of presentation, judges recruitment email sent to all the deans via Graduate School mailing list. A second email is scheduled for next week.
- Ohio Union booking, catering, and other org things have been confirmed and approved during the meeting on 2/6.
- Official invitations were sent on 2/5.

Working on:

- Volunteer recruitment – please share widely with folks in your departments and consider volunteering. We need as many people as we can get.

[Hayes Volunteer Sign-up Link](#)

- Program and schedule
- UniPrint orders for day-of items



Elections schedule for SP26:

Officer Elections:

- February 13th – Officer nominations/applications open at the CGS General Body meeting.
- March 6th – Officer nominations/applications close at 11:59 p.m.
- March 13th – Officer election day at/during the CGS General Body meeting.

Senator Elections:

- March 13th – Senator nominations/applications open at the CGS General Body meeting
- March 27th – Senator nominations/applications close.
- April 3rd – Senator elections at/during the CGS General Body meeting.

Delegate Elections:

- March 23-27th – email notification of delegate elections.
- March 30th – Delegate nominations/applications are open ONLINE on the website.
- April 10th – Delegate nominations/applications close.
- April 22-29th – voting period opens at 12 p.m. on April 22, and closes at 5 p.m. on April 29

AU26-SU29 Reapportionment

- Reapportionment is ready for feedback from the Delegate Body. Please see AU26-SU29 CGS Apportionment with Notes.pdf (attached to Delegate Packet). For information about CGS Apportionment, visit Articles 2 and 8 of the CGS Bylaws & Standing Rules.
- Reapportionment Survey to collect feedback with close Friday, February 27th: <https://forms.office.com/r/TUUFu9Du5m>

All my best,
Zaitseva.1



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Adam Tjoelker, Treasurer
DATE: February 9th, 2026
RE: Treasurer's Report

Hello everyone,
I hope you all have been enjoying the snow! (I definitely am!!) I have a few updates to share about the Ray Travel Award and the CGS Budget and Spending.

Ray Travel Award

This funding period (FY 2025-2026 Funding Period IV) we had 92 applicants! This is the highest number of applicants we have seen for the RTA all year!

Judging officially began as of the evening of Thursday, February 5th with results for applicants expected by the end of the month.

I would like to pass a huge thank-you to the four new judges for this funding period (three of whom joined up in a last-minute call after we received so many applicants)!

I am also happy to announce that the Ray Travel Award has a new email address:

cgs-raytravel@osu.edu

CGS Budget and Spending

As reported last month, many CGS internal committees still have outstanding funds in their accounts for the year. Please continue to plan events and discuss with your committees how you can serve the Graduate Student body with your outstanding advocacy and events!

Funding is also on track to support Hayes this year as well as the new Academic Regalia Lending Library.

As always, please continue to reach out to me with questions. Please use:

- tjoelker.4@buckeyemail.osu.edu for all treasurer questions
- cgs-raytravel@osu.edu for all queries and qualms with the Ray Travel Award!

Yours in service,
Tjoelker.4



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Kaz Gary, Secretary
DATE: February 9th, 2026
RE: Secretary's Report

Happy Winter y'all!

As Secretary:

- I will not be running again next year for Secretary 😞 If you are interested in running, please let me know! I can meet to discuss the responsibilities and time commitments for the job. It's been one of the great joys of graduate school to be your Secretary and I know the next person will do great!

As CDG Chair:

- **CDG NEEDS JUDGES!**
 - Please e-mail me if you'd like to judge for CDG! It should take less than 2 hours and is a great line on your CV/resume.
- Cycle 4 ended on February 1st. Judging instructions will be sent out this next coming week and results will be announced before the end of February!
- CDG finally has it's own mailbox! Please e-mail cgs-cdg@osu.edu for anything related to CDG 😊

Best,
Kaz Gary.102



Committee Chair Reports

TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Danwyn Aranha and Anastasia Shikanova, CGS Academic Affairs, Chair
DATE: February 8, 2025
RE: Academic Affairs Chair Report

Hi Everyone,

The academic team met on January 13. We discussed the data obtained from the GenAI survey, analyzing, and stressing some takeaway points. We also received some good feedback from our committee members. Bill and Sid have worked out a summary of the survey, pointing out some of the key highlights from the responses. We are planning to make a presentation of it and present it to the provost when Sabrina meets him

Best wishes,

Aranha.7 & Shikanova.1



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Holly Engel, Arts and Culture Chair
DATE: February 6, 2025
RE: Arts and Culture Chair's Report

Happy Groundhog Month,

Since the Groundhog has predicted six more weeks of winter, what better way to celebrate Eternal Winter than by going to A&C's Open Mic Night? This is our main project right now and, as a reminder, it will take place on Thursday, Feb. 19 from 7-9pm in Sullivant 141. The event will be catered by Lavash Cafe. We have also confirmed that the audience's favorite performer will receive \$20 on their BuckID, and the runner-up will receive \$10. We are in desperate need of performers, so please reach out to your artistically inclined constituents and your fellow grad student friends and tell them about this opportunity! You can sign up here to perform ([Performance Signup Survey](#)) and here to attend ([Ticket Reservation Survey](#)).

May the Groundhog bless you,

Holly Engel.210



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Johnathan Chisam, Diversity & Inclusion Chair
DATE: Feb 06, 2025
RE: Diversity & Inclusion Chair's Report

Hello,

The Diversity & Inclusion Committee met on Feb. 3rd and continued the process of planning for Sunrise Conversations. Currently, we are planning to hold the next Sunrise Conversation in early May. We are beginning to reach out to faculty that may be interested in participating and will hopefully be able to set a date soon.

Thanks,

Chisam.1



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Charlie Mace, Government Affairs Chair
DATE: February 6, 2026
RE: Government Affairs Chair's Report

Hi everyone,

The Government Affairs Committee last met on January 22nd, and our next meeting is scheduled for February 12th. We are currently drafting a newsletter, which will hopefully be sent out next week.

In federal news, [most of the government is now funded](#) following a brief partial shutdown at the end of January. The issue of funding for the Department of Homeland Security is still unresolved, with a potential funding crisis for the organization if there is no agreement by February 13th.

Thank you,
Charlie Mace.103



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Jon Fritz, CGS Graduate Caucus, Chair & Senator
DATE: February 13, 2026
RE: Graduate Caucus Chair Report

Hi all,

I apologize for the limited report. I usually remind graduate representatives and Senators a week before the CGS meeting to submit their updates and forgot. Thank you to those reps who submitted something; unless otherwise listed below, assume your grad representatives do not have any updates from their committee at this time. As always, let your senators and grad reps know if there is anything you would like us to know/discuss in our committees. Thanks!

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

CAT has yet to meet this month.

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

CESP met on 2.3 and reviewed details on asynchronous election days, reading days, and syllabus requirements. Norman Jones, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education, attended the meeting and provided updates. During our next meeting we will be reviewing transfer students and their experience.

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

Our last meeting was on January 16 and we discussed what our committee's short- and long-term goals should be.

Short-term: study spaces for students, updates to classrooms, lists of single-use bathrooms, campus parc: spaces available to faculty in garages on S campus

Long-term: Updates to dorms, housing for faculty and students, carbon neutrality

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

IPPC met on February 4th and elected our next Chair & Secretary. We also voted to have a change regarding faculty misconduct/IP protections policy move to a vote at Senate. Finally, we discussed having speakers external to OSU come talk to us at our mtgs about IP at other Big10 schools.

Senate Steering Committee, represented by Sabrina Durso.19:

Advocated for ICE guidance, especially as it pertains to attendance policies if ICE were to come onto campus. Advocated to discuss AI and SB1 compliance at Senate by the end of the year.

The following committees do not have any updates as of this writing on February 9, 2026:

- Athletic Council, represented by Anna Zaitseva.1
- Affirmation of Accreditation Committee, represented by Andrew Miles.375
- Committee on Academic Technology (CAT), represented by Sabrina Durso.19
- Council on Academic Affairs (CAA), represented by Andrew Miles.375 & Andy Vance.128
- Council on Academic Freedom & Responsibility (CAFR), represented by Rebekah Akintade.3
- Council on Student Affairs (CSA), represented by Kirsten Myers.2377 (chair), Oluwadamilola Salau.2, & Gabe Myers.2039
- Library Committee, represented by Brian Rocha.51
- Evaluation of Central Administrators (EOCA), represented by Andy Vance.128
- Fiscal Committee, represented by Kenny Saephan.2



- Government Affairs, represented by Charlie Mace.103
- University Research Committee (URC), represented by Courtney Jewell.196 & Holly Engel.210
- Rules Committee, represented by Jorge Clavo Abbass.1

University Senate mtg: Senate convened remotely on January 26th virtually. Highlights included President Carter's comments on the campus community and snowstorms, approval of several academic programs and rules, and a presentation from Public Safety on ICE guidance. The next mtg will take place later this month on February 26, 2026.

All the best,
Jon Fritz.288



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Bryan Pérez Soto, Graduate Compensation and Benefits (University Senate Committee) Report
DATE: February 2nd, 2025
RE: Graduate Compensation and Benefits Chair's Report

Hello,

These are some highlights from the first meeting of the month and some regular updates.

- During the month of March, I will be presenting to the Steering committee. This presentation will be 10 minutes long and will include an overview of the work that we have been doing for this academic year.
- The provost has announced an 8% increase to the graduate associate stipend. This increase bumps the 12-month stipend to \$34,764. YAY. The downside of this is that the number of fellowships awarded per academic year has decreased.
- We need a chair for the next academic year. I am looking for CGS delegates that might be interested in pursuing this. Please feel free to reach out to me at perezsoto.2@buckeyemail.osu.edu if you are curious or have questions.
- Went over the data that has been collected and the key recommendations that we want to put out as a committee.
- When talking about increasing graduate stipends, we would like to include and encourage university leaders to not only increase the stipends but to provide the Colleges and units with the funds for this.

Cool beans,

Bryan PérezSoto.2



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Tinu Oduloye, Graduate Student Affairs Chair
DATE: February 4, 2025
RE: Graduate Student Affairs Chair's Report

Happy February everyone!

We are officially less than two months away from Graduate Student Appreciation Week (GSAW) 2026. All RFPs have been submitted and approved, and swag ordering is being finalized. In January, I began connecting to campus partners to invite them to table during GSAW and share campus resources with graduate students. We currently have 3 of 5 partners confirmed and are finalizing the remaining two. Our committee met on January 21 to review progress and finalize next steps. I also met with Lauren (Housing & Family Affairs) and Jennifer (Off-Campus & Commuter Student Engagement) to confirm how their groups would like to contribute during GSAW. We have some fun plans during GSAW. Next steps include continuing partner outreach, recruiting volunteers, and opening registration for the Instructional Kitchen events (students can register for one date). Please reach out if you are interested in volunteering or collaborating during GSAW.

Graduate Student Appreciation Week 2026 - Volunteer Sign Up

- [Go.osu.edu/gsaw2026volunteer](https://go.osu.edu/gsaw2026volunteer)

GSAW schedule: April 6-10, 2026

- Monday, April 6: Donuts with the Deans from 9-11am on the 2nd Floor, University Hall Reception Area (where the Graduate School is located) w// Buckeye Paws
- Tuesday, April 7: Instructional Kitchen 1, Lower Level of the Ohio Union
 - OSU Student Legal Services (11am-1pm)
- Wednesday, April 8: GSAW/CGS Game Night at the Keith B. Key Center, Ohio Union from 5-8pm w/ BuckeyePaws
- Friday, April 10: Instructional Kitchen 2, Lower Level of the Ohio Union

With love,

Oduloye.1



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Deb Pathak and Luke Van Niel, Health, Wellness, and Safety Chair
DATE: February 6th, 2025
RE: Health, Wellness, and Safety Chair's Report

Howdy,

10 HWS members have voted, and we're planning on hosting 1-2 events in the late Spring!

1. April (date TBD): **Hack Day/Mapping Barriers** Event
2. July (date TBD): **Community Day/Diverse Identities** Discussion Event – Maybe line up with any Disability Pride Month events going on

HWS is also deciding on a new name for the Accessibility Stakeholders' Symposium, any suggestions welcome!

Finally, we will begin the process for CGS branding the Symposium (similar to Hayes) this semester!

Don't hesitate to email me & Luke if you would like to be involved in any capacity. Stay warm and careful on the sidewalks!

Sincerely,

Pathak.89 & Vanniel.5



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Lauren Levesque, Housing and Family Affairs Chair
DATE: February 6, 2025
RE: Housing and Family Affairs Chair's Report

Hello,

The Grad Roommate Fair, co-sponsored by OCCSE, will be held on Wednesday, March 26th at 5:00-7:00pm in the Milestone Room at the Union. Jennifer Kephass from OCCSE sent registration link, and I will be making a flyer that will be ready for distribution by March 6th

Our committee decided to use \$1000 budget to purchase first-aid kits to be given out at CGS events and tabling. (<https://www.promoplace.com/callardcompany/p/WUSEI-OCZYI/mini-backpack-first-aid-kit>). I will work with the treasurer to get those ordered

For the housing survey, our goal is to have at least 800 responses, and the survey will be closing on February 28th. As of February 6th, we have 268 responses, which is up from 193 responses on January 15th. I will be reaching out to delegates who have lower than a 5% response rate to encourage them to directly share the survey with their constituents

Best,

Levesque.31



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Ashutosh Soni, International Student Affairs Chair
DATE: Feb 8th, 2025
RE: International Student Affairs Chair's Report

Dear all,

A few important things that we are currently working on -

1. Tax workshop – since the tax season is coming up, we are working to find ways to host a tax workshop for students to help them with their questions.
2. Share your story – this time we are trying to have entries from students who would be interested in sharing their story and are working on creating the form and drafting the email to be sent soon.

Thanks,
Soni.117



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Aryn Robinson and Katie Conner, Membership Wellness Chair
DATE: February 13, 2026
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: <https://forms.office.com/r/7JKsKAZ4Hy>
- **Wellness Bingo Challenge Submission Form**
 - <https://forms.office.com/r/FsNh1fxMCB>
 - Will close Friday, March 20th
- **Taste of CGS Volume II**
 - Please share with us a recipe that is special to you by Friday, February 20th
 - <https://forms.office.com/r/Zn0XKX31dh>

Ongoing Events and Reminders

- **Intellectual Wellness Bingo:** Check out this month's wellness bingo attached to the Delegate Packet email!
- **Adopt a Cat:** Check out Saup Services, run by an OSU Alum! Find more details at 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: March 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



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Bill Wang and Shiddharta Ramprakash, Research and Data Operations Chair
DATE: January 27, 2026
RE: Research and Data Operations Chair's Report

Hello everyone,

We are preparing for the Excel Workshop. See you on the 13th of February at the delegate meeting. Additionally, we shall work on the analysis of housing survey and GenAI survey as well.

Regards,

Wang.13945 & Ramprakash.4



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Katelyn Amstutz and Casey Ortbahn, Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility Committee (SERC) Chair
DATE: February 9th, 2026
RE: SERC Chair's Report

Hi everyone!

This month, we finalized plans and submitted an RFP for supplies for our Time for Change event, Art with Plants!, which will be from 5-8 pm April 2, 2026 on the Hansford Quadrangle! We also continue to work on researching the sustainability impacts of AI on OSU's campus.

We have a new website with a sustainability resources web page: u.osu.edu/cgssustainability/, which you can check out, share, and let us know if you have any resources that we should add!

We also met with FOD Sustainability this month, and have some sustainability opportunities and reminders:

1. Certify your lab or office as sustainable with the [Green Buckeyes](#) certification. Having this certification also means you will get additional information and opportunities to improve your lab/office sustainability in the future!
2. Get funding for sustainability-related projects and events on campus! OSEP funding applications are due March 26, 2026, see [here](#) for more details.
3. Get free composting bins through FOD's composting program, which you can sign up for [here](#). Drop-off sites can be found [here](#).
 - a. Also, please fill out [this quick survey](#) (it's literally just one question) to let SERC know where you would like to see new compost drop-off locations on campus.

Best,
Amstutz.87 & Ortbahn.1