



COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Delegate Packet

JANUARY 16th, 2025

Location: Ohio Union Senate Chambers & Zoom



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Agenda

General Delegate Meeting | 16 JANUARY 2026 | Senate Chambers, Ohio Union & Zoom

1. **CAMPUS CONNECTIONS** 3:30 PM
 - 1.1 Ravi V. Bellamkonda, Executive Vice President and Provost of The Ohio State University
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** [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** [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, February 13 at 3:30pm (Senate Chambers & Zoom)**
11. **ADJOURNMENT** 5:55 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** 3:00 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**

4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- **Oduloye.1** motions to approve
- **Connor.280** seconds
- Approved by CGS majority

5. **OFFICER REPORTS** 4:02 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:
 - Discussions on Student Life Strategic Plan & Higher Learning Commission Re-accreditation
 - Co-Hosting a Mentoring UP Workshop with the Grad School on February 4th from 3-4PM
 - Establishing a Big10 working group to Big10 Provosts
- Student Life:
 - Hired a new Student Government Advisor and Assistant Director for The Buckeye Commons
- University Senate
 - Approved Appalachian and Rural Center for Health, Approved a new investigation and sanctioning pathway for research compliance cases. Discussed Digital Accessibility Compliance
- Grad School
 - GradSERU open! Email Sabrina for help accessing it! Sabrina will try to have a synthesis for the Jan. Meeting.
 - AI policy within Grad Handbook & Wellness Grant for Grad Studies Chairs forthcoming

5.1.3) **Working on:**

- 70th Anniversary
 - Blue and I will send invites and finalize plans over Winter Break
- Academic Regalia Lending Library
 - The website is now LIVE! (Email me if you see issues)
 - Confirmed support with Commencement (invites out) and Alumni Association (storage)

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.
- Parking: 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.

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

5.2.1) Hayes Forum 2026:

- The proposal application period closes on Tuesday, December 2. **THANK YOU** all for applying, promoting it, and encouraging your constituents to apply.
- We closed out this application cycle with **384** applications! This is the highest number of submissions since 2017, according to records.
- Currently, we have **85** judges registered. 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>

5.2.2) Committee duties & participation:

- Several committee chairs notified me that meeting attendance has been low.
- This is a reminder that you're required to attend meetings and assist chairs with organizing activities.
- If participation is a problem, according to our Bylaws, you will be removed from CGS.

5.3. Treasurer's Report – Adam Tjoelker.4

5.3.1) Ray Travel Award

- Congratulations to the 22 award winners from Funding Period III and a huge thank-you to our incredible judges who reviewed and scored applications!
- As always, if you are looking to volunteer as a judge for Ray, please send me an email! I just ran a second training session this semester in late October and I will run another before judging begins for Funding Period IV in February, 2026.



5.3.2) Hayes Forum Funding

- I am working with Student Life to create an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between CGS, the Grad School and ERIK to solidify their support for Hayes.
- We normally receive \$20k per year, but are receiving an ~\$30k payment this year due to missed payments since 2022 of the difference between the total support and awards

5.3.3) Many CGS Committees still have money to spend!

- If you have questions about your committee budget, please feel free to reach out to me by email!
- As soon as you have an idea, please have your committee chair out the [new project registration form](#) before you send me a Request for Purchase (RFP). Full spending instructions are still available on the Teams drive accessible by committee chairs and members of the CGS executive committee.
- The sooner you plan to spend money, the better!

5.4. Secretary's Report – Kaz Gary.102

5.4.1) As Secretary:

- Nothing to report!

5.4.2) As CDG Chair:

- CDG portal continues to be my worst enemy
- Judges - judging e-mail went out on Friday November 21st and due date for judging is tonight!
- We have 27 applicants this cycle and results should be coming out before Cycle 4 begins on December 15th

6. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

4:10 PM

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

6.1.1) GenAI Survey for GTA/GRA

- Final Draft of the survey ready, will be sent in the December Newsletter

6.1.2) Regalia Lending Library

- The Regalia Lending Library website is online
- Received Regalia, Alumni association to house them for us

6.1.3) GenAI Study Group - Discussion/Conversation on GenAI in Higher Education

- QR code in the slides

6.2. Arts and Culture – Holly Engel.210

6.2.1) A&C Survey

- Still live, dew itt
- QR code in the slides

6.2.2) Open Mic Night

- Thursday, Feb. 19 from 7-9pm, Sullivant 141
- Be an MC :D
- Sign up to perform or attend! Spots are limited
- QR code in the slides

6.2.3) Next Meeting

- Tuesday, Dec. 9 from 9-10am in Hagerty 206 or on Zoom

6.3. Government Affairs– Charlie Mace.103

6.3.1) Last Meeting

- November 7th, discussed the recent newsletter and made plans for December

6.3.2) Next Meeting

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- December 5th, will decide on newsletter topics and discuss recent legislative issues.
- 6.3.3) **Reminder**
- The Federal Government shutdown has ended – stay in touch with offices and funding institutions to keep track of how the shutdown may affect services, funding, and deadlines. See the detailed report for more news and pending legislation!
- 6.4. Graduate Caucus – Jon Fritz.288
- 6.4.1) **Digital accessibility & planning for the spring:**
- CESP: student populations, accessibility
 - CSA: Code of Student Conduct review
 - COPE: mixed-use affordable housing, temporary fix for Denney, and a grant for safer transportation through DOT
 - URC: Digital accessibility and ADA requirements
- 6.4.2) **University Senate on 11-13-2025**
- Veteran/military student wellbeing, resolutions passed concerning a rural health network & a framework for faculty research misconduct, and a discussion of digital accessibility compliance by April 2026
- 6.4.3) **Next Meeting**
- January 29th, 2026, 3:30-5pm in-person at Sullivant Hall 0220 or via Zoom
- 6.5. Graduate Compensation and Benefits – Bryan Perez Soto (PerezSoto.2)
- 6.5.1) **General Updates:**
- Committee met in November 10th
 - Gathering data from GradSERU for analysis
 - Resistance from the Deans
- 6.6. Graduate Student Affairs – Tinu Oduloye.1
- 6.6.1) **General Updates:**
- Met with committee to discuss GSAW progress, including RFP for Donuts with the Deans
 - Met with the Chair of Housing & Family Affairs and Jennifer from Off-Campus & Commuter Student Engagement to explore GSAW collaboration and ideas
- 6.6.2) **Next steps:**
- Continuing outreach to CGS committees, OUAB, and other campus partners & goal is to complete the remaining RFPs for swag and other events
 - Interested in joining or collaborating during GSAW? Please reach out!
- 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

9. SPECIAL ORDER ITEM

4:39 PM

9.1. Delegate Issues and Concerns

9.1.1) CGS Newsletters Not Being Delivered

- **Robinson.2283:** I have not been getting the CGS newsletter in my e-mail this year. Has anyone else had this issue?
- **Durso.19:** I'll be filling out a new FOIA request for this year's newsletter. I will make sure your name is on that list, it must have slipped past the old FOIA request. If anyone else is having this issue, please e-mail me.

9.1.2) Dissertation Funding Concerns

- **Musch.7:** All NSF dissertation grants were quietly archived this week which is a huge issue for anthropology because that's how most grads get funding to do their research. Additionally, DDRIGs were all cancelled which is also a reliable source of income for anthropology students.
- **Durso.19:** Am aware, talking with Dean Stromberger about it. Dean has been working closely with ERIK to make sure students are getting funding when funding is being revoked. Please reach out to her.
- **Allen.2234:** Linguistics is also heavily hit by the DDRIGs, might be helpful to have ongoing conversations about how we as CGS approach dissertation funding. It seems there's multiple conversations happening so maybe it would be better to have a cohesive group conversation about these issues.
- **Connor.280:** I will make a motion to refer this to Academic Affairs to maybe try and figure out a working group or an idea for a more permanent solution
- Seconded by **Gokey.5**
- Passed by CGS majority
- **Durso.19:** Issue will be passed to Academic Affairs. Additionally, I wonder if it would be helpful to set up a meeting between Dean Stromberger and everyone who is trying to find solutions for these students without funding and connect them directly to the Office of Academic Affairs.

9.1.3) Mental Healthcare Grants

- **SullivanKwam.1:** Mental Healthcare grant is available and if you're unaware, it will help to cover medications for mental health, transportations to mental health sessions, and co-pays for mental health sessions.



9.1.4) TA Training

- **Anderson.4133:** Many of us have seen the news about the TA at OU who has been targeted for assigning a grade to a student. I'm concerned how the University is handling these TA accusations that would disproportionately fall on minoritized TAs.
- **Durso.19:** I just met with OU's CGS President and there's a lot going on that the media is not reporting about the situation. At OSU, if we get a complaint for TAs, the first time offense is a conversation and some training, second offense is the department head comes in and then the third offense is the Provost actually handling it. CGS has heard of no reports so far in accordance with state laws, but as delegates we should all be aware and listening to our departments.
- **Connor.280:** I'm in the Linguistics department, teach social justice very explicitly, there will be training for TAs to navigate these kinds of issues.
- **Durso.19:** Important to note, there is still training and programs available from OSU to TAs right now.

9.1.5) Winter Break Schedule for Students

- **Miller.8871:** There is some confusion regarding winter break for my department. We just got a memo saying that academic members in the College of Medicine are given a winter break but graduate students are excluded from this. Right now, the message I have been giving to my colleagues is to talk to their PI individually about expectations over break but obviously something standardized would be nice just to avoid confusion and to allow students to actually have a break.
- **Durso.19:** What I'll say about that is as graduate students, if for whatever reason you feel that you're being abused within your winter break (i.e. being asked to do work other than required lab work or working with clients professionally) that is a violation of the grad school handbook, and you should get in contact with me so then I can talk to Dean Stromberger about what's happening. We see the professional schools often abusing their PhD professional students more so, because the professional students have a very different set of standards than we do. Zach, you're already in my inbox, so I'll be working with you on this.
- **Harper.932:** Graduate associates are completely excluded from the winter academic recess policy, as well as those who are part of the Wexner Medical Center or any of its associations, including the College of Medicine. So, yes, if people ask you, it would defer to what Sabrina says, but just as a blanket policy, all paid students and graduate associates are excluded.
- **Durso.19:** Students are excluded from the staff break. Again, being a student first also comes with benefits that staff do not get as well during holiday breaks, so I think that's important to note as well.
- **YerramsettyPrashant.1:** The department of biomedical engineering told us that we're not allowed to work from December 24th to January 1st. Are we going to be able to get into the building for experiments that need to be run?
- **Levesque.31:** I was just talking with my advisor about this. Our building is putting together a schedule to see who's going to be in town and who can come in on what day to make sure the buildings aren't flooding and collapsing and that experiments are running.
- **Durso.19:** I'll send an e-mail to the Deans to see what they're going to do about this over the week long break.



9.1.6) Lifestyle Spending Accounts for Graduate Students

- **Pizzulo.2:** I had a constituent reach out to me, and they said, "I'm wondering if we could bring up the lifestyle spending accounts that OSU staff and faculty receive, but graduate students do not. From the Lifestyle Spending Account site, it says eligible Ohio State employees include full-time and part-time, at least 50% FTE, in a regular or term position, but temporary employees such as graduate students are also not eligible for this benefit." They also stated graduate research and teaching associates work 20 hours a week yet are not eligible for this funding. I think it would be great to find out if graduate students in, 50% FTEs could be eligible or receive a similar benefit. Important to note, the lifestyle Savings Account.
- **Durso.19:** It's important to note, the Lifestyle Spending Account is an amazing account that you can get up to \$150 quarterly for fitness stuff through Faculty and Staff health insurance plan. We are eligible to sign up for this plan but Student Health Insurance is what we get for free and it's not included in our insurance package. In order to do this, we would have to look into how many people would want this and then go to the Deans to talk about adding this to the Student Health Insurance. Otherwise, if you want this account, you would have to pay an additional cost for this so you can move over to Faculty and Staff health insurance. You should have gotten a physical letter in the mail asking if you wanted to opt to pay for the Faculty and Staff insurance plan instead.
- **Gokey.5:** I also got that letter in the mail and wanted to share something. If we were to enroll for the Faculty and Staff plan for the student only, the base is \$428.88 per month. That does not include if you have spouse or children. They're paying almost \$500 a month, which, by the way, the LSA is only \$125 per quarter. Just something to keep in mind.

9.1.7) BuckeyeLink Student Classification

- **Harper.932:** When enrolling for classes in BuckeyeLink, there's certain criteria a student has to follow if they're enrolled as an on-campus student, online, hybrid, etc. I'm now in my third semester, and I always need to go to my advisor because for some reason, nothing's ever classified on the back end right. I'm assuming others are having issues as well.
- **Durso.19:** The grad school can fix that from the back end very simply. I would just have to have the name.#'s of those that are being impacted emailed to me, so I could send it forward to them.
- **Connor.280** moves to end Delegate Issues and Concerns early
- **Oduloye.1** seconds
- Passed by CGS Majority

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 10.1 We will host Provost Bellamkonda during the Campus Connections! Come with Questions!
Don't forget to come out
- 10.2 **Next General Delegate Meeting: Friday, January 16 at 3:30pm (Senate Chambers & Zoom)**

11. ADJOURNMENT

5:10 PM



Officer Reports

TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Sabrina Durso, President
DATE: January 11, 2026
RE: President's Report

Dear hopefully well-rested CGSers,

I hope you all had a wonderful Winter Break full of laughter, memories, and magic! I do acknowledge how hard the break may be on some of you, especially with everything going across the country and the world. Do know CGS is always here for you, and I personally will always spend time with a CGSer who needs to vent. As the semester progresses, please feel welcome to email CGS with any and all concerns.

Please remember to share information regarding the many resources tOSU offers to your constituents: [Student Advocacy](#) or the [Monda Student Resource Center](#) are both 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! Outside of the above, CGS tries to keep a [list of resources](#) as updated as possible—do check those out and share them!

Over the Past Month:

- Executive Committee: Blue and I met with all chairs to prepare for this last semester! Outside of that:
 - We hosted Vice Provost Randy Smith in Exec to talk about **the University's re-accreditation review with the Higher Learning Commission**. He asked you all to be on the lookout for open forums about the University's re-accreditation, especially if you have stories on how the university is A) aligned with its mission, public good, and the diversity of society; B) integrity, as it pertains to ethical and responsible conduct such as board governance, academic freedom and freedom of expression, knowledge acquisition, discovery and application; C) teaching and learning as it pertains to education programs, exercise of intellectual inquiry, support for student learning and teaching resources, sufficiency of staff and faculty, assessment of student learning, program review, and student success outcomes; and D) sustainability, institutional effectiveness resources and planning as it pertains to effective administration structures, resource base and sustainability, and planning for quality improvement.
- Student Life: I may be possibly working on a joint statement with USG and IPC on the undergraduate housing situation. I'll make sure there is an emergency/urgent asynchronous vote on the wording if it happens. I believe if we add the lack of grad housing to the conversation, a joint statement could only help the cause.
- Graduate School: There's a lot of smaller projects going on with Grad Council. They are looking at NSF issues (largely staffing at the NSF is making it hard to receive funding from the NSF). The Council of Grad Schools is looking into faculty self-censorship, while the Grad School is looking into if they should follow through on investigations of falsified data in dissertations (currently do not). We also had a discussion about lowering TOEFL requirements.



- Randomness: Met with Dr. Shivers to discuss paying the Secretary and Treasurer. Following up this month. Met with Nebraska's VP for Grad Students to discuss how we can advocate in conservative states. Met with the Buckeye Commons Director Scott Brown to talk about the space. It should be a pretty great and event space, but plans are still being finalized. I've also been in discussion with the AI Fluency folks to talk about a workshop that costs a ton of money to attend and they have discussed waiving fees for grads. I'm following up on this front as well.

Working On:

- 70th Anniversary: Blue and I will be working Wednesday, January 14th to finalize the event
- Academic Regalia Lending Library: [The website is now LIVE!](#) I'm still working with Commencement for a timeline on the messaging front, but all will be okay. Additionally, Blue and I are touring the regalia storage space in the Alumni House before the CGS meeting. Also, while Dr. Shivers generously gifted CGS enough money to now have 36 robes in total, it is difficult to return damaged robes. I'm working on it, but I don't know how many robes we'll be able to use this year. More to come.

Updates from Past Delegate Issues and Concerns:

- 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.

Stay safe, and remember, CGS is here for you,

Sabrina Durso.19



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Anna Zaitseva, Vice President
DATE: January 12, 2026
RE: Vice President's Report

Howdy all,

Happy winter semester! I hope you all had a restful, joyful, and cozy winter break.

Since most of the university was on winter recess and all activities were dormant for a few weeks, there is not a whole lot to report for me outside of Hayes.

First of all, I want to shout out Hayes committee members: Selvet, Oluwadamilola, Shiddhartha, Kaveri, Abigail, Godstand, Patrick, Sumita, and Megan! Thank you for your time reviewing the abstracts and returning them on time. There is, unfortunately, one problem I'm still dealing with, which is the lack of abstract judges for the Humanities. I sent an email to Dean Horn begging for faculty to sign up and review abstracts, and all of you received an email to share with your departments. I pray that we get 3-4 generous faculty who will agree to do this work for us and that applicants' work gets evaluated fairly. The judges received their assignments on time, and about 35% of them completed their judging and scoring (as of Jan 11th). I'll send a few more reminder emails in the next week to make sure everything is completed on time. After that, I'm going to focus on recruiting more presentation judges, as we are still short on folks in a few academic areas.

Additionally, volunteering info and signups will be going out in the next few weeks, so be on the lookout for that. We will need all the help we can get, so once that email hits your inbox, please share widely with your constituents.

As always, don't ever hesitate to reach out.

All my best,

Zaitseva.1



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Adam Tjoelker, Treasurer
DATE: January 12, 2025
RE: Treasurer's Report

Happy New Year everyone,

I hope you all had a restful winter break! I have a few updates for you all about the Ray Travel Award:

Ray Travel Award Funding Period IV is Open (Deadline February 1st)

We are currently accepting applications for the Ray Travel Award Funding Period IV. We have a lot of applications already started. Please remind your constituents who plan to travel to conferences between April 1st and June 30th to start their applications well before the deadline!

Ray Travel Award Reimbursement Process

After hearing multiple complaints recently from graduate students about the difficulties getting reimbursed for travel through the Ray Travel Award, I am doing my best to make the process as easy as possible. I have inquired regarding a few concerns:

1. Paying for flights using personal credit cards – I learned recently that Student Life fiscal policy prevents students from being able to use the OSU airfare prepayment system. This means going forward, as it has already been the case, students must pay for flights with their own cards before being reimbursed through Student Life.
2. Direct Deposit to Alleviate Reimbursement Workload – I also inquired about the possibility of eliminating the reimbursement entirely and disbursing \$1,000 to all Ray Travel Award winners. I was informed that this goes against the fiscal policies within Student Life and is not possible due to their financial accountability requirements.

Going forward, I am brainstorming and discussing with members of CGS ways that we can improve the process for reimbursement. I am considering running a workshop. If you believe this would be beneficial or you have personal experience regarding the Ray reimbursement process that you would like to share, please do not hesitate to contact me by email.

Ray Travel Award Portal Updates

Kaz and I will be meeting with Student Life Technology Services later this month to discuss needed updates and modifications to the Ray Travel Award and Career Development Grant portal systems. If you have concerns or have encountered issues, please email me before January 20th.

Committee Spending and Budgeting

As I highlighted during the December meeting, we still have lots of funds available for committees to spend before the end of the year. Please see the total spending across all of CGS below in Table 1. Note: Hayes is over budget for this year, but we did receive the disbursement of \$30,100 from the graduate school covering missed payments over the last 4 years. Please reach out if you have questions about your committee's remaining funds!



Table 1: CGS Budget and Expenses – January Meeting Update

Budget Section	Budget Sub-Section	Annual Budget	Budget Spent RFP	Projected Remaining Budget
President's Projects	Discretionary	\$3,000.00	\$574.00	\$2,426.00
President's Projects	CGS 70th Anniversary Event	\$5,000.00	\$5,767.88	\$(767.88)
President's Projects	Global Gateway	\$5,000.00	\$1,745.00	\$3,255.00
Vice President's Projects	Hayes	\$13,000.00	\$27,850.69	\$(14,850.69)
Vice President's Projects	Grad Student Appreciation Week	\$15,000.00	\$11,469.66	\$3,530.34
Vice President's Projects	Discretionary	\$500.00	\$-	\$500.00
Executive Committee	Retreat	\$1,500.00	\$457.84	\$1,042.16
Executive Committee	Awards & Recognition	\$500.00	\$-	\$500.00
Executive Committee	Marketing	\$11,000.00	\$2,940.00	\$8,060.00
Executive Committee	Executive Discretionary	\$2,500.00	\$124.75	\$2,375.25
Internal Committees	Academic Affairs	\$1,500.00	\$-	\$1,500.00
Internal Committees	Arts & Culture	\$4,000.00	\$-	\$4,000.00
Internal Committees	Diversity and Inclusion	\$750.00	\$-	\$750.00
Internal Committees	International Student Affairs	\$3,000.00	\$326.24	\$2,673.76
Internal Committees	Grant Admin – Ray & CDG	\$750.00	\$-	\$750.00
Internal Committees	Health, Wellness, and Safety	\$4,000.00	\$2,099.04	\$1,900.96
Internal Committees	SERC	\$1,500.00	\$-	\$1,500.00
Internal Committees	Org. & Election	\$-	\$-	\$-
Internal Committees	Government Affairs	\$750.00	\$-	\$750.00
Internal Committees	Graduate Student Affairs	\$2,000.00	\$-	\$2,000.00
Internal Committees	Housing and Family Affairs	\$1,000.00	\$-	\$1,000.00
Internal Committees	Committees - Other	\$5,000.00	\$-	\$5,000.00
Internal Committees	Research and Data Operations	\$750.00	\$-	\$750.00
Internal Committees	Membership Wellness	\$1,500.00	\$1,240.05	\$259.95
Special Projects	Academic Regalia Lending Library	\$35,000.00	\$33,720.38	\$1,279.62
Intergovernmental Affairs	Intergovernmental Affairs	\$1,000.00	\$-	\$1,000.00
Grant Funding	Career Development	\$12,500.00	\$4,436.59	\$8,063.41
Grant Funding	Ray Travel Award	\$40,000.00	\$24,657.00	\$15,343.00
Office Equipment and Technology	Copier	\$250.00	\$-	\$250.00
Office Equipment and Technology	Equipment	\$500.00	\$-	\$500.00
Office Equipment and Technology	Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$-	\$1,000.00
Office Equipment and Technology	Telephone	\$500.00	\$-	\$500.00
Office Equipment and Technology	Technology	\$5,364.00	\$6,078.00	\$(714.00)
Administrative	Campus Connections	\$16,000.00	\$17,440.98	\$(1,440.98)
Administrative	Organizational Development	\$1,500.00	\$1,507.36	\$(7.36)
Administrative	Travel	\$1,500.00	\$-	\$1,500.00



Administrative	Parking Passes	\$5,500.00	\$5,809.92	\$(309.92)
Administrative	Delegate Parking Reimbursement	\$500.00	\$-	\$500.00
Administrative	Secretary Stipend	\$2,000.00	\$-	\$2,000.00
Administrative	Treasurer Stipend	\$2,000.00	\$-	\$2,000.00
Administrative	Reserves	\$3,500.00	\$-	\$3,500.00
Total:		\$212,114.00	\$148,245.38	
Total Non-Grants:		\$159,614.00	\$119,151.79	

The New Hayes Memorandum of Understanding

In December, we completed the draft of the new Hayes MOU that outlines the transfers and process for ERIK and the Graduate School supporting Hayes. We are still waiting for final approval from the multiple parties involved.

As always, please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours in service,

Adam Tjoelker.4



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Kaz Gary, Secretary
DATE: January 12th, 2025
RE: Secretary's Report

Happy Winter y'all,

Not much to report as Secretary for this month's meeting. See below for some important CDG updates:

- Cycle 3 results went out December 13th after a delay due to technical issues with the portal. I'm working with Student Life later this month to get some of these things fixed so there's no future delays. I'll make sure to train the next Secretary (that could be you!) on these updated changes.
- 7/28 applicants were funded this cycle, giving an **acceptance rate of 25% for cycle 3**. This is lower than the historical average of 57%, which is what I've been using to roughly calculate how many applications to accept each cycle. This cycle's acceptance rate is lower due to a couple of factors:
 - The 57% acceptance rate is taken from 5 years worth of CDG data. Historically, each year at least one cycle has had less than 15 applicants. So far this year, we have not had any cycles with less than 20 applicants. I had anticipated this cycle to have less applicants than it did, so I needed to pivot to a smaller acceptance rate as to not go over budget.
 - If anyone has any questions or concerns about this, please feel free to reach out to me.
- Cycle 4 is now open until February 1st! Please remind your constituents of this opportunity.
- Adam and I will be having a meeting with Student Life on January 21st to discuss improvements and updates to the CDG and Ray portals.

I hope your winter break was restful and fun! Looking forward to finishing out my time as Secretary with y'all 😊

Best,

Kaz Gary.102



Committee Chair Reports

TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Danwyn Aranha and Anastasia Shikanova, CGS Academic Affairs, Chair
DATE: January 8, 2026
RE: Academic Affairs Chair Report

Hi Everyone,

Happy New Year. I hope you had a great winter break!

The academic affairs team did not meet in December due to winter break. We plan to resume our academic affairs meeting on 13 January 2026. Anastasia, Sabrina, Blue, and I met on Zoom to discuss the plans for progressing AI fluency in the graduate space and went over the AI Fluency survey data. Planning for the Regalia party was also discussed. The same will be discussed in the upcoming academic affairs meeting on 13 January.

Best Wishes,
Aranha.7 & Shikanova.1



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Holly Engel, Arts and Culture Chair
DATE: January 9, 2025
RE: Arts and Culture Chair's Report

Hello,

December was a calm month for the Arts and Culture Committee with winter break, but we do have the results from our Arts and Culture Survey sent out to graduate students during the fall semester, which gained 44 responses. According to the survey:

- Over half of the respondents attend arts and culture events monthly, while 94% of respondents do attend arts and culture events in general
- The largest barriers for graduate students who want to attend events are busy schedules, event timing (day of the week/time of day), and cost
- Grad students are interested in attending several events, from live music to movie screenings and theatre performances
- There were also comments about the lower availability of opportunities at OSU satellite campuses, concern about affordable event availability, and a desire for more visibility and availability around Dtix events

The Arts and Culture Committee is in the process of discussing these results and brainstorming ways that the Committee (or other bodies) can meet these needs. If anyone has any comments or ideas, let me know!

Otherwise, we are still prepping for Open Mic Night in February and are planning to send our Arts and Culture Pathfinder document out to delegates to distribute to their constituents and to departments around OSU to distribute to potential/incoming graduate students.

As always, contact me if you have any thoughts, questions, ideas, or if you would like to join our committee.

Have a great January!

Holly Engel.210



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Johnathan Chisam, Diversity & Inclusion Chair
DATE: January 9, 2026
RE: Diversity & Inclusion Chair's Report

Hi all,

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee met on December 1st and January 6th, wherein we began the process of planning upcoming events. Notably, it was decided that the committee would like to offer a continuation of Sunrise Conversations. Sunrise Conversations was offered last year and saw distinguished faculty engage in a discussion with graduate students about how to lesson plan for controversial topics, navigate difficult discussions within the classroom, and engage in student-centered teaching. To hold these, we are in need of faculty that may be interested in participating in the forum as panelists. Please reach out to me, Chisam.1, if you have any suggestions for panelists.

We are always looking for new event ideas and committee members. If you are interested in joining or have something you'd like to see this committee do, please let me know!

Thanks,

Chisam.1



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Charlie Mace, Government Affairs Chair
DATE: January 10, 2026
RE: Government Affairs Chair's Report

Hi everyone,

The last Government Affairs Committee meeting of 2025 was December 5th. At this meeting we discussed possible newsletter topics, and decided to send out our next newsletter early in the Spring semester. There were no committee activities over Winter break.

We are scheduling our next meeting, which will likely be in the second week of the Spring semester. At this meeting we will revisit the newsletter topics and decide on a schedule. We will also discuss returning to the voting sticker design contest, and potential plans to hold the contest again over the Summer or early in the Fall.

A set of three appropriations bills passed the US House on January 8th, and moved to the Senate [[TheHill](#), [Politico](#)]. The Senate will have until January 30th to take action on the legislation and avoid a government shutdown. This version of the appropriations bill largely removes massive proposed cuts to the NASA and NSF budgets, returning them to similar levels as the previous fiscal year. Current appropriations status can be seen at congress.gov/crs-appropriations-status-table. Information on the three bills passed is on the [Committee on Appropriations website](#).

More details on relevant legislation will be forthcoming from the Government Affairs Committee, as there are a number of legislative actions on the State and Federal level that will impact graduate students.

Mace.103



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Jon Fritz, CGS Graduate Caucus, Chair & Senator
DATE: January 16, 2026
RE: Graduate Caucus Chair Report

Heya hi and happy New Year!

Given the end of the fall semester, winter break, a Senate recess and dormant committee activity in December, this report will be sparse. Unless otherwise listed below, assume your grad representatives do not have any updates from their committee at this time. We look forward to ramping up our work again this month and returning to a more detailed report in February. As always, let your senators and grad reps know if there is anything you would like us to know/discuss in our committees. Thanks!

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

The following is a categorization of complaints/reports received by CAFR and includes a current number of ongoing investigations:

1. Type 1 – conditions which may affect the academic freedom or responsibility of university faculty. Reports are initiated by CAFR. We have 2 ongoing. Details will be made available once made public.
2. Type 2 – concerning alleged infringements on academic freedom or responsibility in the university. Initiated by individual faculty members. We have 1 ongoing.
3. Type 3 – complaints on improper evaluation for promotion, tenure and renewal decisions. Initiated by individual faculty members.
- 4.

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

CESP has cancelled their January meeting and will plan to meet in February.

Evaluation of Central Administrators (EOCA), Andy Vance.128:

Andy has graciously agreed to serve on this committee.

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

There is now a website with information about federal research policies for public access requirements: <https://go.osu.edu/public-access>. The committee is also interested to know what questions might be useful to ask (and to whom, most probably in University administration) about research processes and trainings, since there have likely been several updates to these processes over the past year.

The following committees do not have any updates at this time:

- 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 Student Affairs (CSA), represented by Kirsten Myers.2377 (chair), Oluwadamilola Salau.2, & Gabe Myers.2039
- Council on the Physical Environment (COPE), represented by Casey Ortbahn.1
- Library Committee, represented by Brian Rocha.51
- Fiscal Committee, represented by Kenny Saephan.2



- Government Affairs, represented by Charlie Mace.103
- Intellectual Property, Patents, and Copyright (IPPC) Committee, represented by Jon Fritz.288
- Rules Committee, represented by Jorge Clavo Abbass.1
- Senate Steering Committee, represented by Sabrina Durso.19

University Senate mtg: As a reminder, the most recent Senate meeting was on November 13th, we did not meet in December. 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 later this month on January 29, 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: January 5th, 2025
RE: Graduate Compensation and Benefits Chair's Report

Greetings,

The committee did not meet during the month of December but will resume their meetings starting January 26th . Focus will be on analysis of data and writing recommendations/report for the University Senate.

Kindly,

Bryan PérezSoto.2



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Tinu Oduloye, Graduate Student Affairs Chair
DATE: January 8, 2025
RE: Graduate Student Affairs Chair's Report

Hi everyone,

Happy New Year! The Graduate Student Affairs Committee did not meet in December and has not officially met yet this semester, though we plan to meet before the February general body meeting. Over winter break, Sabrina, Blue and I worked on getting swag orders going through marketing. I have submitted the Swag and Game Night RFPs, and I am finalizing details for the Instructional Kitchen RFP, which I hope to submit before our next general body meeting. I do want to share my appreciation to Sabrina, Blue, Adam, and Katie for their support in helping me over winter break and for helping keep this work moving forward. Next steps include submitting the Instructional Kitchen RFP, contacting campus partners to table alongside GSA during Graduate Student Appreciation Week (GSAW), developing registration forms for Instructional Kitchen events, and coordinating volunteers.

Please reach out if you are interested in attending our next meeting or volunteering during GSAW!

Have a great start to the semester!

Oduloye.1



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Deb Pathak and Luke Van Niel, Health, Wellness, and Safety Chair
DATE: Jan. 10, 2026
RE: Health, Wellness, and Safety Chair's Report

Hey folks,

Happy New Year!

HWS will be meeting on January 16th to finalize plans for Spring events and major projects we'll be focusing on in the Spring/Summer. More information will follow. If you have ideas for events that focus on accessibility, mental health, community building, or workshops you would like to see, please reach out!

Sincerely,

Pathak.89 & Vanniel.5



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Lauren Levesque, Housing and Family Affairs Chair
DATE: January 9th, 2025
RE: Housing and Family Affairs Chair's Report

Hello,

The Off-Campus Housing Resource List has been officially created. It was shared with Anna who will include it in the delegate digest for the next few weeks, so delegates can then work with their departments to give to prospective students during recruitment.

We are still collecting results for the housing and cost of living survey. As of today, we have 161 responses.

We are finalizing a Housing FAQ to put up on the CGS website.

Best,

Levesque.31



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Ashutosh Soni, International Student Affairs Chair
DATE: Jan 12th, 2025
RE: International Student Affairs Chair's Report

Dear all,

Happy New Year!

Our committee did not meet in December. We will fix the date for our January meeting soon. A few things that we will be working towards for this semester -

1. Talk to OIA about conducting a tax workshop.
2. Draft email and create a form for interested students for the 'Share Your Story' event.
3. Collaborate with OIA for a general international quiz event.
4. Understand logistics behind movie screening and organize an international movie screening.

Thanks,
Soni.117



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Aryn Robinson and Katie Conner, Membership Wellness Chair
DATE: January 16, 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>

Ongoing Events and Reminders

- **Financial 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: January 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 08, 2025
RE: Research and Data Operations Chair's Report

Hi all,

There is no update from the RDO committee.

Best,

Wang.13945 & Ramprakash.4



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

Happy New Year everyone!

Our committee met on December 12 to discuss our Time for Change Week event and the environmental impacts of AI. Our Time for Change event will be on April 2, 2026 from 5-8 pm in the Hansford Quadrangle by the 18th Avenue Library. We will have more updates to share throughout the semester.

Take care,

Amstutz.87 & Ortbahn.1