



**COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

# Delegate Packet

April 4th, 2025

Location: Ohio Union Senate Chambers and Zoom



# Table of Contents

<b>1. MEETING AGENDA</b>	<b>PAGE 3</b>
<b>2. CGS VIRTUAL MEETING GROUND RULES</b>	<b>PAGE 4</b>
<b>3. MARCH 2025 DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES</b>	<b>PAGE 5</b>
<b>4. OFFICER REPORTS</b>	<b>PAGE 16</b>
<b>5. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS</b>	<b>PAGE 24</b>



# Agenda

General Delegate Meeting | 4 April 2025 | Senate Chambers, Ohio Union and via Zoom

- 1. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS** 3:30 PM
  - 1.1. **Campus Connections:** Meet Your Delegates!
- 2. CALL TO ORDER** 4:00 PM
  - 2.1. **“To effectively advocate and program to ensure that The Ohio State University graduate student experience is the best it can be.”**
- 3. ROLL CALL** [5 min]
- 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** [5 min]
- 5. OFFICER REPORTS** [20 min]
  - 5.1. President’s Report – Sabrina Durso.19
  - 5.2. Vice President’s Report – Katie Conner.280
  - 5.3. Treasurer’s Report – Jon Fritz.288
  - 5.4. Secretary’s Report – Kaz Gary.102
  - 5.5. Parliamentarian Report – Andy Vance.128
  - 5.6. Chief of Staff Report – Zaira Giral Munoz (GiralMunoz.1)
- 6. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS** [25 min]
  - 6.1. Academic Affairs – Sohan Daniel.508
  - 6.2. Arts and Culture – Holly Engel.210 & Nick Booker.200
  - 6.3. Diversity & Inclusion – Priya Jana.20
  - 6.4. Government Affairs– Madeline Carrola.1 & Charles Mace.103
  - 6.5. Graduate Caucus – Peter Carrera.55
  - 6.6. Graduate Student Affairs – Chiranth Koratagere Nagaraj (KoratagereNagaraj.1)
  - 6.7. Health, Wellness, and Safety – Deb Pathak.89 & Luke Van Niel (Vanniel.5)
  - 6.8. Housing and Family Affairs – Lauren Levesque.31
  - 6.9. International Student Affairs – Kaustubh Kumar.889
  - 6.10. Membership Wellness – Aryn Robinson.2283
  - 6.11. Research and Data Operations – Bill Wang.13945 & Shiddhartha Ramprakash.4
  - 6.12. Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility – Brittany Multer Hopkins (MulterHopkins.1)
- 7. OLD BUSINESS** [0 min]
- 8. NEW BUSINESS**
  - 8.1. Treasurer Special Election [10 min]
  - 8.1. Senator Elections [45 min]
  - 8.2. Grad Caucus Further Updates & Discussion [10 min]
- 9. SPECIAL ORDER ITEM** [30 min]
  - 9.1. Delegate Issues and Concerns
- 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS** [5 min]
  - 10.1 **Next General Delegate Meeting: Friday, May 2 at 3:30pm (Senate Chambers & Zoom)**
- 11. ADJOURNMENT** 6:35 PM



## CGS Virtual Meeting Ground Rules

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



# Meeting Minutes for Approval

General Delegate Meeting | 07 March 2025 | Senate Chambers, Ohio Union and via Zoom

## 1. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

3:31 PM

- 1.1. Campus Connections: Graduate & Prof. Student Ombudsperson Rebeka Campos-Astorkiza.1
  - 1.1.1) Talk Overview
    - Part of Property Action Team: responsible for legal concerns on properties in the city
    - Public nuisance in legal terms - Ohio Revised Code 3767: means a building that is a menace to the public health, welfare or safety
    - Criminal Activity, Code Violations both mean Public Nuisance
    - Department of Neighborhoods: Let your voice be heard if you have any concerns or complaints
    - 311 Customer Service Center: submit requests for services such as potholes
    - OSU Student Legal Services is available to you and can help with legal matters such as: off-campus housing, criminal and traffic, immigration, protests, etc.
  - 1.1.2) Q+A:
    - **Fritz.288:** What's the most common concern that your office receives amongst populations similar to graduate students?
    - A: There are multiple property owners and I see them the most in court. Holes in roofs, doors that don't lock, unstable flooring, any housing issue you can think of I've dealt with. So, there's not a common issue that I deal with, it's more of a spectrum.

## 2. CALL TO ORDER

3:47 PM

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

## 3. ROLL CALL

## 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Motion to approve by **Chisam.1**
- Second by **Combs.467**

## 5. OFFICER REPORTS

3:48 PM

- 5.1. President's Report – Sabrina Durso.19
  - 5.1.1) Recording of Sabrina's comments to University Senate
  - 5.1.2) Over the past month:
    - **Senate:** President Carter Announced sunseting of ODI and discontinuing services at SBSC; Changing OIE to Civil Rights Compliance as of 02/28/2025
    - **Grad School:** Possible Termination of Payroll Deduction
    - **Possible ICE Agents:** Working with Legal to create a pocket-sized script for possible ICE encounters
    - **Funding Concerns:** Reach out to ERIK, Working on Town Hall with Grad School
    - **Exec:** Welcome Lauren Levesque to HAFA and Shiddhartha Ramprakash to R&DO
  - 5.1.3) Working on:
    - **CAMPUS Act Taskforce:** Interviewing Stakeholders! If you or constituents would like to be in the focus groups, do let me know!
    - **Resolution on Beyond Compliance:** Provost implemented HUGE working group & Faculty Buy-In via Senate Support Vote & Working with SLDS
    - **Making OSU DO BETTER**
    - **DANGER UPDATE:** The Guardian has shared that the Trump Admin is using AI to revoke student VISAs for those who have shared pro-Hamas posts on social media
  - 5.1.4) Grad SERU:
    - March 17th!
    - Sign up to be an ambassador (Katie will send link in digest)! These folks will get a free shirt and will help the Grad School share the survey with their department!
    - The department with the highest ratio of responses will win a GRATERS ICE CREAM PARTY from the Grad School!
  - 5.1.5) Message from Dean Mary Stromberger:
    - Minimum Stipend Increase: FY25-26 increase by 8% for 50% FTEs at \$2,682 per month.



- Fellowship Increase: FY25-26 increased by 5.8%, raising monthly pay to \$3,174
- Funding Discussion: Planning a Town Hall with ERIK, Creating Advisory Board of CGSers to discuss changes in real time but she cannot make budgetary decisions for the University, but she will use this board to discuss these matters with the Provost
- She wants to work with us (even tried to today) and we are in real communication about this with no real promises

## 5.2. Vice President's Report – Katie Conner.280

### 5.2.1) **HAYES** #ImGonnaMissThis

- **Extra Special Love for and Eternal Gratitude to....**
- **Hayes 2025 Committee:** Joey Oteng, Sabrina Durso, Deanna Holroyd, Casey Ortbahn, Blue Lerner, Jon Fritz
- **Additional 'Friends & Family' of Hayes:** Erica Brown, Blair Lozier, Anna Sullivan Kvam, Kerry Hodak, Matt Couch, Jen Pelletier, James Gentry, Mary Stromberger, Matt Swift, Peter Mohler
- **Additional Shoutouts to....**
- **Volunteers:** Brian Perez Soto, Aryn Robinson, Tinu Oduloye, Autumn Sylvestri, Johnathan Chisam, Abby Houser, Sohan Daniel, Charlie Mace
- **Finalists:** Deanna Holroyd, Veeramani Karuppuchamy, Saroj Khatiwada, Mia Kordowski, Charlie Mace, Deb Pathak
- **Winners & Honorable Mentions:** Syed Murtaza Arshad (2nd, Eng Talks), Gianni Giarrano (HM, Bio Sci Talks), Katelyn Amstutz (HM, Bio Sci Talks), Adam Tjoelker (1st, MaPS Talks), Sabrina Durso (3rd, Humanities Talks), Prabhjot Singh (1st, FAES Posters), Ryan Huston (2nd, Bio+Health Sci Posters), Priya Jana (2nd, Eng Posters)

### 5.2.2) **Election Reminders**

- March
  - 3.7.25 - Officer elections at/during CGS General Body Meeting
  - 3.7.25 - Senator noms/apps open at CGS General Body Meeting
  - 3.24.25 - Delegate noms/apps open ONLINE (CGS website)
  - 3.28.25 - Senator noms/apps close at 11:59pm
- April
  - 4.4.24 - Senator elections at/during CGS General Body Meeting
  - 4.17.25 - Delegate voting period opens at Noon ONLINE (Email with link will be sent)
  - 4.24.25 - Delegate voting period closes at 5pm

## 5.3. Treasurer's Report – Jon Fritz.288

### 5.3.1) RTA Awarded vs. Unawarded applications

- Average 30% acceptance rate
- 194 applicants last year and 150 this year

### 5.3.2) For FP4 FY25, we awarded 20/40 apps, bringing the total for FY25 to 47/151 or 31% acceptance rate.

- Thank you to the following judges for your work this FY: Alyssa Allen, Katelyn Amstutz, Michelle Beverly, Katie Conner, Vishal Dey, Sabrina Durso, Kaz Gary, Ryan Huston, Krutant Mehta, Brittany Multer-Hopkins, Alan Nair, Shiddhartha Ramprakash, Aryn Robinson, Michaela Rogers, Kaveri Sarkar, Prabhjot Singh, Gabriela Trigo-McIntyre

### 5.3.3) Academic Regalia

- Recently, CGS has been getting many questions related to academic regalia. To be transparent about our advocacy and purchasing of regalia for the lending library program, I have included a summary of our work on the academic regalia project since 2023 in my report. Since our original request for additional CSA funding in fall 2023, CGS has:
  - 1) generated documentation outlining the operation of the academic regalia program,
  - 2) researched and determined in spring 2024 OSU was charging more for doctoral regalia rentals than any other school in the Big 10 or the top five largest institutions in Ohio,



- **3)** formally submitted our request for purchasing regalia, and
- **4)** continued to communicate with administration in the Office of Student Life, Office of Business and Finance, Graduation Services, and the Graduate School regarding execution of the program.
- Given my position as Treasurer and relationship with the Student Life business office, I have been spearheading this initiative since summer 2024. When further updates are requested or a major change/update happens, I will let you know. In the meantime, I would be happy to answer individual questions as they arise, recognizing that this work is still actively happening.

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

##### 5.4.1) As secretary:

- Nothing to report!

##### 5.4.2) As CDG chair:

- CDG funding period 4 judging is under way!
- Huge thank you to CDG judges: **Purva Damale, Santosh Acharya, Aryn Robinson, Brittany Multer-Hopkins, and Andy Vance**, this would not be possible without you. :)
- Concrete results next week when judging ends.
- Applications for FP 1 **open March 15th**, remind your constituents!

## 6. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

4:21 PM

#### 6.1. Arts and Culture – Holly Engel.210 & Nick Booker.200

##### 6.1.1) Pathfinder Document: look for it soon!

##### 6.1.2) Bonsai Event

- Twice as many people signed up as expected
- Zoom option
- March 24, 5-7pm

##### 6.1.3) Next Meeting: Monday, March 24 from 12:30-1:30 in Hagerty 206 or on Zoom:

<https://osu.zoom.us/j/91480441460?pwd=aXl119WE1KDlidX2uMa1SKaf9jPxcr.1>

#### 6.2. Government Affairs – Madeline Carrola.1 & Charlie Mace.103

##### 6.2.1) The Government Affairs Committee met on February 25, 2025 . The Committee partnered with the Academic Affairs Committee to draft a resolution regarding graduate funding and research funding concerns.

#### 6.3. Graduate Caucus – Peter Carrera.55

##### 6.3.1) Please look at the full report from each senate committee.

##### Some highlights:

- The Diversity Committee is considering its plans for the future and how they can best continue work in the future. It also reviewed updates to [OSU's Key Issues webpage](#):
  - DEI Announcement Deb 27th:
  - Immigration and ICE Guidance from the Office of Legal Affairs
- The Government Affairs Committee & Academic Affairs is gathering information on how SB1 will influence the university:
  - Delegates and your constituents please send your notes to perezsoto.2 and miles.375 and they will ensure they are reviewed by the committee
- University Research Committee received updates from ERIK about ongoing changes to the availability of federal research funds, this is all tracked at this [research.osu](#) website. The new Huron IRB online platform is planned to go live on March 20

#### 6.4. Graduate Student Affairs – Chiranth Koratagere Nagaraj (KoratagereNagaraj.1)

##### 6.4.1) 📣 **Reminder: National GSAW is Almost Here!** 📣

Ohio Union Rm 2088A | 1739 N. High Street | Columbus, OH 43210 | (614) 292-4380 | [cgs@osu.edu](mailto:cgs@osu.edu)



- Let's make sure to **show our appreciation** to our hardworking graduate students in some way! Whether it's a shoutout, a small gift, or just a simple "thank you," every bit counts! 🙌
- **GSAW Events You Don't Want to Miss!**
  - **ALL WEEK LONG** (April 7-11)
  - **CGS Giveaways** | 9 AM - 1 PM | Grad School Lobby (2nd floor, University Hall)
  - **Monday, April 7 – Donuts with the Deans** | 9 AM - 11 AM | Grad School Lobby  
Kick off GSAW with FREE donuts and a chance to chat with the deans!
  - **Wednesday, April 9 – Game Night** | 6 PM - 9 PM | KBK Suite (Ohio Union)  
Unwind with board games, card games, and friendly competition with pizza!
  - **Friday, April 11 – Instructional Kitchen** | 5 PM - 7:30 PM | Ohio Union  
Learn new cooking skills and enjoy a fun night with fellow grad students!
  - **Mark your calendars & spread the word!** ⌚ **31 days left!** 📅 🌐

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

6.5.1) **The Access Resolution was endorsed by University Senate!!!**

6.5.2) Now planning for the upcoming year!

6.5.3) How to go from the **macro** (our resolution) to the more **micro** level (individuals, programs).

6.5.4) Start planning the Accessibility Stakeholders' Symposium for Oct. 2025.

6.5.5) Awareness, Representation, Advocacy! (in planning stages)

- A website with testimonials + resources for grads?
- Plan updates to the Accessibility Stakeholders' Symposium for more community building.
- Plan to collaborate with OUAB/GSAW/etc to hand out merch for visibility.

6.6. Housing and Family Affairs – Syed Murtaza Arshad.32 & Levesque.31

6.6.1) We had a meeting on February 21, joined by OCCSE for focus group discussion.

6.6.2) OCCSE focus group:

- Discussed effectiveness of OCCSE resources and how to improve them.
- We had a representative group of students in the group
- If anyone has specific suggestions/ideas, feel free to reach out to us.

6.6.3) Housing Resources for Students at Wooster Campus:

- Currently, there are no dedicated housing resources available at Wooster campus.
- There is one living guide available, developed a while ago.
- We are planning to update it.
- OCCSE and SLS are also available for consultation for Wooster campus students.

6.6.4) Off-Campus Living Expo

- Tuesday, March 25, 2025
- Ohio Union, Performance Hall: 11AM – 3PM
- Rest of the housing related events are in the HAFA chair report.

6.7. International Student Affairs – Kaustubh Kumar.889

6.7.1) A new member joined the committee this month

6.7.2) The committee discussed planning and efforts for our two events- 'tax information' and 'share your story'

- One online tax info session at beginning of April 2025- final schedule will be shared this month through various channels
- 'Share your story' event to take place on 24th March 2025 from 6-8 pm at Ohio Union (Great Hall Meeting Room 2)
- Two guest speakers have agreed for the event

6.8. Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility – Brittany Multer Hopkins (MulterHopkins.1)

6.8.1) Come learn about graduate student sustainability research and OSU sustainability efforts on April 8!

- Reusable silverware giveaway!





- 6.8.2) Sustainability Tips for March: Be Water Smart!
  - Adopting water-saving practices on campus or at home can help reduce your utility bills while conserving a precious resource. Here are some tips to integrate into your daily routine:
    - Turn Off Taps. While brushing your teeth or washing your hands, turning off the tap can save up to 8 gallons of water daily
    - Take Shorter Showers. Limiting your showers to 5 minutes can conserve up to 12.5 gallons per shower
    - Run Full Loads Only. Operating dishwashers and washing machines only when full maximizes efficiency, saving up to 1,000 gallons of water per month
- 6.9. Membership Wellness – Aryn Robinson.2283
  - 6.9.1) CGS WhatsApp Group Chat
    - It's never too late to get connected with other CGSers!
  - 6.9.2) March Financial Wellness Bingo Challenge
    - Find attached to the Delegate Packet!
  - 6.9.3) Financial Wellness Event – Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 4 – 5 PM
    - Virtual only, RSVP link in Chair Report
  - 6.9.4) Cancelled – CGS only Planetarium Trip ☹
    - Planetarium's projector broken
  - 6.9.5) Sneak Peek...
    - CGS Cookbook
      - Collection of favorite recipes of CGSers
      - Ingredients, cook time, directions, special items, etc.
        - Optional: add a story for why the dish is important to you!

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

4:38 PM

### 8.1 Officer Elections

- 8.1.1) Election - President
  - **Candidate:** Sabrina Durso.19
    - *Introductory speech:*
    - What I promised last year:
      - Appoint and support a new chair for GCBC
      - Find/create affordable and obtainable means of housing and childcare
      - Redefine the University's definition of 'accommodation'
      - Center on collaboration with ALL levels of CGS
    - Moving Forward:
      - Continue for your voice to be heard despite Admin Pressures
      - Supplemental CGS meetings
      - Improve CGS's Commitment to DEI
      - Re-establish CGS Commitment to Service
  - **Q+A:**
    - **Elton.21:** Additional meetings for delegate issues and concerns, would there still be time in the general body meetings?
    - **Durso.19:** Yes of course, I'd just like to have extra time when needed to hear those delegate issues and concerns.
    - **Elton.21:** Second question, related to the DEI point you mentioned, OSU has currently moved to inclusive excellence, do you intend on changing the name of the DEI committee or initiatives?
    - **Durs.19:** I don't have that power, that's something in our bylaws. I wouldn't do that without talking to you guys first. I'm going to try and hold off on re-naming anything for as long as possible, given the current legislation. I would do the name change process with all of you included, before I ever do that on my own.
    - **Multerhopkins.1:** Move to end question and answer early
    - **Elton.21** seconds



#### 8.1.2) Election – Vice President

- **Candidate:** Noah Gronewald.2
  - *Introductory speech:*
  - 1<sup>st</sup> year master's student in School of Earth Sciences
  - Student senator for 2 years and helped to advocate for students
  - Helped to enact a lot of legislature as part of University Senate
  - Keeps up with current events
  - Not afraid to speak up for students
- **Candidate:** Ghazaleh RaeiDehagi.1
  - *Introductory speech:*
  - International student, PhD Student in Special Education
  - While in Iran:
    - Volunteered as a teacher in marginalized areas
    - Dedicated to fighting for the end to child marriage
    - Student in Educational studies
    - President of the Visual Arts Association
    - Organized art exhibitions and workshops
  - At OSU:
    - Served as Social Media Manager for the Persian Student Association
    - Helped plan Taste of OSU
    - Helped organize Iranian cultural events
    - Volunteer for PIECE organization and help students with IDD get jobs after graduation
    - Would like to be VP to advocate, background as a special education teacher and international student has helped as well
- **Candidate:** Anna Zaitseva.1
  - *Introductory speech:*
  - 4<sup>th</sup> year PhD student in Department of Teaching and Learning, current delegate
  - Leadership
    - President of Foreign Language Research and Teaching
    - GRA in QualLab
    - Department Delegate
  - Academic and Teaching
    - Undergraduate and graduate instructor
    - Scholar in social justice education and equitable practice
  - In a VP role
    - Pay that we deserve
    - Student housing matters
    - Outreach and recruitment of delegates from underrepresented departments
    - Hayes Forum: attract more judges in qualitative inquiry to fairly evaluate all presentations
    - Help maintain commitment to all of our rights to Academic Freedom and our Shared Values
- **Q+A:**
  - **Mace.103:** Have you contacted the current vice president, Katie Connor, about what's involved? If you have, what have you learned? If you haven't, what would you want to learn before you began this position?
  - **Gronewald.2:** Did reach out to her and had many emails back and forth, did not attend the Hayes Forum because I was in the field last week but we talked a lot about that, always more to learn
  - **RaeiDehagi.1:** Reached out to her and asked about the most challenging aspects of the job, Hayes Forum has a lot of challenges keeping up with emails and logistics
  - **Zaitseva.1:** Reached out to her, asked about most rewarding part of the position and she said it was being with you all, the most unexpectedly challenging part of the position was answering all the emails she has to get through
  - **Chisam.1:** Have you ever once attended the Hayes Forum and what specific changes would you make to it?



- **Zaitseva.1:** I attended last year and the year before. A lot of people in my department have given up on submitting their work because they don't usually get recognized, so I would find more judges who align more with those kinds of research.
- **RaeiDehagi.1:** Attended this year, I would like to make it as accessible as possible since I'm a special education teacher
- **Gronewald.2:** Didn't attend because of fieldwork, don't feel like my department gets heard so would also find better judges
  
- **Carrera.55:** What are the most important responsibilities for the CGS VP?
- **Gronewald.2:** Hayes Forum is the largest portion of it, stepping in for the President when needed, keeping up with and being on top of all the committees, being a person that someone can come and talk to
- **RaeiDehagi.1:** Hayes is the most important, taking care of elections with transparency, being able to get the council to run smoothly
- **Zaitseva.1:** Be a link between the President and all of the committees and delegates and be a point of contact, be in communication with all of the committees and offices
  
- **PerezSoto.2:** Given all current events, this position will support President and Senators, how are you going to handle those unofficial roles?
- **Zaitseva.1:** I'm a teacher, so I can stand on my non-negotiables and support the President
- **Gronewald.2:** Being loud and not being afraid to speak up and be organized, have to stay on top of the emails
- **RaeiDehagi.1:** I have experience working in those groups and I think being the candidate means we're responsible already. I have the ability, experience and enough time
  
- Motion to extend by a CGSer on Zoom by 5 minutes, seconded by **Booker.200**
  
- **Carrera.55:** One of the main responsibilities is assigning and overseeing delegate appointments. From your personal experience, how comfortable are you and what skills do you have that you can manage 100's of people?
- **Gronewald.2:** I do have experience managing 10s of people, worked for a company after I graduated and oversaw 50 or so people, listening to who wants to be on what committee and making tough decisions is important
- **RaeiDehagi.1:** I don't have experience working with 100s of people. I will do my best because I don't have any experience.
- **Zaitseva.1:** Oversaw 10 people in a graduate student-led organization, I love emails and they don't have give me any anxiety, I'm pretty good at managing
  
- **Elton.21:** You all have different experiences before now, how would you transfer skills from your experiences into the role of VP?
- **Zaitseva.1:** As president of our organization, the skills are pretty directly transferable. Being in rooms with different people who have different roles, faculty are pretty open in my department so being able to have that insider information and hearing different viewpoints is a benefit
- **RaeiDehagi.1:** As president in our organization in Iran, I was the most flexible person in that role. I've had really frustrating moments, but I've already had those challenges and have been able to get over them
- **Gronewald.2:** I was on some committees in undergrad and was the president of a couple of organizations and after graduation, still being a leader in the job I was in, these are the most transferable skills
  
- **Carrera.55** moves to extend by 3 minutes
- **Ortbahn.1** seconds



- **Elton.21** moves to amend motion from 3 minutes to 6 minutes
- **Rogers.1843** seconds
- Motion passes, extended by 6 minutes
  
- **Multerhopkins.1:** As VP you will have a lot of different roles, will you realistically have the bandwidth to have the role and how do you plan to stay organized?
- **Gronewald.2:** After this semester I'm done with courses so just research, an extra 20 hours a week is still a lot of time but it's definitely manageable, I'm very organized and Katie has set us up pretty well
- **RaeiDehagi.1:** I'm almost finished with my courses, just nine credits left, and I may continue as a volunteer for the PIECE program but other than that I don't have any other priorities
- **Zaitseva.1:** Also way past my coursework, writing my dissertation actively and frees up Calendar space, proven myself to be adaptable by switching from one department with a teaching responsibility to an entirely new role as a research assistant
  
- **Pathak.89:** Similar to Brittany's question, what will you do when the admin says no?
- **Zaitseva.1:** Rephrase the question, see if we can reach some sort of compromise, take time and restructure my argument, don't take no for an answer, not about me but us as a community
- **RaeiDehagi.1:** I'm 28 years old and I've heard no a lot of times, I know how to handle hearing no and continuously advocating, when I couldn't do anything, I would ask for other's help, I'm not afraid of asking for help
- **Gronewald.2:** This is one of the times that not caring if people like me comes into play, we'll get to a consensus
  
- **Carrera.55:** Based on your previous experiences, what made you decide to run as VP and secondly, if not elected what would be your service for next year?
- **Gronewald.2:** New to the program so wanted to throw my hat into the ring still would love to be a part of CGS and provide my abilities and skills
- **RaeiDehagi.1:** It takes time for me to feel comfortable in a new country, so now that I'm comfortable, I feel I can start doing the work I did in my home country
- **Zaitseva.1:** As a delegate currently, I've seen VP and President's work and President seemed too intimidating so I wanted to try VP to elevate my role of advocacy
  
- Motion by **Chisam.1** to move into executive session
- **McDowell.310** seconds

#### 8.1.3) Election - Secretary

- **Candidate:** Holly Engel.210
  - *Introductory speech:*
  - 4<sup>th</sup> year PhD Candidate in the French and Italian Department, delegate, and Executive Chair of the Arts and Culture Committee
  - Notable events as chair: Bonsai event, Pathfinder document coming in April, survey coming out soon
  - As delegate and chair, have been able to get used to listening and advocating for people's needs
  - Why Secretary:
    - Organized and great with collaboration
    - Allow me to focus on the triumphs, needs and concerns of CGS and make sure those triumphs are celebrated and the needs/concerns are met/heard
    - Looking towards a career as I'm in my second-to-last year and involvement in CDG would also allow me to help others who are looking towards careers
- **Candidate:** Kaz Gary.102
  - *Introductory speech:*
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> year PhD student in Astronomy
  - People in CGS are primary motivator for running again



- As Secretary:
  - Sent out 7 delegate packets
  - Headed CDG for 2 funding periods
  - Kept attendance
  - Worked with Membership Wellness on Delegate Playlist and Planetarium Show
- Future projects include a Delegate Issues and Concerns report for President and create updated CDG materials for judges
- **Candidate:** Smrutimedha Parida.8
  - *Introductory speech:*
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> year PhD Student in Chemistry
  - International student
  - Currently serving as secretary of FOCUS: a female-led organization in Chemistry
    - Organized seminars and community-focused events
  - Part of oSTEM
  - Skills from these organizations would make me a great Secretary
  - Interested in advocating for graduate students' interests
- **Q+A:**
  - **Booker.200:** I'm curious about interpersonal communication, and how you handle moments of tension or conflict, particularly if you could speak to experiences in CGS or experiences in student government student organizations?
  - **Engel.210:** In addition to my role in CGS, I'm also the president of the French and Italian Graduate Student Association. And in that role there has been a lot of tension that's come up with working with the department. Specifically, we've had to advocate for making sure that some of the things about the graduate exams are standardized because they were not previously and in situations like that, I've learned the importance of continually addressing the problem, even when there's pushback. If it is something that especially the students who I would be standing for are arguing for, and they need to really keep pushing back on that. I also very much believe in trying to collaborate in a certain way to figure out ways that both parties can perhaps benefit, even if both parties do have to sacrifice a little bit.
  - **Gary.102:** If I feel there is tension between me and someone else, I do try to bring it up and work out, or at least just bring it up to the person and understand where they're coming from. So, for example, I asked Katie at one point where I thought maybe there was some tension between us due to some miscommunication, and we quickly resolved it. That's the best way I know how to handle personal relationships and tension. Beyond that, in the department. I do this with my advisor as well. It's really hard sometimes bringing things up as we all know, as graduate students, because of the power dynamic. But I continue to do so because I feel it makes us have a better advisor and advising relationship. And also makes me trust the person where we can get through those interpersonal conflicts
  - **Parida.8:** Since I work in a lab as a graduate student, there's a lot of different people with different opinions. I also work on a lot of collaboration projects, so just openly communicating your ideas and views would be how I handle interpersonal conflict.
  - **Elton.21:** Why do you want to be secretary for this this upcoming academic year?
  - **Parida.8:** This is my 3<sup>rd</sup> year, so I just completed my candidacy so I have time. I've been a part of a couple organizations that do advocacy work including FOCUS and oSTEM so I believe I have the skills and experiences to help the graduate students here at CGS.
  - **Gary.102:** People were my primary motivator so I'd like to continue being around you all, beyond that I felt like I was getting used to the role of Secretary this year so next year I would really like to join some more committees, start up new initiatives and find better ways of disseminating information to all of you.
  - **Engel.210:** Being involved and working with the people in CGS this last year has inspired me, I'm in my last year so figured this would be a good opportunity to get more involved in CGS, after talking with current Secretary I thought the position would be a good balance for me to take on



- **Multerhopkins.1:** Move to end question and answer early
- **Elton.21** seconds

- Motion to move to executive session by **McDowell.310**
- Seconded by **Pathak.89**
- Motion does not pass

## 8.2 Senator Nominations

- 8.2.1) **Connor.280:** Fritz.288 – accepts nomination
- Durso.19:** Tojelker.2 – accepts nomination
- Elton.21:** Carrolla.1 – accepts nomination
- Durso.19:** PerezSoto.2 – accepts nomination
- Fritz.288:** Pathak.89 – accepts nomination
- Durso.19:** Vance.128 – accepts nomination
- MulterHopkins.1:** Connor.280 – will think about it
- Carrera.55:** Kirsten Myers [look up name.#] – accepts nomination

## 8.3 Grad Caucus Further Updates & Discussion

### 8.3.1) Feedback for the Enrollment and Student Progress Committee

- **Elton.21:** Senator representative for the Enrollment and Student Progress Committee, the Council on Enrollment and Student Progress monitors the recruitment, admission, retention, degree completion, and graduation of all students. The Council advises on policies that affect the characteristics of the student body, and that impact timely completion of degrees. So they asked me to get graduate student input from you all of what do you all think that they should be doing, moving forward – what do you think they should tackle? What issues?
- **Durso.19:** If you write that blurb up and send it to Katie, we can put it in the Delegate Digest and ask for feedback. I think we're all a little brain dead right now.

### 8.3.2) Updates on DEI Committee for University Senate

- **Pathak.89:** CGS Representative on Diversity in the University Senate, Peter has linked a web page on OSU key issues. Web page currently has university approved guidance on a number of things, including what to do if ICE comes into your classroom. Difficult to get OSU legal and OSUPD to actually endorse any type of statement or guidance on what exactly to hand out to people, lots of unofficial guidance being passed around by faculty and law school. Official guidance is very brief. Diversity has been in limbo and a lot of that is because there has not been a lot of guidance on what comes after Ted Carter's email in February. For instance in his email, he says that while those 3 offices that he mentioned are being either completely chopped or renamed into some sort of civil compliance, individual department and student government DEI committees are exempt from the chopping block. However, it seemed that he also communicated to faculty who are on Senate Diversity that he is still reviewing all of these organizations. It's unclear what he means by that, faculty and staff on Senate Diversity are also concerned and confused by what this means. In particular, folks are kind of worried because there's this website from the Education Department called enddei.gov. Very little information on what makes this information eligible, mostly it's just this open form where you can put in who I am, an email, the name of an educational institution, the address, some sort of email contact for this educational institution. After submitting, the website just says it will launch an investigation and does not clarify what that means. Currently, the committee has decided that it will not change its name until we're explicitly asked to. This is not official guidance. This is just what the members of the committee have currently decided. We've been able to get a meeting with Ted Carter on the board for the month of March.

## 8.4 Possible Ad Hoc Discussed

## 8.5 Executive Session

- Motion to move into an Executive Session by **Mace.103**



- Seconded by **Amstutz.87**

## 9. SPECIAL ORDER ITEM

6:45 PM

### 9.1. Delegate Issues and Concerns

#### 9.1.1) Academic Calendar logistics

- **Miles.375:** Establishment of Chase Center and the Senate did vote it down, Board of Trustees decided to go forward, CAA will not be able to review the Chase Center for finances, senate review, we will be reviewing all academic programming coming from the Center that includes establishment of certificates, undergraduate and graduate programs, the provost will be the one person who will be overseeing all programming, look for opportunities to serve on student advisory boards and be involved in the Chase Center oversight since CAA will not be overseeing

#### 9.1.2) Statement from SERC on DEI

- **MulterHopkins.1:** A brief statement from SERC: Sustainability is a global issue, but marginalized communities are disproportionately impacted by the ramifications of climate change. 4 categories of disparity can be distinguished regarding sustainability and climate change, including economic, racial, regional, and generational. Take age, for example, though the age of graduate students spans generations, many of us are in our twenties and thirties, and the burden of climate change will fall to us, and the generations following. Regardless of whether or not you fit into one of these categories, we should all strive for a more just, equitable, and inclusive world. As chair of the Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility Committee, I want to state that SERC will continue to pursue its mission using principles that are as inclusive and equitable as possible. SERC will remain committed to fostering the development of leaders on campus, partnering with campus entities, and advocating for sustainable practices at Ohio State, and ensure that diversity, equity, and inclusion are incorporated into our work. Climate change is a DEI problem, and we will not be able to effectively prepare for it or solve it without taking these issues into consideration.

#### 9.1.3) Statement from President on Commitment to Advocacy

- **Durso.19:** When it comes to NSF, NIH and DEI: I promise you guys, I'm doing everything I can to support any graduate student that hits my inbox. I strongly encourage you guys to be reaching out to your constituencies as often as possible to make sure that people are having funding issues are being taken care of. Again, Jonathan's concern is legit. I hear it, and I just want to make sure that we're doing things as much as proactive and reactive and as much as you can fit in the middle of that gray zone. I just want to make sure we're doing everything as important as possible. We have people on this stuff non-stop. I'm in contact with Charlie and Maddie, and Sohan, and Brian at all times to talk about this stuff I promise, and we will keep you guys updated especially throughout the next week during spring break. So please just pay attention to emails as much as you can. I appreciate you all, and for now if anybody wants to move to end early.
- Motion to end Delegate Issues and Concerns early by **Booker.200**
- Seconded by **Mace.103**
- Motion passes

## 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

10.1 Next General Delegate Meeting: Friday, April 4th at 3:30pm (Senate Chambers & Zoom)

10.2 Election results: President – Sabrina Durso.19, Vice President – Anna Zeitsava.1, Secretary – Kaz Gary.102

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

6:51 PM





## Officer Reports

TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Sabrina Durso, President  
DATE: March 28, 2025  
RE: President's Report

Colleagues,

As the semester draws to a close, and as many of you prepare to graduate OSU or move on from CGS for various reasons, I want to say Thank You. Thank you for all of your hard work to ensure the graduate student experience is the best it can be. This year was not easy for many of us, and despite this, we worked tirelessly to pass two impactful resolutions and host ten wonderful events! Going into next year, I hope to prioritize our advocacy alongside your well-being and safety. Know CGS will always be here to advocate for you and your fellow peers, and we will always center your thoughts and concerns.

### Over the Past Month:

- **Exec:** We are starting to transition chairs, so you may start seeing new faces appear during report time! Please ensure all of our chairs feel welcome! If you're interested in chairing a committee, feel free to reach out! We are still looking for chairs for Academic Affairs, Diversity & Inclusion, and International Student Affairs committees for the upcoming academic year! Also, if you'd be interested in running for CGS Presidency in the future, I am holding my Chief of Staff position open for such a person! Just send me an email if interested!
- **Graduate School:** The minimum stipend was raised! YAY! But also, the Bursar's Office is *still* attempting to end the Graduate Student Payroll Deduction service. This is unacceptable, as if this service is terminated, students would need to pay these fees monthly, and they may even have to enroll in a payment plan that costs \$30 a semester. I am doing my best alongside GCBC to argue against this move. Additionally, though other Big10s are rescinding admission offers, the Graduate School continues to instruct units to continue with normal admissions. Lastly, programs like Preparing for the Professoriate and Dissertation Bootcamps will be housed within the Graduate School and will be re-focused to center on equity for participants.
- **University Senate:** This month's Senate meeting was difficult. Steering called for an open discussion on the question: *How can we maintain our values and continue to support and care for all members of our OSU community within the evolving legal framework?* This question made many of our international student senators uncomfortable, and thus the only concern CGS stated during this session was insisting senate begins to focus on the safety and well-being of its people. With constant attention drawn to senate and senators, University Senate must do better to ensure those who feel silenced are still being heard. I continue to speak on this issue of silencing not only at senate, but everywhere I can, including at the Grad School and even the Arts & Sciences townhall.





- **Funding Concerns:** If you have a funding concern, ERIK would like you to reach out to them, as per CGS's special bulletins. Additionally, Fulbrights almost had their funding pulled this past month. I worked quickly with the Grad School and OIA to find emergency funding for those students, but it wasn't needed. Basically, a freeze to funding resulted in a cash flow shortage for the US Department of State, which operates the Fulbright program. Students and faculty whose stipends were paid by Fulbright commissions in the home countries were not impacted (this includes Ohio State students and faculty who are abroad). However, students and faculty from under-developed countries, which do not have Fulbright commissions, were impacted. This is because the US Department of State provides the stipends for these Fulbrighters. Fortunately, the funding freeze has been lifted, and the State department is resuming payments to Fulbrighters that they support. And now, if something does happen, we have identified funding to help those impacted.
- **Events I attended on CGS's Behalf:** Dr. Shivers Student Gov't Leader Dinners, Dean Danny Student Gov't Presidential Dinner, SEI Committee, Digital Accessibility Stakeholder's Committee

Working On:

- **Meeting with Dean Stromberger:** I know you all want Dean Stromberger to hold a townhall and/or meet with CGS to discuss all things funding and beyond. I've been working as hard as I can but both Dean Stromberger and Peter Mohler (ERIK) were out of office often this past month. In my monthly meeting with Dean Stromberger we discussed retention, of which she should have real figures on after decision day on April 15. That being said, I suggest to you all that she come to our May meeting or host her own townhall after decision day so we can be presented with concrete data regarding how all things federal and state have impacted retention. I would hope this could help us with future advocacy. Additionally, I will be meeting with ERIK after our CGS meeting to discuss how emergency funding processes work and to invite them to speak with us.
- **Center for Belonging and Social Change:** It is important to note that CGS is being actively consulted regarding how to use the space this center occupied. We have advocated that 30 student organizations have a say in the shaping of this space. More updates to come by our next CGS meeting.

In solidarity always,

Sabrina Durso.19



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Katie Conner, Vice President  
DATE: March 28, 2025  
RE: Vice President's Report

Hey folks,

As this is going to be my last solo Vice President's report for CGS, and as April is typically a short report anyways, I wanted to take this space to reflect a little on my time in office and express my gratitude. I apologize in advance for being wordy, emotional, and likely a little silly sounding in the following paragraphs... however I expect you all not to be surprised by this as that is generally who I have always been as a person, scholar, and leader.

To start, I was first elected into this role three years ago in May 2022 after a series of events left the newly elected VP stepping into the Presidency after the then elected President left OSU to pursue their PhD elsewhere. At the time I was nervous, but excited to serve CGS and graduate students through this role, and to pay forward the mentorship, advice, opportunities, and energy that I had been gifted in my time as a delegate and chair in the prior years. I set the bar for myself sky high and hoped to aggressively grow the delegate membership, help further recover Hayes from the hit it had taken due to COVID, and help with a range of smaller projects including archival work, updating bylaws, and other related tasks. I am proud to say that I honestly feel that these goals were met, and exceeded in my time as VP. With many dedicated hours of work and well-informed advice from many of you, together we have grown CGS's average delegate count from 60 to around 80. We have updated our governing documents to help further clarify our procedures, the standards of conduct to which we hold ourselves in service of our colleagues, and to have them better reflect CGS's goals and practices. We have grown the Hayes Forum back to pre-COVID numbers (with 2025 marking a 10-year high for application and presentation numbers), expanded the poster and postdoctoral sessions, increased judge recruitment and participation (both in the range of fields and methodologies represented, as well as in number alone), and additionally adopted more sustainable and accessible practices that help welcome a broader swath of graduate students not just in letter, but in spirit. I say we because this work isn't ever done alone. While I am the "eldritch" CGSer and expert in some areas, I am certainly not in all. Hayes has a committee. You all are the experts in your own departments, colleges, and fields, and have helped connect me to your leadership and faculty, and helped me to recruit your friends and colleagues into our membership. I have appreciated and valued the kind advice, honest feedback, and sometimes firm criticism I have received in this role. It's helped me to grow as a scholar, a leader, and a person. And more importantly, CGS and Hayes have reaped the benefits and grown from the involvement and dedication shown by us as a community in collectively helping our membership grow and one of our oldest and largest programs succeed year after year.

The number of folks I have to thank number in the dozens, but I'd like to focus in particular on a couple of groups, and a few individuals who have been especially instrumental and invaluable throughout my time in office...



**To all the delegates and chairs from 22-23, 23-24, 24-25** – Thank you for being what makes CGS great. While often it is the President and sometimes the Vice President who are publicly applauded and credited with the work of CGS, this work takes a community of dedicated, passionate, brilliant, and driven people to accomplish it. I said it above, but I'll say it again. The work is never done alone. I have appreciated the kind check-ins when I've struggled physically or mentally. I've loved getting to know you all, your work, and your passions. You all are part of the something special that have kept me in CGS for so long, and the reason that so many of my closest friends come from our ranks.

**To Erica Brown, Jen Pelletier, Matt Couch, Blair Lozier, and Anna Sullivan Kvam** – I've known you all varying lengths of time, but in that time you have all shown dedication and care for me and CGSers not only professionally, but personally. Thank you for your advice, your wisdom, your pragmatism, and your dedication to CGS and its success. And thank you for the number of last-minute meetings, drop-in chats, and the investment you have in your roles. Student Life and OSU are great because of staff like you, and you deserve all the awards, kudos, and pay raises in the world because you are that great.

**To Kerry Hodak** – For those unaware, Kerry Hodak served as CGS advisor for over a decade, and herself was an officer and CGSer for a number of years during her time as a graduate student at OSU. When Kerry transferred out of Student Life in Fall 2022, she passed her number along and encouraged me to reach out with any questions or concerns I might have about Hayes, about elections, or CGS in general. In the following years she has become a mentor, and then friend, and has continued to provide countless points of advice, CGS history and precedents, and support to CGS as a whole behind the scenes through our coffee and lunch chats (as well as emergency texts, phone calls, and zooms). So much of my pre-2019 CGS knowledge is thanks to her; from historical tea and drama, to precedents for our current actions, to logic for our procedures, and beyond. CGS owes her an immense debt of gratitude as a whole, and I cannot express how thankful I am that she has shared her time and expertise with me over the years, or how proud it makes me feel to have Student Life staff compare my time in CGS to hers.

**To Jon** - When Michelle Beverly left her officership, there were immense shoes left behind to fill. And though I didn't initially know how the quiet seeming, apparently fellow Virginian, fancy science person taking her place would work out, I am so thankful that he did. You are a brilliant person, with an incredible sense of numbers both "big picture" and "day to day", and an endless amount of patience for all the (silly....stupid....repeated) budget questions and RFP nonsense that I have lobbed at you. Thank you for listening to my rants (both CGS related and not), for being a fellow shameless gossip about all things, and for being a warm, silly, simultaneously judgmental and accepting person. Thank you for helping ground me and remind me that no I'm not crazy in this role at times. Thank you for being real and wonderful both now, and moving forward in our post-officer friendship.

**To Sabrina** – My colleague. My bestie. My sister. I was admittedly very disenchanted with the Presidency when you took office, and though we had been friends prior, was worried how the office might change that. However, I have been so happy to have my concerns alleviated over the last year, and my spirits lifted for the future of CGS. You don't just talk the talk in front of



grads or admin when the eyes are on you, you walk the walk behind the scenes. You do and advocate for what is right on behalf of graduate students, whether it is popular or not, whether anyone is watching or not, and without a thought to enriching yourself or reaping personal gain from your office. You show up fully even when exhausted from the long hours, or knowing that you are going to be met with anger, frustration, criticism, or hard questions. You are a fiercely compassionate advocate. You are a brilliant scholar. You are such a sarcastic sassy doofus at times. You have given me the best gift this last year of renewing my faith in the office of CGS President, showing me what real, productive, professional partnership between our offices can look like, and being the incredible gem of a person you are. Thank you for crying with me, for talks and work sessions on my living room floor, for reminding me to eat/hydrate/take meds, for hours long strategy sessions in person or on the phone, for countless rides to and from campus, for reminding me of my inherent value, talent, and gifts as a person, for everything really. I am so incredibly blessed you are in my life, and look forward to many years of snark and smooth-brain antics to come.

Finally, I'd like to end with a reminder of our shared purpose, and a renewed call to action. CGS has grown and changed so much since COVID, and is now facing what we know will be another incredibly difficult, harrowing, tumultuous few years ahead. However, despite this, I still believe and have hope for the work that we came together to accomplish, and that those who will take our places in the years to come will set out to do as well. As long as we all remember that no act of service is too big or too small as long as it seeks to better the circumstances of our fellow graduate students, CGS will continue to be a force for material change and improvement for graduate students. CGS will continue to be a group that speaks truth to power and calls for transparency from administrators on behalf of our peers. CGS will continue to be a haven for advocates, and a source of growth, hope, and joy for the graduate community at OSU. I have no doubt in CGS's ability to weather this storm and to protect graduate students to the best of its ability to do so.

As I leave this office, I wish you all the best in your personal, professional, and educational endeavors moving forward. If you see me, stop me and say hi (or swerve and avoid me, I don't judge, I know I'm a lot). I'm always just a text or email away if you ever need anything, CGS related or not.

Cheers,

Katie "I'm sure I'll cry when I give this report in person because I cried while writing it" Conner



**TO:** Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
**FROM:** Jon Fritz, Treasurer & Ray Travel Award Committee Chair  
**DATE:** April 4, 2025  
**RE:** Treasurer's Report

Hey folks,

This is my last time writing a report as your Treasurer and Ray Travel Award (RTA) Committee Chair for the Council of Graduate Students.

My time as your Treasurer has been both professionally and personally fulfilling, and it's been a privilege to manage the financial wellbeing of this government representing thousands of graduate students at one of the biggest institutions of higher education in the U.S.

In my role as Treasurer, I've spent the past two years supporting, counseling, and servicing the initiatives and committees of this body to better the graduate student experience at OSU. With surpluses in funds from the COVID-19 pandemic and a return to in-person classes, research, events, & activities, I prioritized spending down our carryforward funds to pre-pandemic levels. As the RTA committee chair, I prioritized updating the website and application to be more straightforward/streamlined and homing in on a steady acceptance rate independent of funding period. My graduate student experience has been changed for the better because of this position and by getting to work with so many of you in this position.

I also wanted to write a few thank yous to key people who made my work in this position possible:

- To Erica Brown, our CGS advisor who started at OSU close to the same time as me: I will always be thankful for your thoughtful and kind feedback on my and CGS' work, knowledge of university business and fiscal policy, and supporting me and the mission of our organization. You are a big reason why CGS can do what we do, and I appreciate you.
- To Michelle Beverly, who served as CGS Treasurer from 2021-2023: thank you for training me and instilling within me the importance of this role to the organization. Your mentorship and support, even beyond the scope of your time as CGS Treasurer and at OSU, provided me with the foundation on which to execute my responsibilities as Treasurer thoughtfully, independently, and with great foresight. You always prioritized me above the role and above the organization, stepping in to help me when I needed it most, at a time when I was a junior grad student and a novice delegate. You made my transition into the role manageable & rewarding, and I can't thank you enough for that experience and your patience & vulnerability with me.
- Finally, to Katie Conner, the person who I've worked with the closest and longest in CGS. For those of you who don't know, there were three executive officers elected in spring 2023: Jorge Clavo Abbass, the CGS President from 2022-2024, Katie, and me. As the most junior grad student, a non-humanities person, a CGS newbie, and an



unpaid officer, I felt exceptionally insecure and frankly anxious within CGS leadership. While I was trained well and understood the responsibilities of the Treasurer role, I still felt undeserving of the role, like I wouldn't 'measure up' to the work of Jorge and Katie. But, Katie, you helped me to not only contextualize my place and role within the officership, but also to find my sense of belonging and a home within CGS. You treated me as a peer, introduced me to both administration and graduate students, and, despite my own, reserved doubts, valued my input. Though we diverge somewhat in terms of our strengths (see our current officer positions), we hail from Old Dominion, have a shared love of language, and know all-too-well the expectations of a military parent. In you I found a mentor, a confidante, and a friend.

While I am not pursuing additional leadership within CGS after serving as your Treasurer, I will still be running around from South to North campus and back again completing my dissertation in the next year or so. I'll still judge RTA apps as needed, I'll still present or participate in the Hayes Research Forum, and I'll still volunteer for Grad Student Appreciation Week. I believe in this organization and its ability to affect positive change for the graduate student experience at OSU, and my time as a delegate in 2022-2023 and as your Treasurer since 2023 has only strengthened my resolve and faith in this body. Thank you for the work that you do for your fellow graduate students and the OSU community.

Yours,  
Fritz.288



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Kaz Gary, Secretary  
DATE: March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025  
RE: Secretary's Report

Happy Spring! (and sorry for your allergies)

As Secretary: Nothing to report! Excited and honored to continue working for you all this coming year

As CDG Chair: funding period 4 results are out and that's a wrap for CDG FY 24 – 25! We were able to fund 7 out of 29 applicants, bringing us to an acceptance rate of 24% this period. CDG went out a couple weeks late this funding period due to delays in judging and processing scores. It was my first time running the grant solely by myself, so progress was slower than expected. Moving forward, now that I'm more familiar with the process, CDG awards will return to coming out on their usual schedule at the same time as the RTA. Thank you to all the judges who have been patient with me throughout this entire learning process and I'm excited to see what's to come for CDG this upcoming year Applications for funding period 1 are currently open until May 1<sup>st</sup> so please remind your constituents of this opportunity. Always looking for judges so please email me at [gary.102@osu.edu](mailto:gary.102@osu.edu) if you're interested in serving on the committee.

Enjoy the (somewhat) warm weather,  
Kaz Gary.102



## Committee Chair Reports

TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Sohan Daniel, CGS Academic Affairs, Chair  
DATE: March 28, 2025  
RE: Academic Affairs Chair Report

Hello,

Academic Affairs did not meet this past month. Over the next month, we will be working towards transitioning the committee for the next academic year. If you are interested in participating in the Academic Affairs Committee next month or next year, do not hesitate to email me at daniel.508. Good luck on this final month!

Sincerely,

Daniel.508





TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Holly Engel and Nick Booker, Arts and Culture Chairs  
DATE: April 4, 2025  
RE: Arts and Culture Chairs' Report

Hello there,

This past month has been a busy time for A&C, but it has certainly paid off! On Monday, March 24, our Bonsai Event kicked off successfully with 23 grad students in attendance. Each student got to snack on some tacos, learn about bonsai care from the Columbus Bonsai Society, and pot and take home their own bonsai plants. At the event, A&C also offered a QR code with access to our A&C Pathfinder Document listing ways to engage with arts and culture events throughout Columbus. We are hoping to send this document out in the next delegate digest to spread it more widely.

Of course, as long as arts and culture exist, our work is not done. At our upcoming meeting, we plan to solidify a set of questions for the survey we hope to send out at the beginning of the AU25 semester that will gauge student needs or desires in the realm of arts and culture. We're also hoping to revamp the A&C website (yes, we apparently have a website!) that has not been updated since at least 2020.

Do any of these projects sound interesting to you? Looking for more things to do as the end of the semester approaches? Join us for our next meeting on Monday, April 28 from 12:30-1:30 in Hagerty 206 or at this link on Zoom:

<https://osu.zoom.us/j/99403975082?pwd=ewFSGhWk83DuPPTLaiS8ggR4tzhbb.1>

Live long and prosper,

Engel.210 and Booker.200



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Madeline Carrola, Government Affairs Chair  
DATE: April 4, 2025  
RE: Government Affairs Chair's Report

Hello,

Government Affairs met on March 26, 2025. We discussed transition planning, SB1/ HB6, and the newsletter.

Our next meeting will be early/mid-April. If you are interested, reach out to Madeline Carrola.<sup>1</sup> and Charlie Mace.<sup>103</sup>

Sincerely,

Carrola.<sup>1</sup>



**TO:** Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
**FROM:** Peter Carrera, Graduate Caucus Chair  
**DATE:** 4/4/2025  
**RE:** Graduate Caucus Chair's Report

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

**Fiscal Committee – Gabriel Guzman Camacho (guzmancamacho.1)**

One meeting on SOFS where we discuss the review of budget petitions. No conclusive outcome on last Fiscal Committee meeting, and possible meeting March 4.

**Graduate Comp & Benefits – Brian Rocha.51 (rocha.51)**

Our draft report is in the works currently and should be ready for dissemination in early May. We are making recommendations in line with cost-of-living realities in Columbus, pushing for the establishment of a 12-month funding system for all GAs, as the 9-month minimum contract recipient population is the most financially vulnerable. We are suggesting actionable items both the Graduate School, Colleges, and departments can take to improve these conditions.

**Diversity Committee – Deb Pathak.89 (pathak.89)**

Senate Diversity met twice this month including a meeting with Sara Childers. We received word that Senate Diversity/OIE/OAA/Faculty Affairs/etc still have little-to-no transparency about who is on the "working group" deciding to review/close/restructure offices. Directives from President and Provost's office are being driven mostly by compliance with Exec. Order, Dear Colleague Letter, and SB1. Sara Childers presented on Inclusive Excellence Restorative Options for Conflict Resolution Initiative (ROCR) which is a new program mostly focused on faculty so far.

**Council on Student Affairs – Peter Carrera (carrera.55)**

The Council on Student Affairs is continuing work on the Student Activity Fee Review (determining distribution of funds and reviewing signature funding requests). A CSA ad hoc small group is working on additional options for the update to the Code of Student Conduct after receiving feedback from Faculty Council & different university senate leaders. These options will be submitted to CSA for review and finalization. We heard a presentation from Student Life fiscal office.

**Intellectual & Property, Patents, and Copyright Committee– Brian Rocha (rocha.51)**

We are working with and making recommendations to the team who oversees the "Entrepreneurial Roadmap" process at OSU, discussing how the process can be better improved for both faculty and graduate students looking to license or patent research and work in line with university requirements or self-directed interest in commercializing research. The team that oversees this work is in the office of innovation and economic development and they have been very receptive to our feedback and want to continue working with us to improve these processes.

**Council on Academic Affairs – Andrew Miles (miles.375)**

Andrew issued a statement to CAA and entered the statement directly into the meeting minutes by unanimous consent of the committee. CAA also approved a new online professional masters



degree in systems engineering. The provost will be joining a meeting to discuss the academic affairs landscape in an upcoming meeting. The coordinating committee for reaccreditation also begins meetings at the end of March.

The statement is below:

With the closure of ODI, driven by federal and state legislation, we, The Council of Grad Students, recognize its potential impact on academic affairs. We strongly encourage CAA to assess how the elimination and sundowning of this office and its programs, alongside the removal of DEI initiatives, may affect the quality of education for professional, graduate, and undergraduate students in both qualitative and quantitative ways.

CAA has a duty to ensure that all academic programming, inside and outside the classroom, upholds our mission of delivering a high-quality education and preparing a globally competitive workforce. Academic affairs are the foundational of any university, and this issue is critical to our upcoming reaccreditation process. It would be not in alignment with our mission not to examine the impact of this closure on educational quality and identify solutions for any gaps that exist due to the removal of programs, initiatives, or services. CGS has serious concerns about these implications and look forward to updates from CAA. For the record, I respectfully request unanimous consent to submit these remarks as spoken into the meeting minutes.

**Council on Academic Freedom & Responsibility – Tony Annerino (annerino.2)**

No meeting.

**Rules Committee – Jorge E. Clavo Abbass (clavoabbass.1)**

No relevant update to share.

**Library Committee – Gabriel Guzman Camacho (guzmancamacho.1)**

No relevant update to share.

**University Research Committee – Tony Annerino (annerino.2) / Andrew Miles (miles.375)**

Andrew has been working with Dr. Carnes on semi-PI status for graduate students that are awarded research funds and if they equitably have the ability to manage those funds through Workday or another means. This would be a good conversation to have at the upcoming CGS meeting in April- to help identify issues in the system in how those funds can be managed. URC met on March 7<sup>th</sup>, and that meeting began with a discussion about faculty rule 3335-5-04 regarding possible changes to the policies governing the process of investigating faculty accused of research misconduct to expedite the process since the current rules call for procedures that take excessively long times. ERIK solicited feedback from URC on questions to ask center and institute directors during the upcoming 2025 center and institute review that intends to ensure strategic alignment of centers and institutes with current university priorities. The planned format of this review is a 30-minute presentation by each director followed by a 30-minute question and answer period where questions will largely target evaluating the unique added value provided by the center or institute. URC requested that directors are explicitly asked to describe the added value provided by their center or institute to undergraduate and graduate research. URC will meet next on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Committee on Academic Technology – Tony Annerino (annerino.2)**

CAT met on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and spent a large fraction of the meeting discussing individual technical difficulties of a member faculty representative with her university managed device. There was a brief discussion about approved AI tools where members were reminded to refer people to the



following web page that lists university-approved AI tools to which people are allowed to upload university data to because they are secured and do not send your provided data to a public cloud: <https://ai.osu.edu/faculty-staff-students/approved-ai-tools>. Later discussion was about the state of planning for digital accessibility conversion of Carmen courses, and this boiled down to the conclusion that this is an extremely time-consuming task, but it also has not yet been quantified how long that might take for the currently least-accessible classes that involve large quantities of hand-written notes containing equations. CAT also received a presentation about the Drake Institute for Teaching and Learning, whose website can be found here: <https://drakeinstitute.osu.edu/>. CAT will meet next on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Council on Enrollment and Student Progress – Thomas Elton (elton.21)**

No update.

**Government Affairs – Bryan Perez Soto (perezsoto.2)**

The committee met twice this month. The first meeting was held and became a Q&A on SB1. The second meeting discussed what is the case of action given that SB1 passed in the house of representatives. The Office of Legal Affairs and Government Affairs is looking for the different constituencies to reach out and bring questions, concerns and situations surrounding the current local, state and federal policies and laws. Email your questions / concerns / situations to [perezsoto.2@osu.edu](mailto:perezsoto.2@osu.edu).

**Council on the Physical Environment – Brittany Multer Hopkins (multerhopkins.1)**

No meeting.

**Athletic Council – Katie Conner (connor.280)**

No update relevant to graduate students.

**Steering – Sabrina Durso (Durso.19)**

In President's Report.

***If you have ideas for what you'd like Senate to discuss at their monthly meeting, please email me.***

In service,  
Peter Carrera (Carrera.55)



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Chiranth Koratagere Nagaraj, Graduate Student Affairs Chair  
DATE: April 04, 2025  
RE: Graduate Student Affairs Chair's Report  
Dear Graduate Students and Members,  
Subject: Graduate Student Appreciation Week (GSAW) – Volunteer Coordination Report

### Event Overview

**National Graduate Student Appreciation Week (GSAW)** will take place from **April 7th to April 11th, 2025**. This weeklong celebration is dedicated to recognizing and appreciating the contributions of graduate students across campus. Departments are encouraged to show their appreciation in any form — whether through kind gestures, small tokens of thanks, or active participation in GSAW events.

### Scheduled Events

#### All Week (April 7–11)

- **CGS Giveaways** | 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
*Graduate School Lobby (2nd floor, University Hall)*

#### Monday, April 7

- **Donuts with the Deans** | 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM  
*Graduate School Lobby*
  - Volunteer: **Shekhar** (8:00 AM – 12:00 PM)
  - **One additional volunteer needed**

#### Wednesday, April 9

- **Game Night** | 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
*KBK Suite, Ohio Union*
  - Volunteers: **Ashutosh & Madhav** (5:30 PM – 9:30 PM)
  - **Volunteer slots full**

#### Friday, April 11

- **Instructional Kitchen** | 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM  
*Ohio Union*
  - Volunteer: **Tanay** (4:00 PM – 8:00 PM)
  - **One additional volunteer needed**

Thanks, Koratagerenagaraj.1





TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Deb Pathak and Luke Van Niel, Health, Wellness, and Safety Chair  
DATE: March 28, 2025  
RE: Health, Wellness, and Safety Chair's Report

Greetings,

Health, Wellness, and Safety met Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, and discussed various current and upcoming initiatives, including a potential collaboration with SLDS to compile disability narratives and resources in a web-based medium for the benefit of graduate students. Luke will attempt to meet with Cheryl Lyons of SLDS to discuss this initiative.

HWS also has begun reflecting on last year's Accessibility Stakeholders Symposium to plan for this year's event. We will be selecting a date and beginning to plan the event at our April meeting.

Best,

Pathak.89 & Vanniel.5





TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Lauren Levesque & Syed Murtaza Arshad, Housing and Family Affairs Chair  
DATE: April 4, 2025  
RE: Housing and Family Affairs Chair's Report

Hello Everyone,  
This report summarizes the discussions from the Housing and Family Affairs (HAFA) Committee meeting held on March 21, 2025.

**Housing Situation Report:**

We submitted this [Housing Expenses Report](#) to Graduate Association Compensation and Benefits Committee. This report summarizes the current rent situation in the university district and Columbus area and compares it with current graduate stipends. We are open to feedback from all of you if you think any information can be improved or added. We can use this report in different discussions with university officials while asking for better stipends and housing options for graduate students.

**Living Expo (25<sup>th</sup> March):**

We represented CGS and HAFA at Living Expo organized by OCCSE last Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March. The turnout of graduate students was really good. They were introduced to available resources in shape of OCCSE property search, roommate finder, sublease portal and student legal services.

**International Student Housing Survey:**

One of the graduate students in OCCSE has prepared [a survey](#) for international students to help guide the content of the living guide. If you are an international student, please complete [the survey](#) by April 4, it will really help them. [SURVEY LINK](#)

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Be kind,  
Levesque.31 & Arshad.32



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Kaustubh Kumar, International Student Affairs Chair  
DATE: April 4, 2025  
RE: International Student Affairs Chair's Report

Hi Everyone,

We had committee's monthly meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March. ISAC is working on following items:

- 'Share your story' event was held from 6-8 pm on 24<sup>th</sup> March at Great Hall Meeting Room 2, Ohio Union. Two speakers for the session were Syed Murtaza Arshad (PhD candidate, Dept of ECE; Home country Pakistan) and Mauricio Dos Santos (Fulbright scholar and MA Student, Dept of Teaching and Learning, College of Education and Human Ecology; Home country Brazil). Both speakers shared their journey and experiences at and prior to OSU. The event was attended by 22 people. Food at the event was provided by Ohio Union catering team.
- We had aimed to hold one online tax info session at beginning of April 2025. However, things couldn't materialize for some reasons, and we've deferred the plan to next academic year. We've identified steps to improve planning and conduct more than one session next academic year.
- We plan to foster more coordination with other CGS committees and promote for more international student participation in CGS and related events.

We are always looking for new committee members who will help us grow and contribute positively to international graduate students experience at the OSU. So, please tell your friends and reach out ([kumar.889@osu.edu](mailto:kumar.889@osu.edu)) if you have any ideas and/or are interested in serving on the committee.

Wishing all a fruitful month ahead,  
Kumar.889



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Aryn Robinson, Membership Wellness Chair  
DATE: March 28, 2025  
RE: Membership Wellness Chair's Report

Hi everyone,

### **Current Announcements**

April Environmental Wellness Bingo Challenge is attached to the Delegate Packet email.  
Special thanks to SERC for the collaboration!

The Financial Wellness event was held on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to speakers Adrienne Wilson of Student Life and Deep Patel from OSU's branch of US Bank.  
Slides from the event are attached to the delegate packet.

Contact me if you have any ideas for MW!

### **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



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Bill Wang, Research and Data Operations Chair  
DATE: March 31, 2025  
RE: Research and Data Operations Chair's Report

Hi,

RDO does not have anything to report this month.

Best,

Wang.13945



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Brittany Multer Hopkins, Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility Committee (SERC) Chair  
DATE: April 4, 2025  
RE: SERC Chair's Report

Happy spring!

SERC has been busy preparing for our Time for Change Week Event on April 8 from 2-4 pm in the Ohio Union Great Hall Meeting Room 2 (flyer attached). Come learn about graduate student sustainability research, hear from an OSU sustainability panel, and get a FREE reusable silverware kit!

Sustainability Tip for April: Spring into Sustainability! 🌱

- Spring is the perfect time to reflect on your environmental habits and renew your commitment to protecting our planet. Here are a few ways to get involved in sustainability this season:
- 🌐 Attend Time for Change Week (April 5–11): Join CGS SERC's sustainability panel event to learn how sustainability is being implemented at OSU.
- There are a TON of sustainability events going on in the next month. The Sustainability Institute has put together a calendar of events and you can win prizes for attending events!
- (<https://si.osu.edu/EarthMonthPassport>)
- 🚲 Get Outside: Walk or bike to work and around campus to soak up some vitamin D while reducing your carbon footprint.
- 🥕 Eat Seasonal & Local: Visit the Worthington and Upper Arlington Farmers' Markets for fresh, locally grown asparagus and other in-season produce.

YAY SPRING!!!

Multer Hopkins.1