



**COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

# Delegate Packet

February 14th, 2025

Location: Ohio Union Senate Chambers and Zoom



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# Agenda

General Delegate Meeting | 14 February 2025 | Senate Chambers, Ohio Union and via Zoom

- 1. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS** **3:30 PM**
  - 1.1. **Campus Connections:** Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement with Jennifer Kephas.1
- 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 Giralda Munoz (GiraldaMunoz.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 – Syed Murtaza Arshad.32
  - 6.9. International Student Affairs – Kaustubh Kumar.889
  - 6.10. Membership Wellness – Aryn Robinson.2283
  - 6.11. Research and Data Operations – Bill Wang.13945
  - 6.12. Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility – Brittany Multer Hopkins (MulterHopkins.1)
- 7. OLD BUSINESS** **[0 min]**
- 8. NEW BUSINESS** **[10 min]**
  - 8.1 Grad Caucus Further Updates & Discussion
  - 8.2 Officer Nominations
- 9. SPECIAL ORDER ITEM** **[30 min]**
  - 9.1. Delegate Issues and Concerns
- 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS** **[5 min]**
  - 10.1 Next General Delegate Meeting: Friday, March 7 at 3:30pm (Senate Chambers & Zoom)
- 11. ADJOURNMENT** **5:40 PM**



## CGS Virtual Meeting Ground Rules

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



# Meeting Minutes for Approval

General Delegate Meeting | 10 January 2025 | Senate Chambers, Ohio Union and via Zoom

## 1. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

3:35 PM

### 1.1. Campus Connections: Graduate & Prof. Student Ombudsperson Rebeka Campos-Astorkiza.1

#### 1.1.1) Talk Overview

- Faculty in the Spanish and Portuguese department as well as in Office of Ombuds
- Ombuds are independent, impartial and confidential resource for students to discuss issues and receive informal counsel and advice.
- Help students explore options and make decisions
- Counsel students how to handle conflict and advocate for themselves
- Point students to resources on campus
- Help mediate conflict between people

#### 1.1.2) Q+A:

- **Tjoelker.4:** You can't advocate for individuals, but you can as a group like for graduate students, is that correct?  
A: Yes.
- **Elton.21:** Do you have a separate e-mail?  
A: Yes, I'll have it at the end of my slides
- **Elton.21:** Does confidentiality apply in those e-mails as well?  
A: Students don't usually talk to me about confidential things in my e-mail.
- **Unknown CGSer:** Does it only apply to conflicts with people on campus?  
A: I try to help students whenever I can, but if I feel I don't have the expertise to help the student, I'll let them know. These are the categories of Issues brought up to me: 1) Issues 2) Information 3) Guidance and Advice. An annual report is published in fall semester and include trends from the faculty and Office of Ombuds
- **Mheta.337:** What's a common topic that falls outside of your expertise and where do you direct students?  
A: The main one is undergrads trying to talk with me, as I don't usually have the time since I focus on grad students.
- **Unnava.4:** How do you adjust your work when departments don't take it seriously?  
A: I don't interact with departments because they usually don't know students talk to me. If they talk about discrimination, I have to send them to the Office of Institutional Equity. I always disclose the responsibilities I have so we try to work around it.
- **Unnava.4:** If I come from a department where people don't take situations seriously, how do I come to you to talk about those?  
A: I would have to send you to the Institutional Equity and they would decide whether it falls under policy or not. Even if there's not an investigation, they're able to invite themselves to departments to present educational material. I really only work with students, so I usually present a range of options and we discuss which one would work better.
- **Online CGSer:** With all the mentioned issues, is there any sort of tracking after your office like the number of reports to Office of Institutional Equity?  
A: We don't know, because we can't follow up with the students because of confidentiality. It's up to the students to tell us, not for us to ask any more questions.
- **Pathak.89:** Follow-up to previous questions, would it be possible to give an overview for the outcomes you have control over?  
A: In the majority of cases, the main outcome is usually the student to have those difficult conversations with advisors/grad students/PIs so they can advocate with themselves. I coach students on how to have these conversations, usually in 50% of cases. I refer students who have grievances with the graduate student and help build arguments to the graduate school, so those are the two different services I usually do with students.



## 2. CALL TO ORDER

4:06 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 **Carolla.1**
- Second by **Ortbahn.1**

## 5. OFFICER REPORTS

4:07 PM

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

5.1.1) Over the past month:

- **Exec:** All of the committees are doing WONDERFUL!
  - Looking for a Co-Chair for Gov Affairs, HAFA
- **Grad Council:** Leave Policy Recommendations going to Dean Stromberger
- **LEAVE:** Orientation, SHIP Coverage for 5 months, Update GH to include Program Coordinators
- **Steering:** Chase Center will be voted upon at our next meeting; I continue to advocate for better communication between Senate Committees and the Buckeye
- **Events I attended on CGS's Behalf:** NAGPS Winter Conference and Rose Bowl Festivities

5.1.2) Working on:

- **CGS Newsletters:** CGS has a NEW look!! Update all the grads!
- **Resolution Regarding OTDI [...]:** Working with Sohan to bring to CIO and Senate
- **CAMPUS Act Taskforce:** Interviewing Stakeholders! If you'd like to speak, do let me know!
- **Asian, Pacific Islander, & Desi American (APIDA) Center:** USG Collab

5.1.3) Updates from past delegate issues and concerns:

- **Dennis Learning Center:** Following Up with Dean Stromerger

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

5.2.1) Election Timeline for CGS 25-26

- January 25
  - No Date – Start thinking about whether you'd like to (re)run for Officer/Senator/Delegate
  - TIP: Get in touch with current folks in those positions if you're running for a new position
  - TIP: Please start talking up delegate seats/encouraging successors if you aren't running for delegate re-election! DON'T LET YOUR DEPARTMENT GO WITHOUT REPRESENTATION
- February 25
  - 2.14.25 - Officer noms/apps open at CGS General Body Meeting
  - 2.28.25 - Officer noms/apps close at 11:59pm
- March 25
  - 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)
  - 4.4.25 - Senator noms/apps close at 11:59pm
- April 25
  - 4.4.25 - Senator elections at/during CGS General Body Meeting
  - 4.16.25 - Delegate voting period opens at Noon ONLINE (Email with link will be sent)
  - 4.23.25 - Delegate voting period closes at 5pm
- **Email Katie Conner.280 if you're able to assist**

5.2.2) Election Reminders

- **Eligibility**



- Any current graduate student in good standing
- Does NOT have to be a current or former member of CGS
- Delegate Candidates only: MUST be enrolled in the unit of representation you are running for
- **Who can vote for what?**
  - Officers & Senators – elected by current voting members of CGS (Chairs & Delegates (+ alternates), 1 vote per person)
  - NB: Senators \*can\* ask questions during candidate Q&As
  - NB: If executive session is called for, all candidates (regardless of voter status) and non-voters must leave the room. Current (non-candidate) officers may stay, but may not speak/contribute unless asked a direct question, or moderating if an issue arises. (This is based on previous officer and senator election precedent set).
  - Delegates – elected by enrolled graduate students from their unit of representation
- **How do I run for a committee chair position?**
  - TLDR; you don't.
  - Chairships are appointed by the CGS President for that academic year. The chairs for AY2425 will be appointed during Summer 24 by the President elected at the March CGS meeting

#### 5.2.3) HAYES #49DaysTilHayes

- February CGS Meeting – we will work together to write 2-3 thank you cards each for judges & volunteers, please bring your favorite writing implement
  - Abstract judging almost done!
  - 80% now finished
  - Some technical glitches causing delays (working with IT to remedy asap)
  - Decisions rolling out 19th - 26th
- Day Of
  - Will be sharing call (w/ subject area) for still needed presentation judges
  - Formal volunteer sign up email going out next week
  - Will go out to volunteers who responded initially first
  - Will go out to full graduate body following that

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

##### 5.3.1) At mid-year, CGS spending is divided between funding for:

- Career Development Grant & Ray Travel Award
- Catering and supplies for the Campus Connections/pre-meeting activities
- Graduate Student Appreciation Week
- Office supplies, internal & executive committee spending

5.3.2) Compared to last year, relative CGS spending has shifted from outstanding payments and tech support to grant funding and programming

##### 5.3.3) Income from carry-forward funds during COVID are dwindling

- Follow through on funds allocated but not dispersed to CGS
- Initiate new or advocate for more funding from university offices

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

##### 5.4.1) As secretary:

- Nothing to report!

##### 5.4.2) As CDG chair:

- Was able to fund ALL of our applicants last cycle
- Deadline for next cycle is **February 1st!** Please tell your constituents
- If you want to be a CDG judge, please e-mail me at gary.102@osu.edu

## 6. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

4:31 PM

#### 6.1. Academic Affairs – Sohan Daniel.508

##### 6.1.1) Academic Affairs Committee Update:

- Resolution was passed at the last meeting.
- Next Academic Affairs Committee Meeting will take place towards the end of the month. Please reach out if you would like to attend.



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

6.2.1) CGS buttons are here today!

6.2.2) IU/OSU Folklore and Ethnomusicology Student Conference: Feb. 28 – March 1

6.2.3) Bonsai event: Tuesday, March 18

6.2.4) Next meeting: Monday, Jan. 27 from 12:30-1:30 (EST). In Hagerty 208 and on Zoom

6.3. Diversity & Inclusion – Priya Jana.20

6.3.1) We still have not met this week yet! Have to finalize a meeting time for the next semester.

- Next week agenda will be probably to finalize the professors for seminar series
- I will ask my team to reach out to their respective departments and finalize things .

6.4. Government Affairs– Madeline Carrola.1

6.4.1) The Government Affairs Committee will resume meetings later this month and publish the committee's newsletter using the new email communication platform.

- Reach out to Madeline Carrola.1 if you are interested in attending a meeting.

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

6.5.1) GSAW planning is in full-swing!

- **Tentative Swag**
  - Badge reels, umbrellas, webcam privacy covers, cozy beanie hats, & steel insulated tumblers
  - Awaiting design proofs for approval, then headed to ordering
- **Tentative Events**
  - Donuts with the Deans (finalizing details)
    - Buckeye donuts, coffee, & tea with admin from across OSU
  - Grad-Exclusive Instructional Kitchen (finalizing details)
    - Step by step cooking tutorial of a delicious and budget conscious meal
    - Tentative Menu: Spanish rice bowl with pan seared chicken and roasted corn pico de gallo
  - Graduate Game Night (still securing venue, RFPs, etc.)
    - Come play board games and enjoy pizza and soft drinks with fellow grad students
- Finalized specific details, posters, etc., will be released early March in the lead up to National GSAW the week of April 7 – 11, 2025, only 88 days to go!

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

6.6.1) HWS members continued editing the Access Resolution with Sabrina at the beginning of December, and will be finalizing it soon. We will resume meeting this month to discuss next steps for the committee.

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

6.7.1) We had a meeting with OIA and OCCSE to discuss housing orientation for incoming/international students. HAFA will meet mid-January.

- Last year's orientation just focused on available off-campus housing resources ([Pre Arrival 1 Presentation 1.pptx](#)).
- We have **proposed**:
  - Comprehensive housing and family affairs guide to address international student challenges.
  - Involvement of Student Legal Services (SLS) for legal housing guidance.
  - OIA also Graduate and international student representatives to assist with queries.

6.7.2) Next steps:

- Collaborate with ISA to review content and organize a focus group.
- Finalize content and logistics with OIA, ISA, OCCSE, and SLS in next meeting.
- Gather CGS members input either through a survey or a focus-group.





6.8. International Student Affairs – Kaustubh Kumar.889

- 6.8.1) Planned for our two events- 'tax information' sessions and 'share your story' event
  - Aim to conduct them in February and March 2025
  - 'Share your story' event will take place on March 24, 2025. Venue and other modalities for the two events are being finalized
  - Final schedule for both events will be shared in next meeting
- 6.8.2) Work in coordination with HAFA committee regarding student housing sessions for incoming international students

6.9. Research and Data Operations – Bill Wang.13945

- 6.9.1) Colleges that we are going to request Overleaf Premium subscription for
  - College of Arts & Sciences
  - College of Engineering
  - College of College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences
  - College of Public Health
  - Fisher College of Business
- 6.9.2) Reasons for the request included in the request letter
  - Faster compile speed
  - Allow more than one collaborator
  - Easier to credit contribution with tracking changes
  - More autonomy over student research
  - Streamlined journal submission and citations

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

- 6.10.1) Please share and plan to attend SERC's Time for Change Event on April 8 from 2-4 pm in the Ohio Union Great Hall Meeting Room 2
  - Encourage constituents to submit abstracts to present research
  - Submit questions for the panel
- 6.10.2) Sustainability Tip for January: BYOM (Bring Your Own Mug)
  - Opt for a reusable mug while enjoying your hot drink this winter. Here's a couple of reasons why:
    - Single-use coffee cups (especially those with plastic linings) are difficult to recycle. They contribute to environmental pollution, often ending up in landfills and oceans
    - It can save you money! Many coffee shops offer discounts when you BYOM
    - It enhances the drinking experience! Heavier glasses are shown to make drinks feel more substantial and luxurious!

6.11. Membership Wellness – Aryn Robinson.2283

- 6.11.1) CGS WhatsApp Group Chat
  - Connect with other CGSers!
- 6.11.2) Participate in the January Fitness Bingo Challenge
  - Find it in the Delegate packet
- 6.11.3) Upcoming events:
  - Financial Wellness Event - Thursday, March 20th from 4p-5p in the Senate Chambers of the Ohio Union
    - Invest in yourself and care for one of the ten dimensions of your wellness
    - Please RSVP using the link on the flyer
  - CGS Only Planetarium Trip – date pending: Thursday, March 27th at 5pm
    - The Planetarium can only hold 63 people, seats will be given to those who RSVP first
    - RSVP will be sent out closer to the event
    - We will be watching a show put together by our own Kaz Gary

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**4:48 PM**

8.1. Resolution 2425-SP-001: Beyond 'Compliance': A Resolution on the Inclusion of (Not Just) Graduate Students with Disabilities at The Ohio State University

- **Author Rationale:**
  - **Pathak.89:** The resolution is about moving beyond a minimum compliance approach for accessibility on campus. The biggest issue on campus is that there is no dedicated personnel for graduate student problems with accessibility on campus. Constrained to a minimum ADA compliance approach and we're asking for ADA coordinator's office to do more. Lots of access issues for grad students specifically like international travel, field work that goes beyond the ADA's purview. Lots of questions about funding from the University and how its being dispensed for accommodation on campus. Grad students don't qualify for a lot of the benefits even though we are expected to work 40 hours week. Top 3 main asks: 1) Asking for dedicated staff to be hired by 2026, work close collaboration with ADA, Student Life, HR as well 2) More transparency in where the funding is coming and going and 3) updated definition of reasonable accommodations on campus
- **Author Q+A:**
  - Q – **Unnava.4:** Did you check to see if the graduate school had the funding?
  - A – **Durso.19:** No, but Dean Stromberger is aware that we are asking for someone and in our experience, it isn't hard to get one person funded
  - Q – **Booker.200:** Lines 256 -259, why not get M-status revoked in addition to P-status? Was that something that was on the table?
  - A – **Durso.19:** I was so focused on the P-status, I forgot about M-status. We should add that.
  - Q – **Mace.103:** I know the Senate talked about leave policies as well, was this section worded in such a way that it aligns with the Senate?
  - A – **Durso.19:** Yes, I thought a lot about the leave and how it's referenced in the Senate discussions.
  - Q – **Holdroyd.12:** Are international students able to take the 5 months of leave as stated in the policy?
  - A – **Durso.19:** I asked Legal Services, OIA and SHIP so that this policy would include international students.
  - Q- **Tjoelker.4:** Do all the acronyms need to be defined in the beginning of the document?
  - A – **Pathak.89:** They are, are you looking at the beginning?
  - **Tjoelker.4:** Ah, I see thank you.
  - **Elton.21:** I move to end Q+A early
  - Seconded by **Oduloye.1**
- **Discussion:**
  - **Booker.200:** Did we add that bit about M-status? If not, I will move we add the amendment 'and M-status' on line 258.
  - **Elton.21:** Are there any other status that we need to possibly add? Is there something else besides M- and P-status? Just want to make sure we include that if needed
  - **Connor.280:** There are some other ones for clinical faculty but they do not advise students in the same capacity as M or P status.
  - **Multerhopkins.1:** Would it make sense to add M or P status since they only usually have one?
  - **Smith.15196:** According to the Graduate Handbook, faculty can only hold M or P status.
  - **AMMENDMENT ADDED ON LINE 258-259: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that after the implementation of mandated accessibility training, faculty or staff found denying "reasonable accommodations" as outlined by university policy should face repercussions as outlined in the Faculty Rules/Code of Conduct, with possible P-status or M-status revokement for tenured faculty.**
  - **Mace.103** moves to end discussion early
  - Seconded by **Multerhopkins.1**
  - Resolution passes



## 9. SPECIAL ORDER ITEM

5:09 PM

### 9.1. Delegate Issues and Concerns

#### 9.1.1) Academic Calendar logistics

- **Elton.21:** I am a part of Committee on Enrollment and Student Progress and within the committee, they're voting on the academic calendar 10 years out. They're voting on whether they want to start earlier in August or later in December. What do you all think, would you rather the semester begin earlier or end later?
- **Durso.19:** When do you need this information by? When is the vote?
- **Elton.21:** I need to check, but it will be soon.
- **Durso.19:** E-mail the chair and ask for more time for delegate feedback. We'll send it in the Delegate Digest and Thomas we'll get information for you.
- **Unnava.4:** Is the first semester the only one shifting?
- **Elton.21:** Yes, only the fall semester is shifting. The concern was that with the additional reading days that when the semester ends, it will come closer to the holidays. International students would need time between graduation to travel home for the holidays.

#### 9.1.2) Concerns about CGS judging

- **Arslanozkaynak.1:** Is there a current way for applicants to raise concerns on judges' comments?
- **Durso.19:** Jon?
- **Fritz.288:** Some transparency in the Ray judging process: We randomize 3 judges per application so the idea is that you will randomly get both critical and not so critical judges. The point of 3 judges is to have a wide variety of assessment. If you feel the 3 judges are not accurate, then I'll typically look at it as well. If you think the judges aren't giving constructive feedback, then I would like to know about that because they should be doing that.
- **Durso.19:** Ray is a complex situation because of funding.
- **Mace.103:** It sounds like they were concerned about actual problems with the application process, like they graded the wrong application, not necessarily about judges not scoring fairly.
- **Fritz.288:** If you feel that the judges graded the wrong application, I know who your judges are as the Chair. That's a different conversation and I'd be happy to look into the situation and amend that.

#### 9.1.3) Raising Ray and CDG funds

- **Karuppuchamy.1:** Is there any talk of raising the grant amount for Ray and CDG because of inflation and the rising costs of travel?
- **Fritz.288:** Ray comes from OAA. We get \$35000 from them and have for the last decade and that hasn't changed. I have a meeting with them on Monday about how much we're getting. This is a question for the next Treasurer as they will see if we can raise the award amount or the amount of awards. CDG comes from the Coca-Cola Endowment. They gave a big amount of money to OSU and the interest on this money funds the Career Development Grant. That actually has increased each year. Ray has a 30% acceptance rate and CDG is often 100%. CDG is something that comes from the Coca-Cola endowment so we can't ask for any more of that. For Ray, it's entirely dependent on what we can advocate for from the Graduate School.
- **Connor.280:** It's been regularly brought up whether we should increase the award amount for both vs. more awards. There's a reason we have the year in between winners because we want to spread the money around as much as possible and these grants have never been able to fully fund a grad student. They're supposed to be just supplemental grants. We want to move towards funding more students than giving out more money per student.

#### 9.1.4) Buckeyemail Concerns

- **Multerhopkins.1:** We had a constituent reach out about the ODTI resolution and congratulate us. We had a concern about the Buckeyemail though, do we know who this cross-departmental group that's working to streamline this e-mail process and is there grad representation on it?
- **Durso.19:** Great question. I have been informed in multiple places, but not from the direct office that is doing this. I'm sure it's ODTI and the leader of the office is not very communicative. I will get back to you on that.
- **Tjoelker.4:** We have our [osugrad@osu.edu](mailto:osugrad@osu.edu) and then the Buckeyemail, are you saying that the regular one won't be used?

- **Durso.19:** Yes, for example if you have a publication that uses the first e-mail, e-mails won't be delivered unless you send it to the Buckeyemail.
- **Holdroyd.12:** It's not active at all?
- **Durso.19:** Decision hasn't been made yet. When it was introduced, faculty, students and staff said it was ridiculous and it will mess with everyone at the Wexner Medical Center. Largely, I don't think it will go publicly well but the school has been making decisions anyway.
- **Lebeck.31:** On ODTI, there's an interim person heading the Office right now. Two questions: 1) what VP will it be under? And 2) is there any plans to get a permanent leadership instead of just the interim?
- **Durso.19:** Senior VP will be taking over and they came from Nebraska. Committee on Academic Technology is going to be meeting with him so that he knows how these technologies will affect grad students as OSU is much larger and has a more complicated system. Having a provost and permanent position on ODTI will really help this process go forward.
- **Arshad.32:** Is it calling for students only or students and faculty? And what's the motivation, is it cost?
- **Durso.19:** Since it's not finalized, there's no data on this. School doesn't want me to share misinformation. I haven't checked in on how it's affecting faculty as I'm focused on staff. I'm assuming it is a money issue, but I'm not sure. Microsoft has raised their prices, so I'm assuming this is part of cost-cutting for that. The University keeps treating academic technology as expenditures rather than research tools that we need to do our jobs.

#### 9.1.5) Leave policy for international students

- **Ramprakash.4:** Do any exemptions apply to international students to take time off or do remote work so they can take advantage of the paid leave policy?
- **Durso.19:** Been working on this issue with international students at heart, but it's not just an OSU limit. It's a US government issue. When I brought this up to OIA they told me that it's a US government thing and not something they can change. I am advocating for them to include international students in the 5 month formal leave policy instead of just 10 days like it is right now. Will continue to update you on the issue.

#### 9.1.6) ODTI Tech Loan program update

- **Damale.1:** What's the progress on the tech loans? I have one loaned device, and I've had it for 2 years but need to return it this semester.
- **Durso.19:** Tech loan program is run by ODTI. Departments have to zero out their budget which is affecting the tech loan program. They are repealing certain students' tech to make it more available for students who have financial need, OIA takes care of international students and tech they need. There's a major concern in the university that the tech loan program will disappear because there's no way to fund it. It's very hard to advocate for them to have more tech when there's no more money coming in. Department resources are trying to be raised instead so that departments will fund tech for their students which is a complex problem given the difference in departmental budgets. Annerino.2 and the Senate committee are looking into it right now and trying to figure out options
- **Damale.1:** International students can contact OIA about tech, but what does that mean?
- **Durso.19:** OIA gives the tech loan program their recommendations if international students need tech or not.

#### 9.1.7) Planning Events for CGS and funding options

- **Soni.117:** What's the timeline for planning events in CGS?
- **Durso.19:** Because our current president is placing tariffs on anything coming into the country, the school has asked us to put in advance orders for swag that we need. All organizational leaders need to book rooms opening December 18<sup>th</sup>. On the catering side, university usually needs a couple months/weeks to prepare while some places like Woody's can get it done within the week. Some event spaces need special permission like the KBK Leadership room
- **Soni.117** moves to extend by 10 min
- Seconded by **Holdroyd.12**
- **Soni.117:** Do we spend money to book a room in the university?
- **Durso.19:** Depends on what event space, KBK is free but, for example, this space does cost a lot of money
- **Soni.117:** I see, that's crazy



- **Durso.19:** It really does depend on the space
- **Soni.117:** Besides the university catering, if you want to go somewhere off-campus, what's the deadline?
- **Durso.19:** Deadlines are very specific to the event place and time, so again it's just dependent

9.1.8) Break in insurance coverage

- **Soni.117:** Every year in the first week in January if we have a healthcare appointment then we get an e-mail that says we're not covered, has that been fixed?
- **Durso.19:** There are times that you don't have accurate enrollment when you should. Had this happen to a bunch of students last week that were told they didn't have insurance. I reached out to insurance plan. When you are unenrolled as a GRA in the December holidays and then re-enrolled for the spring semester, there is a blip in the system which triggers this e-mail you got. Next year it should be fixed so that instead of saying unenrolled, it should just say pending.

9.1.9) CGS Swag update

- **Holdroyd.12:** Any updates on CGS swag?
- **Connor.280:** Performa gave us \$10000 rebate on sweaters we never received. As of 45 min ago all proofs for GSAW are approved and moving towards production. Sweaters are coming, and waiting on artwork for buttons. Given that ,everything should be in by the April meeting just in time for GSAW.
- **Multerhopkins.1** moves to end early
- Seconded by **Booker.200**
- Motion passes

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

10.1 Next General Delegate Meeting: Friday, February 14 at 3:30pm (Senate Chambers & Zoom)

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

5:46 PM



## Officer Reports

TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Sabrina Durso, President  
DATE: February 7, 2025  
RE: President's Report

Warm Winter Greetings to you all,

The start of this year is just as unprecedented as many prior, providing various causes for concerns surrounding many of our livelihoods, careers, futures, and personhoods. While I am always available to discuss and share any of your concerns pertaining to how the ever-changing political climate inside and outside of OSU affects our lives as Buckeyes, I want to reassure you that CGS continues to work alongside The University and its highest administrators to ensure the graduate student experience is the best it can be at The Ohio State.

This past month, CGS has worked hard to ensure your voices are heard. At this semester's **Around the Oval**, where USG, IPC, CGS, and CSA student leaders present *major* constituent body **issues to the President's Cabinet**, I focused on **compensation and housing**. As our [Graduate Compensation and Benefits Committee](#) has yet to make their official compensation recommendations to the University Senate (due in March), **I discussed the Graduate School's wish to increase minimum stipends by 8%**, making OSU the leader in non-coastal, public Big10s outside of the University of Michigan (whose min. stipend is \$3,442 a month compared to OSU's \$2,483). An 8% increase to those who make the minimum stipend would cost roughly \$2.9 million in total per semester (not factoring in 9-month vs 12-month discrepancies), with roughly \$1.5 million of that funding going to the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). Additionally, an 8% minimum stipend increase would impact roughly 3,200 of the 9,000 GAs funded by the university, with 1,600 of those students housed in CAS. It is concerning how this increase might affect programs/departments already struggling to fund their GAs, and as such, I've asked the President's Cabinet and the Provost to help find any funding **outside** of individual colleges and departments to aid in this potential increase. Additionally, though [OCCSE](#) has been wonderful in helping grads find *safe* housing, they have not been able to negotiate lower rent prices in the immediate vicinity of OSU. As such, **I've asked the University work with property owners to lower rental costs** to 30-35% of our taxable income (around \$800 a month for a 1-bedroom apartment). I've also asked they continue to investigate options for re-opening a graduate student family/international housing community, and clarified that we will not stop asking until one exists. *All of the above are recommendations I make at this semesterly meeting, none of which are official, concrete plans-in-action on behalf of the University and/or Graduate School.*

At University Senate Steering (where we plan the University Senate's agenda alongside the President and Provost), I asked that CGS's [Resolution Regarding OTDI Policy \[...\]](#) be brought

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to the entirety of the Senate at the January meeting. President Carter and Provost Bellamkonda promised to immediately act upon it and by the following week at University Senate (upon a vote of support from the entirety of the University Senate body regarding our resolution) SVP of Admin and Planning, Chris Kabourek, announced The University has paused limiting **Microsoft** storage, alongside funding **Adobe** for all students in need. The University is looking at ways they can work with both Microsoft (who revoked 40% institutional discounts nationwide) and Adobe to ensure full access to both to those who need it. Additionally, [OTDI](#) is working to provide access to **Overleaf** and has paused changing the **Buckeyemail** system. Regarding **Zoom**, I encourage you to read the Committee on Academic Technology's Report (under Grad Caucus Committee) to see how the university is intending to keep Zoom, with very small impacts to it's usage. OTDI is also looking to provide a website where university members can see what licenses OSU currently has access to, with a page to learn how to request software. Additionally, at January's **University Senate** meeting, The Senate body voted against the introduction of [The Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culter, and Society](#) on campus (64 nays, 57 yays, 4 abstentions). While this vote won't prevent the legally required center from opening in Autumn 2025, the Senate's vote indicates that a majority of faculty, staff, and students do not approve of the establishment of the Chase Center at OSU.

Additionally, Over the Past Month:

- **PARKING METERS CAME DOWN AT THOMPSON LIBRARY'S ADA PARKING!**
- **Exec:** Welcome (back) Charlie Mace.103 as co-chair of Government Affairs! If you might be interested in chairing a committee next year, I highly suggest you reach out to the chair of said committee! Many seats will be open next year, so please reach out to our wonderful exec team for mentorship!
- **Events I attended on CGS's Behalf:** Welcome Reception for Provost Bellamkonda, Dean Danny Glassman Student Leader Dinner, Around the Oval with President's Cabinet, Dr. Shivers Student Gov't Leader Dinner, SEI Committee, Digital Accessibility Committee, Undergraduate Board of Trustee Selection Committee

Working On:

- **CAMPUS Act TaskForce: *WE NEED GRAD VOICES!*** The taskforce would like us to complete graduate student focus groups about how best to combat antisemitism, Islamophobia, and anti-Christian discrimination and hatred, harassment, bullying or violence towards others on the basis of religious identity on OSU's campus. ***If you or your constituents would like to provide insight, please contact me!***
- **[Resolution on Beyond Compliance](#):** Upon sharing this resolution with all relevant offices, Provost Bellamkonda has convened a working group of many higher administrators to ensure it is acted upon. This group recently met with HWS and I to ask general questions, many of which concern implementing faculty training. This resolution will be brought to University Senate in February, upon official Senate Steering approval.

Updates from Past Delegate Issues and Concerns:

- **Dennis Learning Center:** Continuing to work with Dean Stromberger on this front.



- **Technology Loan Program:** OTDI is currently exploring how to best mitigate the cost of such a program. Currently, they are looking at providing graduate students with Virtual Environments so that they may complete their work duties on their personal devices via secured networks.

In solidarity always,  
Sabrina Durso.19





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

### **Intro & Misc.**

Things are rocking and rolling across all fronts. We are ramping up to our annual elections cycle, the Hayes Forum is almost here, and spring is (thankfully) around the corner. I will admittedly be very all over the place the next few weeks as many things are moving at once from my office, in addition to having it become more and more real I'm stepping down from this role and having many sad feelings on that front.

### **Internal Operations Updates**

Here's your monthly reminder of the elections timeline over the next several months.....

#### **February**

- 2.14.25 - Officer noms/apps open at CGS General Body Meeting
- 2.28.25 - Officer noms/apps close at 11:59pm

#### **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**

- 4.4.25 - 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

### **Hayes39 - #35DaysTilHayes**

As of my writing of this report we are just a few weeks out from Hayes 39. Aside from reminding you to make sure you all set aside time to come see your friends, colleagues, and strangers to learn about new work and support graduate research, I have a few short items.

We are still seeking volunteers for Hayes for day-of assistance, as well as folks to help us with setup and prep work the afternoon/evening before. Please reach out to [cgs-hayesforum@osu.edu](mailto:cgs-hayesforum@osu.edu) if you are interested in volunteering in any way (and have anyone else you know who is interested do the same!).

**As always, folks should never hesitate to reach out to me via email (conner.280) or text (sorry not putting this on the public record) if they have questions or concerns.**



Cheers y'all!  
Katie Conner, MA  
VP of the Council of Graduate Students  
PhD Student, Linguistics



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Jon Fritz, Treasurer & Ray Travel Award Committee Chair  
DATE: February 14, 2025  
RE: Treasurer's Report

We survived the cold, post-celebration slump that was January, so big congrats on all of you for doing that!! Here's to a cute, cold, but sunny February!

I apologize for my absence at this meeting, I am currently in Los Angeles, CA attending the Biophysical Society conference. If you had questions or concerns you would've like addressed at the meeting, please email me at [fritz.288@buckeyemail.osu.edu](mailto:fritz.288@buckeyemail.osu.edu) and I will respond to you shortly after I'm back in town on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Treasurer Updates:**

No new updates at this time! Business as usual: money being spent, folks holding events, things happening.

**Ray Travel Award (RTA) Updates:**

1. The judging for the final funding period for the RTA is underway and is expected to end next week; thanks to those on the RTA committee and volunteer judges in helping to make this possible.
2. I've added a new tab on the RTA section of the website titled, 'Tips for a Complete & Competitive RTA Application.' (<https://cgs.osu.edu/funding-awards-resources/ray-travel-award/tips-for-a-complete-competitive-rta-application>) Constructive feedback on its organization and content are appreciated. My goal was to create a space for applicants to review information regarding the award's competitiveness, judging process, and some general advice on applying.

Yours,  
Fritz.288



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Kaz Gary, Secretary  
DATE: February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
RE: Secretary's Report

Hi all,

**As Secretary:** Nothing to report!

**As CDG Chair:** Applications for Funding Period 4 closed on February 1<sup>st</sup>! If you're a CDG judge, expect an e-mail from me this week with instructions! If you want to be a judge: **please e-mail me ASAP with your interest.** Help grad students like you get the funding they need

Hang in there!  
Kaz Gary.102



## Committee Chair Reports

TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Sohan Daniel, CGS Academic Affairs, Chair  
DATE: February 7th, 2025  
RE: Academic Affairs Chair Report

Howdy,

Academic Affairs hosted our regularly scheduled monthly meeting in January. At the meeting we discussed future steps and meetings following the passage of the academic technology resolution which included preparing for a university senate meeting and meeting with the interim Chief Information Officer, Ginger Breon. Please reach out if you would like to attend our next meeting.

In Closing,

Daniel.508



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Holly Engel and Nick Booker, Arts and Culture Co-Chairs  
DATE: February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
RE: Arts and Culture Chair's Report

Why is it still cold y'all,

Get excited for folklore, music, bonsais, and more this spring! We will be tabling and doing some of the coordinating work for the 2025 Shared Traditions folklore and ethnomusicology conference happening 2/28 and 3/1 here on the OSU campus. Register at [cfs.osu.edu/events](https://cfs.osu.edu/events)! We have also submitted revised materials for our bonsai event, which is now scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 PM in Hagerty Hall, room 198! There will be free food, free trees, and good times for all. Tell your constituents!

We're still working on ongoing projects related to our pathfinder documents and surveys. As always, email Holly or Nick with ideas for collaboration and/or attend our next meeting, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 12:30–1:30 PM in Hagerty 206 and on Zoom.

In solidarity,

Engel.210 and Booker.200



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Priya Jana, Diversity & Inclusion Chair  
DATE: February 9, 2025  
RE: Diversity & Inclusion Chair's Report

Dear all,

There are no updates regarding Diversity and Inclusion at this time. If you are interested in joining our committee as we plan a Diversity and Inclusion Speaker Series event, please contact me!

All the best,

Jana.20



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Madeline Carrola and Charlie Mace, Government Affairs Co-Chairs  
DATE: February 14, 2025  
RE: Government Affairs Chair's Report

Hello,

The Government Affairs Committee welcomes Charlie Mace as Co-Chair!  
The Committee met on January 30, 2025. We discussed SB1, HB183, and our newsletter.

Our next meeting will be February 25, 2025. Please reach out to Madeline and Charlie if you are interested in joining.

Sincerely,

Carrola.1 and Mace.103





TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Peter Carrera, Graduate Caucus Chair  
DATE: February 8, 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)**

The meeting for January was about the Financial Forecast for the next AY. There are worries in the fact that there will be more income, but less programed investment and more cash dependent. This could be problematic for some units that need a budget increase. Also, SOFS had a meeting where we discuss the LYFT SafeRide Program (3M\$) requested for next term. This is important since it appears that the LYFT program is part of a bigger Safety Program that was predetermined as “safety” for the student body. Is this s a great way of spending around 1M\$?

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

The committee discussed the independent petition and are going to include it as a datapoint in our report, among several other additional pieces of information. Subcommittee met to discuss what data we are going to request from the Graduate School, HR and other entities ... set deadlines to compile, sort, and present data analysis to the full committee.

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

Dean Renga presented on DEI efforts supporting women in faculty positions and the Women's Place.

Dean Horn cancelled their presentation to Diversity in January, and then cancelled again in February.

Wendy Smooth lost her position as Vice Provost for Inclusive Excellence, no information on if/how her many projects would be continued/delegated.

Members concerned how SB1 would impact DEIJ on campus, and whether Senate Diversity would even continue to exist.

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

The Council on Student Affairs is continuing work on the Student Activity Fee Review. Changes from last semester's Code of Student Conduct update are being presented to Faculty Council on 2/6. We heard a presentation from the Center for the Study for Student Life on Monday 2/3.

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



Had and Q&A with CIO and head of ERIK – questions we asked about how we can better improve our guidelines to prevent issues where faculty producing research might conflict with outside business interests and the requirements of where/when/how OSU makes itself part of the equation when IP, Patents and copyright issues arise.

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

Recently we approved changes to the MS/PhD program in Civil Engineering. We also renewed the future collaboration between OSU-Shangdong University in their integrated program. I have joined the Coordinating Committee for our re-accreditation, which will be occurring in 2027. This is tentatively a two-year role, which would benefit by linking CAA-OAA-CGS all at the same time. We also have engaged in talks about the role of AI in the classroom and research settings. We plan to continue these talks, with an interest in OAA hosting some sort of summit on the matter. This would engage stakeholders from across the university collaboratively as faculty and students continue to find difficult nuances associated with AI (particularly generative). The role of DEI in academic affairs will be something I would like to press on behalf of the CGS constituency, in lights of attacks from many directions on its utility.

**Council on Academic Freedom & Responsibility – Jorge E. Clavo Abbass (clavoabbass.1)**

No meeting.

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

Meeting for 2/7 cancelled, rescheduled for 2/14.

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

No December Meeting, but January meeting we visit the Library Special Collections. The discussion and proposals around were based on more Archive Research Courses needed, and ways of engaging the University Archives with students. A question was put in discussion, what are students' expectations from the archives and the library work?

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

URC had a short meeting on December 6, 2024, where the only topic of discussion directly relating to graduate students was an update on the dates and timeline of the transition from BuckIRB to Huron. This update boiled down to “the process is moving along according to plan”. URC met January 10, 2025, and this meeting was headlined by a presentation from interim CIO Ginger Breon about the ongoing work of the Software Purchasing Working Group she leads. This working group is composed of staff from OTDI, the Office of Business and Finance, the Office of Institutional Equity, Legal Affairs, WMC, and the separate technology service organizations in the colleges of Engineering, Business, EHE, ASC, and FAES. This group is charged with identifying opportunities for consolidating institutional software expenditures to reduce overall costs. Initial suggestions already in the process of implementation are simplifying the software requesting process with a universal form in Workday, adopting a “fast pass” process for low-risk requests, and identifying standard language to simplify contract negotiations for low-risk requests. Individual products that have been reviewed include Red Hat, Oracle, and



Crashplan, which they concluded would cost the university less in total with some institutional support for enterprise licensing than the current spending for separate college/unit licensing. Contact me for specific financial figures. The next URC meeting will be February 7, and the agenda for that meeting has not yet been published. ERIK is aware that researchers are reporting trouble accessing the CITI RCR training (required to submit or join IRB protocols) as a result of recent federal executive orders, so anyone encountering such problems should contact [rcrinfo@osu.edu](mailto:rcrinfo@osu.edu) for assistance.

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

CAT met on December 2, 2024, and the meeting was mostly spent discussing finer points of proposed bylaws since the committee somehow has gotten this far without ever adopting any standing bylaws since its inception a couple of years ago. As I mentioned aloud at the December CGS general body meeting, the prospect of OSU discontinuing its institutional subscription to Zoom came from drastic cost increases (\$200,000 to \$6,000,000), but it has since been found that most of this increase was from especially high increases in the cost of webinar licenses, which are not required for the standard mode of use that people need for small meetings or even online lectures. Given the low usage of these webinar licenses and their exorbitant cost, OSU will be greatly reducing the number in the upcoming renewed contract with Zoom, but they will not be totally discontinued. This change brings the cost down to about \$600,000, which the university has decided to go along with. This decision was partially driven by the universal pushback from students, faculty, and staff when they heard Teams would be totally replacing Zoom, but there was also an official determination by OTDI staff that Teams is not sufficient for OSU's total needs in its current form. CAT met on January 13, 2025, and this meeting mostly was a discussion about the needs of OSU Online and ways to expand the reach of online programs at OSU. CGS Academic Affairs Chair Sohan Daniel presented the resolution passed by the body at the December general body meeting on the lack of communication leading up to recent university technology policy changes, highlighting the need for communication with those affected by policy changes before policies are changed. The next CAT meeting will be February 10, and the agenda for that meeting has not yet been published. OTDI aims to finalize a contract for Overleaf access by the end of March.

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

No update.

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

During the meeting, it was discussed what was on the federal and state docket for the upcoming legislations with the inauguration and establishment of the new administration. We also discussed how to enhance the in and out communication between this committee, the Government Affairs office, and senate. More information in the upcoming meeting.

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

The committee met in December to discuss the priorities for the year. Most revolve around transportation, framework 3.0, and ecosystem services/university outdoor spaces



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

No update relevant to graduate students.

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

Resolution on OTDI Policy was brought before Steering and voted on to go to the Senate Floor. We did not discuss the Chase Center heavily, beyond how best to present it to the Senate Floor procedurally.

***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: February 9, 2025  
RE: Graduate Student Affairs Chair's Report

Dear all,

The committee is hard at work planning and scheduling Graduate Student Appreciation Week on April 7<sup>th</sup> to April 11<sup>th</sup>. Please remind your departments/programs that this is a national effort to celebrate graduate students, and as such, they should participate in some way!

So far, GSAW's Events are as follows:

- ALL WEEK: CGS Giveaways 9AM-1PM, Grad School Lobby (2<sup>nd</sup> floor of University Hall)
  - The giveaways are starting to be delivered! More details to come!
- Monday, April 7: Donuts with the Deans, 9AM-11AM, Grad School Lobby (2<sup>nd</sup> floor of University Hall)
  - Come meet the Deans across OSU! There will be plenty of Buckeye donuts and coffee to consume while asking those Deans questions regarding advocacy, career paths, and more.
- Wednesday: Game Night, 6PM-9PM, KBK Suite (Ohio Union)
  - Housing within the Keith B. Key Center for Student Leadership and Service, we welcome grads to come have some Woody's Tavern Pizza and play boardgames offered by the KBK Resource Room. The CGS Office is also housed in this space, so please come by and see where CGS is housed!
- Friday: Instructional Kitchen, 5PM-7:30PM, Ohio Union
  - As we've done in years prior, we have booked an Instructional Kitchen for GSAW! More details to come!

All the best,

Koratagerenagaraj.1



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Deb Pathak & Luke Van Niel, Health, Wellness, and Safety Chair  
DATE: February 7, 2025  
RE: Health, Wellness, and Safety Chair's Report

Hi everyone,

Health, Wellness, and Safety continues to support the progress of the Access Resolution as it makes its way through OSU Senate leadership, scheduled to appear on the Senate floor on February 27<sup>th</sup>.

In the mean time, we continue to discuss new advocacy avenues amidst the chaos and uncertainty of changing federal and state policies.

Hang in there, take care, and please reach out to HWS if you are looking for support.

Sincerely,  
Pathak.89 & Vanniel.5



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

Hello Everyone,

This report summarizes the discussions and action items from the Housing and Family Affairs (HAFA) Committee meeting held on January 17, 2025.

**Food truck partnership with OCCSE:**

We were joined by 3 members of OCCSE to discuss the potential partnership for a food truck event on April 11 4-6 pm. We are finalizing the details of this collaboration.

**Representation at Housing Expo:**

We have signed up for a CGS table at the upcoming housing expo organized by OCCSE on March 25, 11am-3pm.

**Off-Campus Living Guide Review:**

Our team has reviewed and shared feedback with OCCSE for the Off-campus living guide.

**OCCSE's upcoming events:**

Below are OCCSE's upcoming events. Thank you for including them in your newsletter!

**Roommate Fair**

- February 20th
  - 4-5:30 p.m.
  - Alonso Family Room in the Center for Belonging and Social Change, 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Ohio Union
  - Registration is appreciated but not required. You can register by using the [roommate fair registration form](#).

**Commuter Meet-Up**

- February 11th
  - 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
  - Commuter Lounge on the third floor of the Ohio Union (1739 N High St.)
  - Come celebrate your Buckeye Love with crafts, snacks, drinks and more!

**Off-Campus Living 2.0 Session – focuses on steps to take after finding off-campus housing and signing a lease.**

- February 17th (In-person)
  - 12 p.m.
  - Suzanne M. Scharer Room on the third floor of the Ohio Union (1739 N High St.)
  - Register using this [registration link](#)!



### **Housing Consultations**

- Virtual and in-person appointments available. Use the off-campus housing consultation [request link](#) to schedule your appointment.

Be kind and caring,  
Arshad.32





TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Kaustubh Kumar, International Student Affairs Chair  
DATE: February 9, 2025  
RE: International Student Affairs Chair's Report

Hi Everyone,

ISAC is working on following items:

- Planning and efforts for our two events- 'tax information' and 'share your story'- are ongoing.
- We aim to hold two online tax info sessions- one at end of March and another at beginning of April 2025. Some tax experts are being approached for addressing the sessions. Final schedule will be shared in next meeting and through other channels.
- 'Share your story' event will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025 from 6-8 pm at Ohio Union (Great Hall Meeting Room 2). One of the guest speakers has agreed for the event. We are in process to search and finalize another guest speaker. Final list of speakers will be shared in next meeting and through other channels.
- Working in coordination with HAFA committee regarding student housing sessions for incoming international students.

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: February 14, 2025  
RE: Membership Wellness Chair's Report

Hi everyone,

### **Current Announcements**

Look at the February Digital Wellness Bingo Challenge that is attached to the Delegate Packet email. Use this as a way to jumpstart your wellness or continue your momentum! Next month will focus on Financial Wellness.

MW will be hosting a financial wellness event Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 4p-5p in the Senate Chamber of the Ohio Union to provide graduate students with foundational knowledge to establish good financial practices. Light refreshments will be available. Virtual attendance is also an option. Please [RSVP here](https://forms.office.com/r/z5jHpRhxBE) (<https://forms.office.com/r/z5jHpRhxBE>)

### **Please contact me if you can help with setup and check-in for the Financial Wellness Event**

There is still plenty of room to attend the CGS Planetarium Trip on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 5p. We will be watching a show put together by our own Kaz Gary. The Planetarium can only hold 63 people. The seats will be given to those who RSVP first. Please [RSVP here](https://forms.office.com/r/dYh4tJ8uxc) (<https://forms.office.com/r/dYh4tJ8uxc>)

### **Meeting History**

MW met virtually on January 19<sup>th</sup>. We finalized the Bingos for the remainder of the academic year.

If you have not already, join the [24-25 CGS WhatsApp](#). [Use this to connect with other CGSers and find common interests.](#)

### **Future Directions**

MW has not scheduled any meetings for the remainder of the CGS year. We will meet as need arises. 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. The shoutout form will be monitored up until 10 pm the night before General Delegate Meetings. If you submit a shoutout after this time, it will be included in the next month's group of shoutouts. Shoutouts submitted after February 6<sup>th</sup> will not be included in the slide deck sent out before the February Meeting.

Thank you!

Robinson.2283



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Bill Wang, Research and Data Operations Chair  
DATE: February 9, 2025  
RE: Research and Data Operations Chair's Report

Hi everyone,

RDO shared the Overleaf demand survey with Lauren from OTDI.

Here is the email from Lauren, who is also the Chair of Senate's Committee on Academic Technology:

*I had the chance to meet with Dave Renner yesterday on Overleaf. The Office of Technology and Digital Innovation is actively working with our Sales Representative from Overleaf to purchase premium licenses on behalf of Ohio State. The set-up would allow users to purchase the license from the OTDI and/or allow Colleges to purchase licenses on behalf of users as well. (Similar to how Adobe CC was implemented at the start of the academic year.) At this time central funding has not been identified or approved that would cover the cost of the Overleaf Licenses on behalf of certain populations.*

*The goal is to have the contract finalized by the end of March and I will share more information with you once it is available.*

Best,

Wang.13945



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Brittany Multer Hopkins, Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility Committee (SERC) Chair  
DATE: February 14, 2025  
RE: SERC Chair's Report

Hello fellow football National Champions!

### **Upcoming events:**

SERC is continuing preparation for our event in April as part of Time for Change Week (see flyer). Please share the event far and wide and encourage your constituents to apply to present! We'd love to showcase the great work graduate students are conducting around sustainability.

### **Sustainability tip:**

Your February sustainability tip is all about food!

Food systems are responsible for a third of global greenhouse gas emissions<sup>1</sup>. Here are a few individual actions you can take to reduce your personal impact:

1. Eat more fruits & vegetables. Plant-based foods tend to have a lower footprint than animal-based foods<sup>2,3</sup>
2. Eat less red meat. Cattle farming produces methane gas and requires a lot of water and land (which is often created by chopping down forests...)<sup>4</sup>
3. Cut down on food waste. Plan meals, get creative with leftovers, and compost<sup>5</sup> (get a free composting bin from OSU and compost on campus!!)

### **Other opportunities:**

Engie Axiom Curricular Practical Training (EA-CPT) - \$5000 current student scholarship; awarded directly to current students working in areas of energy or sustainability who do not have access to year-round employment or funding opportunities. Funding is only available when students do not have access to alternate funding (e.g. not on appointment).

<https://gradsch.osu.edu/faculty-and-staff/fellowship-program/engie-axiom-graduate-fellowship-and-scholarship-guidelines>

Stay strong, more sunlight is coming!!

Brittany

Multer Hopkins.1

### **Sources:**

Crippa, M., Solazzo, E., Guizzardi, D., Monforti-Ferrario, F., Tubiello, F. N., & Leip, A. (2021). Food systems are responsible for a third of global anthropogenic GHG emissions. *NATURE FOOD*, 2(3), 198–209. <https://doi-org.proxy.lib.ohio-state.edu/10.1038/s43016-021-00225-9>  
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