



**COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

# Delegate Packet

June 6th, 2025

Location: Zoom



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# Agenda

General Delegate Meeting | 06 JUNE 2025 | Zoom

1. **CALL TO ORDER** 3:30 PM
  - 1.1. “To effectively advocate and program to ensure that The Ohio State University graduate student experience is the best it can be.”
2. **ROLL CALL** [5 min]
3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** [5 min]
4. **OFFICER REPORTS** [20 min]
  - 4.1. President’s Report – Sabrina Durso.19
  - 4.2. Vice President’s Report – Anna Zaitseva.1
  - 4.3. Treasurer’s Report – Adam Tjoelker.4
  - 4.4. Secretary’s Report – Kaz Gary.102
  - 4.5. Parliamentarian’s Report – Andy Vance.128
  - 4.6. Chief of Staff’s Report – Blue Lerner.111
5. **COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS** [15 min]
  - 5.1. Academic Affairs – Vacant
  - 5.2. Arts and Culture – Holly Engel.210
  - 5.3. Diversity & Inclusion – Vacant
  - 5.4. Government Affairs– Charlie Mace.103
  - 5.5. Graduate Caucus – Peter Carrera.55
  - 5.6. Graduate Compensation and Benefits – Bryan Perez Soto (PerezSoto.2)
  - 5.7. Graduate Student Affairs – Tinu Oduloye.1
  - 5.8. Health, Wellness, and Safety – Deb Pathak.89 & Luke Van Niel (Vanniel.5)
  - 5.9. Housing and Family Affairs – Lauren Levesque.31
  - 5.10. International Student Affairs – Kaustubh Kumar.889 & Ashutosh Soni.117
  - 5.11. Membership Wellness – Aryn Robinson.2283 & Katie Conner.280
  - 5.12. Research and Data Operations – Bill Wang.13945 & Shiddharta Ramprakash.4
  - 5.13. Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility – Casey Ortbahn.1 & Katelyn Amstutz.87
6. **OLD BUSINESS** [15 min]
  - 6.1 CGS Budget Approval Voting Session
7. **NEW BUSINESS** [0 min]
8. **SPECIAL ORDER ITEM** [30 min]
  - 8.1. Delegate Issues and Concerns
9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** [5 min]
  - 9.1 Next General Delegate Meeting: Friday, July 11 at 3:30pm (Zoom)
10. **ADJOURNMENT** 5:05 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 | 2 MAY 2025 | Senate Chambers, Ohio Union and via Zoom

## 1. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

3:00 PM

- 1.1. **Campus Connections:** Panel from the Enterprise for Research, Knowledge and Innovation (ERIK)
  1. **Dean Mary Stromberger**, Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School & ERIK
  2. **Dawn Larzelere**, Associate Vice President for ERIK Operations
  3. **Loren Wold**, Interim Sr. Associate Vice President of ERIK
  4. **Peter Mohler**, Executive Vice President of ERIK

## 2. CALL TO ORDER

4:05 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

[5 min]

- **Elton.21:** Page 13 in Delegate Issues and Concerns has a typo in my line.
- **Durso.19:** Please see Kaz after the meeting and we can get that sorted out for you.
- Motion to approve by **Allen.2334**
- Seconded by **Rogers.1843**
- Motion passes

## 5. OFFICER REPORTS

4:06 PM

- 5.1. President's Report – Sabrina Durso.19
  - 5.1.1) Council of Graduate Students Academic Year 2024-25 By the Numbers:
    - 2 Kickbutt Resolutions Passed
    - 20 Wonderful Community Building Events Hosted
    - 94 CGS Members Recruited
    - 91 Professional Development Grants Awarded
    - Over 100 folks Attended CGS Meetings
    - 201 Grad & Post-Docs with Research Presented
  - 5.1.2) Over the past month:
    - Exec: Welcome Casey and Katelyn as SERC co-chairs! Looking for Academic Affairs Chair!
    - Summer Meeting Dates Approved: June 6 and July 11
    - Grad School: NO Termination of Payroll Deduction Service, but WilceCare will no longer be provided (more providers accepted, not enough usage)
    - Senate: Constituent Updates, where I shared concerns regarding Shared Governance, Shared Values, International Student Safety, and Attacks on Academic Freedom & SLS came
    - THE Buckeye Commons: One stop shop for student success, connection, networking, engagement, and more
    - SEI Transition: Moving to Survey of Student Learn Experience
    - New survey is more qualitative, asking questions about instructor availability and helpfulness, feedback, teaching methods, engagement, interest in teaching, and classroom environments
  - 5.1.3) Working on:

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- GradSERU: Closes on May 10! Get Your Folks to FILL IT OUT!
- Adobe and Microsoft 365: Met with SVP of Admin and Planning to look at ways to decrease cost with little community impact
- International Students: Trump, for now, restoring statuses of numerous international students; hoping to build community over the summer via OIA
- Sunrise Conversations: MONDAY, MAY 19th from 2-4PM on ZOOM! PLEASE come and show your support as profs around OSU share how they navigate difficult conversations with students

5.2. Vice President's Report – Anna Zaitseva.1 alongside Outgoing VP Katie Conner.280

5.2.1) Transitioning Information

- We're finishing transitioning this week and next week!
- Pay attention to email so as Anna emails you with info, committee stuff, etc., you respond in a timely manner
- Delegate elections wrapped up, all the notifications are trickling out
  - 60-70 seats potentially from spring elections
  - Hoping for 10+ more seated over the summer through further recruitment
  - Will seat folks "early" in seats with graduating or resigning delegates to mitigate representation gaps.....

5.2.2) CGS Summer 2025 Quorum and Graduation Survey

- GO.OSU.EDU/cgs\_quorum\_25
- QR code in the May Delegate Meeting Slides!

5.3. Treasurer's Report – Adam Tjoelker.4 alongside Outgoing Treasurer Jon Fritz.288

5.3.1) Transitioning information

- Jon has been working with me over the past month to get me trained on being Treasurer and managing the Ray Travel Award

5.3.2) Budget for FY 26

- Budget for FY26: In addition to the budget listening session during today's delegate meeting, I plan to have an additional session for those interested on May 9th, 10am-11am, via Zoom. (See the delegate packet for more info).
- Please reach out to me with any feedback about the proposed FY26 budget before our June delegate meeting where we will be voting on the new budget.
- **Connor.280:** Can I reach you via email in the coming weeks with questions on the budget?
- **Tjoelker.4:** Yes of course.
- **Durso.19:** Did any of the committees have a budget change?
- **Tjoelker.4:** Academic Affairs went down, Arts and Culture went down, DEI went down to minimum, Org and Election went down to 0 because it's paid by other things in our budget.
- Please see the May Delegate Packet for the budget shown in this month's meeting.

5.3.3) Ray Travel Award

- The May 1st deadline for applications just closed. Please reach out if you would like to serve as a judge.
- Jon and I have been working to address international travel concerns in cases where the RTA has been awarded to students who will no longer be travelling.

5.4. Secretary's Report – Kaz Gary.102

5.4.1) As secretary:

- Nothing to report!

5.4.2) As CDG chair:

- Applications for FP 1 **just closed on May 1st!**
- If you'd like to serve as a judge, please email at [gary.102@osu.edu](mailto:gary.102@osu.edu) ASAP!

## 6. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

[25 min]

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

6.1.1) Pathfinder Document and Next Year



- Keep on pathfinding Arts & Culture over the summer!
- QR code for Pathfinder document is in May's Delegate Meeting slides
- Join us in looking ahead to AY25–26! Nick is leaving! Holly is staying!

6.2. Government Affairs– Madeline Carrola.1 & Charles Mace.103

6.2.1) Newsletter

- Government Affairs met on April 17, 2025. We planned for our next newsletter and talked through some potential project ideas and collaborations for the next academic year.

6.3. Graduate Caucus – Peter Carrera.55

6.3.1) Committee Summaries

- All Senate Committees are working on their final report. Some are working over the summer as well. Please look at the full report from each senate committee. Some highlights:
  - Diversity Committee heard from the Senate Secretary that the board of Trustees doesn't have direction on the role of Senate Diversity and that legal affairs is checking the required extent of OSU's compliance requirements regarding Senate Diversity. The committee is considering a name change in preparation for this.
  - Committee on Academic Technology: the university is working on university-wide searchable software directory ([softwaredirectory.osu.edu](https://softwaredirectory.osu.edu)) and digital storage service directory ([storagedirectory.osu.edu](https://storagedirectory.osu.edu)). OSU is retiring the Virtual Desktop for a new tool. Mobility connect is being upgraded to allow students to hear live speech through the largest lecture halls can continue to smaller lecture halls).
  - Council on Academic Affairs has reviewed the College Credit Plus program, heard an update on how SB1 will influence Academic Affairs, and discussed improvements to COAM.

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

6.4.1) GSAW 2025: What a Week!

- April 7 – 11 2025
- Event Highlights:
  - **600+** giveaways on Monday — total footfall **2500+** across the week!
  - **Donuts with the Deans:** 300+ students, 6-8 Deans (and LOTS of donuts!)
  - **Instructional Kitchen:** Full house! 30 grads cooking up fun
  - **Game Night & Open House:** 175+ grads, endless pizza, games, and laughs
  - **Special Thanks:**  
Huge shoutout to Shekhar, Chris, Tanay, Priya, Ashutosh, Smita, Sudeshna, and all the volunteers! Also, thanks to Sabrina and Katie for their amazing support!

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

6.5.1) CGS Accessibility Stakeholders' Symposium & Thank You

- Health, Wellness, and Safety is finalizing the timeline for the CGS Accessibility Stakeholders' Symposium in October 2025. If you would like to stay involved with CGS over the summer, we will be active as a committee to plan the Symposium! Reach out to Luke Vanniel.5 or Deb Pathak.19 if you'd like to help with this year's symposium.
- A HUGE thank you to our wonderful committee members:
  - Sam Chrin, for your constant presence and awesome ideas
  - Blue Lerner, for your versatility and prolonged support
  - Jasmine May, for your imagination and initiative
  - Yoon-Jae Yi, for your dedication and creativity
  - Nile Najmi, for giving us your time before you graduated (congrats!!)
  - Tinu Oduloye, for your advocacy and support



6.6. Housing and Family Affairs – Lauren Levesque.31

6.6.1) OCCSE Food Truck

- Friday, April 11th 4-6pm
- Represented CGS and HAFA
- Record attendance of 359 people
- 63 of were graduate and professional students.
- Big shout out to Anna Zaisteva and Zeynep Ozkaynak

6.6.2) Graduate and Professional Student Off-Campus Living Session

- OCCSE hosting a virtual learning session focused on steps and resources to find housing as a graduate/professional student.
- Held on May 9th, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

6.7. International Student Affairs – Kaustubh Kumar.889

6.7.1) Last Committee Meeting

- Committee met on 29th April.
- Following items were discussed:
  - Need of ISAC co-chair position.
  - Revisiting ISAC events calendar, and steps to improve their planning and implementation next academic year.
  - Fostering more coordination with other CGS committees.
  - Promoting more international student participation in CGS and related events.

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

6.8.1) Sustainability Tip for May: Create a Greener Garden

- May brings flowers, sunshine, and a **perfect chance to grow more sustainably!** Here are some simple tips to make your summer gardening more sustainable:
  - **Water early or late:** water your garden in the morning or evening to reduce evaporation and help plants absorb more moisture.
  - **Use kitchen scraps in the garden:** banana peels, coffee grounds, and eggshells can go straight into garden beds or compost—free fertilizer!
  - **Grow what you'll eat:** stick to herbs, veggies, or fruits you actually use. It will both reduce waste and save money on groceries.
  - **Reuse containers:** yogurt cups or cans can be turned into plant pots—just poke drainage holes.

6.9. Membership Wellness – Aryn Robinson.2283

6.9.1) May Creative Wellness Bingo

- Find attached to the Delegate Packet email

6.9.2) CGS Cookbook

- Check out some **amazing** recipes from you fellow CGSers
- Find attached to the Delegate Packet email

6.9.3) Thank you and CGS Committee Member Awards

- Thank you to my committee: Dhairya, Tyreek, Corinne, Reilly, and Vaasavi

7. OLD BUSINESS

[0 min]

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Senator Elections

4:45 PM

8.2.1) Election - Senator

- *Candidate: Andy Vance.210*
  - Parliamentarian for CGS, Executive Director for Poultry Science Association (PSA)
  - Studying Organizational Leadership and Effectiveness





- **Q+A:**
  - **Elton.21:** Which committee are you interested in serving on?
  - **Vance.210:** My interest is doing what's best for CGS and wherever my talents could best serve graduate students. I think it's whatever is best for the leadership.
  - **Mace.103:** There a lot of ways to advocate for graduate students and CGS, why Senate?
  - **Vance.210:** I'm an odd duck and not a traditional student. I work for a professional scientific society. My research interests drove me here like organization effectiveness and connection between leadership effectiveness. I work with graduate students on my daily job, so I wanted to meet and understand the graduate student community on campus.
  - **Nair.155:** What's your favorite ice cream flavor?
  - **Vance.210:** I love Graeters. Black raspberry chip is the best flavor and I also like brown butter bourbon pecan.
  - **Teafatiller.1:** You're going to be going into a room with a lot of people who want to cut a lot of things. How are you going to push back against these?
  - **Vance.210:** Public funding for research is critically important and so is academic independence. My driving belief is in the land grant University system. Our competitiveness of our society is based on the success of the land grant University system. Foundational to that success is public support for research. We've got to go back to first principles. Anything outside of that box is a non-start and I want to emphasize how we can work together to stick to those core principles.
  - **Khawiwada.20:** I'm a student member of PSA. How do you think you can contribute uniquely to senate with the level of professional experience you have?
  - **Vance.210:** My day job provides me a very broad exposure and expertise, so I think that's useful. I'm an old, independently funded student so I'm not afraid of getting my funding cut and pissing people off.
  - **Robinson.2283:** You have a full time job and a life, how are you going to prioritize Senate?
  - **Vance.210:** I've got a good team of professionals in PSA. Just have to prioritize things and manage my calendar., if I can survive this semester with my course load, I can do anything.
  - **Soni.117** motions to end early
  - **Oduloye.1** seconds
  - Motion pass

## 9. SPECIAL ORDER ITEM

4:58 PM

### 9.1 Delegate Issues and Concerns

#### 9.1.1) Executive Session

- **Booker.200** moves to enter an executive session
- Seconded by **Chisam.1**
- Motion passes

#### 9.1.2) Update on Library Platform Transfer

- **GuzmanCamacho.1:** Be aware that the library LMS migration system started, and it is scheduled to go live on June 25<sup>th</sup>. So if something seems weird on the library platform in the next couple of months, it's because they're migrating their platforms. Be sure to ask your department chairs and faculty to ask for workshops on how to use the new platform, because it will be different than what we traditionally use. Hopefully, the implementation will not be chaotic.
- Motion by **Chisam.1** to end Delegate Issues and Concerns early
- Seconded by **Carrola.1**



- Motion passes

#### 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

10.1 Next General Delegate Meeting: Friday, June 6 at 3:30pm (Zoom Only), July Delegate Meeting: July 11th at 3:30PM EST via Zoom!

10.2 *Andy Vance.210* elected as Senator

#### 11. ADJOURNMENT

5:23 PM



## Officer Reports

TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Sabrina Durso, President  
DATE: May 30, 2025  
RE: President's Report

Dear hopefully resting CGSers,

I hope you are all doing well and taking care of yourselves this summer. Whether you are taking the summer off, completing coursework, in the field, presenting at conferences, prepping for candidacy (like me), or working on that Dissertation, please know CGS is always here for you! Anna and I work throughout the summer to ensure graduate students continue to be taken care of at all levels of the university, while the rest of the executive committee is preparing for the upcoming academic year.

### Over the Past Month:

- **Exec:** Exec has been busy this month! After a quite few chairs stepped down (Thank You Sohan Daniels, Nick Booker, Priya Jana, Madeline Carrola, Peter Carrera, Chiranth Koratagere Nagaraj, Brittany Multer Hopkins, and Brian Rocha for your wonderful service to CGS), I have been onboarding new chairs to fill their BIG shoes! I've also made sure to meet with every committee chair so they feel prepared for the upcoming year.
  - Welcome Tinu Oduloye.1 (Graduate Student Affairs), Ashutosh Soni.117 (International Student Affairs), and Katie Conner.280 (Membership Wellness) to the Exec Committee!
  - Additionally, Exec has welcomed the Graduate Compensation and Benefits Chair to our team. My hope is that Bryan Perez Soto.2 can help ensure CGS is update on their efforts throughout the year.
  - I will be taking on a Chief of Staff to help me out this upcoming academic year: Welcome Blue Lerner.111! Please make sure to CC Blue on all emails to me or the CGS inbox.
  - Approved CGS Meeting Dates for the Academic Year (see Delegate Packet).
- **Graduate School:**
  - Dean Stromberger and the Enterprise for Research Innovation and Knowledge (ERIK) are looking at creating bridge funding for those who are having grants pulled by utilizing unspent fellowships and development funds.
  - The Offie of International Affairs and Office of Institutional Research and Planning came to update the Grad School on the International Graduate Student Experience. Ohio State hosts 2,656 international graduate students, comprising 23% of the total graduate student population. The report found that international students were less likely to seek treatment for mental health concerns. Additionally, more than 48% of international students expressed concerns about affording housing, and nearly 20% reported being unable to pay housing fees on time. One-third of respondents worried about running out of food before their next paycheck. Lastly, roughly 1 in 5 students from China reported experiencing unwelcoming behaviors, more than the average for other nationalities. Over 60% of international students who experienced



hostile or offensive behaviors reported increased concerns about their personal safety, 59% indicated a negative impact on their mental health, and 41% stated that their relationships with U.S. peers were affected. OIA is hoping to enhance mental health support, address financial concerns (year round funding), create an inclusive campus environment, and improve academic and career support (GTA training, global perspective in GLOS, and provide better resources).

- **Student Life:** Anna and I were onboarded alongside the incoming President and Vice President for the Inter-Professional Council (IPC). The Undergraduate Student Government (USG) still does not have an elected President and Vice President for the upcoming academic year; last year's Vice President, Justin Robinson, is standing in as the current President.
- **Sunrise Conversations:** HUGE SUCCESS WITH NEARLY 45 ATTENDEES! Invited faculty spoke on their experiences with student-centered teaching and urged GTAs to remember that they can go to their faculty and/or advisors any time they have concerns with teaching. We are here to learn how to support students—we are not expected to be experts. I look forward to hosting similar events in the Fall. **IF YOU HAVE A PROFESSOR WHO IS WONDERFUL AT SUPPORTING STUDENTS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW!**

#### **Working On:**

- **Delegate Issues:**
  - Working with Graduate Ecology & Evolution Students (GEES) and Nursing PhDs to increase their programs' minimum stipend. GEES offers more than minimum to stay competitive, while Nursing had a HUGE (nearly 1/3 of their income) increase in program fees and hope to receive an increase to cover these fees.
  - Some departments are taking issues with anything from outside of their department being shared on their Listservs. CGS is looking at ways to mitigate these issues and will bring a solution to Delegate Orientation. If this is happening in your department, please contact me!
- Adam and I have been looking at ways to spend the Global Gateway and Engaged Scholar Funds that have sat unspent on the CGS Budget for years. Currently, we are attempting to use the nearly \$5K from Global Gateway to host a Welcome Event alongside the Office of International Affairs. And we'd like to split the remaining roughly \$15K from Engaged Scholar between CDG and Ray, as the fund was once used to help students present their research. Adam is working with the Business Office to understand the feasibility of these options.

Make sure to rest this summer,

Sabrina Durso.19



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Anna Zaitseva, Vice President  
DATE: June 6, 2025  
RE: Vice President's Report

Greetings, everyone,

Happy summer! Thank you all for being patient and gracious with your time and advice as I've been transitioning into the position. I'm officially onboarded and ready to tackle the items on my summer to-do list. So far, I have been primarily working on all things related to elections. We're seating 64 delegates this year!

Here is a more detailed list of tasks I've been working on:

**COMPLETED:**

- **Delegates/Elections**
  - Elected delegates' applications approved, assigned to seats, academic verification from dept and graduate school secured, added to mailing list, etc.

**IN PROGRESS:**

- **Delegates/Elections**
  - Distribute the Get to Know You survey – time during the CGS general body meeting to complete
    - Delegate/CGS orientation
    - Date & space – Senate Chambers and via Zoom
    - Catering
      - Program: Any ideas and/or suggestions for what to include are welcome!
      - Committee chairs – let me know if anyone wants to make an appearance to connect with incoming and returning delegates
  - Distribute the committee surveys (tentatively scheduled for next week).

**NOT YET STARTED**

- **Delegates/Elections**
  - Election run-offs
  - Committee assignments & senate

Zaitseva.1



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Adam Tjoelker, Treasurer  
DATE: June 6, 2025  
RE: Treasurer's Report

Hello everyone,

I have a few updates for you all about the new CGS budget for FY2026 and the Ray Travel Award.

### **CGS FY2026 Budget**

- The finalized budget act for FY2026 will be presented during the June general body meeting for approval by a CGS vote. It is attached to the Delegate Packet e-mail. The new budget will take effect on July 1<sup>st</sup> as we roll into the new fiscal year. After hearing comments and feedback during the exec meeting, May delegate meeting, and the budget listening session, the finalized budget act for FY2026 is largely unchanged besides minor updates to the expected budgetary carry forward for SAF (Student Activity Fee) and the Coke Endowment funding sources.

### **Ray Travel Award**

- On May 22nd, results of the Ray Travel Award Funding Period 1 for FY2026 were sent to award applicants. During this funding period, 20 winners were selected from the 49 completed applications. This number of recipients was selected based on the overall historic competitive 30% acceptance rate, and accounts for the expected 70% of winners accepting their awards.
- I would like to send out my thanks and appreciation to the many judges who volunteered to score applications for this funding period. Thank you for your service!
- If you would like to volunteer to judge for the Ray Travel Award, please reach out to me by email. I am planning to run a training session for new judges near the start of the autumn semester.

If you have any questions about the CGS budget and Ray Travel Award, please feel free to contact me!

Yours in service,  
Tjoelker.4



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Kaz Gary, Secretary  
DATE: June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
RE: Secretary's Report

Hi all and happy summer 😊

As Secretary:

- I am working on updating slides and the delegate packet format over the summer. Be on the lookout for a new design! I'm open to feedback on either one of these topics as you all are going to be the ones reading them. If you have suggestions regarding design, color, structure, or anything else, please reach out to me!

As CDG chair:

- CDG results for the first cycle of the year went out on May 16<sup>th</sup>. We had 13/24 applicants accepted for funding this period with a 54% acceptance rate! Following Jon and Adam's procedures to make Ray more equitable, I calculated the average acceptance rate over the last 5 years (which was 57%) and applied that to our first period. I rounded down to 54% since this is our first period and wanted to make a conservative estimate to ensure funding for the rest of the year. I will continue to update you on this process as we look forward to the rest of CDG cycles this year. I will include a graph of these numbers in my presentation at the next Delegate Meeting. Thank you to everyone who judged this cycle!

Lastly, Happy Pride Month to my fellow queers ☺

Best,  
Kaz Gary.102



## Committee Chair Reports

TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Vacant, CGS Academic Affairs, Chair  
DATE: June 6, 2025  
RE: Academic Affairs Chair Report

Seat Vacant. Contact CGS President Sabrina Durso.19 if interested.

### **Primary Mode of Work: Advocacy**

The Academic Affairs Committee works closely with the Graduate School, the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA), the Council on Student Enrollment and Progress (CESP), and the Council on Academic Affairs (CAA) to ensure graduate students are receiving the best and most inclusive educational experience. The committee advocates for graduate students on issues related to academics, including research funding, faculty-student relationships and mentorship, and university/college/departmental policies.





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

Happy Friday,

The end of the spring semester went well for A&C with our successful Bonsai Event and engaging pathfinder document. This summer, the committee will begin looking towards the future, considering revamping the A&C website, preparing a survey to be sent out to the student body in October, and considering ideas for future events. If anyone is interested in the committee and/or wants to do some brainstorming, a meeting for generating some ideas will occur on Monday, June 23 from 1-2pm EDT on Zoom (<https://osu.zoom.us/j/5881160815?pwd=ZXINZkl4Rm0vTUgxUnQ4VGgrY00ydz09>).

Looking forward to some new ideas!

Holly Engel.210



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Vacant, Diversity & Inclusion Chair  
DATE: June 6, 2025  
RE: Diversity & Inclusion Chair's Report

Seat Vacant. Contact CGS President Sabrina Durso.19 if interested.

**Primary Mode of Work: Advocacy, Events**

The Diversity & Inclusion Committee is committed to bringing about mutual understanding and respect among all individuals and groups at the University and to eliminating all forms of discrimination. In recognition that the development of human potential is a fundamental goal in a democratic society, this committee promotes an education system that values cultural and ethnic diversity and understanding; that provides for the preparation of students for full and meaningful participation in a changing world; and that promotes equitable and fair treatment in every aspect of campus life and employment for all persons regardless of race, color, national or regional origin, sex, age, religion, veteran status, disability, and body shape or size. This committee is dedicated to programming centered on education, awareness, activism, and building social communities for diverse groups of graduate students.



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Charlie Mace, Government Affairs Chair  
DATE: May 30, 2025  
RE: Government Affairs Chair's Report

Hi everyone!

The government affairs committee is getting ready for the 2025-2026 academic year, and looking for folks who want to get involved. Our committee description is:

*The Government Affairs Committee is committed to keeping the graduate student body apprised of federal, state, and local legislation impacting graduate students. The Committee also works to promote civic engagement, broadly construed. Government Affairs publishes regular newsletters highlighting policy developments, drafts resolutions in response to proposed state legislation, and develops projects that encourage civic participation among graduate students.*

In the upcoming year we will continue our regular newsletters, educate folks about voter registration ahead of the 2025 election, and work on larger projects. One of these projects will likely be a voting sticker contest for the 2026 midterm election – last year we learned there are a lot of obstacles to setting up the contest, so if we want to do it again we are going to get started early!

If you are interested in helping with these projects make sure to choose government affairs in your delegate survey, or contact me about getting involved.

Mace.103



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Peter Carrera, Graduate Caucus Chair  
DATE: [June] 6, 2025  
RE: Graduate Caucus Chair's Report

What is the University Senate and CGS's Graduate Caucus?

## WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate is the shared governing body of The Ohio State University. Comprised of 141 faculty, students, staff, and administrators, the Senate's primary responsibility is to advise campus leaders on the key educational and academic policy concerns.

### Purpose:

The University Senate benefits the university community by serving as a channel for communication between representatives of the faculty, students, staff and administrators concerning key issues facing the instruction.

### Senate Makeup:

- 71 faculty ~50%
- 41 students 29%
- 17 administrators 17%
- 5 staff ~4%

CGS's Senate body, the Graduate Caucus, is excited to serve OSU's interests in the shared governance space of the university. CGS has 10 senators total. The Graduate Caucus has two primary objectives:

1. Present a unified, graduate student-focused presence in The University Senate when conducting Senate business
2. Having a transparent, two-way information flow with CGS members and constituents; sharing what occurs in the Senate and in turn receiving valuable perspective & information

University Senate committees, their members, and their annual reports are available here: [senate.osu.edu](https://senate.osu.edu). CGS has senators on all committees that deal with students. Our current senators are listed here: [cgs.osu.edu/about-us/cgs-senators](https://cgs.osu.edu/about-us/cgs-senators).



In future months 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.

Meanwhile, for those of you interested, every Senate committee creates an annual report outlining all their work done for the year. These are available on the [Senate website](#).

Carrera.55



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Bryan Perez Soto, Graduate Compensation and Benefits (University Senate Committee) Report  
DATE: June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
RE: Graduate Compensation and Benefits Chair's Report

Happy summer and Pride season!

The Graduate Compensation and Benefits Committee (GCBC) worked on wrapping up the work from 2024-2025 and submitting a final report to the University Senate. Bellow I attach a summary of the report recommendations:

- Recommendation One: Graduate Associate Compensation
  - Action Item: To correspond to the cost of living in central Ohio, GCBC recommends the minimum stipend of a .5 FTE for 9 – months should be no less than \$32,850.00 and no less than \$43,800.00 for a .5 FTE for 12 – months, or \$3,650.00 per Month.
- Recommendation Two: Year-Round Funding Model for PhD Students
  - Action Item (External): The committee recommends a task force be established at the Graduate School to explore a transition to 12-month funding for PhD students at Ohio State.
  - Action Item (Internal): GCBC should continue to gather case studies from comparable intuitions above and beyond what is cited in this report and work with Dean Stromberger on developing the task force.
- Recommendation Three: Evaluate University Subsidized Graduate and Family Housing
  - Action Item (External): The committee recommends that the Graduate School urge the Board of Trustees to evaluate the current rental rates of the existing graduate student housing (which is done yearly) and freeze any increase on rents until graduate stipends are at a level commensurate with cost of living in Columbus. The committee also recommends that the Graduate School coordinate with Planning, Architecture and Real Estate to explore possibilities for family housing utilizing existing campus property and resources or coordinate with private, off campus vendors to offer affordable options for family housing.
  - Action Item (Internal): GCBC can work to benchmark family housing offerings at BIG10 institutions and open lines of communication between relevant stakeholders to start exploring solutions to this issue.

I am very happy about the opportunity to bring updates throughout the year on what the committee is working on!

PerezSoto.2



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Tinu Oduloye, Graduate Student Affairs Chair  
DATE: May 30, 2025  
RE: Graduate Student Affairs Chair's Report

Hello everyone,

On May 17, I met with Sabrina and Blue regarding onboarding and learning more about the responsibilities and opportunities within this role as chair and the committee. As I get settled, I have been brainstorming potential ideas for this upcoming year.

I welcome any input, ideas, or collaboration from fellow delegates and/or committee members. Please feel free to reach out if you're interested in being involved or have suggestions!

Best,  
Oduloye.1



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Deb Pathak and Luke Van Niel, Health, Wellness, and Safety Chair  
DATE: May 29, 2025  
RE: Health, Wellness, and Safety Chair's Report

Hello everyone,

We are attempting to book October 7 for the Accessibility Stakeholders' Symposium with Sabrina's help. We will let everyone know when that is confirmed. If you'd like to help plan the second annual Accessibility Stakeholders' Symposium, please make sure to sign up for Health, Wellness, and Safety!

**Primary Mode of Work: Advocacy, Events**

The Health, Wellness, & Safety Committee aims to ensure the physical and mental well-being of all graduate students at The Ohio State University. At a time where universities across the nation are promoting dialogue on student wellness, such as discussing graduate student mental health, the HW&S committee seeks to support parallel initiatives on the Ohio State campus. Specifically, through a combination of research, university partnerships, and outreach initiatives the committee is focused on creating and promoting an environment of care and wellness throughout the university. As part of this mission, the Health, Wellness, & Safety Committee holds the annual "Accessibility Stakeholder's Symposium," an event open to all Buckeyes to discuss accessibility resources and standards on the OSU campus. At this event, the committee partners with other organizations at OSU, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator's Office, Student Life and Disability Services, Buckeyes4Accessibility, and more.

Thank you,

Pathak.89 & Vanniel.5





TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Lauren Levesque, Housing and Family Affairs Chair  
DATE: May 29, 2025  
RE: Housing and Family Affairs Chair's Report

Hello Everyone,

### **Housing Webinar for International Students**

A webinar about off-campus housing, that is geared towards international students, is being put on by OCCSE in collaboration with the Office of International Affairs and Student Legal Services. It will be held via Zoom on June 12<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 am. The link to register:

[https://osu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_TE-ozbYITAunYLNwz1RCew#/registration](https://osu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TE-ozbYITAunYLNwz1RCew#/registration)

Some topics that are included are...

- Student Legal Services - International Student Scam information
- Off-Campus Housing Network
- What is a lease and key terms to know
- Roommate resources and our Off-Campus Living Guides
- Budget
- Additional Needs and potential expenses
- Information on neighborhoods beyond the University District
- Transportation and Parking
- Safety Resources

This is the presentation for the webinar:

<https://buckeyemailosu.sharepoint.com/p:/s/occsestaff/EUdTgtZKol5LnEHg4T0KTekB9qpJTfdv cT7Vx0tSiHAMsA?CID=9a774404-8db6-baa7-deb4-2ee9a5ff30cf>

Feel free to view it and send me any comments/recommendations

### **Goals and Events for Upcoming Academic Year**

- Complaint Box: Housing Issues with Property Owners
  - Will be continuous. Can place a link to form on CGS newsletter
  - Allows CGS to gain information on what types of issues are experienced by grad students, and what property owners are repeated offenders
  - Can use information to better advocate for graduate students with OCCSE and other stakeholders.
  - Share data with OCCSE and Student Legal Services.
  - Get ready by AU25
- Housing Survey
  - Data will be sent to Graduate Association Compensation and Benefits Committee and will also inform CGS on our advocacy around housing family policies.
  - Collaborate with OCCSE and Bryan Soto-Perez (AY25-26 GCBC Chair) to develop questions
    - OCCSE ops team (Chris Antjas)
  - Timeline:
    - Have survey ready to send out in November
    - Have data by March
- Know Your Rights on Housing Event

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



- September-October
- Collaborate with OCCSE and Student Legal Services
  - Will be meeting with Cece Albon and Jacob Glorioso (OCCSE Off-Campus Specialists) sometime this month to begin discussions
- Specific Grad-Student Roommate fair
  - February or March?
  - Collaborate with OCCSE
    - Will be meeting with Cece Albon and Jacob Glorioso (OCCSE Off-Campus Specialists) sometime this month to begin discussions

Best,  
Levesque.31



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Kaustubh Kumar and Ashutosh Soni, International Student Affairs Chair  
DATE: June 2, 2025  
RE: International Student Affairs Chair's Report

Hello everyone,

We met with Sabrina to discuss how we can successfully hold the International Student Tax Workshops and the Share Your Story events. We also have a few other ideas that we look forward to working with our committee members on. If you're interested in supporting International Graduate Students this upcoming year, please sign up for ISAC!

**Primary Mode of Work: Advocacy, Events**

The International Student Affairs Committee (ISAC) aims to create a more inclusive, assistive, and cooperative experience for all graduate students at Ohio State, particularly international students. The committee intends to facilitate useful information and resources (like news digests, tax information sessions, etc.) and advocate for a vibrant and interconnected student community so that international students have the support they need to excel at OSU. By improving communications and partnerships with the Office of International Affairs (OIA), the Graduate School, and other relevant offices and student organizations across the campus, ISAC fosters an environment in which they can effectively address the challenges and support the unique needs of international graduate students.

Thank you,

Kumar.889 & Soni.117



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Aryn Robinson and Katie Conner, Membership Wellness Co-Chairs  
DATE: June 6, 2025  
RE: Membership Wellness Chair's Report

Hi everyone,

Aryn and Katie met with Sabrina to discuss the path for MW next academic year. We are looking to host more events and participate in service on campus. Take time to relax this summer. Contact us if you have any ideas for Membership Wellness!

### **Membership Shoutouts**

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

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

Thank you!

Robinson.2283 & Conner.280



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Bill Wang and Shiddharta Ramprakash, Research and Data Operations Chair  
DATE: June 2, 2025  
RE: Research and Data Operations Chair's Report

Hello,

We have met with Sabrina to discuss hosting a Data Bootcamp for graduate students during a Campus Connections event (before a CGS monthly meeting). We will also be helping with the Housing Survey this year. Please sign up for Research and Data Ops if you'd like to be involved!

**Primary Mode of Work: Organizational Support, Infrastructural Support**

The Research and Data Operations Committee provides statistical analysis support for other committees and aims to deliver essential data training to all CGS members. Recently, we collaborated with the Housing & Family Affairs Committee to enhance the presentation of the graduate student housing survey data, creating clear, impactful slides that summarized actionable items for advocating improved housing benefits for graduate students. Additionally, we are planning a data camp to introduce CGS members to fundamental data analysis tools and techniques, empowering them with practical skills to support their committee work.

Thank you,

Wang.13945 & Ramprakash.4



TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
FROM: Katelyn Amstutz and Casey Ortbahn, Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility Committee (SERC) Chair  
DATE: June 6, 2025  
RE: SERC Chair's Report

Hey y'all,

Katelyn and Casey met with Sabrina and Blue on May 29 to explore ideas for the upcoming year.

Here's some of the ideas that our committee has been thinking about:

- Continue to partner with Time for Change Week next Spring
- Put available environmental / sustainability resources from OSU/Columbus into some sort of website/zine/document to share with graduate students
- Coordinate with other organizations on campus to promote service activities (e.g. clean-ups, tree plantings, etc.) that grad/prof students can get involved in
- Advocate for resource centers on campus to provide resources that promote sustainable practices (e.g. sewing supplies to repair clothes, tools to repair electronics, etc.)

We will continue to brainstorm ideas over the summer and connect with different sustainability organizations on campus to see what activities we can help promote.

We would love to hear your ideas as well! Please fill out this google form (there's only 1 question 😊 ) to help us brainstorm more ideas: <https://forms.gle/d2v8YCNG1tQbsJ9p7>

Thanks!

Amstutz.87 & Ortbahn.1