



Council of Graduate Students
The Ohio State University

Date: February 4th, 2022

Location: ZOOM

<https://go.osu.edu/delegatemeeting>

Pass: CGS

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

Delegates Present: Marie Bissel (Alt: Katie Conner), Jinwei Ye(alt: Li Yawei), Charlize Wang (alt: Laurentia Sumarni), Hongxi Zhao, Peter Carrera, Morgan Ross, Tessa Blevins, Ben Seicol, Eli Bohnert, Garrett Tatum, Charles Mace, Christina Zachariadou, Anabella Petronsi, Emily Hruska, Will Clay, Jorge E. Clavo Abbass, Tyler Leonhart, Elizabeth Kazemi, Om Prakash Bedant, Dylan Flint, Taylor Williams, Heather Schier, Emma McNamara, Anna Poptic, Alexandra Cabanelas Bermudez, Katarina Sikiric, Nicolas Bolle, Shelby Carlson, Li Yawei, Emily Subr, Story Edison, Prabhjot Singh, Luis Rodriguez Pacheco, Karla Shockley McCarthy, Josh Streeter, Eric Hantz, Thierno Aliou Diallo, Ronald Puckett, Patrick Rowan, Kaitlyn Jones, Lauryn Schlinglof, Nicole Wang, Eric Hobson, Dominique Mosbly, Ives Lux Hartman, Yelena Erez, Kendra Dickinson, DeAvin Mitchell, Ana Maria Velasquez Giraldo, Elena Cruz-Lopez, Luke Andrejek, Shib Pattadar, Abigail Simon, Benjamin McKinley, Oly Beer, Madeleine McClung, Liz Day, Dhara Patel, Isobel Bowles, Aleksandra Shubina, Aaron Argall, Suzanne Lewis, Joe Schulze, Zari Mahmoudi, Ayesha Seth, Amrita Sen, Onur Ozkaynak, Felipe Pacci Evaristo

Delegates Absent: Shouvonik Sengupta, Alan Lujan, Ta-Tanisha Barrett, Ellia La, Madhoolika Bisht, Nassima Saidi, Faiz Nisar Khan, Jordan Hartman, Omar Dieng, Steven Rhue, Sher Ali Khan, Keyo Yan, Nicolas Blue, Heather Daly, Zeitzin Reyes, Austin Gerlt, Krutant Mehta, Pashmeen Kaur, Asia Evans, Uddesh Chakraborty, Ali Asghariadib, Rosie Rabati, Brett Wedding, Lataya Dejesus, Annedra Gladney, Pouya Kousha

Senators Present: Yan Yuan, Maddi Dymont, Laine Rumreich, Dustin Servello, Kane Kinion

Senators Absent: Jenna Thomas, Austin Cool, Hannah Jones, Sierra Mayle

Executive Committee Members Present: Nick Messenger, Abby Grieff, Michelle Scott, Alissa Geisse, Brandon Free, Carrie Anne Thomas, Menghang Wu, Robin Gordon, Katie Conner, Brian O'Rourke, Caroline Fitzpatrick, Sochina Ranjit, Sally Ross, Blaise Truesdell, Nick Klein, Caroline Karwisch, Kameron Rhinehart, T'Euvyn Page, Faith Lewis,

Executive Committee Members Absent:

- 1. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 3:30 pm**
 - 1.1. Statement of Purpose**
 - 1.1.1. To effectively advocate and program to ensure that The Ohio State University graduate student experience is the best it can be.
- 2. ROLL CALL**
 - 2.1. Google Form**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - 3.1. Minutes from January 14th, 2022.**
 - 3.1.1. Minutes approved.
- 4. OFFICER REPORTS**
 - 4.1. Presidents Report**
 - 4.1.1. COVID-19**
 - Continue to meet with university leadership, and in particular Dr. Shivers from Student Life to receive updates on COVID-19 logistics on campus.

- A high initial testing rate has proceeded to drop. I have shared that these numbers are still more than many students, especially those who teach in person or have at-risk family members or roommates, are comfortable with.
- I have shared the sentiments expressed in our January meeting regarding some graduate students feeling uncared for by the institution and that our COVID-19 policy, at face value, appears to prioritize certain student views over others.
- No ongoing discussions about making changes now, regarding the precautions. I anticipate that if cases continue to recede, we will see increased capacity return to dining halls and recreational facilities. As of now, I do not expect the university to lift the mask requirement unless cases essentially became non-existent.

4.1.2. Graduate School Dean Search

- We (the search committee) will be conducting interviews in February
- Dean Bertone remains on until a new Dean is named

4.1.3. Summer Funding

- After concerns from several delegates within Arts and Sciences, I became aware of a shift in policy that has led to loss of previous guaranteed summer funding for graduate students who complete certain milestones.
- I have escalated these concerns directly to the Provost who shares my concern that changing funding expectations and availability for students mid-program is extremely harmful to a student's ability to graduate on time and to their well-being. The Provost has met with the Dean and is investigating why these changes occurred. I will keep those who reached out in the loop as I learn more.

4.1.4. CSA Funding Change & Activity Fee Review

- Survey going out to student organization leaders.
- Working to try and improve accessibility for student organizations who host events crucial to OSU, particularly in the DEI space, but who might not currently meet the requirements to receive programming funds or Signature Events funding through the student activity fee.

4.1.5. Graduate Student Stipends o Benchmarking completed for 10-year proposal

- Looking to see some sort of discussion in the President's State of the University address later this semester

4.1.6. Workday Transition

- HR reporting back to Graduate Compensation and Benefits this semester (March) on progress of changes.
- Bulk uploads to avoid late fee application due to manual entry timeline delays
- Shared list of students with Registrar who will receive fee waiver to avoid late fee application in Buckeyelink
- Shifting responsibility for fee authorization application to HR service center and not Graduate School staff.
- Continuing to sort out pay delays and errors.

4.1.7. Faculty Cabinet Issues

- Updates on RAISE hiring initiative

- Faculty burnout concerns
- Updates on Athletic Council regarding NIL
- Details or specifics on role OSU might play in new Intel partnership

Vice President Report

- The Hayes 2022 forum is quickly approaching: Friday March 4th.
 - This is a massive event that CGS hosts. This forum helps showcase some of the incredible work that our graduate students, and this year also including postdoctoral scholars, work tirelessly on throughout the year.
 - If you are a member of CGS, I'd really love for you to sign up to volunteer or proctor if you can!
- Sign up, here: <https://forms.gle/dgkB5WWQk8i4UvTQ8>
- **Officers** --> nominations at Feb meeting, elections at March, applications will be due 1 week before the meeting (President, VP, Treasurer, Secretary)
- **Senator elections** --> nominations in March, elections in April
- **Delegates** --> Applications announced the week after spring break, elections to follow a timeline into April
- Open opportunities:
 - One university health and wellness committee
 - Diversity advisory council
 - Scarlet and Gray Advantage Program

Treasurer Report

- Ray Travel Grant funding period 4 has closed
 - We are currently working on judging
 - 32 completed applications this cycle
- Still waiting on spending report :(

ACADEMIC CONCLUSIONS



Secretary Report

- Our final funding period for CDG is *closed* (as of Feb 1st)
 - We will move onto the judging phase!
 - Hoping to announce winners the first week of March
- Will be updating our *new* website with legislation, minutes, and documents this month.
- Working on Global Gateway Grant and seeing if a competition will be had this year



Photo: Me 1 hour into Legends Arceus

5. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Council on Student Affairs

Caroline Karwisch.2

- SAF Review
- Student Code of Conduct Review

Arts and Culture

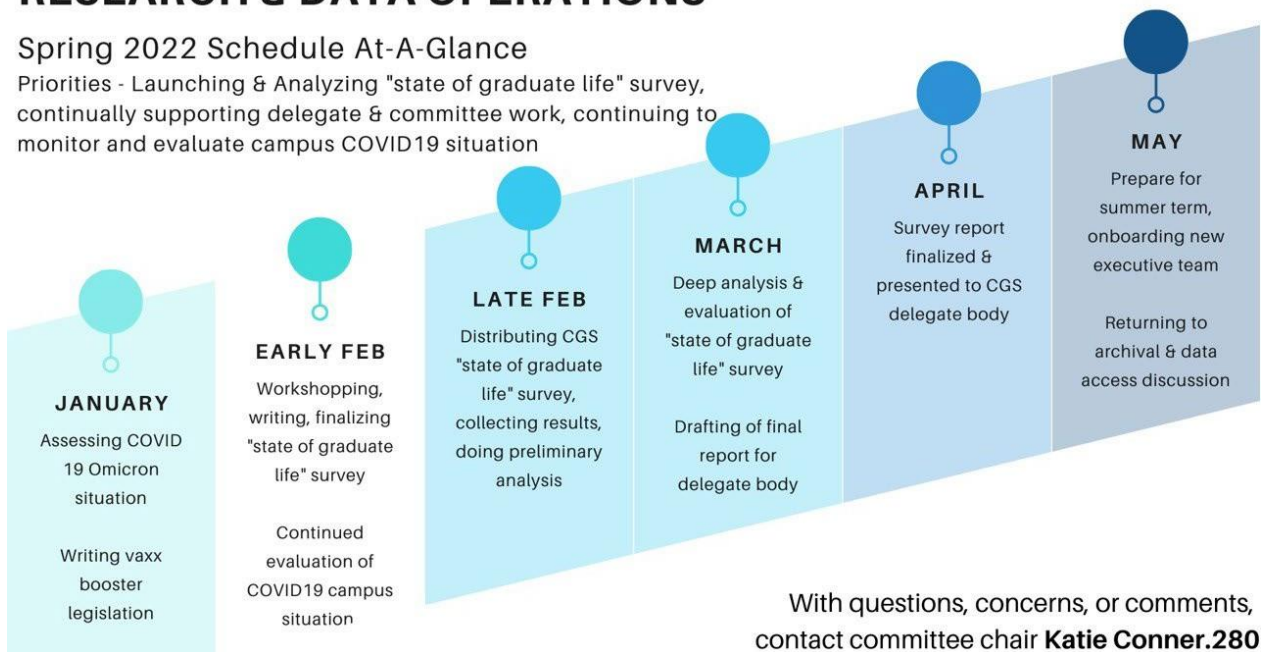
- Courage, Liberation, and Fortitude this Year of the Tiger
- Committee met January 26th
- De'avin Mitchell is heading an Arts & Culture Passport pilot program
- Stay Tuned for Campus-Wide Event about using the arts in your advocacy and activism!
- Next meeting: February 23rd



RESEARCH & DATA OPERATIONS

Spring 2022 Schedule At-A-Glance

Priorities - Launching & Analyzing "state of graduate life" survey, continually supporting delegate & committee work, continuing to monitor and evaluate campus COVID19 situation



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Committee Updates:

- **Coming Soon:** Advocacy Series Event #2: Becoming an Advocate in Policy Spaces, through the Lens of Ohio Redistricting (Early March)
- **Coming Soon:** Graduate Student Issues Tracker #2
- Working on developing more election outreach resources

Gov Affairs Updates:

- Ohio Legislature is (mostly) quiet, but picking up soon
- Legislative redistricting maps re-submitted to Ohio Supreme Court, objections filed again ([Dispatch](#))
- Marijuana legalization bill to be considered by Legislature after receiving enough signatures ([OCJ](#))
 - If ignored/rejected, issue could go to the ballot in next general election

Graduate Student Affairs
Kameron Rinehart

- **Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week will be April 4-7**
 - **Events all week:**
 - **Workshops**
 - **Cooking Classes**
 - **Give Aways Monday – Friday (You can get one per day!)**
 - **More to Come!**
- **Next Meeting: TBD**
 - **Please complete the When2Meet ASAP**
- **Thank you to Michelle who is helping us work through all the details to make Grad Student Appreciation Week a Success!**

Housing and Family Affairs

- **Updates:**
 - **Buckeye village is still closing in May**
 - Working on ensuring all residents have a plan for living arrangements after closing date
- **Committee Updates**
 - **We are working on two resolutions**
 - **Resolution about the importance of Graduate Student Housing**
 - Goal is to get the university to be more direct about their plans for the BV replacement
 - **Resolution about the high cost of childcare**
 - Goal is to either get graduate student childcare at a reduced rate or subsidized by the university

Membership Wellness

- Planning virtual programs this semester, more info coming soon

Delegate celebrations:

<https://forms.gle/b99Je3sACa44Tn4WA>

Ad Hoc Accessibility & Inclusivity

- Revised Constitution presented during February meeting
- Voting on Constitution and Bylaws during March meeting



Caroline Fitzpatrick.271

Alisa Geisse was just awarded a Smithsonian Fellowship to go to Panama!!

Delegate Celebrations!

Who else needs celebrated??

Last week, Abby Grieff passed her social work licensing exam!!

Sustainability & Environmental Responsibility

- Events in progress
 - Environmental Hack-a-thon
 - Zero-waste-event for CGS in-person activities
- Contact: Ross.1668



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS THOMAS.4051

• Newsletters:

- We sent out a January newsletter with information about the Career Development Grant, Ray Travel Grant, and Hayes Forum Volunteering
- The February newsletter should be out soon.
- Submit newsletter requests: go.osu.edu/cgscommunicationsrequest



• Social Media:

- Follow us on Twitter: @CGSOSU



6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Act 2022-001: An Act to Amend the CGS Constitution – presented by the Ad Hoc Accessibility Committee

6.1.1. Questions

- Mace.103: 8.5B - When deputy positions are "subject of approval of the exec board" Is this specifically majority approval or what?
 - We will put "majority approval" in the document.

- 6.1.2. Everyone will have one month to review this document (located on Carmen, and emailed today). We will vote on the changes in our March meeting.

6.2. CGS Officer Nominations for March Elections

6.2.1. President

- Conner.280: nominate Kameron Rinehart
 - Kameron accepts nomination
- Wu.4899: nominate Faith Lewis, and Katie Conner
 - Faith respectfully declines nomination
 - Katie respectfully declines nomination

6.2.2. Vice President

- None

6.2.3. Secretary

- Rinehart.228: nominate Alissa Geisse
 - Alissa postpones acceptance

6.2.4. Treasurer

- Zachariadou.1 & Conner.280 both nominate Michelle Scott
 - Michelle accepts nomination

7. SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS

7.1. Delegate Issues and Concerns

- 7.1.1. Clavoabbass.1: I've been keeping in touch with Univ of Chicago, and their Graduate Student Body has done well to keep students from paying student services fees. Is there anyway we can model them, or do something similar? <https://chicagomaroon.com/article/2022/1/25/ph-students-longer-required-pay-student-services-fee-across/>
 - This is a great thing to refer to the Graduate Student Affairs committee to write a resolution and follow this up by meeting with the Office of Business and Finance.
- 7.1.2. Clavoabbass.1: Also is there anyway we can raise our compensation and benefits? President Johnson is interested in doing this.
 - Messenger.33: I've been working on this, and have been working on a long-term timeline to get us "caught up" to other competitive compensation universities.
 - We have proposed a 10-year plan to increase stipends, with a marginal increase (perhaps ~\$8k) soon. This of course, is not official and we expect her to announce this in her "state of university" address.
 - People wanting to be involved in these conversation
 - Edison.22: Can we also make sure to include raising the stipends of people accepting the final-year fellowships? People will not want to take a pay-cut to have a Fellowship.

- We have brought this up, and we will be sure to keep it at the forefront as we advocate for increasing stipends.
- 7.1.3. Bisht.9: Some international students were told that they "don't need to go back home" and have been faced with toxicity from advisors.
- Time-off policy for grad students: <https://gradsch.osu.edu/handbook/11-2-benefits-graduate-associates-fellows-and-trainees-time>
 - We should start organizing discussions with Office of International Affairs and voice these concerns in the Faculty meetings. Afterward putting a formal proposal.
 - Some threaten your funding and PhD security, making it difficult to report.
 - Paccievaristo.1: Do we have the power to pass a resolution to suggest to the presidency that faculty training on grad student rights becomes mandated? Maybe that can become part of the university's code of conduct instead? So they're penalized in case they don't abide by the training they get?
 - Let's organize and get this moving. All wanting to get involved in making a resolution for this should reach out.
- 7.1.4. Mace.103: Several constituents said they were unhappy with the university's decision to move to open in-person classes/events on Friday, stating that they did not feel conditions allowed safe travel to campus. Additionally, they found the conditions on campus concerning. The steps outside the physics research building were cleared but the access ramp was still covered in ice and snow. The Smith Lab parking lot was ploughed, but the snow was piled onto the ADA accessible parking spots (2-3 feet of snow).
- We completely agree, we are going to use this as an example for a potential resolution on decision making.
 - Cabanelasburmudez.1: Want to point out that some commuters are living in level 3 and quite literally can't make it.
 - Clavoabbass.1: According to Weather or Other Short-Term Closing, 6.15 Policy 3B, if you are in a Level 3 area, you cannot be penalised for not coming to campus. But whether the professors PIs recognize or respect this policy is something different.
- 7.1.5. Edison.22: I would like to revisit the unavailability of summer funding for some grads, is there anyway the university can create a need-based grant to cover summer tuition for the summer associates who need to defend a milestone in the summer to avoid falling behind and adding a stipulation that OPERS may not be required of Student Associates.
- This is something we can and should push forward, this was done for students affected by covid. We will follow-up and work with you to decide how we can best bring this up.
- 7.1.6. Paccievaristo.1: Are there any updates on the university's handling of the omicron wave?
- None so far, we have voiced our upset with many of the university's decisions.
 - At this stage as cases start to decrease, the university will probably not be implementing more restrictive policies.

- But this means we must advocate consistently that they don't remove restrictions as well.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

8.1. Closing announcements from Health Wellness and Safety

8.1.1. We would like to bring forward a student-led advocacy group

- **Background:** OSU uses prison labor to clean their stadium and sort through their recycling.
 - We shouldn't be a multibillion university that exploits UGMs via prison labor while flaunting it's "diversity"
- We want to target diverse student groups and create and maintain relationships with them, and work together on issues
 - More effective with more voices in the room
- Critique + Call 2 Action
 - Divest from Prison Labor
 - "Lift the Ban"
 - Implement Justice and Equity "sustainability" initiatives that center historically marginalized groups and protected classes
- Toolkit
 - Community Engagement through Art Activism and Education -> "Paint-through it"
 - Pilot Mini RRR curriculum available via app and webpage
 - Virtual & Campus Engagement
 - Collect works for EJ Summit + IP/PIP involvement
 - Fundraising for Ohio Prisoners

8.1.2. **Contact Faith Lewis.2365** if interested!

Meeting adjourned at ~5:15pm

