



**Council of Graduate Students**  
**The Ohio State University**

**Date:** September 11, 2020

**Location:**

<https://osu.zoom.us/j/91431549324?pwd=aXh0RkdjMlZvMGNPL3hVWW15QVJSZz09>

**PW:** 988214

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

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### **CGS Delegate Packet September 11, 2020**

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The Ohio State University

## Delegate Meeting Agenda

Date: Sep 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Location:

<https://osu.zoom.us/j/91431549324?pwd=aXh0RkdjMlZvMGNPL3hVWVw15QVJSZz09>

Password: 988214

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1. **OSU Votes Guest Presentation** (3:30pm)
2. **CALL TO ORDER** (~3:45pm)
  - 2.1. **Statement of Purpose**
    - 2.1.1. *"To effectively advocate and program to ensure that The Ohio State University graduate student experience is the best it can be."*
3. **Roll Call: Attendance Code = CGS2020** (5 min.)
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** (5 min.)
  - 4.1. Minutes from Aug 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020
  - 4.2. Minutes from Aug 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020
5. **OFFICER REPORTS** (15 min.)
  - 5.1. President, Stephen Post.144
  - 5.2. Vice President, DaVonti' Haynes.242
  - 5.3. Treasurer, Raven Lynch.389
  - 5.4. Secretary, Sarah Light.109
  - 5.5. Chief of Staff, Jack Brandl.8
  - 5.6. Parliamentarian, Rania Khamees.5
6. **COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES** (15 min.)
  - 6.1. Academic Affairs, Aviva Neff.336
  - 6.2. Arts & Culture, Kathryn Holt.351
  - 6.3. Delegate Relations, Conner Sarich.6
  - 6.4. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, Verdaynea EasonAgondanou.1
  - 6.5. Government Relations, Maddy Lomax-Vogt.2
  - 6.6. Graduate Student Affairs, Michelle Scott.1445
  - 6.7. Health, Wellness, & Safety, Abby Greiff.2
  - 6.8. International Student Affairs, Melika Shahhosseini.2
  - 6.9. Strategic Communications, TBA
  - 6.10. Senate Advisory, Jenna Greve.41
  - 6.11. SERC, Wanderson NovaisPereria.1
  - 6.12. External Collaborations, Katie Conner.280
  - 6.13. Housing and Family Affairs, Leila Viera.31
7. **SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS** (15 min.)
  - 7.1. **Delegate Issues and Concerns**
8. **NEW BUSINESS** (20 min.)
  - 8.1. **Hazard Pay Resolution**
9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** (5 min.)
  - 9.1. **October Delegate Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 3:30pm**
10. **Adjourn** (~5:00pm)

## **CGS Virtual Meeting Ground Rules**

1. Be open, flexible, considerate, and kind!
2. Speak your discomfort if something is bother 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 you video on or off as to which ever is most comfortable for you, but should connectivity issues arise we may ask you turn of the video.
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.



**Present:** Pranav Ambardekar, Luke Andrejek, Ali Asghari Adib, Tyler Beauregard, Aaron Beczkiewicz, Jessica Blackburn, Qiuchang (Katy) Cao, Steph Charles, Katherine Conner, Robert Dahlberg-Sears, Archit Datar, Ty Drayton, Benjamin Duran, Story Edison, Brandon Free, Jahmour Givans, Jenna Greve, Abigail Grieff, Kathryn Holt, Lindsey Lawson, Yifan Li, Madeleine Lomax-Vogt, Raven Lynch, Aviva Neff, Tricia Oyster, Maritza Pierre, Kelsey Pinckard, Ashweta Sahni, Conner Sarich, Erik Scaltriti, Michelle Scott, Karla Shockleymccarthy, Kye Stachowski, Philip Tice, Mitch Vicieux, Leila Vieira, Sarah Walton, Daniel Williams, Yu Lun Wu (ALT), Piao Yang, Megan Zib

**Absent:** e alexander, Jacky Anderson, Selasi Attipoe, Om Prakash Bedant, Andrew Borst, Mary Byrne, Yu-chun Chang, Min-Seok Choi, Jorge Clavo Abbass, Alec Clott, Paul Consiglio, Austin Cool, Kat Ellis, Micheline Fahrback, Elizabeth Galko, Lauren Howard, Audrey Hungerpiller, Sarah Hyman, Kevin Ingles, Jeffrey Kast, Pouya Kousha, Arsh Kumar, Carly LaRosa, Jungmin Lee, Ho-chieh Lin, Ruonan Lin, Stephen Lo, Eric Loria, Emily Lundstedt, Lucas Magee, Tori Magers, Matthew Maynard, Rohit Mukherjee, Kate Ormiston, Alejandro Otero Bravo, Ryann Patrus, Mark Pauley, Miguel Pedrozo, Avi Pokala, Ken Poland, Isaac Reynolds, Zeltzin Reyes, Priscila Rodriguez Garcia, Lena Schreiber, Sarah Scott, Utkarsh Shah, Melika Shahhosseini, Shruthi Shetty, Preeti Singh, Sundeep Siripurapu, Nithya Sivashankar, Ryan Slechta, Lindsey Stirek, Nicole Tchorowski, Taylor Tomu, Jorge Torres Espinosa, James Uanhoro, Jennifer Valdez, Derek Walton, Soroush Zamanian

**1. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 3:33pm**

**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. Carmen log-in**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**3.1. Minutes from June 12, 2020**

- 3.1.1. Minutes approved.

**4. OFFICER REPORTS (as submitted in Delegate Meeting Packet)**

**4.1. President (Post.144)**

- 4.1.1. The post-pandemic transition task force had its last meeting on July 29<sup>th</sup>. The implementation task force is now taking over the return to campus for the fall semester. CGS has student representation on all sub-committees of this task force.
- 4.1.2. The leaders of all 3 student governments met this week with President Johnson to talk about the updated university policies regarding COVID testing, social distancing measures, mask mandates, and class sizes.
- 4.1.3. All graduate students, faculty, and staff will not be included in the surveillance testing program (unless they live in on-campus housing) but are able to get tested at any time, even if they are asymptomatic. They may be more testing availability in the future, but the university anticipates being able to meet the current demand.
- 4.1.4. Many students have made the decision to switch to all online classes and not return to campus, especially those who live out of state.
- 4.1.5. Some GAs have been struggling to get approval from their departments to teach their classes virtually if they are concerned about the risk of in-person instruction. Fill out the official accommodation form and submit it through the University HR office. About half of the requests that have been submitted are

already approved and others are waiting for approval. None have been denied so far.

- 4.1.6. 30-40% of all students, staff, and faculty have already signed the mandatory online pledge. Any GAs who make the choice not to sign the pledge will face consequences as a student rather than an employee. These include being barred from attending any on-campus activities.
- 4.1.7. The Grad School is creating a post-candidacy leave policy to give students the option to pause their education for up to 2 semesters with approval from their advisor. Those who choose to do this will not be allowed to work on their research while on leave. This leave policy still needs to be approved by Graduate Council.
- 4.1.8. The new graduate student trustee will be announced soon. We are advocating for the presidents and vice presidents of the student governments to serve as ex-officio members of the board.
- 4.1.9. The position of graduate ombudsperson has been expanded to a full office housed within the Office of Academic Affairs. The position will hopefully be filled by January 2021.
- 4.1.10. Questions:
  - ShockleyMcCarthy.2: Is the COVID HR accommodation request different from a request submitted through student disability? Will students need to submit separate requests for their work and teaching duties?
    - The COVID form is a separate request. You probably do not need to submit separate requests.
  - Dahlberg-sears.1: Is the post-candidacy leave policy applicable for 2 semesters total or consecutively?
    - Either is acceptable.
  - Conner.280: Is the university considering removing the language at the end of the pledge that many people have taken issue with?
    - At this time, no.
  - Holt.351: Is there a situation in which a leave request would be denied by the Grad School even if the student has approval from their advisor?
    - They are mostly concerned about students who may try to use this to delay their graduation timeline. Most likely, all requests will be approved, especially in these unusual times.
  - Dahlberg-sears.1: Will those on leave be able to keep their student health insurance coverage?
    - Most likely not, if you are not enrolled as a student during this time.

#### **4.2. Vice President (Haynes.242)**

- 4.2.1. Fall elections will be happening soon to fill the 56 remaining open delegate seats. Please encourage your peers to apply!
- 4.2.2. We are launching a new grant opportunity for students doing community and outreach engagement work within the community. This grant is funded in collaboration with Student Life, Outreach and Engagement, The Office of Research, and University Extension. Students will be awarded between \$500 and \$1,500. More details will be announced on Labor Day.
- 4.2.3. The Arts & Sciences Dean Advisory Committee needs a second student representative (someone from outside the Chemistry Dept). Please email if you are interested in serving.
- 4.2.4. All Senate and University committee appointments have been filled and the list of representatives will be posted on the website this weekend.
- 4.2.5. Registration is now open for the fall Diversity Dialogue series.

#### **4.3. Treasurer (Lynch.389)**

- 4.3.1. The university-wide spending freeze is still active although we have some flexibility to purchase necessary operational items.
- 4.3.2. Applications for funding period 2 of Ray are currently being judged. Applications will be awarded a maximum of \$350 for non-travel expenses.

#### 4.4. Secretary (Light.109)

- 4.4.1. Applications for funding period 2 of CDG are currently being judged. Applications will be awarded a maximum of \$350 for non-travel expenses.

### 5. COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES (as submitted in Delegate Meeting Packets)

#### 5.1. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (Easonagondanou.1)

- 5.1.1. Dean Brown will be meeting with the committee soon to talk about his investigation into the actions of the Columbus Police Department.

### 6. SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS

#### 6.1. Delegate Concerns

- 6.1.1. Dahlberg-sears.1: For those who switch back and forth between GTA and lecturer positions, there is a complete gap and disconnect between the timing and logistics of these systems that cause problems with accessing email, contracts, and paychecks.
- In theory, the switch to WorkDay should fix all of these issues. This system will go live in January 2021.
- 6.1.2. Beauregard.13: There has been a long-standing issue of a super-long reimbursement timeline for students awarded CDG or Ray funding.
- Much of the time is due to the fact that the Business office must approve and process all the paperwork and we have no control over this part of the process. There are several things that can slow down the process: the student fails to submit the required paperwork or fills it out incorrectly, the student has initiated reimbursement before the activity has taken place, the student's home department has not processed the paperwork on their end.
- 6.1.3. Holt.351: There is a lot of anxiety amongst grad students about returning to campus and teaching classes in person this semester.
- Neff.336: Where can GTAs go to find up-to-date information about how to teach effectively and safely? Many undergrads want more information about what GTAs are doing to keep them safe while they are in the classroom.
  - Conner.280: Students of the Linguistics Dept had meetings with admins and came to an agreement that all accommodation requests will be approved for students who wish to move to a fully virtual format. Some students are being told by their advisors that unless the university is shut down, they are still expected to do all activities required by their research project, regardless of the student's level of comfort with these activities.
  - Zib.1: Students in the Occupational Therapy program are concerned that their peers are not abiding by social distancing guidelines while not on campus and do not want to attend in-person classes with these people. Conversations with the admins of the department about solutions to this issue have stalled.
  - Pinckard.6: In general, many students have been feeling a lot of pressure from their mentors to return to work full time and may not feel comfortable with these expectations.
  - Post.144: Please encourage your constituents to pass on these issues and questions along to us so we can contact the admins and the Grad School, who can put pressure on departments that have not been properly addressing student requests and concerns. The official stance from the university is still to work at home whenever possible.

### 7. NEW BUSINESS

#### 7.1. Resolution 1920-013: A Resolution Calling for the University to Observe Election Day as a Paid Holiday Recognizes as The John Lewis Voting Rights Day

- 7.1.1. Lomax-vogt.2: There is a greater movement across the nation to make election day a federal holiday and given the unique schedules and obligations of graduate students, this would allow students to making voting a priority.
- 7.1.2. Questions:
- None.
- 7.1.3. Discussion:
- None.

- 7.1.4. Resolution is voted on via Carmen survey.
- 7.1.5. Resolution passes (30 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Abstention).

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 8.1 Next meeting is September 11, 2020 @ 3:30pm
- 8.2 If you are interested in helping out with some events this year to celebrate CGS' 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, please get in touch with Sarah, Jack, and DaVonti'.
- 8.3 If you or someone you know can participate in an OUAB Grad School Survival Skills workshop and panel on August 29<sup>th</sup>, please get in touch with Kerry Hodak.2.

**9. Meeting adjourned at 4:43pm.**



**Present:** Ali Asghari Adib, Selasi Attipoe, Tyler Beauregard, Aaron Beczkiewicz, Om Prakash Bedant, Jessica Blackburn, Steph Charles, Jorge Clavo Abbass (ALT), Katherine Conner, Robert Dahlberg-Sears, Ty Drayton, Benjamin Duran, Jorge Torres Espinosa, Brandon Free, Jahmour Givans, Jenna Greve, Abigail Grieff, Kathryn Holt, Sarah Hyman, Carly LaRosa, Lindsey Lawson, Yifan Li, Madeleine Lomax-Vogt, Matthew Maynard, Aviva Neff, Alejandro Otero Bravo (ALT), Maritza Pierre, Kelsey Pinckard, Marie Rineveld, Conner Sarich, Erik Scaltriti, Michelle Scott, Melika Shahhosseini, Kye Stachowski, Leila Vieira, Sarah Walton, Yu Lun Wu (ALT), Megan Zib

**Absent:** e alexander, Jacky Anderson, Pranav Ambardekar, Luke Andrejek, Andrew Borst, Mary Byrne, Qiuchang (Katy) Cao, Yu-chun Chang, Min-Seok Choi, Alec Clott, Paul Consiglio, Austin Cool, Archit Datar, Kat Ellis, Micheline Fahrback, Elizabeth Galko, Lauren Howard, Audrey Hungerpiller, Kevin Ingles, Jeffrey Kast, Pouya Kousha, Arsh Kumar, Jungmin Lee, Ho-chieh Lin, Ruonan Lin, Stephen Lo, Eric Loria, Emily Lundstedt, Tricia Oyster, Lucas Magee, Tori Magers, Rohit Mukherjee, Aviva Neff, Kate Ormiston, Ryann Patrus, Mark Pauley, Miguel Pedrozo, Avi Pokala, Ken Poland, Isaac Reynolds, Zeltzin Reyes, Priscila Rodriguez Garcia, Ashweta Sahni, Lena Schreiber, Sarah Scott, Utkarsh Shah, Shruthi Shetty, Karla Shockleymccarthy, Preeti Singh, Sundeeep Siripurapu, Nithya Sivashankar, Ryan Slechta, Lindsey Stirek, Nicole Tchorowski, Philip Tice, Taylor Tomu, James Uanhoro, Jennifer Valdez, Mitch Vicieux, Derek Walton, Daniel Williams, Piao Yang, Soroush Zamanian

## 1. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 3:30pm

### 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. Carmen log-in

## 3. NEW BUSINESS

### 3.1. Resolution 1920-014: A Resolution Against the Plan to Return to Campus

- 3.1.1. Resolution is read in its entirety by Neff.336.

#### 3.1.2. Questions:

- Free.41: Can authors give more context of the transition and post-pandemic transition task force?
  - In general, there was a lack of transparency with the task force. The last meeting was held July 29<sup>th</sup> and then was replaced by a new implementation task force beginning August 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Free.41: Is it unreasonable to ask to be a part of the implementation team?
  - This could be taken as a friendly amendment by the authors.
- Hyman.62: Can someone explain more clearly the specific asks of this resolution? Are there activities currently happening that do not meet these requests?
  - We would like the university to severely limit any and all gatherings and in-person interactions of more than 10 people, including classes, and reduce/adapt other policies that put the safety of students at risk. Yes, there are in-person and hybrid classes that would not meet these new criteria.
- Velasquezgiraldo.1: Was the visa status of international students taken into account when writing this resolution?
  - This policy has since been rescinded by the Trump administrations., International students should not be adversely impacted by this resolution.

#### 3.1.3. Discussion:

- Sarich.6: This resolution is not aimed at limiting in-person work for those in laboratories and specifically addresses large group classes and events.



- Edison.22: Proposes to change the language in Line 74 from “vast majority” to “all non-necessary in-person classes”.
  - This suggestion is accepted as a friendly amendment.
- Shahhosseini.2: The ICE announcement has been rescinded and will not affect currently enrolled students but for new students, a fully online status would actually be better because that will allow them to participate fully from their home country.
- Gregg.186: There is a lot of department support for the ideas of this resolution.
- Dahlberg-sears.1: Proposes adjustment to the language in Lines 72-73 to clarify that we are a digital flagship institution and remove “the” from Line 74 for grammatical reasons.
  - This suggestion is accepted as a friendly amendment.
- Dahlberg-sears.1: Proposes to add another clause after Line 91, reading “WHEREAS The Ohio State University has offered no adequate and fully explanatory circumstances or timeline under which any in-person instruction would be terminated; and”
  - This suggestion is accepted as a friendly amendment.
- Zib1: What prevents professors from saying that all in-person classes are absolutely necessary?
- Motion to extend discussion by 5 minutes.
- Motion approved.
- Free.41: Proposes to add another resolved clause, reading “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students demands representation on the Post Pandemic Implementation Team and any further discussions on implementation, with additional representation to be granted to undergraduate students and professional students.”
  - This suggestion is accepted as a friendly amendment.
- Free.41: Lines 114-115 are very broad and would maybe benefit from some more specific language about which things
  - Stachowski.7: Suggested “where no online alternatives exist” to replace “unless those courses...absolutely required”
  - This suggestion is accepted as a friendly amendment.
  - Final wording: “unless those in-person activities have no online alternatives”
- Motion to extend discussion by 5 minutes.
- Motion approved.
- Hibler.10: Given that the pandemic confers significant risk to the personal and social health of grad students and these families, is it reasonable to add a clause requesting hazard pay for activities where grad students are forced to put themselves in jeopardy?
  - This suggestion is well received and the authors will save it for a future related resolution if necessary.

3.1.4. Resolution is voted on via Carmen survey.

3.1.5. Resolution passes (33 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstention).

#### **4. Meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.**

## September 2020 Treasurer Report – Council of Graduate Students

Hello CGS Delegates,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 academic year! I hope everyone had a (mostly) good and safe summer!

We are still on a university spending freeze, so we have not been able to spend any CGS funds outside of funding grants.

For Ray Travel Grants funding period II, we have 6 applicants and 4 awardees. The awardee scores ranged from 3.6-4.5 on a 5 point scale. Funding period III will open on September 15<sup>th</sup> and close November 1<sup>st</sup> for conferences happening between January and March. My guess is that this funding will still be limited to virtual conferences instead of actual travel.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Raven Lynch.389

**TO:** The Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
**FROM:** Sarah Light, Secretary  
**DATE:** September 6, 2020  
**RE:** Secretary's Report

The application window for funding period 2 of the Career Development Grant closed recently and winners will be notified this week. All applicants will only be awarded funds for non-travel expenses because of the continuing travel restriction put in place by the University. The number of applicants increased from the last funding period, most likely due to our efforts to raise awareness about the grants with email announcements that went to all graduate students. The policies and expense guidelines for funding period 3, which opens September 15<sup>th</sup>, have yet to be decided but restrictions on travel expenses will likely be extended through the end of the year.

All the best,

Sarah

**To:** Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
**From:** DaVonti' D. Haynes, Vice President  
**Date:** 09/11/2020  
**Re:** Vice President Report September 2020

Hello CGS Delegates,

Welcome new delegate and welcome back returning people. As always as we navigate these very uncertain times and embark on this new academic year, I hope you all are doing well and taking care of yourselves, mentally, physically, and emotionally. I know this is a very stressful time as you try to balance your academic, professional, personal, and social lives. If you're ever in need of any support, be sure to check out OSU's Counseling and Consultation Services (CCS) [[ccs.osu.edu](http://ccs.osu.edu) // 614-292-5766] or reach out to a friend/family member. I wish you all the best as we navigate through this. I can't wait to see all of your faces on campus again. Go Bucks!

### **Spending Freeze**

As you may know, the university is still in a state of emergency. Therefore, all non-essential spending remains froze.

### **Autumn 2020 Delegate Election**

Autumn 2020 elections will take place September 28-October 7.

If your college/department still have an open delegate seat please encourage graduate students to apply at: [go.osu.edu/delegate](http://go.osu.edu/delegate).

### **Engaged Scholar Grant**

In partnership with the [Office of Outreach and Engagement](#), [Office of Student Life](#), [Office of Research](#), [Ohio State University Extension \(OSUE\)](#), and [Ohio Joint Council of Extension Professional \(Ohio JCEP\)](#), is pleased to announce the availability of the Engaged Scholar Grant.

The Engaged Scholar Grant incentivizes graduate students to undertake community-engaged research or community-engaged projects, in collaboration with a community partner, that address a specific need or problem within the community (in-state or out-of-state). Graduate students may apply for grants ranging from \$500 to \$1,500.

This grant went live on September 7, 2020.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.  
DaVonti' D. Haynes (haynes.242)

**To:** Council of Graduate Students  
**From:** Stephen Post.144, President  
**Date:** 9/4/20  
**RE:** President's Report

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### **Welcome 2020-2021 CGS Members**

I hope you have been acclimating as best as possible to the start of the new COVID-19 academic year! Our first delegate meeting will be held virtually via Zoom this **Friday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> @ 3:30pm**. OSU Votes will be coming to present. We will still be taking attendance via quiz on the CGS Carmen webpage; the attendance code will be **CGS2020**. The link to join the meeting can be found here:

<https://osu.zoom.us/j/91431549324?pwd=aXh0RkdjMlZvMGNPL3hVvW15QVJSZz09>

Password: 988214

### **COVID-19 and Transition Back to Campus**

Transition FAQs can be found on the Safe and Healthy Buckeyes website here:

<https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu>. There are a number of subgroups that include CGS members working on issues as it relates to the return to campus. We will continue to respond to your questions and concerns as best we can and relay them to OSU administrators. We have compiled a list of resources where graduate students can find support here: <https://cgs.osu.edu/covid-19-resources/>. We are continually trying to get more information around another possible pivot to less on campus activity.

### **Election Day resolution**

The resolution passed in our last meeting has been presented at the Council on Student Affairs and we are working with Susan Basso to see if this is easily feasible or if we have to look at alternatives. Maddy and Government Affairs will continue to share info on poll workers and other board of election info.

### **Furlough Policy**

This has not moved from interim to final status, this will still be presented for feedback. Senate leadership is looking into finding more info on how the interim policy has been used thus far.

### **Current COVID-19 Graduate Student Issues**

#### *Accommodations*

We have heard increasing concerns of GAs, especially GTAs, not receiving appropriate accommodations when students asked for them. A lot of these negotiations are happening within the department. If you or other students are getting internal push back after speaking with your supervisor, then I ask that you submit a formal COVID-19 Accommodation Request Form to your HR Director/University HR here: <https://hr.osu.edu/coronavirus/accommodations/>. Please let me know about the issue via email ([post.144@osu.edu](mailto:post.144@osu.edu)) so I can follow up. Even if the accommodation is for just fear of returning amidst COVID-19, that is a valid reason especially when categorized as anxiety. These accommodations must be raised to the university level to be documented, even if the student thinks they will be denied, we must push for the form to be filled out as seeing those denial numbers are important for us to keep advocating.

As of today, 84 student employees have requested accommodations. Of those, 59 have been approved, 14 are awaiting approval from the department and 9 are being processed through the ADA process. 0 have been denied at this point.

### **Buckeye Pledge**

If you or anyone you know has been impacted because of repercussions from not signing the Together as Buckeyes pledge, please let me know and we will work to resolve these issues with HR and the department.

### *Timeline and Funding Extensions*

Please see the Graduate Schools final announcement on delay of graduation and matching tuition and fee authorization program here: <https://gradsch.osu.edu/news/graduate-school-announcement-delay-graduation-and-matching-tuition-and-fee-authorization>

Dean Bertone said students who were supposed to graduate within the next year will be given priority to any funds. This must be student initiated so please spread the word to your fellow peers that may be experiencing increased need or accommodations. While no central university dollars have been allocated for this, the Provost is aware of the issue and ensured me that once the financial uncertainties were more clear he would have a better idea of what may be available.

### *Employment & Hiring*

We are waiting on AU20 data from HR. We were assured that all Graduate Associates are still *EXEMPT* from the OSU hiring freeze. Please advise folks to speak with their advisors and PIs about continuing their GA. All GA appointments now have to be approved by the Dean of the College or VP of the unit.

### **Post-Candidacy Leave Option**

The new Leave of Absence policy to be generally used by post-candidacy students is now available here: <https://gradsch.osu.edu/sites/default/files/resources/pdfs/Post-Candidacy%20Autumn%202020%20Leave%20of%20Absence%20Form%2024AUG2020.pdf>

The petition will require a reason for the request, evidence of support from the advisor, and Graduate Studies Committee approval. They will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and a final decision will be communicated to both the student and the program. Further questions should be directed to the Grad School.

### **Emergency Funds Relief**

As a reminder, Ohio State launched the [Together As Buckeyes emergency grants program](#) to assist students who are having difficulty with living expenses or facing other unexpected financial challenges related to COVID-19. It is available to undergraduate, graduate and professional students — subject to eligibility requirements — through the Student Financial Aid office. The size of these grants will vary based on each student's circumstances. Additionally, the Graduate School's graduate student specific funds are available through the Office of Student Life Student Wellness Center here: <https://advocacy.osu.edu/student-emergency-fund/>.

### **Equity and Racial Justice**

We continue to engage with administration on this issue through CGS representation on the Public Safety Advisory Committee (myself), the President's Racial Equity Task Force (Raven Lynch, Treasurer), CGS' Equity and Racial Justice Ad Hoc Committee (ERJC), and CGS' standing Diversity, Equity, an Inclusion Committee. Please reach out to Jack, Verdaynea, Raven, or myself if you have questions or want to get involved. We should have the 1<sup>st</sup> round of ERJC policy recommendations presented in our October meeting, see Verdaynea's update for more details.

### **Graduate Student Trustee**

Supposedly, the new appointee will be announced in 2-3 weeks. We will look for more information from the Governor's Office and Board of Trustees.

### **Graduate Ombudsman**

As a follow up to the policy passed last year, OAA organized the first meeting to discuss implementation of the Graduate Ombudsman position. It will be further institutionalized as part of a University Office of Ombudsmen and the position should be filled in the next 2-3 months. If you have suggested candidates, please pass them along.

### **COVID-19 Resources - <https://cgs.osu.edu/covid-19-resources/>**

Safe and Healthy Campus: [SafeandHealthy.osu.edu](https://SafeandHealthy.osu.edu)

Full list w/ Policy Changes: <https://wexnermedical.osu.edu/features/coronavirus/staff-and-students>

Mental Health Support: <https://ccs.osu.edu/ccs-covid-19-updates/for-students/>

Wexner Medical Center: [go.osu.edu/coronavirus](https://go.osu.edu/coronavirus)

Office of the President updates: <https://news.osu.edu>

Student Life Student Supports: [go.osu.edu/buckeyesupport](https://go.osu.edu/buckeyesupport)

Office of Research: <https://research.osu.edu/news-events/coronavirus-and-your-research-program/>

Human Resources: <https://hr.osu.edu/coronavirus/>

For e-learning success: [KeepLearning.osu.edu](https://KeepLearning.osu.edu)

For GTAs and Candidacy Exams: [KeepTeaching.osu.edu](https://KeepTeaching.osu.edu)


All Graduate Associates and Staff: [KeepWorking.osu.edu](https://KeepWorking.osu.edu)

### **CGS Resources**

As always, the [CGS.OSU.EDU](https://CGS.OSU.EDU) website should be up-to-date so you have easy access to any necessary resources and know where to point fellow grad students when they ask for more information! Additionally, the CGS Carmen page is updated to provide delegates access to any info, documents, or other resources you may need.

Please follow CGS on social media via our pages on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Linkden](#). This will allow you to stay up-to-date with programming, event/meeting reminders, and other great resources that we encourage you to share on these platforms. Our handles are @CGSOSU. Always feel free to reach out to me with any concerns via email at [post.144@osu.edu](mailto:post.144@osu.edu)!

Stay well and Go Bucks!



Council on Academic Affairs 2020-2021

Chair: Aviva Neff

Upcoming committee meeting: September 17th, 2020.

CAA committee will begin researching and drafting a resolution to request a more inclusive extension of time to degree in order to better recognize the demands of teaching during COVID 19 and the strain on research productivity.



**TO:** The Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
**FROM:** Kathryn Holt, Arts and Culture Chair  
**DATE:** 09/11/20  
**RE:** Committee Report

The Arts and Culture committee is scheduled to hold our first meeting of the academic year on September 8, during which we will establish goals and plans for the semester.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee  
September 2020  
Committee Updates

1. The DEI Committee had its first official meeting on August 31, 2020. The committee discussed projects that it would like to take on this semester, how the committee would be run and what members expect from one another. We then came up with action items to have completed by the next meeting. The committee will meet biweekly.
2. ERJC is in the middle of restructuring in response to the new stress of school and the continuing stress of life during COVID-19.
  - A. We are currently transitioning from a biweekly timeline to a monthly timeline.
  - B. We have transitioned from GroupMe to Slack.
  - C. We have lowered the expectation of policies to be completed in order to produce a quality workflow.
  - D. We have adjusted our deadlines.

Verdaynea Eason Agondanou

Madeleine (Maddy) Lomax-Vogt.2  
CGS Government Affairs Committee  
August 2020 – Sept 2020

### Summary

The Government Affairs committee met on September 3, 2020. All committee members were present for the meeting; Michelle Scott (Chair of the Graduate Student Affairs Committee) was also present. We discussed 2020 Election plans, legislation relevant to the election, and coordinating with OSU Votes.

Government Affairs is writing a resolution asking the university to provide discounted or free transportation to early vote. We plan to present the resolution at the September 11, 2020 CGS delegate meeting.

The next Government Affairs committee meeting is Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

### 2020 Election

1. Coordinate with OSU Votes to get grad student volunteers for poll standing, voter registration
  - a. OSU Votes will be presenting to the CGS delegate body at September 11, 2020 meeting
2. Digital push on CGS social media
3. **Premade packets of election day materials – voter registration form, absentee ballot request form, envelope(s), stamp(s), mailing address, instructions (as needed)**
  - a. How to get materials to students? *Want packets out ASAP*
    - i. Create Google Form for students to request materials
    - ii. Provide materials to grad student coordinators for departments with on campus students (may want to limit if students leaves campus)
    - iii. Pickup location – are we allowed to do this on campus?
    - iv. Mail to students – cost?
    - v. Home pickups from CGS members
  - b. Target departments that are voting at lower rate
4. Resolution to pay for transportation to early vote

**TO:** The Council of Graduate Students, Delegates  
**FROM:** Michelle Scott; Delegate, Chair – Graduate Student Affairs  
**DATE:** 9/11/2020  
**RE:** Committee Report

The Graduate Student Affairs committee is scheduled to hold our first committee meeting of the year on September 8<sup>th</sup>. We will establish goals and plans for the semester at this meeting.

TO: The Council of Graduate Students  
FROM: Abby Grieff, Chair of Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee  
DATE: 9/5/2020  
RE: Committee Report

GOALS: The Health, Wellness, and Safety committee aims to ensure the physical and mental well-being of all graduate students. Specifically, through a combination of research, university partnerships, and outreach initiatives the committee is focused on creating and promoting an environment of health, safety, and education throughout the university and outside committee.

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The HWS committee has created a survey to send out to graduate students to serve as a “check-in”. We hope to ask questions about how we can support them, where they see a need for support/help, and what they are most interested in with health, wellness, and safety. We will create our action plan based on responses; we want to cater to what graduate students actually need, not what we think they need. We will have delegates send this survey link out to their colleges/departments/programs.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at [grieff.2@osu.edu](mailto:grieff.2@osu.edu).

## **Council of Graduate Students – Housing and Family Affairs**

**Committee Chair: Leila Vieira.31**

**Date: 06/03/2020**

Dear CGS Delegates,

I hope you are healthy and safe, and welcome to the new delegates joining us this year.

My updates this month are all related to Buckeye Village family housing.

- Residents will continue to take the weekly surveillance saliva COVID-19 test at JON (as of now August 31, the option for residents to do the drive-through test is not available)
  - If a resident tests positive, they will **not** have to isolate out of BV, since units are not shared spaces.
- There are currently no plans to re-open the playground.
- Paving on Fred Taylor Dr. (and lane closures) will continue until Sept 18.
- We've requested that contracts be extended until August 2021 (end of academic year) instead of May 2021.

If you or some of your constituents are interested in serving in the Housing and Family Affairs committee, or if you have any questions and/or concerns about what I've shared, please reach out to me at Vieira.31.

**September 2020**

Senator: Aaron Beczkiewicz

**Committee Membership:**

Council on Enrollment and Student Progress

**University Senate:**

Attended new senator meeting on 8/27/20

**Council on Enrollment and Student Progress:**

Meeting on 9/8/2020 – update from this meeting will be in next month's report

**Council of Graduate Students:**

Attended meeting on 8/14/20

Attended special meeting on 8/24/20

**September 6, 2020**

**Name and Senate Seat:** Gala Korniyenko, City and Regional Planning, College of Engineering

**Committee(s) on:** CGS Housing and Family Affairs committee (HFA),

Senate Committee Member of COPE: <https://senate.osu.edu/committees/physical-environment#Committee-Members>

Task Force on Buckeye Village, Task Force on Resources for Parenting Students,

Task Force on Facility Operations and Development: COVID-19 Planning and Implementation

**August/September Meetings Attendance Record:**

**CGS Special Meeting for Senators**

August 27<sup>th</sup>: Attended

**Panel for New coming Professional and Graduate Students organized by Student Life**

August 29<sup>th</sup>: Attended

**COPE**

September 1<sup>st</sup>: Attended

**Summary of important activities from the committees, and anything important that I feel should be added to the CGS agenda/that delegates should know about:**

**All meetings are conducted** via Carmen Zoom due to COVID-19 and social distancing requirements

**CGS Housing and Family Affairs committee (HFA)**

The head of the committee **Leila Vieira** organized a research on childcare assistance for students with children. We are working on drafting the policy for childcare assistance for student parents, and hope CGS can support our committee in this effort.

Leila Vieira did an analysis on how other universities are doing this for the purpose of comparison.

**Senators' Orientation Meeting**

On August 27s we had a meeting /orientation for newly elected Senators. This was the new type of gathering as before (talking from my personal experience being a senator from May 2019) we did not have a separate meeting just for Senators. I think it's a great initiative to be able to build our strategy and stay on one page in terms of decision making. I am grateful for Graduate Caucus Chair for CGS Jenna Greve, who organized it, and CGS leadership. We decided that we would meet every second Thursday from 3:00 PM to 3:30 PM.

**Professional Student Panel - Graduate and Professional School Survival Skills Workshop**

On August 29, Saturday, I have volunteered for the workshop organized by Kerry M. Hodak, Assistant Director of Office of Student Life for Student Activities. The aim of this panel was to help new graduate students feel more confident and less alone in graduate school. During this panel we talked about adjustment needed when transitioning from undergraduate/job/career



to graduate or professional program, new time management strategies needed to develop to be successful in graduate school, how to attain balance between life as a student and the rest of their life, tips e for developing a productive relationship with a advisor, how much self-advocacy one needs to exercise in graduate school, and how to exercise it, and how to seek support in order to be successful.

### **COPE Meeting**

The first meeting this year was of an organizational nature, as our previous head left the position.

Jacob Boswell, an Associate Professor and Graduate Studies Chair at Landscape Architecture, Affiliated Faculty of Sustainability Institute, and Dr. Scott Schricker, would co-chair the committee in 2020-2021.

The main goal is to establish a clear direction for the committee and to figure out how it sits with the various other University bodies that touch the physical environment.

Our next month meeting will be on October 6<sup>th</sup>, where we will share what we learned from members and the administration for plotting our way forward.

We also plan to meet with the two of co-chairs to talk through what our expectations for them, and how we best connect with and report to the Senate, and I to CGS.

### **Facilities Operations & Development Involvement in COVID-19 Planning & Implementation**

We are planning for meeting with Calamari Peter and Aparna Dial, who has led OSU return effort. The goal is to explain their roles, organization and understand CGS students' interests as well.

1 **RESOLUTION 2021-001**

2 **A RESOLUTION FOR HAZARD PAY AND ADDITIONAL HOURLY COMPENSATION FOR IN-**  
3 **PERSON GRADUATE TEACHING AND COVERAGE**

4  
5 Authors: Kathryn Holt(.351), Arts and Culture Chair; Jenna Greve(.41), Graduate Student Caucus Chair; Katie  
6 Conner(.280), External Collaboration Chair; Mary Sagatelova(.2), Delegate, Evolution, Ecology, and  
7 Organismal Biology

8 Sponsors: Executive Committee  
9

10 WHEREAS the Council of Graduate Students (CGS) is the representative body of all graduate students enrolled  
11 at The Ohio State University as established by Article II Section 1 of the CGS Constitution; and  
12

13 WHEREAS the Council of Graduate Students or its appointed representative(s) have the power to act as an  
14 advisory agent on behalf of graduate students on all matters brought before personnel, committees, or agencies of  
15 The Ohio State University involving the interest of graduate students as established in Article III Section 3 of the  
16 CGS Constitution; and  
17

18 WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic is an ongoing public health crisis with more than one hundred thousand  
19 Ohioans infected<sup>1</sup> and hundreds of thousands more affected by state efforts to mitigate the health risks posed by  
20 the pandemic; and  
21

22 WHEREAS Franklin County has the highest number of COVID-19 cases of any county in the state of Ohio<sup>1</sup> and  
23 the Ohio Department of Health describes Franklin County as being in a Level 2 Public Emergency<sup>2</sup> and advises  
24 residents to “exercise high degree of caution”; and  
25

26 WHEREAS the first three days of September 2020 saw the highest daily increases in the state of Ohio since July  
27 2020, with Governor Mike DeWine attributing such to the reopening of schools and colleges<sup>3</sup>; and  
28

29 WHEREAS the burden of health risk has not been adequately mitigated or shared through public health  
30 distributive justice, thus leaving our most vulnerable populations at greatest risk, including our students with  
31 disabilities; and  
32

33 WHEREAS the university has not created a consistent response across departments to adequately address  
34 extended Graduate Teaching Associate absences due to quarantine and isolation measures; and  
35

36 WHEREAS instances where Graduate Teaching Associates are asked to cover additional sections beyond their  
37 contract for an extended period of time without increased compensation is in violation of Section 9.2.10 of the  
38 Graduate School Handbook which states, “Under no circumstances should graduate students serve as ‘volunteer’  
39 GAs where they are expected to provide service...at a stipend not commensurate with the expected load”<sup>4</sup>; and  
40

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<sup>1</sup> <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards>

<sup>2</sup> <https://covid-19.myfcph.org/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://radio.wosu.org/post/coronavirus-ohio-dewine-predicts-more-covid-19-cases-schools-reopen#stream/0>

<sup>4</sup> <https://gradsch.osu.edu/handbook/all>

41 WHEREAS requiring, setting expectations, or placing administrative pressure on Graduate Teaching Associates  
42 to volunteer to cover for additional sections beyond their contract further increasing their risk of contracting  
43 COVID-19 via increased exposure; and

44  
45 WHEREAS Graduate Teaching Associates are often weary of raising concerns with those in supervisory roles  
46 superior to them regarding additional hours or class coverage because their academic and financial standing are  
47 tethered to the qualifications of fulfilling their teaching responsibilities; and

48  
49 WHEREAS Graduate Teaching Associates are encouraged to entrust their well-being, safety, and financial  
50 conditions within administrative decision-making, leaving them in a compromising position to vocalize health  
51 concerns related to COVID-19 due to fears of possible administrative backlash; and

52  
53 WHEREAS the University of Iowa Campaign to Organize Graduate Students (Local 896), a student union  
54 representing University of Iowa graduate employees, has demanded hazard pay for all university workers<sup>5</sup>; and

55  
56 WHEREAS the Texas State Employees Union (CWA Local 6186), a rank-and-file union representing university  
57 workers, has demanded \$500/month in hazard pay to every university essential worker, included Graduate  
58 Teaching Associates<sup>6</sup>; and

59  
60 WHEREAS North Carolina Central University housekeepers and student supports have demanded a 25% hazard  
61 premium pay amidst rising COVID-19 cases and disproportionate occupational exposure by housekeepers and  
62 graduate students to SARS-CoV-2<sup>7</sup>; and

63  
64 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Council of Graduate Students is advocating with urgency that all graduate  
65 students in teaching positions for in-person classes through the university, its colleges, or academic departments  
66 receive hazard pay for in-person teaching, including the coverage of other teaching assistants that must be  
67 quarantined or isolated as it relates to COVID-19; and

68  
69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Council of Graduate Students deems it necessary that all graduate students in  
70 teaching positions receive additional compensation on an hourly basis for every hour that is beyond the bounds  
71 of the assigned hours they committed to; and

72  
73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students defers the hazard pay amount as determined  
74 by the recommendation of the Graduate Benefits and Compensation Committee; and

75  
76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Council of Graduate Students supports the academic missions of The Ohio  
77 State University but not at the cost of the health and safety of graduate students and risks that may be incurred by  
78 doing so through a global pandemic; and

79  
80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Council of Graduate Students looks to university administration at all levels  
81 of the institution to more actively prioritize the mental, physical, and psychological wellness of its students,  
82 especially under such conditions; and

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ueunion.org/ue-news/2020/university-of-iowa-graduate-workers-covid-19>

<sup>6</sup> <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/protectutssystem>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/education/article245045980.html>

83

84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Council of Graduate Students has previously and unanimously condoned the  
85 continuation of courses with greater effort to make them safer in-person and moved online where applicable; and

86

87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students is understanding of the necessity for certain  
88 courses to be held in-person but condemn the lack of consideration for the health and wellbeing of its graduate  
89 students in these spaces without appropriate financial compensation.

90

91 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students directs its President, Vice President, and  
92 Chief of Staff to distribute this resolution to all proper leadership and authorities of The Ohio State University  
93 and its partners.

94

95 Approved: Yes/No

96

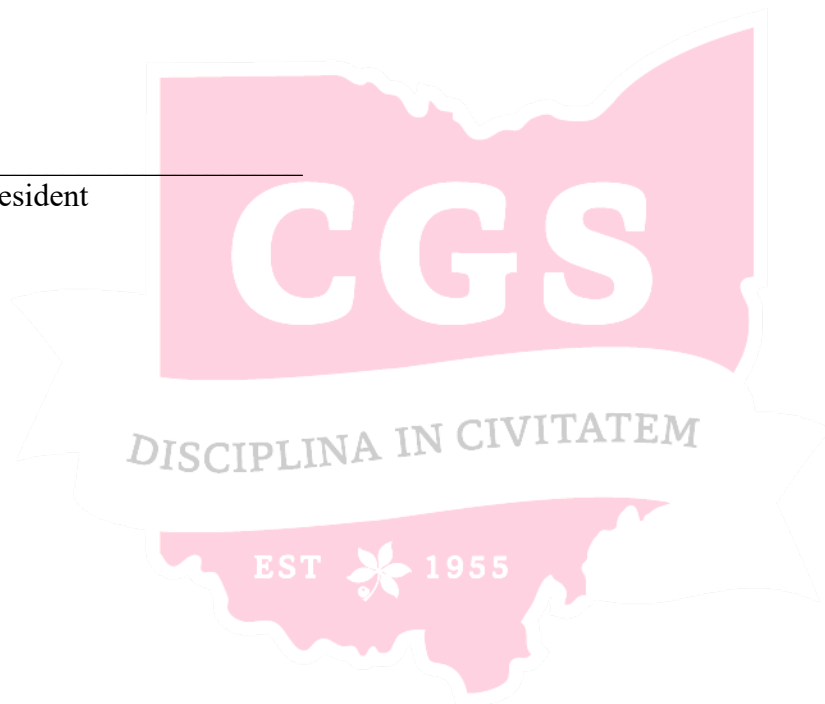
97 Date: \_\_\_

98

99

100

101 Stephen J. Post, President



Council of Graduate Students  
at The Ohio State University