



Council of Graduate Students
The Ohio State University

Date: November 6, 2020

Location:

<https://osu.zoom.us/j/95154677432?pwd=UllxNGhFaTBZYlljT3RpbC9hUGNkdz09>

Password: 130259

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

CGS Delegate Packet November 6, 2020

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Delegate Meeting Agenda

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1. **CALL TO ORDER** (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."*
 - 1.2. **Land Acknowledgment**
2. **Roll Call: Attendance Code = CGS2020** (5 min.)
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** (5 min.)
 - 3.1. **Minutes from Oct. 2nd, 2020**
4. **OFFICER REPORTS** (20 min.)

4.1. President, Stephen Post.144	4.4. Secretary, Sarah Light.109
4.2. Vice President, DaVonti' Haynes.242	4.5. Chief of Staff, Nick Messenger.37
4.3. Treasurer, Raven Lynch.389	4.6. Parliamentarian, Rania Khamees.5
5. **COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES** (15 min.)

5.1. Academic Affairs, Aviva Neff.336	5.8. International Student Affairs, Melika Shahhosseini.2
5.2. Arts & Culture, Kathryn Holt.351	5.9. Strategic Communications, TBA
5.3. Internal Affairs, Conner Sarich.6	5.10. Graduate Caucus, Jenna Greve.41
5.4. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, Colby Gregg.189 & Caroline Fitzpatrick.271	5.11. SERC, Wanderson NovaisPereria.1
5.5. Government Affairs, Maddy Lomax-Vogt.2	5.12. External Affairs, Katie Conner.280
5.6. Graduate Student Affairs, Michelle Scott.1445	5.13. Housing and Family Affairs, Leila Viera.31
5.7. Health, Wellness, & Safety, Abby Greiff.2	
6. **SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS** (15 min.)
 - 6.1. **Delegate Issues and Concerns (15 min.)**
7. **Speaker: Executive Vice President & Provost Bruce McPheron** (4:30-5:15pm)
8. **NEW BUSINESS** (140 min)
 - 8.1. LGBTQ+ Center Resolution
 - 8.2. CHP SERC Resolution
 - 8.3. CHP SERC Resolution
 - 8.4. Spring Break Resolution
 - 8.5. ERJC Resolution: Demilitarization
 - 8.6. ERJC Resolution: Black Academic Liaisons
 - 8.7. ERJC Resolution: Diversity Resources

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(5 min)

9.1. December Delegate Meeting – Dec. 4th @ 3:30pm

10. Adjourn

(6:30pm)

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.



Delegates Present: Ali AsghariAdib, Selasi Attipoe, Blake Barnett, Rob Barry, Om Prakash Bedant, Polina Berezina, Jessica Blackburn, Anthony Bowersock, John Bundschuh, Yu-Chun Chang, Steph Charles, Jacob Compaleo, Carrington Conerly, Katherine Conner, Paul Consiglio, Adam Culiver, Robert Dahlberg-Sears, Archit Datar, Ty Drayton, Benjamin Duran, Meaghann Dynes, Story Edison, Megan Espana, Caroline Fitzpatrick, , Jahmour Givans, Annedra Gladney, Colby Gregg, Jenna Greve, Sarah Haines, Keira Hambrick, Jordan Hartman, Nathaniel Heiden, Lindsey Hernandez, Christian Hines, Sarah Hyman, Gregory Jameson, Ellia La, Yifan Li, Ho-chieh Lin, Javonte Lipsey, Madeleine Lomax-Vogt, Zari Mahmoudi (ALT), Krutant Mehta, Benjamin Mertus, Alexander Milder, Aviva Neff, Wanderson Novais Pereira, Brian O'Rourke, Felipe Pacci Evaristo, Maritza Pierre, Kelsey Pinckard, Swetha Rajasekaran, Marie Rineveld, Mary Sagatellova, Akanksha Sahni, Ashweta Sahni, Erik Scaltriti, Michelle Scott, Melika Shahhosseini, Karla ShockleyMccarthy, Daniel Smith, Kye Stachowski, Goran Stevanovski, Matthew Stuckey, Jamie Utphall, Ana Maria Velasquez Giraldo, Ericka Velez-Bonet, Yitong Xin, Megan Zib

Delegates Absent: Deja Beamon, Riley Debacker, Todd Derose, Steph Fanelli, Brandon Free, Bethany Frick, Paul Gregor, Jake Hausmann, Ashwin Kane, Pouya Kousha, Matthew Maynard, Armando Roman, Derek Walton

Senators Present: Aaron Beczkiewicz, Tyler Beauregard, Jenna Greve, Gala Korniyenko, Laine Rumreich, Conner Sarich, Dustin Servello

Senators Absent: Shawar Ali, Akshay Asaithambi, Utkarsh Shah

Executive Committee Members Present: Jack Brandl, Katherine Conner, Jenna Greve, Abigail Grief, DaVonti' Haynes, Kathryn Holt, Sarah Light, Madeleine Lomax-Vogt, Raven Lynch, Aviva Neff, Wanderson Novais Pereira, Stephen Post, Conner Sarich, Michelle Scott, Melika Shahhosseini, Leila Viera

Executive Committee Members Absent: Verdaynea Eason Agondanou, Rania Khamees

1. Guest Speaker: Kerry Hodak.2, Office of Student Life

- 1.1. OUAB offers a wide range of activities, many of which have been adapted to a virtual format, including programming for personal enrichment, professional development, social engagement, family programs, as well as special events. Also, the D-Tix program is back.
- 1.2. BuckIServ will be offering a virtual experience in January.
- 1.3. The Wellness Center has recently hired a new position that will focus on graduate and professional students and this person will be working with OUAB to plan some programming.
- 1.4. There are opportunities for in-person events if you can be creative and keep the groups under 10 people.
- 1.5. Questions:
 - 1.5.1. Novaispereira.1: If SERC would like to organize a river clean-up, is this something that CGS could sponsor?
 - Yes, as long as it is organized such that it will be a group of 10 people or fewer.

2. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 3:50pm

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

3.1. Carmen log-in

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1. Minutes from September 11, 2020

- 4.1.1. Minutes approved.

5. OFFICER REPORTS (as submitted in Delegate Meeting Packet)

5.1. President (Post.144)

- 5.1.1. There are a handful of accommodation requests that are still pending approval, most of which have run into issues at the department level. President Johnson is aware of the issue and we will be working with her to investigate these further.
- 5.1.2. The number of graduate associates this year has not changed much from last year.
- 5.1.3. Graduate Council recently approved a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading option for graduate students this semester. The deadline to withdraw from a class has been extended until November 20th.
- 5.1.4. OSU has announced that Election Day is now a paid day off and they are encouraging people to volunteer as poll workers. We are still hoping to get this instituted as a formal holiday beginning next academic year.
- 5.1.5. There is now a website where you can sign up for the bus to get to the Board of Elections for a few days leading up to the election.
- 5.1.6. President Johnson was open to the idea of increasing the minimum stipend for graduate students and we have lots of support from the faculty in the Senate. The Office of Academic Affairs is currently considering the GCBC recommendations from last spring. We will talk more about this more later in the meeting as it is relevant for one of our resolutions.
- 5.1.7. Questions:
 - Light.109: is the S/U system only in place for this semester or will it be available in spring semester as well?
 - The current change is just for this semester but there is a possibility it will be instituted in the spring as well.
 - Velasquezgiraldo.1: Does the university have plans to evaluate the pass/no pass system for spring/summer semester?
 - Some students have petitioned to have their grades changed back to a letter grade because they ended up doing well in the class. We encourage students to really think hard about whether opting into this system is the best choice.

5.2. Vice President (Haynes.242)

- 5.2.1. Fall elections are happening next week so new delegates will begin in November. We will be working with departments directly to fill any seats that remain open after that.
- 5.2.2. CGS is sponsoring a Graduate Student Engagement Fund for events that will support the wellbeing of graduate students. Departments can apply for up to \$250 per event.
- 5.2.3. The Engaged Scholar Grant is now open. 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.
- 5.2.4. If you are interested in serving on the College of Arts and Sciences Dean Advisory Board, get in touch.
- 5.2.5. Questions:
 - Dahlberg-sears.1: Who is the person that can apply for this engagement funding?
 - Anyone who has the authority to spend department money can apply.

5.3. Treasurer (Lynch.389)

- 5.3.1. The university-wide spending freeze is still active although we have some flexibility to purchase necessary operational items.
- 5.3.2. Ray funding period 3 is now open and closes November 1st.

5.4. Secretary (Light.109)

- 5.4.1. The application window is now open for funding period 3 (activities between January 1 and March 31, 2021).
- 5.4.2. We have changed the letter that CDG winners get to streamline the information we are sending to them. We will also be working on an FAQ document and some example documents. We are hoping this will cut down on the numbers of students who are confused by and make mistakes with the reimbursement process. The goal is to get students their money as fast as we can.

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

6.1. Government Affairs (Lomax-vogt.2)

- 6.1.1. The committee is working on putting together absentee ballot packets for students including an envelope, stamps, absentee ballot application, and instructions for the process. These packets will be able to be requested via a Google form. They will be available for on-campus pick-up at the Ohio Union or delivered to your home. If you are interested in helping to deliver, please get in touch.
- 6.1.2. Lyft has a discount for a 1-way ride to the polls on election day.

6.2. Health, Wellness, & Safety (Grieff.2)

- 6.2.1. The committee sent out a wellness survey last week and the response rate has been good so far. Please send out this survey to your constituents!

6.3. SERC (Novaispereira.1)

- 6.3.1. The committee is working on a project to obtain and promote recyclable gloves.
- 6.3.2. Also continuing a project from last year that was cancelled to host a case competition in the spring in collaboration with the Sustainability Institute.

6.4. Graduate Student Affairs (Scott.1445)

- 6.4.1. The committee is working on infographics with information about working at the polls and voting – please circulate these to your constituents.

6.5. Graduate Caucus (Greve.41)

- 6.5.1. Facilities Operations and Development wants feedback about tailgating so please talk to Gala Korniyenko.1 if you have opinions you want to share.

6.6. International Student Affairs (Shahosseini.2)

- 6.6.1. Currently, international students can stay until the end of their program however there is a new proposal that would update this to require visa renewal every 2 or 4 years. The committee is talking with the Office of International Affairs about how this would affect students.

7. SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS

7.1. Delegate Concerns

- 7.1.1. Conner.280: There has been conflicting information about where students can get COVID testing, which locations will fulfill the requirement for surveillance testing, and which tests will be covered by student health insurance. Would be great if we could clarify and disseminate this information.
 - You can still schedule drive-through testing and that should fulfill the requirement. In the past, only positive tests from outside vendors have been allowed to be submitted but this has been changed to include negative tests for surveillance purposes as long as it is submitted within 48 hours of when the surveillance test was requested.
 - Students also have the option to apply for exemption for a single testing request if they will not be on campus that week.
 - The capacity for the asymptomatic testing program is not unlimited so it's possible some may be denied.
- 7.1.2. Datar.10: Where can we find more information about the S/U policy?
 - The Grad School has not pushed this announcement out yet so there will be more information available next week.
- 7.1.3. Dahlberg-sears.1: There has been talk about suspending grad student admissions beginning next year because of funding limitations. Are there any updates about this possibility?
 - There has been no official talk about this at the grad school level and these conversations are largely happening in individual departments that have particular funding issues.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Resolution 2021-003: A Resolution In Support of the Prioritization of Graduate Student Compensation

8.1.1. Conner.280: This resolution is asking for OSU to increase the minimum grad student stipend to follow through on the recommendations made by GCBC last spring. It asks for a University Senate resolution requesting immediate institution of the new stipend (including backpay) and also for admins making above a certain amount to take voluntary pay cuts to cover this pay increase.

8.1.2. Questions:

- Barnett.615: Is the expectation that these pay cuts are to make everything work out to a net zero? What happens if they just decide to raise tuition?
 - We could add in language that specifically asks that these cuts will be used to offset the costs of meeting the stipend funding increases but this possibility is not likely.
- Velasquezgiraldo.1: What do we know about the nature of the bonus that former President Drake received? Was it contractually obligated?
 - Not sure but the university policy states that the bonuses were not being given during the COVID crisis.
- Velasquezgiraldo.1: In Line 66, why the 20% cut specifically?
 - This is not a pay cut ask, it's just an example.
- Velasquezgiraldo.1: In Line 66-68, there is info about things Susan Basso has said but there is no reference or footnote associated with this clause?
 - She said this repeatedly in the town halls and we could add in the link to the recording if necessary.
- Hambrick.25: Would we need a separate resolution to address the cuts in stipend raises for students that passed candidacy this year?
 - Yes, because this differs a lot by department.
- O'Rourke.130: Does this only apply to students who are not currently receiving the minimum stipend?
 - Yes, this would only affect those who are below the minimum stipend level. However, departments who pay more than the minimum tend to also raise their funding levels when the minimum increases.

8.1.3. Discussion:

- Dahlberg-sears.1: It may be a good idea to include language that asks for the minimum stipend to always be at a certain level above the living wage for Columbus.
 - GCBC has talked about this possibility but has determined that working on this every few years allows for the group to evaluate benchmark institutions, living wage, etc. more specifically when making recommendations.

8.1.4. Resolution is voted on via Carmen survey.

8.1.5. Resolution passes (60 Yeas, 2 Nays, 0 Abstentions).

8.2. Resolution 2021-004: A Resolution Against the Use of The Ohio State University's Community Enrollment Question in All Part of the Student Application Process

8.2.1. Edison.22: When students apply to OSU, they are required to answer the Community Enrollment question that asks about academic misconduct, behavioral misconduct, and felony convictions. Those who check yes to this question have their application put on hold and must go through a review process to determine whether they will be admitted. This resolution is asking for more transparency about this whole process and for this question to either be abolished or, if not abolished, applicants should be given more information about the ramifications of answering or not answering this question.

8.2.2. Questions:

- Drayton.18: Is there any legal reason that OSU could use to argue for not removing this question?
 - Actually, there is a state law that prohibits this question from being asked for private institutions but not public institutions. This was not included because it does not currently apply to OSU applicants.
- Korniyenko.1: Does "criminal history in academic institutions" include crime of sexual nature, offense etc?
 - Yes, but most of these offenses do not result in a conviction.

8.2.3. Discussion:

- O'Rourke.130: In Line 56, it should read "did **not** complete their enrollment" instead of "did complete their enrollment"
- Accepted as a friendly amendment

8.2.4. Resolution is voted on via Carmen survey.

8.2.5. Resolution passes (52 Yeas, 4 Nays, 5 Abstentions).

8.3. Resolution 2021-005: A Resolution for Childcare and Dependent Assistance for all Graduate Students

8.4. Viera.31: OSU is not collecting data about grad student parents, but we know that this population is particularly vulnerable. For a single income household, much of this income must be allocated toward childcare expenses. OSU is falling behind benchmark institutions on this and this negatively impacts recruitment efforts. This resolution is asking for OSU to establish a fund for student parents and increase the capacity of the childcare spots for students and a paid leave fund for students when they travel for research and academic reasons.

8.4.1. Questions:

- Drayton.18: This resolution is about both childcare and dependents, but the language used in the latter half of the text only talks about childcare costs. Both should be mentioned in all the asks or the language about dependents should be removed.
 - Yes, this change will be made.
- Milder.3: Where does this \$60,000 amount come from in Lines 77-78? This seems low even for families with 2 working parents.
 - This was based on the average income for a family with two graduate student parents who make more than the minimum stipend.

8.4.2. Discussion:

- Stachowski.7: Suggested amendment to lines 70-72: "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these financial assistance funds amount to at least 75% of incurred cost per semester per child or dependent, and also cover expenses incurred as a result of academic and professional pursuits such as conference participation (travel or virtual), other professional development events, and fieldwork; and"
 - Jameson.61: This could favor those who have the means to spend more money on their childcare.
 - Stachowski.7: Putting a specific dollar amount would not allow this amount to scale up over the years and putting in a percentage would give parents the flexibility to choose the childcare that best meets their needs.
 - Greve.41: 75% is a huge ask since faculty and staff do not get this so this may not be realistic.
 - Conner.280: If we only ask for a lower percentage, they can bargain us down from that level. If we ask for more than we think is reasonable, this gives us more room for bargaining.
 - Sahni.16: 75% can be a little vague- could we add more information about what these costs might be?
 - Dahlberg-sears.1: The original reason to ask for \$1,000 is that it's easy to calculate and we thought it was reasonable enough that they would not say no. It's also based on what benchmark institutions give to their students.
 - Drayton.18: You could take out a specific number or percentage completely and just ask that it the amount be comparable to the institutions listed in the appendix.
 - Truesdell.27(non-delegate): The potential problem with removing a specific amount and benchmarking non-specifically is that there is a large range mentioned in the appendix.
 - Velasquezgiraldo.1: A potential different way to phrase this would be to say that if OSU does not have a spot for you at their childcare centers, you will receive compensation for costs incurred by enrolling your child at a different center.
 - Final accepted amendment to Lines 70-72: "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these financial assistance funds be in an amount competitive to benchmark institutions and also cover expenses incurred as a result of academic and professional pursuits such as conference participation (travel or virtual), other professional development events, and fieldwork; and"

- Amendment is voted on and passes.
- Stachowski.7: Suggested amendment to Lines 77 and 78: "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that assistance should be based on financial need and open to all graduate students regardless of household income, with preference given to households with incomes less than \$75,000; and"
 - No discussion.
 - Amendment is accepted.

8.5. Resolution is voted on via Carmen survey.

8.6. Resolution passes (52 Yeas, 2 Nays, 4 Abstentions).

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

8.1 Next meeting is November 6, 2020 @ 3:30pm.

10. Meeting adjourned at 5:32pm.

TO: The Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Sarah Light, Secretary
DATE: November 1, 2020
RE: Secretary's Report

The application window for funding period 3 of the Career Development Grant closed last weekend. 20 students have applied, and the committee will be completing judging in the next few weeks. All applicants will only be awarded funds for non-travel expenses because of the continuing travel restrictions put in place by the University. We have recently adjusted the process for distributing information about the award and reimbursement process so if you get any feedback from those in your department who have won the CDG, please don't hesitate to share with me.

Over the next few months, I will be working with Nick, our new Chief of Staff, to streamline and codify some of the internal procedures that we use. This will help with transparency and reduce some of the redundant busy work done by officers. The hope is that we can put structures in place that will reduce the workload for future exec teams, especially for those people who may be completely new to CGS.

As part of our initiative to celebrate CGS' 65th anniversary this academic year, myself, Nick, and DaVonti' are working on several projects. We have compiled a list of about 700 CGS alumni who we will be contacting to gauge interest about forming an alumni society. We are working on possibilities to host some virtual events for current members and alumni, host a fundraiser next semester, and put out a small magazine focusing on what CGS has accomplished over the years. If you are interested in helping out with this project, please let us know!

All the best,

Sarah

To: Council of Graduate Students
From: Stephen Post.144, President
Date: 11/1/20
RE: President's Report

Breathe ...

Crazy to think this is our last meeting before the in-person semester is over! Our third delegate meeting of 2020-21 will be held virtually via Zoom this **Friday, November. 6th @ 3:30pm**. We will still be taking attendance via CGS Carmen quiz ; attendance code = **CGS2020**.

PLEASE READ ALL 7 RESOLUTIONS AHEAD OF TIME & MAKE COMMENTS IN THE CARMEN DISCUSSION IF YOU SEE ISSUES!!!! We are trying to streamline these as much as possible. The link to join the meeting can be found here:

<https://osu.zoom.us/j/95154677432?pwd=UllxNGhFaTBZYlljT3RpbC9hUGNkdz09>

Password: **130259**

GA Minimum Stipend Increase Announcement

While most of you have heard by now, President Johnson announced in University Senate the plan to increase the minimum Graduate Associate stipend by \$4,000 by Autumn 2021. This will be a 2-step process with the first \$2,000 increase effective this academic year (Jan. 2021), and the second \$2,000 increase to be in place for contracts starting Autumn 2021. Previously the rate was \$17,280 annually for a traditional 9-month appointment, and these increases will raise the minimum stipend to \$21,280. You can read the full announcement highlighting CGS' and GCBC's work here: <https://news.osu.edu/ohio-state-increases-minimum-graduate-stipends-by-4000-over-two-years/>. GCBC will continue to monitor the impact that this increase will have. Please let me know if you have any questions and keep sharing the good news!

Graduate Ombudsman

Vice Provost Helen Malone updated the University Senate at our last meeting that the Graduate Ombudsman position is moving forward and that we can expect a Faculty Rules change in coming months. Michelle Scott, GSA Chair, and I are serving on the Graduate Ombudsman search committee. The application should roll out this week, and the committee is taking applications through November 16th. We hope to have some selected in time to start by January 2021. This is someone who will hold an important and highly engaged role with graduate student issues, thus if you have any suggestions for who may serve well in the role please submit them to me and Michelle via email at post.144@osu.edu and scott.1445@osu.edu.

2020 Election Support

PLEASE REMEMBER TO GO VOTE! The Government Affairs committee has worked to make absentee ballot packets available at the Ohio Union front desk. Additionally, our advocacy contributed to the [early voting bussing](#) that took place this weekend, the [leniency in allowing](#) students and employees time to vote or be a poll worker, and the partnership between OSU and Lyft to [offer free rides to the polls on election day](#). Maddy and Government Affairs will continue to share info on the election and work to engage graduate students in voting!

COVID-19 Matching Funding update

The Graduate School awarded more than \$450,000 through the 1st round of their [Matching Fee and Tuition Authorization \(MFTA\)](#) program with departments to help with funding students affected by COVID-19. The Graduate School has announced the release of another round of funding particularly for those colleges who used all of their initial allotted funds (Arts&Sciences and Engineering I believe had used all of theirs). You can find more info on the 2nd round of MFTA here: <https://gradsch.osu.edu/news/second-round-extension-graduate-school-matching-tuition-and-fee-authorization-program>.

Current COVID-19 Graduate Student Issues

Accommodations

As we get closer to SP21, we are still making sure GA's receive appropriate accommodations for COVID-19. 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) so I can follow up.

As of 10/21, 90 student employees have requested accommodations. Of those, 75 have been approved, 13 withdrew, 0 are awaiting approval from the department and 2 are being processed through the ADA process. 0 have been denied at this point.

GTA total Requests: 79

Approved: 68
Withdrawn: 11
Pending: 0

GRA total requests: 11

Approved: 7
Withdrawn: 2
Pending: 2

Testing

If a student can provide confirmation/documentation that they will not be on campus the week they are scheduled to be tested, they can do a go.osu.edu/SHSexemption for the exemption process. For more information on testing, please visit [here](#).

Employment & Hiring

We were assured that all Graduate Associates are still *EXEMPT* from the OSU hiring freeze. Please advise folks to speak NOW with their advisors and PIs about continuing their GA in SP21 and SU21. All GA appointments still have to be approved by the Dean of the College or VP of the unit.

Timeline and Funding Extensions

Academic Affairs Committee is drafting a resolution in support of a extending degree timelines by a year. We are still pushing for more central funds to be devoted along with any degree extensions, but the current support for students who need funding due to COVID-19 is the MFTA program through the Graduate School mentioned above.

State of Graduate Student Mental Health Event

Thanks to Abby Grieff our Chair of the Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee for putting on the State of Graduate Student Mental Health event. We had a lot of great speakers and some enlightening data on graduate mental health was shared. You can watch the recording [here](#).

Equity and Racial Justice

We continue to engage with the 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 Rania, Caroline, Colby, Nick, or me if you have questions or want to get involved.

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

Safe and Healthy Campus: 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

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

Student Life Student Supports: 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

For GTAs and Candidacy Exams: KeepTeaching.osu.edu

All Graduate Associates and Staff: KeepWorking.osu.edu

Post-Candidacy Leave Option: <https://gradsch.osu.edu/sites/default/files/resources/pdfs/Post-Candidacy%20Autumn%202020%20Leave%20of%20Absence%20Form%2024AUG2020.pdf>

Graduate Schools Timeline and Funding Extensions: <https://gradsch.osu.edu/news/graduate-school-announcement-delay-graduation-and-matching-tuition-and-fee-authorization>

Grad Student Emergency Funds: <https://sfa.osu.edu/contact-us/consumer-disclosure/COVID-19-aid> & <https://advocacy.osu.edu/student-emergency-fund/>

Graduate Mental Health Tailored Resource Survey: go.osu.edu/checkyourstressgradstudent

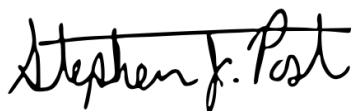
CGS Resources

As always, the 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. Email light.109@osu.edu if you need access.

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!

Stay well and Go Bucks!



TO: The Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Equity and Racial Justice Ad-Hoc Committee
DATE: November 1, 2020

As the previous co-chairs of this committee have stepped back from CGS, I have stepped up to take over as interim chair for the committee. We will be accepting applications for a permanent chair who will take over at the end of year.

The committee's work will be extended through the spring semester, which will allow for time to put out a complete report and list of recommendations based on the research all members have been doing since last summer. The committee has drafted several resolutions: 3 are being discussed in this delegate meeting and 1-2 more will be on the agenda for December. Extension of this committee will also allow members to see their resolutions through the legislation process.

All the best,

Rania Khamees.5 (Parliamentarian)

TO: The Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Governance Ad-Hoc Committee
DATE: November 1, 2020

Due to the extra workload created this semester in dealing with the ongoing pandemic, DaVonti' has stepped back from leadership of the Ad-hoc Governance Committee. Sarah Light (secretary) and Brandon Free (delegate) have stepped up to take over and see the committee through the rest of its work.

The committee's work will be extended through the spring semester and we would like to have a final report and list of proposed amendments to present to the delegate body by our February delegate meeting. We are currently about halfway through discussing all of the governing documents and will finish discussions by the end of the year. Then, the committee will finalize the language for all changes early in 2021.

All the best,

Sarah Light.109 & Brandon Free.41

October DEI Updates:

After the disappointing but understandable decision of Verdaynea to leave CGS, the DEI Committee has new self-selected co-chairs, Colby Gregg and Caroline Fitzpatrick.

Currently, projects of the committee include a Mental Health Specialist Series, curated by member Ellia La. This program brings a community clinician to campus (virtually) for small group discussions on mental health support for Black and other folks of Color. The first session was 10/30; Ellia's goal is to have one session of this series near the end of each month. Other committee members are continuing work on creating a tool kit for trans* students and making connections with student orgs representing vulnerable populations.

TO: Council of Graduate Students
FROM: Katie (Katherine) Conner.280
Date: 11/1/20
RE: Committee Report

The External Affairs committee had a limited meeting in October, and has kept in touch mostly by email after that point.

The committee has set several goals for the year including...

- Creating and distributing a needs assessment in order to best gauge the state of grad student education and life, in a broad range of areas (Ex: pay, childcare, labor conditions, food and housing security, administrative and departmental transparency, etc.), in addition to having CGS-held data about the express needs, concerns, and opinions of graduate students.
- Assisting as needed with the GQUE assessment in Spring 2021.
- Assisting as needed with the Spring 2021 Big10 Summit.
- Beginning work on collecting, sorting, and hosting a broad database of resources for graduate students in areas like housing, food, healthcare, childcare, etc. needs. Such as to better allow for knowledge of and access to a wide range of resources for students in crisis (saving grad students important time and energy of having to track down resources at OSU, state, and national level all in one place).

I, as the committee chair, attended the annual SAGE Fall Summit. I attended sessions focused on Mental Health and Administrative Transparency, and panels on “The Future of Higher Education” and DEI Best Practices. In addition to this, I voted in the selection of this year’s SAGE working groups which are as follows: International Students, Student Finance, Student Wellness, HEA Reauthorization, and Campus Climate. Additionally I voted in favor of SAGE drafting a statement on Environmental Justice and Climate Change.

Our next meeting will take place in the 2nd week of November.

TO: The Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Michelle Scott; Delegate, Chair – Graduate Student Affairs
DATE: 11/6/2020
RE: Committee Report

The Graduate Student Affairs committee met on October 6th and discussed voter information and packet updates, as well as ideas for a LGBTQ+ Center resolution. We also worked with the Government Affairs Committee to help distribute voter packets to graduate students. Abigail Grieff, myself, Eli Bohnert, and Ashley Glass worked on a resolution for the LGBTQ+ center, which we will see today. Additionally, the Graduate Ombuds Search Committee has assembled the job description which will be sent out and established the deadline for applications. If you know any faculty or emeriti faculty whom you think would be a good fit, please send Stephen or I their contact info! Our next committee meeting is scheduled for November 10th at 2:30pm.

TO: The Council of Graduate Students
FROM: Abby Grieff, Chair of Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee
DATE: 10/30/2020
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.

The Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee has continued to have a busy semester. We have closed our “Graduate Student Wellness” survey and are beginning data analysis. We also just hosted our “State of Graduate Student Mental Health Q&A” event. This was a huge success! Students who attended found this event to be helpful with connecting them to resources. I will be sending out the recording/slides, and a feedback survey, to see what we can improve upon for our next event. We have also created a “Wellness Bingo” fall/winter activity sheet for graduate students to have some fun, COVID-19 friendly, self-care activities to do. We hope to get this out within the next week. We have also created scheduled social media posts to promote OSU resources and overall wellness via CGS social media platforms.

As of now, we are beginning to plan our next programming event, and determining the topic of focus based on need expressed in the survey we administered. We are also planning to apply to host a program on behalf of CGS for the “Love Your Body Week” through OSU. We are looking forward to creating a program that focuses on self-love. Additionally, representatives from CGS, IPC, and USG are coming together to plan a “Mental Health Summit” for the spring semester. The goal of this summit will be to bring together student organization leaders who are responsible for member’s mental health (ex. Someone with a position similar to mine in respective orgs) to provide resources on how to lead effectively and support their members.

Council of Graduate Students – Housing and Family Affairs Committee

Date: October 29, 2020

Chair: Leila Vieira.³¹

Dear CGS delegates,

I hope you and your families are safe and healthy.

Thank you to all who have supported our resolution on childcare and dependent assistance last month. There are some important updates from our committees below:

Housing:

- The university has finished a housing study which focused on site, usage, and capacity
- They looked at patient housing, visiting scholar housing, creative living, family housing, and undergraduate housing. The North area (St Johns arena) would be for undergraduate housing to replace Morrill and Lincoln towers. The South area (between 10th and 11th st, corner of High St) would be for patient, visiting scholars, students with disabilities, and potentially some family housing.
- an area on the corner of Ackerman and Fred Taylor (where the BV community garden is) could be for family housing. The capacity for this project would be three four-story buildings with 468 units and 481 parking spaces. The number of bedrooms per units can be adjusted. We shared concerns about lack of green space for children to play in the area.

The next steps for these projects are to present to university stakeholders and private construction companies. The university has no idea how long it will take. We will keep asking.

Graduate Student Parenting Award

- The Graduate School is working on this award for grad student parents.
- They have \$20,000 budgeted for it for the next couple of years. Awards will be of \$500/semester and students can apply in multiple semesters.
- It will be based on merit and recognition [in three areas: Progress toward degree; Additional performance areas (GTA, GRA, leadership roles, etc.); Parenting challenges (housing, home schooling/COVID, day care, etc.)]
- The number of awards per college will be based on the overall number of students in that college
- Students will have to be nominated and the colleges will decide who gets it (not the grad school). Self-nominations are accepted.

While we appreciate the Graduate School has finally realized the need for supporting student parents, our committee is disappointed by the small amount awarded and that it is based on merit, making student parents work even harder and giving them yet another task.

That being said, I urge all student parents to **please** apply and ask other student parents to apply (even if you send in a poor application) when this comes out. Having a considerable number of applications will help us make our case to the importance of better supporting this student population.

Buckeye Village:

- Housing still doesn't know if they'll be able to extend contracts until August 2021 for those graduating then (as opposed to May 2021)
- Residents will have to continue to be tested weekly for the coronavirus until further notice (even after the university moves instruction online for the remainder of fall semester after Thanksgiving)
- The playground at BV should open back up soon

Please let me know if you have any questions and/or concerns about any of these issues.

And if you are interested in joining this committee, please email me at vieira.31.

SERC Report

Dear Delegates,

In the Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility Committee (SERC), we have been working on two main projects, the Recyclable Gloves and Net Impact Case Competition.

- Recyclable Gloves: The group responsible for this project has a proposal and is looking for funds.
- Case Competition: Ideas and Formats of the case competition are being discussed.

Also, in response to the concerns raised during the Sustainability Institute webinar regarding the CHP plants, members of SERC wrote two resolutions, one regarding future use of fossil fuels and another recommending OHIO State to invest the money saved with the operation of CHP plant in communities affected by fracking. As a suggestion of a member of SERC, the committee is planning to reach out to equivalent SERC of the other Big Ten to write a joint statement recommending our universities to divest from fossil fuels.

If there is any questions, concerns, or comments, please get in touch with the committee chair, Wanderson Novais, at novaispereira.1@osu.edu.

Best Regards,

SERC

November 2020

Senator: Aaron Beczkiewicz

Committee Membership:

Council on Enrollment and Student Progress

University Senate:

Attended meeting on 10/22/20

Council on Enrollment and Student Progress:

Attended meeting on 10/6/20

- Discussed approving the AY29-30 calendar. Further discussion on the possibility of adding an extra reading day before final exams postponed to the November meeting.
- Council subgroup will be continuing discussion of grading options offline to develop a game plan for spring semester.
- As of now, end of semester deadlines (i.e., application for graduation, final document submission) for spring semester will remain the same as before regardless of what happens with "Spring Break".

Council of Graduate Students:

Attended meeting on 10/2/20

October 30, 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>

October Meetings Attendance Record:

Senate meeting

October, 22th: Attended

CGS Meeting

October 2th: Attended

COPE

October 6st: 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

Senate meeting:

Secretary's Report

Name change of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science

Name change of the Department of Theatre

CGS Meeting

I have created the discussion on Carmen related to Facility Operation and Development request. I have got several responses, which were directed to the FOD.

COPE Meeting

Committee created several new sub-committees: Long Term Planning Committee, Action Committee, and Survey Committee.

We discussed issues concerning sustainability, and President and Provost's Council on Sustainability (PPCS). The co-chairs continue to meet with administrators aligned with COPE.

CGS Senator Report

Name: Laine Rumreich

Committee(s) you are on: COAM, Committee on Academic Freedom & Responsibility (CAFR)

Meetings Record: (name of committee, date of meeting, important updates from committee)

September Meetings Attendance Record

CGS Delegate Meetings

October 2nd Meeting: Attended

University Senate

October 22nd Meeting: Attended

COAM

Attended required meetings (1)

Updates: none

CAFR

No meetings

Attended University Senate Meeting? Yes

Anything else important that you feel should be added to the CGS agenda/that delegates should know about:

None

CGS Senator Report

Name: Shahwar Ali

Committee(s) you are on: Graduate Compensation and Benefits

Meetings Record:

Graduate Compensation and Benefits

October 31, 2020

In our last meeting, we discussed about increasing compensation for graduate students and putting a resolution together for Senate to review. I worked with our chair, Stephen Post, to draft a resolution. We also discussed about what was happening with family housing facility (Buckeye Village) and what information was made available by Parenting & Pregnant Student Support Committee for us to determine what the next steps would be to make sure we are supporting the needs of our students. We then discussed about issues and needs of graduate students and how we could address them effectively.

Attended University Senate Meeting? Yes

Anything else important that you feel should be added to the CGS agenda/that delegates should know about:

The Department of Homeland Security's most recent proposal to replace the "duration of status" for international students and scholars with a policy setting an expiration date for an authorized stay. This policy change would hinder the ability of international students and scholars to remain in the United States to continue their studies or research while complying with all the requirements of their immigration status. This policy will cause devastating consequences for international students pursuing higher education in America as well as for universities like ours in attracting the best students to come study here.

RESOLUTION 2021-006

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A CAMPUS LGBTQ+ CENTER

Authors: Abigail Grieff.2, Chair, Health, Wellness, and Safety; Michelle Scott.1445, Chair, Graduate Student Affairs; Eli Bohnert.14; Ashley Glass.268
Sponsor: Executive Committee

WHEREAS the Council of Graduate Students (CGS) is the representative body of all graduate students enrolled at The Ohio State University as established by Article 2, Section 1 of the CGS Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Council is vested with the authority to voice graduate student concerns and needs to the university; and

WHEREAS, The Ohio State University's fundamental values and goals embrace the nurturing and growth of every student¹; and

WHEREAS, The Ohio State University is the only school in the Big Ten to not have an LGBTQ+ Center on their campus²; and

WHEREAS, most recently, Northwestern University created an LGBTQ+ center in 2004, after numerous negotiations between students and administration, giving students who identify as LGBTQ+ a space to be supported³; and

WHEREAS, according to the research report, *Exploring Wellbeing to Support Success of LGBTQ and Questioning Students at The Ohio State University*, from the College of Social Work, Multicultural Center, and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, it is recommended that The Ohio State University not only increase resources for LGBTQ+ students, but also have a specific LGBTQ+ facility that is not housed in the multicultural center⁴; and

WHEREAS, the 2018-2019 Wellness Assessment of undergraduate and graduate student wellness from the Center for the Study of Student Life found that LGBTQ+ students scored significantly lower than straight students in career, emotional, financial, physical, social, and spiritual wellness⁵; and

WHEREAS, the 2018-2019 Wellness Assessment of undergraduate and graduate student wellness also found that LGBTQ+ students had significantly lower scores in present career wellness, which was defined as the positivity, stress, and balance in their current work environment⁵; and

WHEREAS, all LGBTQ+ efforts are currently being housed in the Multicultural Center, and they have one full-time staff member to specifically focus on needs of LGBTQ+ students⁶; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ resources are broadly housed in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion⁷, Counseling and Consultation Services⁸, the Kirwan Institute on Race and Ethnicity⁹, and various other offices; and

WHEREAS, according to the Campus Climate on Diversity report in 2019, LGBTQ+ students reported a significantly lower sense of belonging at Ohio State compared to their heterosexual peers¹⁰; and

¹ <https://oaa.osu.edu/mission-vision-values-and-core-goals>

2 Appendix A

³ <https://dailynorthwestern.com/2004/01/07/archive-manual/lgbt-center-opens-its-doors-to-students/>

⁴ <https://csw.osu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/OSU-LGBTQQ-Study-Report-for-Release.pdf>

⁵ Wellness Assessment 2018-2019: Wellness of Students Based on Sexual Orientation. Center for the Study of Student Life, The Ohio State University Office of Student Life. March 2019.

⁶ <https://mcc.osu.edu/about-us/our-team>

⁷ <https://odi.osu.edu/lgbtq-resources>

⁸ <https://ccs.osu.edu/outreach/celebrating-diversity/lgbtq>

⁹ <https://womensplace.osu.edu/resources/lgbtq-staff-faculty-resources>

¹⁰ <https://cssl.osu.edu/posts/632320bc-704d-4eef-8bcb-87c83019f2e9/documents/campus-climate-on-diversity-msl-trends-final-accessible.pdf>

43 WHEREAS, according to the 2020 LGBTQ+ Campus Climate Report, 58.85% of LGBTQ+ undergraduate, graduate, and
44 professional student respondents said it was “extremely” or “very” important to them to have an LGBTQ+ Center on
45 campus¹¹; and
46
47 WHEREAS, of LGBTQ+ respondents, 90.25% agreed that having an LGBTQ+ Center on campus would make them feel
48 more supported on campus¹¹; and
49
50 WHEREAS, of LGBTQ+ respondents, 79.92% agreed than having an LGBTQ+ Center on campus would make them feel
51 safer at OSU¹¹; and
52
53 WHEREAS, in 2018, 10% of LGBTQ+ students at Ohio State described the campus as hostile and negative, compared to
54 4% in 2015¹⁰; and
55
56 WHEREAS survey results over three years indicated that LGBTQ+ students experience higher amounts of discrimination
57 while attending Ohio State compared to heterosexual students¹⁰; and
58
59 WHEREAS, higher education is typically a place that supports positive identity development¹²; and
60
61 WHEREAS, literature supports a positive value in postsecondary curriculum, role models, and building community in
62 helping students with LGBTQ+ identity development¹²; and
63
64 WHEREAS, literature also supports that having an LGBTQ+ center helps to increase inclusion and positive campus
65 climate when it comes to discrimination against LGBTQ+ students¹²; and
66
67 WHEREAS, the creation of an LGBTQ+ center would allow for resources to be consolidated and for more staff to be
68 hired to focus specifically on the needs of LGBTQ+ students on campus in the form of resources, programs, and events;
69 and
70
71 WHEREAS, having an LGBTQ+ Center at Ohio State would allow for more focus to be dedicated to the specific needs of
72 queer Black, Indigenous, and people of color, graduate/professional, regional campus, and transfer students and
73 transgender students; and
74
75 WHEREAS, both USG and IPC have written similar resolutions in support of an LGBTQ+ Center, and CGS is in full
76 support of these bodies and agrees such a center is necessary for student support.
77
78 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of Graduate Students officially recommends that The Ohio State
79 University create a campus LGBTQ+ Center on central campus; and
80
81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of Graduate Students recognizes the importance of creating a space for
82 LGBTQ+ students that provides support and resources to all students on campus; and
83
84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of Graduate Students is committed to fostering an inclusive campus
85 community for LGBTQ+ students and finds that having an LGBTQ+ Center would create an environment of increased
86 acceptance and strengthen the entire campus community; and
87
88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of Graduate Students recommends that The Ohio State University
89 introduce additional measures to support LGBTQ+ students on all of its campuses; and
90
91 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students directs its President and Vice President to distribute
92 this resolution to The Ohio State University President Kristina M. Johnson, Executive Vice President and Provost Bruce

¹¹ <https://osu.app.box.com/s/ihj5f8yby54zj8v2mafswls1dk57ri8h>

¹² <https://www.higheredtoday.org/2017/04/10/lgbtq-students-higher-education/?print=pdf>

93 McPherson, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School Alicia Bertone, Vice President for
94 Student Life Melissa Shivers Calhoun, Vice President for Government Affairs Stacy Rastaukas, and the Chair of the
95 Council on Student Affairs Jordan Vadjia, and all other relevant leadership and authorities of The Ohio State University
96 and its partners.

97
98
99 Approved: Yes/No

100
101 Date: _____

102
103
104 _____
105 Stephen J. Post, President



Council of Graduate Students
at The Ohio State University

Appendix A

School	Center Name	Location	Website
Indiana University	LGBTQ+ Culture Center	House near student union	https://lgbtq.indiana.edu/index.html
Michigan State University	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Resource Center	Area inside student services building	https://lbgtrc.msu.edu/
Northwestern University	Gender and Sexuality Resource Center	Area inside student union	https://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/lgbt/
Pennsylvania State University	Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity	Area inside student union	https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/csgd
Purdue University	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender, and Queer Center	Area inside student services building	https://www.purdue.edu/lgbtq/
Rutgers University	The Center for Social Justice Education and LGBT Communities	House near student union	http://socialjustice.rutgers.edu/
University of Illinois	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Resource Center	Area inside student union	https://oiir.illinois.edu/lgbt-resource-center
University of Iowa	Pride Alliance Center	House about 1 mile away from student union	https://multicultural.uiowa.edu/culturalcenters/pridehouse/
University of Maryland	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Equity Center	Area inside campus building	https://lgbt.umd.edu/
University of Michigan	Spectrum Center	Area inside student union	https://spectrumcenter.umich.edu/
University of Minnesota	Gender and Sexuality Center for Queer and Trans Life	Area inside campus building	https://gsc.umn.edu/
University of Nebraska	LGBTQA+ Center	Area inside student union	https://lgbtqa.unl.edu/welcome?fbclid=IwAR3sya9Pe8_VYQg6-nwyKe5bXI840c-Gs_1MH97OCgTj5-H_tnkt8OJFXAA
University of Wisconsin	Gender and Sexuality Campus Center	Area inside campus building	https://lgbt.wisc.edu/
The Ohio State University	N/A	N/A	N/A

Council of Graduate Students
at The Ohio State University

1 **RESOLUTION 2021-007**

2 **A RESOLUTION ADVOCATING FOR UNIVERSITY SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES NEGATIVELY**
3 **IMPACTED BY THE COMBINED HEAT AND POWER FACILITY**

4 Authors: Mary Sagatelova.², Delegate, Evolution, Ecology, and Organic Biology; Wanderson NovaisPeireira.¹, Chair,
5 Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility Committee

6 Sponsor: Executive Committee
7

8 WHEREAS the Council of Graduate Students (CGS) is the representative body of all graduate students enrolled at The
9 Ohio State University as established by Article 2, Section 1 of the CGS Constitution; and

10
11 WHEREAS the Council or its appointed representative(s) have the power to sit as an advisory agent on behalf of graduate
12 students on all matters brought before personnel, committees, or agencies of The Ohio State University involving the interest
13 of graduate students as established in Article 3 Section 3 of the CGS Constitution; and

14
15 WHEREAS the Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility Committee (SERC) advocates for sustainability and
16 environmentally friendly policies and procedures within CGS and across The Ohio State University; and

17
18 WHEREAS the Ohio Power Siting Board issued an Opinion, Order, and Certificate approving the Ohio State University's
19 Combined Heat and Power Facility on September 17th 1,2; and

20
21 WHEREAS the Combined Heat and Power Facility will produce thermal energy powered by natural gas which will
22 require natural gas extraction via hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking³; and

23
24 WHEREAS extracting natural gas via fracking has been shown to contaminate drinking water⁴, displace communities⁵,
25 negatively impact ecological systems⁶, and emit high amounts of methane into the atmosphere⁷; and

26
27 WHEREAS methane is the second most prevalent greenhouse gas within the atmosphere and is more efficient than carbon
28 dioxide (CO₂) at trapping solar radiation and contributing to global climate change; and

29
30 WHEREAS Ohio State did not properly investigate the adverse environmental, economic, or social consequences of natural
31 gas extraction for the Combined Heat and Power Facility⁸; and

32
33 WHEREAS students have opposed the Combined Heat and Power plant due to potential harm for people and
34 environment^{9,10}; and

35
36 WHEREAS Ohio State has not, as of yet, identified the source of natural gas for the Combined Heat and Power Plant but
37 acknowledged it will be incrementally derived from shale deposits¹¹; and
38

¹ <https://www.dispatch.com/story/business/energy-resource/2020/09/19/planned-ohio-state-power-plant-gets-regulatory-approval/114084942/>

² <https://buildingthefuture.osu.edu/combined-heat-and-power-plant>

³ <https://www.thelantern.com/2020/09/ohio-state-gains-approval-for-on-campus-natural-gas-plant/>

⁴ Osborn, S.G., Vengosh, A., Warner, N.R., Jackson, R.B. (2011). Methane contamination of drinking water accompanying gas-well drilling and hydraulic fracturing. *Proc Natl Acad Sci. U.S.A.* 108: 8172.

⁵ Jacquet, J.B. (2014). Review of risks to communities from shale energy development. *Environ Sci Technol.*, 48: 8321-8333.

⁶ Drohan, P.J., Brittingham, M., Bishop, J., et al. (2012). Early trends in landcover change and forest fragmentation due to shale-gas development in Pennsylvania: a potential out-come for the Northcentral Appalachians. *Environ Manag*, 49:1061.

⁷ Meng, Q. (2017). The impacts of fracking on the environment: A total environmental study paradigm. *Science of the Total Environment*, 580: 953-957.

⁸ Tufekci Cross-Exam at 17:17-20, 144:19-145:12; see Potter Cross-Exam at 197:2-19.

⁹ https://usgs.osu.edu/posts/documents/doc_1092020_164953936.pdf

¹⁰ Letter from Grad Roots to the Ohio Power Siting Board and Public Utilities Commission.

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://docs.google.com/document/d/11ZG3WPI4YIGjJOBCjodmF1bkVxqiBXYLpqvWSs1QNn0/edit?ts%3D5f284b57&sa=D&ust=1603243368094000&usg=AOvVaw3P4vTt24OALboiny9XadEH>

¹¹ Tufekci Cross-Exam at 144:14-18; 146:23-147:9; Potter Cross-Exam at 196:15-21, 197:2-5.

39 WHEREAS The Ohio State University expressed the motivation for the construction of the Combined Heat and Power Plant
40 was to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions, as well as for economic reasons¹²; and
41
42 WHEREAS Ohio State representatives have privately disclosed that the plant will save the University approximately 10
43 million dollars per year in heat and power expenses¹³; and
44
45 WHEREAS disenfranchised communities have historically been disproportionately affected by fossil fuel extraction and
46 climate change¹⁴; and
47
48 WHEREAS affected communities are largely composed of those with lower income, higher economic stress, lower
49 education levels, and are often identified as communities of color¹⁵; and
50
51 WHEREAS poverty levels have been correlated with active fracking wells, which in turn, affects reliable information access
52 and mobility of individuals within those communities¹⁶; and
53
54 WHEREAS Ohio State's Combined Heat and Power Plant will be directly contributing to further disenfranchisement of
55 vulnerable communities through natural gas extraction; and
56
57 WHEREAS the impacts of the Ohio State's Combined Heat and Power Plant are in direct conflict with the university's
58 sustainability goal of engagement that support long-term economic, social, and environmental welfare of the campus,
59 surrounding neighborhoods, and global community¹⁷.
60
61 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Council of Graduate Students recommends for Ohio State to actively work to
62 mitigate inequities within communities affected by natural gas extracted for the Combined Heat and Power Plant; and
63
64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ohio State allocates a substantial portion of funding to affected communities; and
65
66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ohio State support a robust assessment of the impact the Combined Heat and Power
67 Plant on both the Columbus community and communities from which natural gas for the plant is extracted from; and
68
69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a third party external to Ohio State be utilized for this assessment in order to mitigate
70 bias and conflicts of interest; and
71
72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ohio State should follow the example of existing initiatives to understand how social
73 and economic conditions combine with fossil fuel induced pollution to contribute to inequitable environmental and health
74 related outcomes, such as the Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map Project¹⁸, in order to fully understand the
75 plant's impact; and
76
77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ohio State should emulate existing policies aimed at mitigating inequities from fossil
78 fuel extraction such as the California Senate Bill 535, which directs funding to disadvantaged communities¹⁹; and
79

¹² https://si.osu.edu/sites/default/files/Energy%20Use_CHP%20FAQ%20092320.pdf

¹³ Information disclosed during a webinar hosted by the Sustainability Institute to inform students about the CHP plant.

¹⁴ Bienkowski, B. (2015). Poor Communities Bear Greatest Burden from Fracking. Retrieved from <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/poor-communities-bear-greatest-burden-from-fracking/>

¹⁵ https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/sites/default/files/rpt_1806_pagasplants_web3.pdf

¹⁶ Ogneva-Himmelberger, Y., & Huang, L. (2015). Spatial distribution of unconventional gas wells and human populations in the Marcellus Shale in the United States: Vulnerability Analysis. *Applied Geography*, 60:165-174.

¹⁷ <https://ohiostatebuckeyes.com/sustainability/goals/>

¹⁸ <https://deohs.washington.edu/washington-environmental-health-disparities-map-project>

¹⁹ <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/sb535>

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ohio State should leverage the experience of President Kristina Johnson, as Under
81 Secretary of Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy, who led the creation of the Strategic Technology Energy plan to
82 reduce national carbon emissions and achieve 80% clean energy electricity^{20,21}; and
83

84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ohio State additionally leverage the knowledge of its researchers as experts in fields
85 of sustainability, environmental justice, and climate research to mitigate the negative effects of the Combined Heat and
86 Power Plant and lead on climate action as an institution; and
87

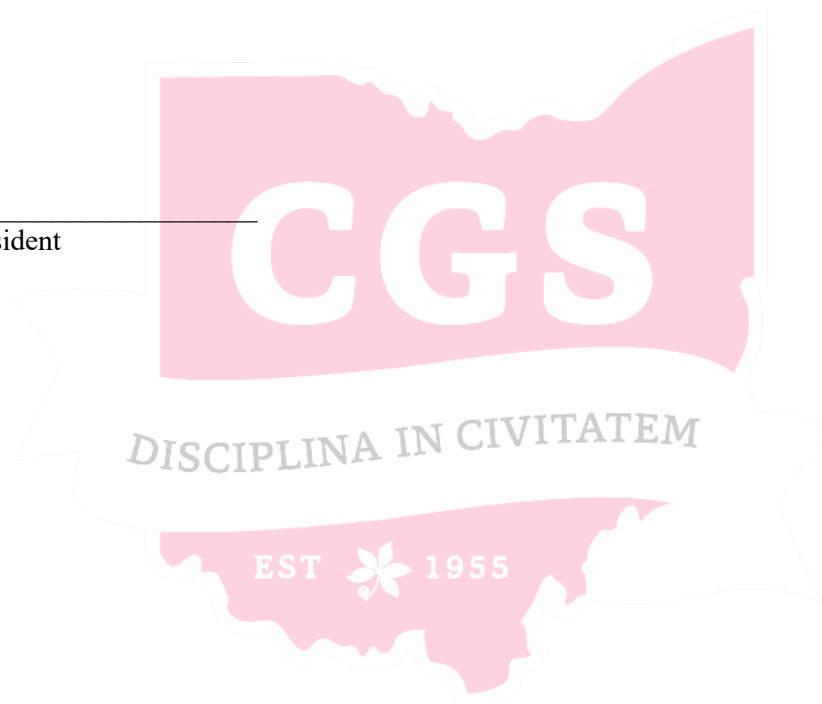
88 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students directs its President and Vice President to distribute
89 this resolution to The Ohio State University President Kristina M. Johnson, Executive Vice President and Provost Bruce
90 McPheron, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School Alicia Bertone, Vice President for
91 Student Life Melissa Shivers Calhoun, Vice President for Government Affairs Stacy Rastaukas, and the Chair of the
92 Council on Student Affairs Jordan Vадja, and all other relevant leadership and authorities of The Ohio State University
93 and its partners.
94

95 Approved: Yes/No

96 Date: _____

97

100 _____
101 Stephen J. Post, President



Council of Graduate Students
at The Ohio State University

²⁰ <https://energy.stanford.edu/events/distinguished-lecture-kristina-johnson>

²¹ <https://www.energy.gov/diversity/contributors/dr-kristina-m-johnson>

RESOLUTION 2021-008

A RESOLUTION AGAINST FUTURE USE OF FOSSIL FUELS

Authors: Sarah Haines.241, Delegate, Environmental Science; Wanderson NovaisPereira.1, Chair, Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility
Sponsor: Executive Committee

WHEREAS the Council of Graduate Students (CGS) is the representative body of all graduate students enrolled at The Ohio State University as established by Article 2, Section 1 of the CGS Constitution; and

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

WHEREAS the Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility Committee (SERC) advocates for sustainability and environmentally friendly policies and procedures within CGS and across The Ohio State University; and

WHEREAS The Ohio State University students are asking the university to divest from fossil fuel projects and invest in clear renewable energy alternatives^{1,2}; and

WHEREAS the Undergraduate Student Government has already recommended The Ohio State to reconsider the use of fossil fuels, reduce carbon emissions, and stay accountable to its sustainability goals³; and

WHEREAS The Ohio State's sustainability goals⁴ to "increase Ohio State's national/international reputation as a sustainability research leader" and "support the long-term economic, social and environmental welfare of the campus, surrounding neighborhoods and the global community" should set an example for innovation through the use of clean renewable energy, sustainable community development, and ecosystem protection and preservation; and

WHEREAS The Ohio State University's Climate Action Plan per the Presidents' Climate Leadership Commitment is committed to carbon neutrality by 2050⁵; and

WHEREAS graduate students have been against the implementation of the Combined Heat and Power Plant (CHP) due to its use of hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking, to obtain natural gas⁶; and

WHEREAS other universities in the United States, including in Ohio, have partially or completely divested from fossil fuels^{7,8,9}; and

WHEREAS we are facing a global climate emergency¹⁰ in which fossil fuels contribute to a loss of biodiversity¹¹ through degradation and disturbance of habitats¹²; and

¹ <https://www.thelantern.com/2020/10/students-protest-construction-of-natural-gas-plant-on-campus/>

² <https://bit.ly/opsbgradrootsletter>

³ https://usg.osu.edu/posts/documents/doc_1092020_164953936.pdf

⁴ https://president.osu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/2019/10/sustainability_goals_8_14_19.pdf

⁵ https://si.osu.edu/sites/default/files/CAP_Final_04082020.pdf

⁶ <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://docs.google.com/document/d/11ZG3WPI4YIGjJOBCjodmF1bkVxqiBXYLpqvWSs1QNn0/edit?ts%3D5f284b57&sa=D&ust=1603243368094000&usg=AOvVaw3P4vTt24OALboiny9XadEH>

⁷ <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/uc-s-investment-portfolios-fossil-free-clean-energy-investments-top-1-billion>

⁸ <https://www.georgetown.edu/news/fossil-fuels-divestment-continues-georgetown-commitment-to-sustainability/>

⁹ <https://www.ncronline.org/news/earthbeat/how-university-dayton-divested-fossil-fuels-and-what-happened-its-bottom-line>

¹⁰ <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/climate-change/facts-about-climate-emergency>

¹¹ <https://artsandsciences.osu.edu/news/climate-change-ohio>

¹² <https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/conl.12448>

40 WHEREAS the extraction and use of fossil fuels has caused harm to communities and ecosystems in the United
41 States^{13,14}; and
42
43 WHEREAS there is an immediate need to decarbonize our economy and activities, including industries, transportation,
44 and energy¹⁵; and
45
46 WHEREAS 93% of United States anthropogenic carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission are due to fossil fuel combustion¹⁶; and
47
48 WHEREAS the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that to limit planet warming by 1.5°C (2.7°F), CO₂
49 emissions must reach 'net zero' by 2050.
50
51 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CGS is in opposition to the construction of the Combined Heat and Power Plant;
52 and
53
54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for future projects, SERC urges The Ohio State University to consider investing in
55 the use of clean renewable energy and completely divest from the use of fossil fuels; and
56
57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED as The Ohio State is forming leaders and citizens that will contribute to the future of the
58 world, SERC urges the university to allow for student input and consideration for future projects, particularly in projects
59 that have the potential to harm communities, the environment, and compromise the future of the planet; and
60
61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as The Ohio State University is committed to addressing sustainability challenges in
62 our community and beyond, future projects should consider environmental impacts that may negatively affect not only
63 Ohio residents but all other communities; and
64
65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Ohio State University must commit to protecting the lives of black, indigenous,
66 and all POC students as well as low income and rural communities locally and globally that are disproportionately
67 impacted by fossil fuels and hydraulic fracking; and
68
69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as a non-profit organization and as an institution that should invest in research and
70 innovation to further improve public health, The Ohio State University should stay true to its mission and sustainability
71 goals and consider all potential impacts of future projects, not only profits; and
72
73 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students directs its President and Vice President to distribute
74 this resolution to The Ohio State University President Kristina M. Johnson, Executive Vice President and Provost Bruce
75 McPherson, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School Alicia Bertone, Vice President for
76 Student Life Melissa Shivers Calhoun, Vice President for Government Affairs Stacy Rastaukas, and the Chair of the
77 Council on Student Affairs Jordan Vадja, and all other relevant leadership and authorities of The Ohio State University
78 and its partners.
79
80 Approved: Yes/No
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82 Date: _____
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85
86 Stephen J. Post, President

¹³ www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0025326X16304313?via%253Dihub&sa=D&ust=1603290562011000&usg=AOvVaw0wYVj-ZHyf94qNtiOaf9gh

¹⁴ https://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/health/case_studies/hydrofracking_w.html

¹⁵ <https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>

¹⁶ <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/energy-and-the-environment/where-greenhouse-gases-come-from.php>

1 **RESOLUTION 2021-009**

2 **A RESOLUTION ADVOCATING FOR ADEQUATE INSTRUCTIONAL BREAKS TO SUPPORT**
3 **GRADUATE STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH AND SCHOLARLY PRODUCTIVITY**

4 Authors: Abby Grief.2, Chair, Health, Wellness, and Safety; Kathryn Holt.351, Chair, Arts and Culture; Aviva Neff.336,
5 Chair, Academic Affairs

6 Sponsor: Executive Committee
7
8

9 WHEREAS the Council of Graduate Students (CGS) is the representative body of all graduate students enrolled at The
10 Ohio State University as established by Article 2, Section 1 of the CGS Constitution; and
11

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

16 WHEREAS, on September 11th, 2020, The Ohio State University students received an email from Provost Dr. Bruce
17 McPherson, stating that “There will be no spring break. Instead, there will be two instructional breaks — on Tuesday,
18 Feb. 9, and Wednesday, March 31 — where there will be no classes. This approach will keep our community together
19 throughout the semester and reduce travel-related exposures”; and
20

21 WHEREAS graduate student representatives were not involved in the decision-making process that led to the decision to
22 eliminate spring break; and
23

24 WHEREAS the Council of Graduate Students has previously and unanimously opposed the continuation of unnecessary
25 in-person instruction and advocated to move all instruction online where possible until adequate testing, contact tracing,
26 and isolation/quarantine resources are available, and Franklin County is downgraded to a Level 1 Public Health
27 Emergency¹; and
28

29 WHEREAS graduate students experience rates of depression and anxiety that are 6 times greater than that of the general
30 population, some of the reasons being difficulty maintaining work-life balance, Imposter Syndrome, discrimination, and
31 harassment²; and
32

33 WHEREAS studies show that high rates of depression, anxiety, and other clinical mental health diagnoses amongst
34 graduate students, along with a lack of access to adequate support resources, leads to detrimental consequences such as
35 higher instances of suicidal thoughts²; and
36

37 WHEREAS mental health in graduate students has declined since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic due to a shrinking
38 job market, and upheaval within the academic environment where student work, take classes, and conduct research¹; and
39

40 WHEREAS, according to The Ohio State University COVID-19 Safe Return to Campus Survey Report for Ohio State
41 Students, Faculty and Staff, students had the highest anxiety level, followed by staff and faculty (% with GAD score ≥ 3 ,
42 39%, vs. 29%, vs. 25%), and the highest depression level followed by staff and then faculty (% with PHQ-2 Score ≥ 3 ,
43 24% vs. 10%, vs. 7%)²; and
44

45 WHEREAS, according to The Ohio State University COVID-19 Safe Return to Campus Survey Report for Ohio State
46 Students, Faculty and Staff, graduate students reported highest prevalence of anxiety, while prevalence of depression was
47 second highest among Columbus campus graduate students²; and
48

¹ <https://cgs.osu.edu/blog/a-resolution-against-the-plan-to-return-to-campus/>

² <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-08-mental-health-grad-students-covid-.html>

49 WHEREAS, as stated in The Ohio State University “Emotional Fitness Tips and Skills for Mental Health,” many students
50 look forward to spring break to relax, rest, and recharge³; and
51
52 WHEREAS OSU “Emotional Fitness” states that spring break is beneficial for catching up on sleep, resting the brain,
53 minimizing screen time, eating well, spending time outside, catching up with loved ones (even virtually), self-care
54 activities, and the opportunity to improve mental health³; and
55
56 WHEREAS the American Psychological Association states that taking short breaks from graduate school can be “a relief
57 from the usual routine of graduate student life, and [they] can ensure that sustained focus and improved productivity
58 prevail during intervals of the day that are strictly devoted to graduate school-related activities”⁴; and
59
60 WHEREAS, given the multiple roles graduate students fill on campus as students, instructors, researchers, mentors,
61 administrative assistants, and more, single-day instructional breaks do not provide an adequate break from obligations and
62 responsibilities⁵; and
63
64 WHEREAS graduate teaching associates will be deprived of necessary time dedicated to instructional administrative
65 responsibilities, such as grading and writing lesson plans in addition to advancing their personal scholarly agendas.
66
67 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Council of Graduate Students stands in opposition to the current plan to replace
68 spring break with two single-day instructional breaks; and
69
70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Council of Graduate Students strongly urges the university to implement an
71 alternative solution to contain the spread of COVID-19 that allows graduate students adequate breaks to rest, recharge,
72 and attend to their mental health needs; and
73
74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Council of Graduate Students advocates for opportunities for respite including but not
75 limited to reinstatement of a week-long spring break followed by a return to virtual instruction for the remainder of the
76 semester or inclusion of at least two additional, consecutive instructional breaks in the current academic calendar; and
77
78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Council of Graduate Students advocates that any alternative to the traditional spring
79 break should provide graduate students with an equivalent number of days off to the week-long spring break; and
80
81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Council of Graduate Students is dissatisfied and concerned with the lack of graduate
82 student representation on the relevant task force and overall lack of attention to graduate student mental health and
83 wellbeing in the decision-making process; and
84
85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Council of Graduate Students demands graduate student representation on all future
86 task forces and implementation committees tasked with making decisions regarding the academic calendar during the
87 continuing COVID-19 pandemic; and
88
89 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students directs its President and Vice President to distribute
90 this resolution to The Ohio State University President Kristina M. Johnson, Executive Vice President and Provost Bruce
91 McPherson, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School Alicia Bertone, Vice President for
92 Student Life Melissa Shivers Calhoun, Vice President for Government Affairs Stacy Rastaukas, and the Chair of the
93 Council on Student Affairs Jordan Vадja, and all other relevant leadership and authorities of The Ohio State University
94 and its partners.
95
96

³ Return to campus survey report

⁴ <https://u.osu.edu/emotionalfitness/tag/spring-break-mental-health/>

⁵ <https://www.apa.org/science/about/psa/2012/01/academic-life#:~:text=Even%20taking%20these%20short%20breaks,to%20graduate%20school%2Drelated%20activities>

97 Approved: Yes/No
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99 Date: _____
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102 _____
103 Stephen J. Post, President



Council of Graduate Students
at The Ohio State University

A RESOLUTION FOR DEMILITARIZATION OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

WHEREAS the Council of Graduate Students (CGS) is the representative body of all graduate students enrolled at The Ohio State University as established by Article 2, Section 1 of the CGS Constitution; and

WHEREAS Section 1033 of H.R. 3230 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997 allowed for the U.S. Federal government to transfer excess military equipment to local law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS the material acquisition of military-style equipment can be accompanied by cultural, organizational, and operational shifts that are associated with militarization¹; and

WHEREAS the violence associated with police militarization disproportionately harms Black citizens^{3,4}; and

WHEREAS the university administration has stated there are no current plans to acquire equipment through the 1033 program but has not committed to ending all further acquisitions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Council of Graduate Students asks Ohio State to refrain from all future 1033 acquisitions or any similar acquisition of military equipment; and

5 <https://www.cleveland.com/news/2020/06/ohio-state-student-governments-ask-for-university-to-cut-ties-to-columbus-police-department.html>;
<https://www.wcbe.org/post/columbus-council-holds-hearing-demilitarizing-police>; <https://www.dispatch.com/news/20200703/written-statements-to-city-council-largely-support--police-demilitarization>

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Council of Graduate Students recommends the Public Safety Advisory Committee
41 evaluate and publicly report on OSUPD with regard to the 4 key dimensions of militarization: material, cultural,
42 organizational, and operational; and

43
44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Council of Graduate Students desires the Public Safety Advisory Committee to create
45 actionable recommendations for improvement based on the above report that will be open for comment and participation
46 from the student body; and

47
48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Council of Graduate Students calls on the university to acknowledge and publicly
49 condemn the militarization of the Columbus Police Department and the risks that this pose to Black students; and

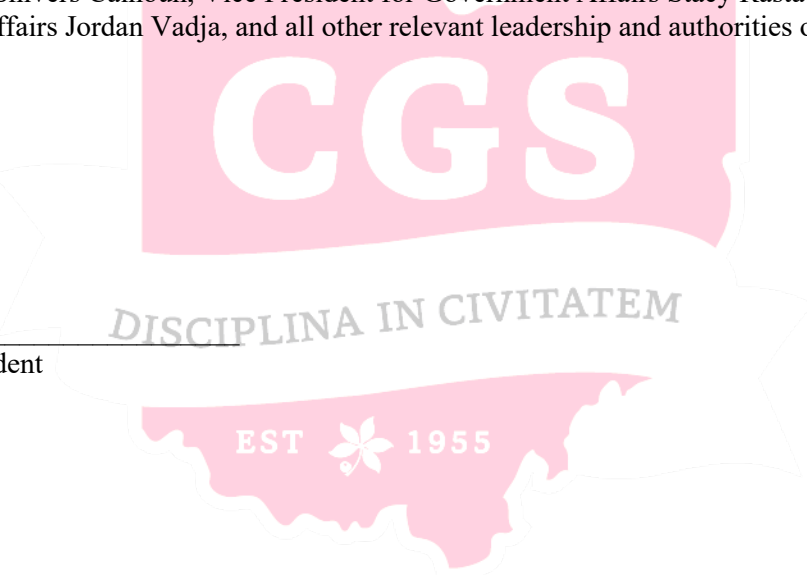
50
51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Council of Graduate Students urges the Ohio State Office of Government Affairs to
52 advocate for police demilitarization at the city, state, and national levels; and

53
54 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students directs its President and Vice President to distribute
55 this resolution to The Ohio State University President Kristina M. Johnson, Executive Vice President and Provost Bruce
56 McPherson, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School Alicia Bertone, Vice President for
57 Student Life Melissa Shivers Calhoun, Vice President for Government Affairs Stacy Rastaukas, and the Chair of the
58 Council on Student Affairs Jordan Vадja, and all other relevant leadership and authorities of The Ohio State University
59 and its partners.

60
61
62 Approved: Yes/No

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64 Date: _____

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68 Stephen J. Post, President



Council of Graduate Students
at The Ohio State University

A RESOLUTION FOR THE INTEGRATION OF BLACK STUDENT SUPPORT STAFF INTO ALL OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGES

Sponsor: Executive Committee

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

WHEREAS the mission of the Ohio State University is to “prepare a diverse student body to be leaders and engaged citizens”²; and

WHEREAS these violent experiences create barriers to adjustment, engagement, and completion of college, and increase risk for long-term harm to Black students in the form of chronic stress and poor mental and physical health outcomes^{8,9}; and

WHEREAS the Ohio State University's current support system for Black students includes the Hale Black Cultural Center, which offers a few select community-building programs for Black students, a single African-American Student Liaison within the Multicultural Center, a handful of Black Student organizations, and a small number of Chief Diversity Officers within individual colleges that offer inconsistent diversity programming¹⁰; and

² The Ohio State University. (2020a). Mission, vision, values, and core goals. Retrieved from <https://oaa.osu.edu/mission-vision-values-and-core-goals>

⁴ Brooms, D. (2018). 'Building us up': Supporting Black male college students in a Black male initiative program. *Critical Sociology*, 44(1), 141-155.

⁶ Haynes, C., Stewart, S., & Allen, E. (2016). Three paths, one struggle: Black women and girls battling invisibility in U.S. classrooms. *The Journal of Negro Education*, 85(3), 380-391.

⁸ Hannon, C., Woodside, M., Pollard, B., & Roman, J. (2016). The meaning of African American women's experiences attending a predominantly white institution: A phenomenological study. *The Journal of College Student Development, 57*(6), 652-666.

¹⁰ The Ohio State University. (2020b). Diversity. Retrieved from <https://www.osu.edu/initiatives/diversity.html>

34 WHEREAS research documents the connection between quality support services for Black students and student
35 adjustment, performance, motivation, and retention^{11,12,13}; and
36
37 WHEREAS the 2019 four-year graduation rate for Black students was only 45.8%, as compared to 62.3% for white
38 students¹⁴, indicating that many Black students are still facing barriers to success on campus that are not impeding white
39 students and are not resolved by existing services.
40
41 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Council of Graduate Students advises The Ohio State University to permanently
42 fund at least two positions for Black Academic Liaisons in each college, who will be charged with providing personal,
43 academic, and professional support for Black students according to the strengths, vulnerabilities, and perspectives of the
44 Black student body of their particular department; and
45
46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each BAL should identify as Black, as existing research confirms that a racial match
47 between service provider and client result in increased utilization of services, more favorable outcomes, and greater client
48 satisfaction^{15,16}; and
49
50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each BAL should have experience within the field of their college of employment so
51 that they are able to provide field-specific mentorship and programming to their students, as studies document that Black
52 students face varying barriers depending on their field of study¹²; and
53
54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that programming instituted by each BAL should be grounded in evidence-based
55 practices, including peer mentoring programs⁴, networking events with representation of Black professionals¹¹, and
56 cooperative study opportunities¹⁷; and
57
58 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students directs its President and Vice President to distribute
59 this resolution to The Ohio State University President Kristina M. Johnson, Executive Vice President and Provost Bruce
60 McPherson, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School Alicia Bertone, Vice President for
61 Student Life Melissa Shivers Calhoun, Vice President for Government Affairs Stacy Rastaukas, and the Chair of the
62 Council on Student Affairs Jordan Vадja, and all other relevant leadership and authorities of The Ohio State University
63 and its partners.
64
65 Approved: Yes/No
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67 Date: _____
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71 Stephen J. Post, President

Council of Graduate Students
at The Ohio State University

¹¹ Baker, (2013). Social support and success in higher education: The influence of on-campus support on African American and Latino college students. *The Urban Review*, 45, 632-650.

¹² Lancaster, C., & Xu, Y. J. (2017). Challenges and supports for African American STEM student persistence: A case study at a racially diverse four-year institution. *The Journal of Negro Education*, 86(2), 176-189. https://news.gallup.com/poll/186362/grads-historically-black-colleges-edge.aspx?g_source=CATEGORY_WELLBEING&g_medium=topic&g_campaign=tiles

¹³ Sinanan, A. (2016). The value and necessity of mentoring African American college students at PWI's. *Africology: The Journal of Pan African Studies*, 9(8), 155-166.

¹⁴ The Ohio State University. (2019b). Graduation and retention rates for NFYS. Retrieved from http://oesar.osu.edu/pdf/grad_rates/Incoming_NFYS_by_Ethnicity_Entering_Autumn.pdf

¹⁵ Meyer, O., & Zane, N. (2013). The influence of race and ethnicity in clients' experiences of mental health treatment. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 41(7), 884-901.

¹⁶ University of Southern California. (2020). The empathy gap between white social workers and clients of Color. Retrieved from <https://dworakpeck.usc.edu/news/the-empathy-gap-between-white-social-workers-and-clients-of-color>

¹⁷ Toldston, I. A. (2018). Why historically Black colleges and universities are successful with graduating Black baccalaureate students who subsequently earn doctorates in STEM (Editor's Commentary). *The Journal of Negro Education*, 87(2), 95-98.

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RESOLUTION 2021-012

A RESOLUTION FOR INCREASING BLACK STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION THROUGH SUPPORTIVE NETWORKS

Author: Rania Khamees, Parliamentarian; Mary Sagatelova.2, Delegate, Evolution, Ecology, and Organic Biology;
Christina Henry; Jasmine Whiteside
Sponsor: Executive Committee

WHEREAS the Council of Graduate Students (CGS) is the representative body of all graduate students enrolled at The Ohio State University as established by Article 2, Section 1 of the CGS Constitution; and

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

WHEREAS Black students enrolled within primarily white institutions (PWIs) lack a strong social support network, both with their peers and faculty mentors, which has been shown to affect both academic success and attrition¹; and

WHEREAS Black graduate students at The Ohio State University represent only 7.6% of all graduate student enrollment in 2019²; and

WHEREAS, as an underrepresented minority, Black graduate students can find it especially difficult to find mentors within academia, whose support is often crucial for the retention and success of minority students³; and

WHEREAS faculty are not always culturally sensitive, nor do they recognize the colder campus atmosphere Black students experience, even more so in the field of science, where faculty and administrators are more likely to foster toxic ideology of Black students lacking the intellectual capacity to master the field⁴; and

WHEREAS students of color seek out faculty and staff of color for both academic and emotional support, with research studies indicating Black students largely credited their success to specific Black faculty and staff members in admissions and student services-type departments⁵; and

WHEREAS, faculty of color often perform service work for minority students without adequate financial compensation or service consideration in promotion and tenure decisions⁶; and

WHEREAS it is critical to understand the obstacles that hinder the success of this student population, including, but not limited to, difficulty finding a sense of belonging on campus, lack of diversity in faculty, staff, and student population, lack of family and professional support with their academic studies, and financial hardships⁷; and

¹ Xu, Y. J., & Webber, K.L. (2018). College Student Retention on a Racially Diverse Campus: A Theoretically Guided Reality Check. *Journal of College Student Retention: Research, Theory & Practice*, 20(1), 2-28

² Graduation Admissions. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://dataviz.rae.osu.edu/t/public/views/CoalitionDashboards_0/GraduateAdmissions?:isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&embed=y

³ Brown II, C. M., Davis, G. L., & McClendon, S. A. (1999). Mentoring Graduate Students of Color: Myths, Models, and Modes. *Peabody Journal of Education*, 74(2), 105-118.

⁴ Easterwood, A. (2016). Racial Stressors and the Black College Experience at Predominantly White Institutions. Retrieved from https://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/bitstream/handle/1808/22359/Easterwood_ku_0099M_14812_DATA_1.pdf?sequence=1

⁵ Wright, B.W. (2008). Expectations and Experiences of African American Students at Two Predominantly White Universities in Southern Appalachia. Retrieved from <https://dc.etsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4140&context=etsu-works>

⁶ Social Sciences Feminist Network Research Interest Group. (2017). The Burden of Invisible Work in Academia: Social Inequalities and Time Use in Five University Departments. *Humboldt Journal of Social Relations - Diversity & Social Justice in Higher Education*, 39(39), 228-245

⁷ Eakins, A. & Eakins, S. (2017). African American Students at Predominantly White Institutions: A Collaborative Style Cohort Recruitment & Retention Model. *Journal of Learning in Higher Education*: 13(2). Retrieved from <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1161827.pdf>

39 WHEREAS diversity initiatives often work to increase support for Black graduate students through a white lens without
40 considering the unique perspective of underrepresented groups who do not share the same experiences; and
41
42 WHEREAS, to counteract this and fully and effectively support Black graduate students, Black-to-Black mentorship is
43 essential; and
44
45 WHEREAS, to be successful, mentorship must be maintained throughout the first year via academic advising, career
46 counseling, student workshops, and targeted mentorship opportunities.
47
48 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Council of Graduate Students advocates for a university-wide program for incoming
49 Black graduate students led by trained faculty and staff of color; and
50
51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this program will enroll students across all disciplines and recruit faculty and staff to
52 be involved from various areas around the university to create a university-wide support system for Black graduate students;
53 and
54
55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that continuous engagement in the first year and through the duration of a student's graduate
56 education be established, modeled after similar programs such as the Knights-Hennessey Scholars program at Stanford
57 University⁸, in which Black graduate students can enroll in the program during their first year on campus and have access
58 to faculty and staff of color across the university through regular meetings, workshops, and sponsored events; and
59
60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the established program should provide academic mentoring and socialization, cross-
61 disciplinary networks, and career coaching; and
62
63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such a program is to provide a community of Black scholars with formal structure and
64 access to concrete advice, skills, and resources that take into account the history, culture, and challenges of Black individuals
65 within academia; and
66
67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this program should seek to enroll Black graduate students who are recipients of the
68 University's diversity fellowships or other university fellowships such as the William E. Nelson Research and Travel Grant⁹;
69 and
70
71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program can additionally provide grants for academic travel or professional
72 development on a competitive basis to enrolled scholars; and
73
74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED for consecutive years in which the student is enrolled in a graduate program, Black graduate
75 students will be provided with academic development, career coaching, and opportunities for mentoring incoming graduate
76 students; and
77
78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this program will have an additional focus of guiding Black graduate students into
79 careers in research and academia; and
80
81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this program should build off of existing programming, as modeled by Preparing Future
82 Faculty Fellows¹⁰ operating with Black Graduate & Professional Student Caucus; and
83
84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that students outside of the first year or dissertation years can act as mentees to incoming
85 students and provide invaluable insights about navigating academia as a Black graduate student and allow for professional
86 development experience; and

⁸ <https://knight-hennessy.stanford.edu/>

⁹ <https://aaas.osu.edu/about/giving>

¹⁰ Allen, W. R., Epps., E. G., Guillory, E. A., Suh, S. A., & Bonous-Hammarth, M. (2000). The Black Academic: Faculty status among African Americans in U.S. higher education. *Journal of Negro Education*, 69, 112–127.

87
88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this program would require reasonable monetary compensation for participating faculty
89 and formal recognition of their service; and
90
91 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this mentorship program should be integrated into the service component for tenure
92 track faculty as a means to firmly root the university initiative as well as to ensure recognition is given to such service work;
93 and
94
95 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Council of Graduate Students formally recognizes that of the factors proven to improve
96 the retention of students of color at Ohio State, direct efforts to be more inclusive of students, faculty, and staff of color and
97 initiatives targeted to retain individuals of color are necessary¹¹; and
98
99 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Council of Graduate Students will direct Black graduate students to participate in this
100 initiative; and
101
102 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Council of Graduate Students desires the Ohio State University to identify resources
103 and faculty to propagate the implementation of this program; and
104
105 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students directs its President and Vice President to distribute
106 this resolution to The Ohio State University President Kristina M. Johnson, Executive Vice President and Provost Bruce
107 McPherson, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School Alicia Bertone, Vice President for
108 Student Life Melissa Shivers Calhoun, Vice President for Government Affairs Stacy Rastaukas, and the Chair of the
109 Council on Student Affairs Jordan Vадja, and all other relevant leadership and authorities of The Ohio State University
110 and its partners.
111
112
113 Approved: Yes/No
114
115 Date: _____
116
117
118 _____
119 Stephen J. Post, President



Council of Graduate Students at The Ohio State University

¹¹ Hurtado, S., Milem, J., Clayton-Pederson, A., & Allen, W. (1999). Enacting diverse learning environments: Improving the climate for racial/ethnic diversity in higher education. ASHE-ERIC Higher Education Report Volume 26(8). Washington, DC: The George Washington University, Graduate School of Education and Human Development.