



Council of Graduate Students
The Ohio State University

January 14th, 2022

Location: ZOOM

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

Pass: CGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Executive Committee Members Absent:

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

1.1. Statement of Purpose

- 1.1.1. To effectively advocate and program to ensure that The Ohio State University graduate student experience is the best it can be.

2. Breakout Room Activity

- 2.1. Reports of discussions are in "Delegate Issues and Concerns".

3. Roll Call

- 3.1. Google Forms

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 4.1. Minutes from December 4th, 2021.
 - 4.1.1. Minutes approved.

5. OFFICER REPORTS

AUTUMN SEMESTER

- September 3 Delegate Body Meeting @ 3:30pm (Orientation)
- October 1 Delegate Body Meeting @ 3:30pm
- November 5 Delegate Body Meeting @ 3:30pm
- December 3 Delegate Body Meeting @ 3:30pm

SPRING SEMESTER

- January 14 Delegate Body Meeting @ 3:30pm
- February 4 Delegate Body Meeting @ 3:30pm (Officer Nominations)
- March 4 Delegate Body Meeting @ 3:30pm (Officer Elections)
- April 1 Delegate Body Meeting @ 3:30pm (Senator Elections)
- May 13 Delegate Body Meeting @ 3:30pm (Led by new officers)

★ If you currently have a disability registered with the Office of Disability Services at Ohio State and require accommodations for CGS meetings and events, please email CGS President Nick Messenger at messenger.37@osu.edu and let him know so that we can ensure accessibility!

Officers



• Nick Messenger – President

• Abby Grieff – Vice President

• Michelle Scott – Treasurer

• Alissa Geisse – Secretary

• Javonte Lipsey - Chief of Staff

• Brandon Free – Parliamentarian

• Carrie Anne Thomas – Strategic Communications



President Report

- We have lost 2 executive members: Javonte Lipsey, and Sly Worthy.
 - For DEI communities – this is the 3^d year in a row that we have lost a chair in this committee.
 - We are planning to rearrange our structure in 2022 to create spaces for URGs and empower them. (Accessibility committee is working to this end).
- Covid talk
 - Over break we were starting the process on advocating for a virtual start.
 - Then we were told that we would be in-person.
 - We are continuing advocating for clear communication on policies on what to do when GTAs / GRAs get sick.
 - We did get them to announce that it is NOT the GTAs responsibility to find someone to cover their labs
- Grad compensation
 - President and provost are open to making a bigger shift for graduate compensation.
 - President Johnson is working on having a clear compensation plan.
- Master's students
 - Starting (very in advocacy that)

Vice President Report

- The Hayes 2022 forum is quickly approaching: Friday March 4th.
 - This is a massive event that CGS hosts. This forum helps showcase some of the incredible work that our graduate students, and this year also including postdoctoral scholars, work tirelessly on throughout the year.
- Sign up, here: <https://forms.gle/dgkB5WWQk8i4UvTQ8>

Treasurer Report

- We funded 23 applicants for Funding Period 3 of Ray
- Applications for the next funding period are open and will close on Feb 1st
 - Conference dates April 1st– June 30th
 - <https://cgs.osu.edu/fundingopportunities/raytravel-award/>
- With the current limitations on inperson events, I encourage committees to look into some of the engaging virtual and takehome events that were put on last year (cooking, painting, crafts, etc.)
- Will be receiving spending reports next week



Secretary Report



- Career Development Grant Committee:
 - We were able to fund 20 applicants (a little more than half of total applicants) totaling \$6,240.
- Applications for the next funding period, *are open* and will close February 1st.
 - Activity dates: April 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022
 - https://cgs.osu.edu/fundingopportunities/development_funding/
- Possible Eligible Expenses, including but not limited to:
 - Conference registration
 - Professional association dues
 - Internship travel
 - Licensure fees
 - Study materials for licensure
 - Background check fees
 - Workshops

6. COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Government Affairs Updates

- No movement on HB 322/327
- Ohio redistricting maps for state legislature + US House both reject by Ohio State Supreme Court
 - Commission must draw new maps that are fairer in next 10/30 days
- SB 157 (New abortion regulations) fully enacted, though lawsuits pending

Government Affairs Committee Updates

- Preparing 'Divisive Concepts' Resolution for consideration if HB322/327/529(?) begin moving forward again
- Advocacy Series Event focused on experiences from Ohio redistricting processes, stay tuned!
- Issues Tracking for Grad Students pt. 2 coming for March delegate meeting

Graduate Student Affairs

- January 2022 Updates:
 - Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week will be April 48, 2022
 - Please look for a schedule of events to come out in the next month!
 - Have an issue you want to be addressed within Student Life? Let us know!
- Next Meeting:
 - TBD. Member of the committee were sent an email with a When2Meet Link for this semester
 - Please complete the When2Meet by Tuesday, January 18th at 5:00 pm.

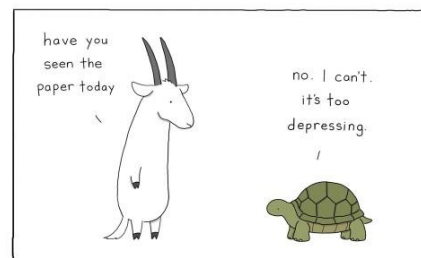
Membership Wellness/Ad Hoc Accessibility & Inclusivity

Mem Wellness:

- If you indicated interest in the CGS Buddy Program, watch your inbox! Me or Lizzy will be sending an email with more information soon

Ad Hoc:

- Constitution will be first document up for review, to be presented at the February meeting



7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. "A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY ADOPTING A SARS-COV-2 VACCINE BOOSTER MANDATE"

7.2.2. Results: 46 yea, 2 nay, 2 abstain

Name	How will you be voting on "A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY ADOPTING A SARS-COV-2 VACCINE BOOSTER MANDATE"
Abby Grieff	yea

Ben Seicol	yea
Blaise Truesdell	yea
Josh Streeter	abstain
Eric Hantz	yea
Lauryn Schlinglof	yea
Christina Zachariadou	yea
Elena Cruz-Lopez	yea
Anna Poptic	yea
Om Prakash Bedant	yea
Nicolas Bolle	yea
Aleksandra Shubina	yea
Nicholas Klein	yea
Carrie Anne Thomas	yea
Joe Schulze	yea
Karla Shockley McCarthy	yea
Garrett Tatum	yea
Emma McNamara	yea
Shelby Carlson	yea
Kendra Dickinson	yea
Tyler Leonhart	abstain
Li Yawei	yea
Isobel Bowles	yea
Prabhjot Singh	yea
Dustin Servello	yea
Ives Lux Hartman	yea
Kane Kinion	nay
Ana Maria Velasquez Giraldo	yea
Eli Bohnert	yea
Caroline Fitzpatrick	yea
Brian O'rourke	yea
DeAvin Mitchell	yea
Alexandra Cabanelas Bermudez	nay
Katie Conner	yea
Elizabeth Kazemi	yea
Patrick Rowan	yea
Benjamin McKinley	yea
Jorge E. Clavo Abbass	yea
Ronald Puckett	yea
Caroline Karwisch	yea
Zari Mahmoudi	yea
Yelena Erez	yea

Thierno Aliou Diallo	yea
Charles Mace	yea
Madison Dymont	yea
Will Clay	yea
Dominique Mosbly	yea
Emily Subr	yea
Aaron Argall	yea
Luke Andrejek	yea

8. SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS

8.1. Delegate Issues and Concerns – BreakOut Room Activity Slides

Zoom room topics:

- Room 1 - Long term pandemic planning - what to do after omicron and immediate fires put out
- Room 2 - Delegates with families and immunocompromised family members
- Room 3 - Addressing academic concerns - delegates worried about not meeting program goals/deadlines (candidacy, etc.)
- Room 4 - Toxicity felt by PI's, instructors, internships, teaching coordinator, department chairs, etc.
- Room 5 - Mental Health Access & Self care ideas, hobbies, things to do to prioritize general wellness this semester
- Room 6 - Possible emergent situations as a result of covid-19 (stuck internationally, no access to care, financial burdens) & what we can and can't do to address
- Room 7 - Research disruption, funding, internship & fieldwork concerns.
- Room 8 - Promoting care culture through mentorship: teaching tips, helping undergraduate research mentees succeed, peer mentoring, grad-advisor relationships
- Room 9 - Housing concerns (affordability, quality, location, interest in university housing, etc.)
- Room 10 - Misc. - Any ideas/concerns not listed here

Room 1 - Long term pandemic planning

- How can we pivot more effectively, on short notice, to socially distanced classrooms? What are the limitations in the software, like Buckeyelink
- Classes that are too large and make distancing impossible have open sections of the same course. What incentives or policies could encourage students to shift and rebalance? Do caps need to be adjusted?
- Could better trainings on the new classroom technology be implemented?
- How many classrooms still need infrastructure investments in audio/visual equipment? (Most need audio still)
- Communication strategies for future waves: what can remain consistent that we expect folks to do? (Step by step flow charts? Clear requirements tied to “when cases get to X” etc.)
- Adaptations for physical spaces.

Room 2 - Delegates with families & immunocompromised family members

- How education system is moving throughout the city: shortage of staff (university respecting/supporting families if school is closed due to this)
- Instructors not recording/live-streaming (for people with kids who have school cancelled or aren't comfortable, it's a problem!)
- People with labs had staggered scheduling to keep safe protocols, but they stopped it and now we don't feel safe getting our degrees being in a small, unsafe environment
- Med campus didn't have PPE until last Thursday (god knows if it'll stay full)
- Policy has gone from being proactive to reactive - just live with it now
- The fact that an online start didn't happen... blurred lines, hard to get answers
- Tracking cases isn't very accurate (not all populations doing it, tests at home aren't recorded and are being used instead, etc.)
- Prioritizing undergrad that primarily want to be on campus and not being careful
- Thinking in the mindset of the "OSU bubble" where as a community we are x percent vaccinated, but we are in direct contact with surrounding communities/cities around us and we go home to communities that we spread to - overwhelm the hospitals more!
- Not doing the online start with most classes having low attendance basically has professors run a virtual and in-person section this way, whereas if we did virtual to start at least professors would have one section to keep up quality of instruction/accessibility, until infections come down in our state
- Standardization in recording slides - should be accessible to students in and out of classroom
- Grad and undergrad are not living the same lives - undergrad are here for the college experience and less concerned about being safe, but grad students have families and go home at the end of the day and if they want their degree/to not lose funding they have to continue even if they're not safe to, etc.
 - The "you can take a semester off" is easier said than done for grad students
- Accessibility in lab space: PI told someone if you feel uncomfy coming into a lab space, come when no one is here... prioritizing everyone over grad students and get locked out at a certain time (immunocompromised have less accessibility)... feel like you don't have a space at the table

Room 3 - Addressing academic concerns

1. Feelings that when we started our programs (pre-COVID) confidence that we could finish on time, but realizing now **we are behind** (on candidacy, etc.)
2. Uncertainty about **how to articulate how COVID has been the reason** we are struggling or behind on our programs (because it is complex how it is affecting us; it includes mental health which is a concern for graduate students even without a pandemic; compounding issues of other identity markers)
3. Concern about how departments may or may **not extend funding**
4. Our professors and supervisors have not had the experience of trying to get through candidacy or a degree during a pandemic (or even had much experience advising students who have gone through this). **Sympathy is running out** even though the pandemic hasn't ended.
5. **Hard to plan** for data collection with the uncertainty if we can do actual field work.
6. Concern about **lack of in-person collaborations** for some degrees/areas that really require this (e.g. business)
7. Concerns about how **conference participation has been affected** (lack of network opportunities, soft-skill development)
8. Concern about how we will be prepared for the **job market** (and the long-term effects on higher education . . . will there even be jobs).
9. **Concern about teaching loads** and uncertainty of how they will be conducted (in-person or online) and dealing with quarantined students.
10. **Fatigue is setting in**
11. **Lack of community among degree cohort** because we are not in our offices and hanging out. Therefore we don't get mentored by more advanced students or assist each other.

Room 4 - Toxic leaders

- Difficult communication with PIs
 - Some PIs don't meet regularly with grad students
 - Instead will have post docs meet
 - Superficial discussion
- Power structure!
 - Feel like you have to finish certain tasks before asking for time off
 - Solution: have some 3rd party to verify that people are taking needed time off each year
 - Formalizing taking time off for graduate students!
 - "Pay-your-dues" advisors
 - The past, is not a standard for the present.
- Mandated mentorship trainings for faculty that mentor students (and work harassment)
 - Specifically for older professors (as things are changing)
- Reporting professors that teach AND do research for being inappropriate with students
 - Action would be taking away teaching service -> which would be a reward
- Instructors being strict with providing accessibility for students that have extreme situations (like caring for a sick family member)
 - SLDS can be slow, especially if student needs prior diagnosis. Diagnosis is expensive

Room 5 - Mental Health Access & Self care ideas

- Ideas for supporting mental health
 - Spending time with friends safely (e.g. with regular testing)
 - Individual departments can have their own mental health committees
- People have been struggling with isolation during COVID
- There were more pushes to have virtual social events in 2020, but these became less common in 2021
- Because people have different social comfort levels, it's difficult to organize social events that satisfy everyone's comfort levels
- Navigating the advisor relationship can also be important for mental health, both with and without COVID
- Things people can do for fun
 - Taking walks and hikes, either around town or at Metro parks
 - Exploring new restaurants, coffee shops, bars, etc.
 - Listening to podcasts

Room 6 - emergent situations as a result of covid-19

- Can look to room 2 for help with this!

Room 7 - Research disruption, funding, internship & fieldwork concerns.

- Disruptions with:
 - COVID
 - Traveling for conferences
 - Issues with funding due to need for extensions
 - Covid restricted research capability
 - Funding issues
 - Internship relocation and funding flexibility
 - Graduation time uncertain
 - Switching to masters instead of PhD

Room 8 - How we can promote care culture through mentorship

- Room 8 Needs: Teaching tips, how to foster a caring environment
- Graduate welcoming events: need for thorough orientation & welcoming culture for graduate students, including how to establish a safe, healthy, respectful culture in the classroom as GTAs
- During COVID, infrastructure
- Teaching in person, how do deal with it? Tips: building trust, treating students as adults, orientation, wearing masks, availability and accessibility, responding emails
- Establish healthy boundaries for yourself as GTA, advisor, mentor, etc. How much time are you able and willing to offer, and when, and for what?
- Be transparent with yourself and your students about what you are doing, how you are doing it, etc.
- "Take advantage of the shoulder time": enter the classroom space a bit early and stay after class, set up your tech, and be available to your students in those moments before and after class
- "Your wellbeing is their wellbeing."

Room 9 - Housing concerns

Grad students need somewhere safe, affordable, and university affiliated to live

- Especially international students
- Need replacement for Buckeye Village

Students are left to own devices to find apartments

- Really only informal recommendations from PIs or other grad students in lab

University should help grad students/ have more resources for them to find housing

Should be a webinar/ orientation/ housing fair to help with this

- Include differences with American leasing system

Room 10 - Misc. / Additional concerns not listed elsewhere

- **Graduate Teaching Associates, particularly in Arts and Sciences**
 - Lack of practical resources in teach in a pandemic (not provided with computers, technology to facilitate our jobs, esp. tablets (to be able to write like on a whiteboard if virtual)
 - Uneven distribution of resources across colleges
 - GTA lack of choice regarding course modalities
 - Some GTAs received word late last week from their department heads that they had the option to teach an in-person class 24% online, option to use that to begin course online - not communicated to all departments, putting the decision on graduate students in a fragmented way
 - Difficulty teaching in person with students who are sick, not all classrooms have the facilities to allow for simultaneous Zoom and in-person session
- **Labor relations**
 - Workers' compensation for graduate students? When does FMLA apply to graduate students?
 - Compensation for being in person? CGS passed a hazard pay resolution in early 2021
- **COVID:**
 - Vaccine mandate: Received word that a certain % of students did not report vaccine status. What is the reason for this? Instructions for weekly testing appear to say that students who did not report vaccine status would be required for test weekly, unclear if they are allowed to register for classes, etc.
 - Are we still contract tracing on campus?
 -
- **CGS engagement and burnout:** Many of us feel burnt out, feel like we have not contributed to CGS to full capacity, would like to have a place to go for support with this → Membership wellness
- **Reaching out to our constituents**
 - It would be great to have training/sources for delegates to learn about strategies to connect with our constituents
- **Student Organization events**
 - Student org events for this semester have been moved online, funding originally designated for in-person programming can't be easily translated into an online event. It would be good to have resources/clear instructions from funding office to help with these kind of issues (Michelle Scott.1445 a good resource for this)
- **Virtual workout classes** during peak quarantine time, which have now been stopped. These were very accessible for a number of reasons, would be nice to have them continue.

8.2. Delegate Issue and Concerns – Discussion

- 8.2.1. Zachariadou.1: What is the quarantine policy?
- Same as the CDC – quarantine for 5 days, then you can come back
 - University housing students have to take a test and have a negative test before coming back.
- 8.2.2. Clavoabbass.1: What are the updates on the emergency funding, and what other resources are available to us?
- If you apply for the Together For Buckeyes Grant, that grant has now changed to a "check box" request where you don't have to justify funding.
 - Shubina.1: I got my money rather fast and easy and recommend applying.
- 8.2.3. Paccievaristo.1: How are we this far into the pandemic and we do not have a covid-19 task force? We are now seeing situations where we see a significant # of people being sick and the responsibilities to figure out what to do fall on the instructors and students. It seems like we are treated as disposable. We are in a situation where we are losing students, and lives.
- Perhaps CGS could join forces with faculty council and senate?
 - Oddly, their most recent agenda didn't even address covid.
 - Paccievaristo.1: It seems like what are not being heard, so should we be changing our strategy for advocacy?
 - Gordon.215: This is the only concern I can think about right now. We aren't getting updated data. This is not just playing policy.
 - Messenger.37: Because testing for students in university housing didn't have to be completed until the end of this week, we expect the data to be up on Monday and if it's not - we should be concerned. Anyone that wants to work more on this please contact me.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 9.1. We will be meeting February 4th on zoom.
- 9.2. We are taking nominations for President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary positions.

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 pm.