



CGS Executive Meeting Minutes

Present: Sarah Light, Libby Bauman, DaVonti' Haynes, Kevin Ingles, Blake Szkoda, Kathryn Holt, Jack Brandl, Mark Pauley, Maddy Lomax-Vogt, E Alexander, Conner Sarich, Alec Clott, Carly LaRosa, Stephen Post, James Uanhoro, Ehsan Estiri, Andrea Davis, Rania Khamees

Absent: Priscilla Rodriguez Garcia

1. President's Report

- 1.1. Stephen encourages everyone to take care of their mental health and get outside if they can before the situation escalates to mandated shelter in place.
- 1.2. We are looking into the possibility of doing virtual programming for events that have been cancelled or postponed and would still be effective online.
- 1.3. Most campus buildings are now closed and locked. Swipe access is still available to the Union, but we are encouraged to stay at home whenever possible. 8-9,000 students have already moved off campus. If there are other students who need a place to stay, there is a possibility that they can move into some of the open dorms.
- 1.4. CGS has established a Covid-19 task force. Anyone else interested in helping out can get involved but we do need to focus on keeping things moving forward.
- 1.5. are online and virtual resources being offered by Counseling & Consultation Services and the office is working on being trained to be able to conduct appointments via Zoom. Students are being told their care can't be continued through CCS and it's a little unclear what people are still able to access while the office staff are tele-working.
 - Holt.351 had a previously scheduled appt and it has been moved to a Zoom meeting.
 - Clott.1 was informed that CCS was only performing emergency care and a previously scheduled appointment was cancelled.
- 1.6. The communication about Covid-19 related updates and issues from the university administration has been a little scattered. What messaging is most important to get out to all grad students and how we can be effective and not confusing in our own communications?
 - Ingles.27 said that sending lots of emails is the best way to encourage effective communication. We can also communicate information directly to delegates and ask them to distribute to their constituents.
 - We need to do our best to streamline communication. It would be good for each department or college to have a point person in charge of monitoring communication. The most important thing is to make sure the messaging is not contradictory, so students aren't confused.
 - As CGS, we are going to focus on information that is directly pertinent to grad students and not simply repeating things that have already been outlined in university-wide emails. It may be more effective for us to communicate other information via social media rather than email.

- 1.7. Establishment of the grad student emergency fund has been expedited. Stephen is meeting next week with Matt Page to discuss this.
 - CGS is collecting information about particular students who may need special financial support. We need to encourage the university to find funding for emergency funds to support students. We need to be clear that we do not have resources right now to support students. The most effective form will be a streamlined 2-3 question form that will gather information about whether students have shelter, income, access to food if a shelter in place were to become mandatory.
- 1.8. The general education requirements are moving to pass/no pass system and other classes are eligible to do this as well. There are potential issues if students need to have a certain GPA to be able to graduate. Right now, students have the option to choose to have a class be counted as pass/no pass. These classes would not be counted toward the total number that you are allowed to take pass/no pass. The graduate school is likely to institute something very similar for grad students.
 - There is also a problem that some students who are in programs like counseling need to complete a certain amount of in-person clinical hours in order to graduate. The boards who make the licensing decisions have still not chosen to make any changes so far. Government Affairs is working on this issue as it affects all students in the state.
 - We should also suggest a hold on financial aid decisions based on grades for this current semester.
- 1.9. There is a letter going to the Department of Education and the State Government from all 3 student governments requesting that requirements for residency be adapted to allow students flexibility.
- 1.10. All students with appointments should still be getting their stipend and be able to continue working over the summer. Departments should be working to find duties to allow students to be able to keep working the same number of hours where possible. Many GA contracts expire May 15 and we need to encourage the administration to prepare for the possibility that students may not be able to return to campus by this date. Students need to know ASAP if they will not have a job over the summer.
 - Is there a possibility that any state or federal funding going to OSU will be allocated to additional GA appointments over the summer to help departments catch up from this crisis?
- 1.11. Holt.351 relays concerns about student not being able to complete their research and stick to their original graduation timelines. The grad school is definitely focused on more short-term concerns right now.
- 1.12. Khamees.5 suggested that CGS could donate some money to the Buckeye Alliance food pantry as a way to support students who rely on this organization. Is there a possibility for committees to donate their un-used money for this effort or other programming? We could look into getting an exemption because funds that come from the student activity fee need to be used for events and programming that is open to all students.
- 1.13. Larosa.15 relayed that the College of Engineering has communicated very clearly who to talk to about issues with your advisor or pressure from your research group to continue to come to campus despite the university-wide instructions.
- 1.14. Our April 3rd delegate meeting will be held via Zoom. We will still have a Q&A session with Dr. Shivers. We will request that delegates submit questions ahead of time so we can pre-screen and prioritize issues.
 - If exec approves the emergency resolution today, we can post it on Carmen for public comment before the meeting.

- Zoom has a polling feature, but we will probably conduct the voting via Carmen.

2. Vice President's Report

- 2.1. Senator elections are happening at the next delegate meeting and we will likely gather votes via a Qualtrics survey.
- 2.2. The dates of delegate elections have been pushed back and application will be accepted between March 30 and April 10.

3. Treasurer's Report

- 3.1. All grant funding has been postponed and awardees are not able to travel until after August 1.
- 3.2. Events planned for Graduate Student Appreciation Week will be held in August the first week that students will be back on campus.
- 3.3. Haynes.242 is working with CSA to ensure that unspent funds for cancelled programming will not be taken back out of our budget.

4. Secretary's Report

- 4.1. The CGS Awards Ceremony is cancelled. We hope that we will be able to reschedule it for this summer or next fall. Winners and grant awardees will still be recognized in April via online platforms.
- 4.2. After talking with Kerry, Teresa, and the Office of International Affairs, Global Gateway will go ahead with judging. We are going to adopt the same policy and allow winners to use their travel funds for a whole year to allow students as much flexibility as possible for their travel. All applicants will be notified of how we are going to proceed, and judging will start next week.

5. Committee Member Agenda Items

- 5.1. External Collaborations (alexander.979)
 - Committee reached out to the University Institute for Teaching & Learning to prepare the needs assessment which has been fully drafted.
- 5.2. Health, Wellness, & Safety (Clott.1)
 - Health & Wellness Expo has been cancelled. This event is now going to happen in the fall if possible. This is probably a more effective time for this type of event as it targets students early in the year before they may encounter mental health problems.
 - The committee is actively working on providing support to students and other committees working on Covid-19 related issues.
- 5.3. Arts & Culture (Holt.351)
 - The symposium is being postponed until April of next year.
 - All lotteries have been cancelled for the rest of the year.
- 5.4. Academic Affairs (Ingles.27)
 - The Privacy Council is working on issues that affect the privacy of both students and faculty/staff.
- 5.5. International Student Concerns (Estirir.1)
 - The committee is still working with the writing center.
 - The committee is discussing issues related to residency, graduate student contracts, and emergency funding for international students who are being negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

6. Old Business

- 6.1. None.

7. New Business

7.1. Emergency resolution

- There are some students who have absolutely no access to their jobs and have essentially been furloughed. This resolution is asking the university to guarantee that these students will either offer paid leave for these students or find them other opportunities for work so that they continue to earn the money that they may be relying on. Dr. Shivers has charged these departments to find other work that these students can work on wherever possible.
- We should come at this from the perspective that lost wages are negatively impacting the physical and mental health status of students.
- Any auxiliary fees (the RPAC for example) also need to be refunded to students because those facilities are not open and available.

8. Open Floor Announcements

8.1. Next delegate meeting April 3rd, 2020 @ 3:30 PM

9. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.