



## **CGS Delegate Packet March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

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Council of Graduate Students  
The Ohio State University

Date: March 11<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:cgs@osu.edu)

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."*
2. **ROLL CALL: Use Google Forms – Link Will Be in Zoom Chat** (5 min)
3. **APPROVAL OF February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 MINUTES** (5 min)
4. **OFFICER REPORTS** (20 min)
  - 4.1. President, Nick Messenger.37
  - 4.2. Vice President, Abby Grieff.2
  - 4.3. Treasurer, Michelle Scott.1445
  - 4.4. Secretary, Alissa Geisse.1
  - 4.5. Parliamentarian, Brandon Free.41
5. **COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES** (15 min)
  - 5.1. Academic Affairs, Meng Wu
  - 5.2. Arts & Culture, Robin Gordon
  - 5.3. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, T'Euvyn Page
  - 5.4. Gov Affairs, Brian O'Rourke
  - 5.5. Graduate Student Affairs, Kameron Rinehart
  - 5.6. Health, Wellness, & Safety, Faith Lewis
  - 5.7. International Student Affairs, Sochina Ranjit
  - 5.8. Strategic Communications, Carrie Ar Thomas.4051
  - 5.9. Graduate Caucus
  - 5.10. SERC, Sally
  - 5.11. Research & Operations, Katie Conner.280
  - 5.12. Membership & Org Wellness, Caroli Fitzpatrick
  - 5.13. Housing and Family Affairs, Blaise Truesdell
6. **OLD BUSINESS** (30 min)
  - 6.1 Act 2022-001: An Act to Amend the CGS Constitution
7. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - 7.1. Resolution 2022-001: A Resolution to Oppose State Legislation that Restricts the Teaching of Divisive Concepts
  - 7.2. CGS Officer Elections
    - 7.2.1. Treasurer
    - 7.2.2. Secretary
    - 7.2.3. Vice President
    - 7.2.4. President
  - 7.3. Senator Nominations for April Elections
8. **SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS** (15 min)
  - 8.1. Delegate Issues and Concerns
9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** (5 min)
  - 9.1. Delegate Elections Upcoming – Watch your email! - Next meeting April 1<sup>st</sup>.
10. **Adjourn** (745 pm or earlier)

## **CGS Virtual Meeting Ground Rules**

1. Be open, flexible, considerate, and kind!
2. Speak your discomfort if something is bothering 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. Alissa will be monitoring to ensure they are brought up.
6. You may keep you video on or off, whichever is most comfortable for you, but should connectivity issues arise we may ask everyone to turn off their video.
7. Please be visually presentable, if using video, and limit background activity.
8. Be aware that the meeting will be recorded for note taking purposes.



Council of Graduate Students  
The Ohio State University

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

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

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

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

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

**Executive Committee Members Absent:**

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

**1.1. Statement of Purpose**

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

**2. ROLL CALL**

**2.1. Google Form**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**3.1. Minutes from January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

- 3.1.1. Minutes approved.

**4. OFFICER REPORTS**

**4.1. Presidents Report**

**4.1.1. COVID-19**

- Continue to meet with university leadership, and in particular Dr. Shivers from Student Life to receive updates on COVID-19 logistics on campus.

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

**4.1.2. Graduate School Dean Search**

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

**4.1.3. Summer Funding**

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

**4.1.4. CSA Funding Change & Activity Fee Review**

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

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

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

**4.1.6. Workday Transition**

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

**4.1.7. Faculty Cabinet Issues**

- Updates on RAISE hiring initiative

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

## Vice President Report

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

## Treasurer Report

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

### ACADEMIC CONCLUSIONS



# Secretary Report

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



Photo: Me 1 hour into Legends Arceus

## 5. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

### Council on Student Affairs

Caroline Karwisch.2

- SAF Review
- Student Code of Conduct Review

### Arts and Culture

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

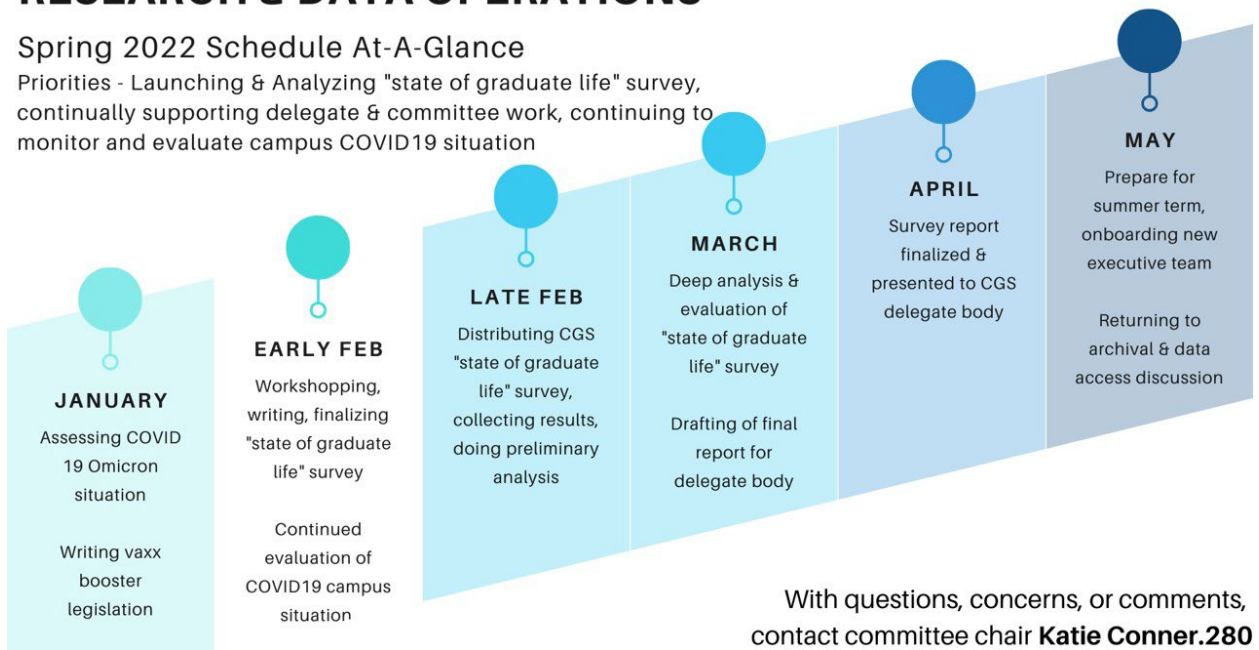




# RESEARCH & DATA OPERATIONS

## Spring 2022 Schedule At-A-Glance

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



## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

### Committee Updates:

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

### Gov Affairs Updates:

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



Graduate Student Affairs  
Kameron Rinehart

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

## Housing and Family Affairs

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

## Membership Wellness

- Planning virtual programs this semester, more info coming soon

Delegate celebrations:

<https://forms.gle/b99Je3sACa44Tn4WA>

## Ad Hoc Accessibility & Inclusivity

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



Caroline Fitzpatrick.271

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

# Delegate Celebrations!

Who else needs celebrated??

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

## Sustainability & Environmental Responsibility

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



## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS THOMAS.4051

### • Newsletters:

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



### • Social Media:

- Follow us on Twitter: @CGSOSU



## 6. NEW BUSINESS

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

#### 6.1.1. Questions

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

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

### 6.2. CGS Officer Nominations for March Elections

#### 6.2.1. President

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

#### 6.2.2. Vice President

- None

#### 6.2.3. Secretary

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

#### 6.2.4. Treasurer

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

## 7. SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS

### 7.1. Delegate Issues and Concerns

- 7.1.1. Clavoabbass.1: I've been keeping in touch with Univ of Chicago, and their Graduate Student Body has done well to keep students from paying student services fees. Is there anyway we can model them, or do something similar? <https://chicagomaroon.com/article/2022/1/25/ph-students-longer-required-pay-student-services-fee-across/>

- This is a great thing to refer to the Graduate Student Affairs committee to write a resolution and follow this up by meeting with the Office of Business and Finance.

- 7.1.2. Clavoabbass.1: Also is there anyway we can raise our compensation and benefits? President Johnson is interested in doing this.

- Messenger.33: I've been working on this, and have been working on a long-term timeline to get us "caught up" to other competitive compensation universities.
- We have proposed a 10-year plan to increase stipends, with a marginal increase (perhaps ~\$8k) soon. This of course, is not official and we expect her to announce this in her "state of university" address.
- People wanting to be involved in these conversation
- Edison.22: Can we also make sure to include raising the stipends of people accepting the final-year fellowships? People will not want to take a pay-cut to have a Fellowship.

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

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

## 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 8.1. Closing announcements from Health Wellness and Safety

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

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

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

**Meeting adjourned at ~5:15pm**

## ACT 2022-001

### AN ACT REVISING THE ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Sponsored by the Executive Committee

Authors: Shelby Carlson.539, Delegate; Brandon Free.41, Parliamentarian; Caroline Fitzpatrick.271, Chair of Ad Hoc Accessibility & Inclusivity Committee; Robin Gordon.215, Chair of Arts & Culture Committee; Kameron Rinehart.228, Chair of Graduate Student Affairs

**Section 1.** The purpose of this act shall be to amend the Constitution of the Council of Graduate Students of CGS.

**Section 2.** Whereas, the current Constitution reads as follows:

#### ***Preamble***

*The Council of Graduate Students of Ohio State University (CGS) is the official body representing graduate students' diverse issues, concerns, and needs at The Ohio State University. We involve students in a productive partnership in governance of the University, promote the internal welfare and unity of the student community, further the goals of our University, and respond to the challenges of our society. The statement of purpose for CGS is "to effectively advocate and program to ensure that The Ohio State University graduate student experience is the best it can be".*

#### ***Article 1 – Name***

***Section 1.1*** *The name of this organization is the Council of Graduate Students, hereinafter also referred to as the "the Council" or "CGS".*

#### ***Article 2 – Mission***

***Section 2.1*** *The Council represents all students enrolled in graduate programs at The Ohio State University, hereinafter referred to as graduate students or the graduate student body.*

***Section 2.2*** *The Council provides a forum in which the graduate student body may present and discuss issues that pertain to the academic and non-academic success and experience of graduate students and their role within the university community.*

***Section 2.3*** *The Council advocates on behalf of all graduate students with attention to the diverse experiences of students across race, class, gender, nationality, sexuality, disability, and religious affiliation.*

***Section 2.4*** *The Council promotes and provides academic, administrative, and social programs to support graduate students specifically and the university community in general.*



**Section 2.5** *The Council shall represent the graduate student body at all appropriate venues in a manner determined by the Executive Board in consultation with the delegate body. The President or their designee shall be the primary representative of the Council and shall keep the Council informed.*

**Article 3 – Authority and Powers**

**Section 3.1** *The authority for the establishment of the Council is derived from the consent of the graduate student body.*

**Section 3.2** *The Council is recognized by The Ohio State University as the official organization representing all graduate students at The Ohio State University.*

**Section 3.3** *On all matters brought before entities of The Ohio State University involving the interest of graduate students, the Council or its representatives have the power to act as an advisory agent on behalf of graduate students.*

**Section 3.4** *The Council has the power to plan and implement programs and make policy recommendations to the university in accordance with the mission of the Council.*

**Section 3.5** *The Council has the primary authority to allocate and distribute funds from the Treasury of the Council.*

**Section 3.6** *The Council oversees the elections and qualifications of its members and determines its own rules of procedure.*

**Article 4 – Membership and Eligibility**

**Section 4.1** *A person is eligible to hold any Council position, elected or appointed, if and only if that person meets the qualifications for graduate student status in good standing as defined by that person's respective program of study.*

**Section 4.2** *No student shall be denied membership in this organization on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or protected veteran status.*

**Section 4.3** *All members of the Council shall abide by the Council's governing documents.*

**Section 4.4** *The Council is composed of a delegate body elected by graduate students and an Executive Board made up of Executive Officers, appointed officers, and Committee Chairs (as outlined in Article 10).*

**Section 4.5** *All delegates and Committee Chairs shall be voting members and have full voting and speaking privileges at meetings. All Officers (elected and appointed) shall have speaking rights at meetings but do not hold voting rights.*

**Section 4.6** *Delegates who are appointed to Committee Chair positions and do not also hold elected officer positions may retain their delegate seats. All Officers, elected or appointed, shall resign their delegate seats when their term begins (as outlined in Article 8).*

#### **Article 5 – Quorum and Voting**

**Section 5.1** *At all meetings of the Council, except those held in summer term, one-fifth of the total number of voting members (as outlined in Article 4, Section 5) shall constitute a quorum. At the final regular meeting of spring semester, a poll shall be conducted to determine the total number of voting members who will be available to attend meetings over the summer. For all summer term meetings, one-fifth of the total number of voting members available to meet during summer term shall constitute a quorum.*

**Section 5.2** *Each voting member (as outlined in Article 4, Section 5) in attendance shall have one vote. An Executive Board member who is also a delegate may not vote twice.*

**Section 5.3** *In the event of an absence, a delegate's designated alternate may attend and shall be entitled to the same powers and privileges as the delegate, including voting. Voting members of the Executive Board may not designate alternates to vote on their behalf unless they also hold a delegate seat.*

**Section 5.4** *If quorum is not reached at any meeting of the Council, no votes may be held. The Council may still discuss issues and attend to other agenda items. If quorum is lost during the course of a meeting, all legislation and scheduled votes will be automatically tabled until the next regular meeting.*

**Section 5.5** *A two-thirds majority vote shall be defined as an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all voting members in attendance. A simple majority vote shall be defined as an affirmative vote of at least half of all voting members in attendance.*

#### **Article 6 – Meetings**

**Section 6.1** *There will be at least four regular meetings of the Council during both autumn and spring semesters. During the summer term, the Council must hold at least 2 regular meetings.*

**Section 6.2** *Special meetings shall be called at the discretion of the President, at the request of the Executive Board, or upon the written request of ten or more delegates. The special meeting must be held within nine days of such a request, provided that the University is in session on the ninth day. Otherwise it must be held within three days of the start of the next session.*

**Section 6.3** *All meetings of the Council are presided over by an executive officer, who shall be recognized as the chair.*

**Section 6.4** Every voting member and Officer will signify attendance at a meeting by a procedure supervised by the Secretary. This procedure may differ for summer term. Attendance must be documented, and records made available upon request.

#### **Article 7 – Parliamentary Authority**

**Section 7.1** The current edition of "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised" governs the procedures of all meetings of the Council, except where conflicting with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Council.

**Section 7.2** The Chair of the meeting shall be responsible for interpreting all relevant aspects of the CGS Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules. Decisions of the Chair may be appealed to the full Council and overturned by a simple majority vote. The Council's ruling is final.

**Section 7.3** The President may appoint a Parliamentarian to advise on the details in Section 7.2 and other relevant matters (as outlined in Article 8.3.F).

#### **Article 8 – Elections and Officers**

**Section 8.1** The Council of Graduate Students shall elect annually from the graduate student body the following Executive Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

**Section 8.2** If applicable, once a person becomes an executive officer of the Council, that person will resign as a delegate when the term of office begins.

#### **Section 8.3: President**

8.3.A The President shall preside over all meetings of the Council as the chair.

8.3.B The President shall select the time and place of all regular and special meetings of the Council. The President shall inform each delegate in writing of the time and place chosen for each regular meeting of a semester by no later than the tenth day of that semester.

8.3.C The President shall serve as a liaison between CGS and the Graduate School, the University administration, and The Ohio State University Board of Trustees.

8.3.D. The President shall be responsible for ensuring Council compliance with all fiscal and personnel policies of the Council, university, state, and federal government.

8.3.E The president shall serve as an ex officio member of the University Senate and its Steering Committee.

8.3.F The President shall have the power to appoint a Chief of Staff and/or a Parliamentarian if they so choose. These appointments shall be subject to approval by the Executive Committee.

*8.3.G The President shall be responsible for implementing and enacting all decisions of the Council and shall fulfill other duties as directed by the consensus of the Council and the Executive Committee.*

**Section 8.4: Vice President**

*8.4.A The Vice President shall be responsible for overseeing and maintaining records of appointments to all University committees, Senate committees, and shared governance committees on which the Council has representation, as well as to all internal CGS committees.*

*8.4.B The Vice President shall coordinate the Edward F. Hayes Graduate Research Forum.*

*8.4.C The Vice President shall review delegate eligibility, oversee delegate elections, and maintain records of all delegate seats.*

*8.4.D The Vice President shall oversee and serve as Chair during all elections.*

*8.4.E The Vice President shall have the power to appoint a Deputy Treasurer. This appointment shall be subject to approval by the Executive Board.*

*8.4.F In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall preside over meetings of the Council.*

*8.4.G The Vice President shall fulfill other duties as directed by the Council, the Executive Committee, and the President.*

**Section 8.5: Treasurer**

*8.5.A The Treasurer shall handle all the finances of the Council and keep an accurate record of its financial status at all times.*

*8.5.B The Treasurer, in consultation with the President and Vice President, shall be responsible for creating an annual budget for the Council.*

*8.5.C The Treasurer shall oversee the Edward J. Ray Travel Award for Scholarship and Service.*

*8.5.D In the absence of the President and Vice President, the Treasurer shall preside over meetings of the Council.*

*8.5.E The Treasurer shall fulfill other duties as directed by the Council, the Executive Committee, and the President.*

**Section 8.6: Secretary**

*8.6.A The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping minutes of all meetings of the Council and the Executive Committee, for maintaining records of legislation, and for communicating announcements and information to the delegate body.*

*8.6.B The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining attendance records and determining quorum at Council meetings as declared in Article 5, Section 1 of this Constitution.*

*8.6.C The secretary shall oversee the Career Development Award.*

*8.6.D The Secretary shall be responsible for ensuring that the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules are updated at the end of every semester to reflect all passed legislative amendments.*

*8.6.E In the absence of the President, Vice President, and Treasurer, the Secretary shall preside over meetings of the Council.*

*8.6.F The Secretary shall fulfill other duties as directed by the Council, the Executive Committee, and the President.*

### **Section 8.7: Executive Officer Removal**

*8.7.A Executive Officers holding an appointed position may be removed by the President in consultation with the Executive Board, members of the relevant committee, and/or the delegate body.*

*8.7.B The Council has the authority to remove any Executive Officer, for violation of the governing documents through the following procedure:*

*8.7.B.i A written motion requesting an investigation of an Executive officer for such violations must be presented at a regular meeting of the Council. This motion must bear the signatures of at least ten delegates or at least two-thirds of the Executive Committee.*

*8.7.B.ii The officer shall be given the opportunity to respond to the motion. If the motion is approved by a simple majority vote, a committee will be convened to conduct an investigation into the allegations against the officer and present its findings at the next regular Council meeting. This membership and chairship of this committee will be subject to approval by the council.*

*8.7.B.iii Following this presentation, a two-thirds vote of the Council is required to approve the removal of the officer, effective immediately.*

### **Section 8.8: Vacancy**

*8.8.A A vacancy shall be declared if an elected officer is removed or is unable to fulfill their duties as outlined in this Constitution for a period of time exceeding 3 weeks. In the event of a temporary absence less than 3 weeks, the rest of the executive officer team shall ensure that the necessary obligations of the absent officer are fulfilled.*

*8.8.B In the event the presidency falls vacant, the Vice President shall have the option of becoming the President. In this instance, a new Vice President shall be elected or appointed following the procedures outlined in 8.8.D and 8.8.E. The Vice President shall also have the option of refusing the office of the presidency, in which case the Vice*

*President shall serve as President pro tempore until such time as the Council is able to elect a new President. This election shall be held no later than the second regular meeting of the Council following the occurrence of the vacancy.*

*8.8.C In the event that the positions of President and Vice President simultaneously become vacant, the Secretary shall serve as President pro tempore. In the case that the position of Secretary is also vacant, then the Treasurer shall serve as President pro tempore. In either case, the Council shall elect a new President no later than the second regular meeting of the Council.*

*8.8.D In the event that the position of Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary becomes vacant prior to the last meeting of the autumn semester, an election to complete the current term will be held no later than the second regular meeting of the Council following the occurrence of the vacancy. Election procedures will be in accordance with the current provisions of this Constitution and any Bylaws the Council shall enact. An interim officer may be appointed by the President to hold office until such time as an election can be held. This interim officer is subject to approval by the Executive Committee.*

*8.8.E In the event that the position of Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary becomes vacant after the last meeting of the autumn semester, the President shall appoint an interim officer to hold office for the remainder of the term. This appointment must be confirmed by a simple majority vote of the Council at the next regular meeting.*

#### ***Article 9 – Committees***

***Section 9.1*** *All standing committees shall be led by chairs appointed by the President. These appointments are subject to approval by the Executive Board.*

***Section 9.2*** *The Council may create such standing or ad hoc committees as it deems necessary. Ad hoc committees are designed to be temporary, single issue committees. When they are created, they should have a specified start and end date that would require approval from the body to extend.*

#### ***Article 10 – Executive Board***

***Section 10.1*** *Membership of the Executive Board shall be determined as follows:*

*10.1.A All four executive officers and all chairs of standing committees shall be voting members.*

*10.1.B The President chairs the Executive Board.*

*10.1.C One graduate student representative each from any University and Senate committees may be appointed by the President as voting members.*

*10.1.D Ex-officio non-voting members of the Executive Board shall include emeritus officers, the Parliamentarian, the Chief of Staff, the Deputy Treasurer, ad-hoc committee chairs, and the student members of The Ohio State University Board of Trustees.*

*10.1.E During summer term, the Executive Board shall consist of those individuals who were members during the spring semester of the previous academic year, the newly elected officers, and all new committee chairs as they are appointed.*

#### *Section 10.2 Duties and powers*

*10.2.A The Executive Board transacts the business of the Council between regular meetings and recommends actions to be taken by the Council.*

*10.2.B All actions taken by the Board shall be reported to the Council at its next delegate body meeting and meeting minutes will be publicly distributed. The Executive Board shall bring before the Council any matter coming within its knowledge that needs the consideration or action of the Council.*

*10.2.C A quorum for Executive Board meetings shall consist of at least 50% of all active voting members of the Executive Board.*

*10.2.D The Executive Board prepares the agenda for each Council meeting.*

*10.2.E The Executive Board shall approve all officer and committee chair appointments by a simple majority vote. These appointments shall be announced at the next regular meeting of the Council.*

*10.2.F The Executive Board may not take any actions that would directly conflict with a previous directive of the full council. Other restrictions on the actions of the Executive Board may be imposed by the Council.*

*10.2.G The Executive Board shall build and maintain relationships with sister student governments.*

*10.2.H The Executive Board shall approve all official statements released on behalf of the Council.*

### ***Article 11 – Other Governing Documents***

***Section 11.1*** *The Council shall establish and maintain Bylaws, a Code of Ethics and Values, and Standing Rules. These governing documents shall be appended to this Constitution and be made available upon request.*

***Section 11.2.*** *Any proposed amendment to the Bylaws must be sent to all delegates one week prior to a regular meeting of the Council. At the regular meeting of the Council, the proposed amendment to the Bylaws may be approved by a simple majority vote.*

***Section 11.3.*** *Any proposed amendment to the Code of Ethics and Values must be sent to all delegates one week prior to a regular meeting of the Council. At the regular meeting*



*of the Council, the proposed amendment to the Code of Ethics and Values may be approved by a simple majority vote.*

***Section 11.4*** *The Council may establish or amend additional standing rules by a simple majority vote.*

***Article 12 – Amendments***

***Section 12.1*** *Any proposed amendment to this Constitution must be presented in writing at a regular meeting of the Council either with the signatures of ten delegates or at the initiative of the Executive Committee. A copy of the proposed amendment must be sent to all delegates within 5 business days of the meeting at which the amendment was presented.*

***Section 12.2*** *An affirmative two-thirds vote at a regular meeting following the meeting at which the amendment was proposed will be sufficient to adopt the amendment.*

**Section 3.** Whereas, the current wording of the document is overly complicated and inaccessible.

**Section 4.** Whereas, Article II lacks a statement of support delegates from systemically oppressed communities, a flaw in the current mission.

**Section 5.** Whereas, in Article V, the defined quorum is so low as to stop being representative of the delegate body.

**Section 6.** Whereas, Article VI and section 8.3.B within Article VIII fail to ensure accommodations for delegates who prefer virtual participation in delegate meetings, due to disability, precautions during a pandemic, or other reasons.

**Section 7.** Whereas, the role of Parliamentarian has become an integral part of executive operations within CGS and should no longer be an optional appointment, as stated in Article VII and Section 8.3.F within Article VIII.

**Section 8.** Whereas, representing all identities and perspectives within the delegate body is a core responsibility of recruitment and so should be an institutionalized practice, represented in Section 8.4 of Article VIII.

**Section 9.** Whereas, an executive member seeking an assistant best knows what qualifications they require, and so should have the appointment power for that assistant, as in the case of a deputy appointment.

**Section 10.** Whereas, the role of Secretary is central to communication and transparency within CGS, a role which must be performed with urgency, even if the Secretary, themselves, is absent.

**Section 11.** Whereas, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary are elected positions, and should continue to require election even after vacancy in keeping with the spirit of the position.

**Section 12.** Whereas, the responsibilities outlined in Article X, especially Sections 10.2.G and 10.2.H are vague and lack accountability from responsible parties.

**Section 13.** Therefore, be it resolved that the revisions to the Articles of the Constitution will be as follows:

***Preamble***

*The Council of Graduate Students at The Ohio State University (CGS) is the official body representing all graduate students' diverse issues, concerns, and needs at The Ohio State University. We involve students in a productive partnership in governance of the University, promote the internal welfare and unity of the student community, further the goals of our University, and respond to the challenges of our society. The statement of purpose for CGS is "to effectively advocate and program to ensure that The Ohio State University graduate student experience is the best it can be".*

***Article 1 – Name***

***Section 1.1*** *The name of this organization is the Council of Graduate Students, also referred to as the "the Council" or "CGS".*

***Article 2 – Mission***

***Section 2.1*** *The Council represents all students enrolled in graduate programs across all six campuses at The Ohio State University, referred to here as "graduate students" or "the graduate student body."*

***Section 2.2*** *The Council provides an accessible forum in which the graduate student body may present and discuss issues that pertain to the academic and non-academic success and experience of graduate students and their role within the University community.*

***Section 2.3*** *The Council advocates in University spaces on behalf of all graduate students with attention to the diverse experiences of students across age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military/veteran status, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, and other protected statuses.*

***Section 2.4*** *The Council supports delegate representatives from systemically oppressed groups and uplifts their perspectives in an effort to ensure the actions of the organization and the University adequately support graduate students of all backgrounds.*

***Section 2.5*** *The Council promotes and provides accessible academic, administrative, and social programs to support graduate students specifically and the University community in general.*

***Section 2.6*** *The Council represents the graduate student body at all venues determined by the Executive Board in consultation with the delegate body. The President or their*

*designee is the primary representative of the Council and must keep the Council informed.*

### **Article 3 – Authority and Powers**

**Section 3.1** *The authority for the establishment of the Council is derived from the consent of the graduate student body.*

**Section 3.2** *The Council is recognized by The Ohio State University as the official organization representing all graduate students at The Ohio State University, thereafter also referred to as “the University.”*

**Section 3.3** *In all matters brought to bodies of The Ohio State University that interest graduate students, the Council or its representatives have the power to advise those bodies on behalf of graduate students.*

**Section 3.4** *The Council has the power to plan and implement programs and make policy recommendations to the University in accordance with the mission of the Council.*

**Section 3.5** *The Council has the primary authority to allocate and distribute funds from the Treasury of the Council.*

**Section 3.6** *The Council oversees the elections and qualifications of its members and determines its own rules of procedure, as stated in its governing documents.*

### **Article 4 – Membership and Eligibility**

**Section 4.1** *All graduate students at The Ohio State University are eligible to hold any Council position, elected or appointed, provided they maintain status in good standing as defined by that person’s respective program of study.*

**Section 4.2** *No student will be denied membership in this organization on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military/veteran status, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, or other protected status.*

**Section 4.3** *All members of the Council must abide by the Council’s governing documents.*

**Section 4.4** *The Council is composed of a delegate body elected by graduate students and an Executive Board made up of Executive Officers, appointed officers, and Committee Chairs (as outlined in Article 10).*

**Section 4.5** *All delegates and Committee Chairs are voting members and have full voting and speaking privileges at meetings. All Officers (elected and appointed) have speaking rights at meetings but do not hold voting rights.*

**Section 4.6** *Delegates who are appointed to Committee Chair positions and do not also hold elected officer positions may retain their delegate seats. All Officers, elected or appointed, must resign their delegate seats when their term begins (as outlined in Article 8).*

## **Article 5 – Quorum and Voting**

**Section 5.1** *At all meetings of the Council, except those held in summer term, half of the total number of voting members (as outlined in Article 4, Section 5) will constitute the minimum number of members needed for an official vote, (that is, a quorum). At the final regular meeting of spring semester, a poll must be conducted to determine the total number of voting members who will be available to attend meetings over the summer. For all summer term meetings, half of the total number of voting members available to meet during summer term will constitute a quorum.*

**Section 5.2** *Each voting member (as outlined in Article 4, Section 5) in attendance has only one vote. A committee chair who is also a delegate may not vote twice.*

**Section 5.3** *In the event of an absence, a delegate's designated alternate may attend and will be entitled to the same powers and privileges as the delegate, including voting. Voting members of the Executive Board may not designate alternates to vote on their behalf unless they also hold a delegate seat.*

**Section 5.4** *If quorum is not reached at a meeting of the Council, no votes may be held. The Council may still discuss issues and attend to other agenda items. If a quorum is lost during a meeting, all legislation and scheduled votes will be automatically tabled until the next regular meeting.*

**Section 5.5** *A two-thirds majority vote is defined as an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all voting members in attendance. A simple majority vote is defined as an affirmative vote of at least half of all voting members in attendance.*

## **Article 6 – Meetings**

**Section 6.1** *There must be at least four regular meetings of the Council during both autumn and spring semesters. During the summer term, the Council must hold at least 2 regular meetings. Every meeting must provide a mechanism for full hybrid participation and offer that opportunity publicly.*

**Section 6.2** *Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the President, at the request of the Executive Board, or upon the written request of ten or more delegates. The special meeting must be held within nine days of such a request, provided that the University is in session on the ninth day. Otherwise, it must be held within three days of the start of the next session.*

**Section 6.3** *All meetings of the Council are presided over by an executive officer, who will be recognized as the Chair.*

**Section 6.4** *Every voting member and Officer will signify attendance at a meeting by a procedure supervised by the Secretary. Attendance must be documented, and records made available upon request.*

## **Article 7 – Parliamentary Authority**

**Section 7.1** *The current edition of "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised" governs the procedures of all meetings of the Council. In cases where these rules conflict with the Council's governing documents, the governing documents will take precedence.*

**Section 7.2** *The Chair of the meeting is responsible for interpreting all relevant aspects of the Council's governing documents and rules of order. Decisions of the Chair may be appealed to the full Council and overturned by a simple majority vote. The Council's ruling is final.*

**Section 7.3** *The Chair is responsible for assisting members with proper usage of rules during meetings as necessary. Unfamiliarity with the formalities of the Council must not be a barrier to full participation in meetings of CGS.*

**Section 7.4** *The President must appoint a Parliamentarian to advise on the details in Section 7.2 and other relevant matters (as outlined in Article 8.3.F).*

## **Article 8 – Elections and Officers**

**Section 8.1** *The Council of Graduate Students will elect annually from the graduate student body the following Executive Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.*

**Section 8.2** *If a current delegate becomes an executive officer of the Council, they must resign their delegate seat when the term of office begins.*

### **Section 8.3: President**

**8.3.A** *The President will preside over all meetings of the Council as the Chair.*

**8.3.B** *The President will select the time and place of all regular and special meetings of the Council. All meeting locations must be ADA accessible and hybrid capable. The President must inform the graduate student body in writing of the time and place chosen for each regular meeting of a semester by no later than the tenth day of that semester.*

**8.3.C** *The President will serve as a liaison between CGS and the Graduate School, the University administration, and The Ohio State University Board of Trustees.*

**8.3.D.** *The President will be responsible for ensuring the Council's compliance with all fiscal and personnel policies of the Council, University, state, and federal government.*

**8.3.E** *The President will serve as an ex officio member of the University Senate and its Steering Committee.*

**8.3.F** *The President will appoint a Parliamentarian and has the power to appoint a Chief of Staff if they so choose. These appointments will be subject to approval by simple majority vote by the Executive Committee.*

**8.3.G** *The President will be responsible for implementing and enacting all decisions of the Council and will fulfill other duties as directed by the consensus of the Council and the Executive Committee.*

### **Section 8.4: Vice President**

*8.4.A The Vice President is responsible for overseeing and maintaining records of appointments to all University committees, Senate committees, and shared governance committees on which the Council has representation, as well as to all internal CGS committees.*

*8.4.B The Vice President will coordinate the Edward F. Hayes Graduate Research Forum, which showcases the innovative and exemplary research being conducted by Ohio State graduate students and postdoctoral scholars across graduate degree programs and research topics.*

*8.4.C The Vice President will recruit delegate candidates, review delegate eligibility, oversee delegate elections, and maintain records of all delegate seats. During recruitment, Vice President must contact staff members in every program to ensure that all graduate students are aware of membership opportunities within the Council.*

*8.4.D The Vice President will oversee and serve as Chair during all elections.*

*8.4.E In the absence of the President, the Vice President will preside over meetings of the Council.*

*8.4.F The Vice President will fulfill other duties necessary for operation of the Council as directed by the consensus of the Council and the Executive Committee.*

#### **Section 8.5: Treasurer**

*8.5.A The Treasurer will handle all finances of the Council and maintain an accurate record of its financial status.*

*8.5.B The Treasurer, in consultation with the President and Vice President, will be responsible for creating an annual budget for the Council.*

*8.5.C The Treasurer will oversee the Edward J. Ray Travel Award for Scholarship and Service, which honors substantial commitment to service and helps graduate students to pursue their scholarly goals across the globe by financially aiding them when attending distant conferences and presentations.*

*8.5.D The Treasurer will have the power to appoint a Deputy Treasurer. This appointment is subject to approval by simple majority vote by the Executive Board.*

*8.5.E In the absence of the President and Vice President, the Treasurer will preside over meetings of the Council.*

*8.5.F The Treasurer will fulfill other duties necessary for maintaining the operation of the Council as directed by the Council and the Executive Committee, as needed and able.*

#### **Section 8.6: Secretary**

*8.6.A The Secretary will be responsible for writing and publicly publishing minutes of all meetings of the Council and the Executive Committee, for maintaining records of legislation, and for communicating announcements and information to the delegate body. All minutes and legislation must be publicly published with one week of approval by a simple majority vote by the Council.*

*8.6.B The Secretary will be responsible for maintaining attendance records and determining quorum at Council meetings as declared in Article 5, Section 1 of this Constitution.*

*8.6.C The Secretary will oversee the Career Development Award, which encourages graduate students to prepare for placement into their chosen field and provides an opportunity to defray associated costs.*

*8.6.D The Secretary will be responsible for ensuring that the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules are updated at the end of every semester to reflect all passed legislative amendments.*

*8.6.E The Secretary will have the power to appoint a Deputy Secretary. This appointment is subject to approval by simple majority vote by the Executive Board.*

*8.6.F If the Secretary is absent from a meeting, their duties will be assumed by the Deputy Secretary, if appointed, Chief of Staff, if appointed, or the Treasurer, in that order.*

*8.6.G In the absence of the President, Vice President, and Treasurer, the Secretary will preside over meetings of the Council.*

*8.6.H The Secretary will fulfill other duties as directed by the Council, the Executive Committee, and the President.*

### **Section 8.7: Executive Officer Removal**

*8.7.A Executive officers holding an appointed position may be removed at the initiative of the position who appointed them, or by two executive board members. This removal is subject to a majority vote of the executive board.*

*8.7.B The Council has the authority to remove any Executive Officer for violation of the Council's governing documents through the following procedure:*

*8.7.B.i A written motion requesting an investigation of an Executive Officer for such violations must be presented at a regular meeting of the Council. This motion must bear the signatures of at least ten delegates or at least two-thirds of the Executive Committee.*

*8.7.B.ii The officer must be given the opportunity to respond to the motion. If the motion is approved by a simple majority vote, a committee will be convened to conduct an investigation into the allegations against the officer and present its findings at the next regular Council meeting. This membership and chairship of this committee will be subject to approval by a simple majority vote by the council.*

*8.7.B.iii Following this presentation, a two-thirds vote of the Council is required to approve the removal of the officer, effective immediately.*

### **Section 8.8: Vacancy**

*8.8.A A vacancy will be declared if an elected officer is removed or is unable to fulfill their duties as outlined in this Constitution for a period of time exceeding 3 weeks. In the event of a temporary absence of less than 3 weeks, the remainder of the executive officer team must ensure that the duties of the absent officer are carried out.*

*8.8.B In the event the presidency falls vacant, the Vice President will have the option of becoming the President. In this instance, a new Vice President will be elected or appointed following the procedures outlined in 8.8.D and 8.8.E. The Vice President will*



*also have the option of refusing the office of the presidency, in which case the Vice President must serve as President pro tempore until the Council is able to elect a new President. This election must be held no later than the second regular meeting of the Council following the occurrence of the vacancy.*

*8.8.C In the event that the positions of President and Vice President simultaneously become vacant, the Secretary will serve as President pro tempore. In the case that the position of Secretary is also vacant, then the Treasurer will serve as President pro tempore. In either case, the Council must elect a new President no later than the second regular meeting of the Council.*

*8.8.D In the event that the position of Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary becomes vacant, an election to complete the current term will be held no later than the second regular meeting of the Council following the occurrence of the vacancy. Election procedures will be in accordance with the current provisions of this Constitution and any Bylaws the Council enacts. An interim officer may be appointed by the President to hold office until such time as an election can be held. This interim officer is subject to approval by simple majority vote by the Executive Committee.*

#### **Article 9 – Committees**

**Section 9.1** *All standing committees are led by chairs, who are appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Board with simple majority vote.*

**Section 9.2** *The Council may create such standing or ad-hoc committees as it deems necessary. Ad-hoc committees are designed to be temporary, single-issue committees. When they are created, they should have a specified start and end date that would require approval by simple majority vote from the body to extend.*

#### **Article 10 – Executive Board**

**Section 10.1** *Membership of the Executive Board will be determined as follows:*

*10.1.A All four executive officers and all chairs of standing committees are voting members.*

*10.1.B The President chairs the Executive Board.*

*10.1.C One graduate student representative each from any University and Senate committees may be appointed by the President as voting members.*

*10.1.D Emeritus officers, the Parliamentarian, the Chief of Staff, the Deputy Treasurer, ad-hoc committee chairs, and the student members of The Ohio State University Board of Trustees may participate in meetings of the Executive Board as ex-officio, non-voting members.*

*10.1.E During summer term, the Executive Board will consist of those individuals who were members during the spring semester of the previous academic year, the newly elected officers, and all new committee chairs as they are appointed.*

**Section 10.2** *Duties and powers*

*10.2.A The Executive Board conducts the business of the Council between regular meetings and recommends actions to be taken by the Council.*

*10.2.B All actions taken by the Executive Board must be reported to the Council at its next delegate body meeting, and meeting minutes must be publicly distributed. The Executive Board must bring before the Council any matter coming within its knowledge that needs the consideration or action of the Council.*

*10.2.C A quorum for Executive Board meetings will consist of at least 50% of all active voting members of the Executive Board.*

*10.2.D The Executive Board approves the agenda for each Council meeting by simple majority vote.*

*10.2.E The Executive Board approves all officer and committee chair appointments by a simple majority vote. These appointments must be announced at the next regular meeting of the Council.*

*10.2.F The Executive Board may not take any actions that would directly conflict with a previous directive of the full council. Other restrictions on the actions of the Executive Board may be imposed by the Council.*

*10.2.G The Executive Board will build and maintain relationships with sister student governments, with primary responsibility delegated to the President, Vice President, and Chief of Staff, if appointed.*

*10.2.H Members of the Executive Board must not release official statements on behalf of the Council without approval by simple majority vote from the delegate body. The Executive Board may utilize electronic voting outside of regular meetings for this purpose.*

### **Article 11 – Other Governing Documents**

**Section 11.1** *The Council must establish and maintain Bylaws, a Code of Ethics and Values, and Standing Rules. These governing documents must be appended to this Constitution and be made available upon request.*

**Section 11.2.** *Any proposed amendment to the Bylaws must be sent to all delegates one week prior to a regular meeting of the Council. At the regular meeting of the Council, the proposed amendment to the Bylaws may be approved by a simple majority vote.*

**Section 11.3.** *Any proposed amendment to the Code of Ethics and Values must be sent to all delegates one week prior to a regular meeting of the Council. At the regular meeting of the Council, the proposed amendment to the Code of Ethics and Values may be approved by a simple majority vote.*

**Section 11.4** *The Council may establish or amend additional standing rules by a simple majority vote.*

### **Article 12 – Amendments**

**Section 12.1** *Any proposed amendment to this Constitution must be presented in writing at a regular meeting of the Council either with the signatures of ten delegates or at the*

*initiative of the Executive Committee. A copy of the proposed amendment must be sent to all delegates within five business days of the meeting at which the amendment was presented.*

**Section 12.2** *An affirmative two-thirds vote at a regular meeting following the meeting at which the amendment was proposed will be sufficient to adopt the amendment.*

**Section 14.** Be it finally resolved that the changes contained within this act shall be effective immediately after an affirmative vote of two-thirds of delegates at a regular meeting of CGS in accordance with Article XII of the CGS Constitution.

**RESOLUTION 2022-001**  
A RESOLUTION OPPOSING STATE LEGISLATION THAT RESTRICTS  
THE TEACHING OF ‘DIVISIVE’ CONCEPTS

Author: Brian O’Rourke.130, Chair of Government Affairs  
Sponsors: Government Affairs 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 II 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 III Section 3 of the CGS Constitution; and

WHEREAS according to The Ohio State University Office of Academic Affairs, “*Academic freedom and intellectual diversity have been hallmarks of the ethic of The Ohio State University since it opened its doors in 1873.*”<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS academic freedom can be understood as the ability, “*to discuss all relevant matters in the classroom, to explore all avenues of scholarship, research, and creative expression, and to speak or write on matters of public concern...*”<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS the unrestricted development of academic thought, the pursuit of knowledge, and exchange of scholarly ideas, regardless of their alignment or contradiction with prominent political narratives, are critical components of the educational experience for graduate students; and

WHEREAS the American Legislative Exchange Council in June 2020 developed model legislation that prohibited the teaching of topics related to racism both historically and in the present day for state legislatures to adapt and pass<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS in response to the unified political messaging strategies against education about race and racism, 36 states have proposed restrictions on the teaching of race, sex, and other social concepts, limiting instruction and/or conversations on ‘critical race theory’, institutional racism, implicit bias, antiracism, fluidity of gender identities, and other topics<sup>4</sup>; and

WHEREAS bills enacted in other states to restrict the teaching of race, sex, and other social concepts represent concrete efforts by state governments to administer broad prohibitions on

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<sup>1</sup> <https://oaa.osu.edu/academic-rights-and-responsibilities>

<sup>2</sup> <https://grad.umn.edu/about/policies-governance/academic-freedom-responsibility#:~:text=Academic%20freedom%20is%20the%20freedom,to%20professional%20duties%20and%20the>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.commondreams.org/views/2021/07/28/alec-inspires-lawmakers-file-anti-critical-race-theory-bills?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/views/2021/07/28/alec-inspires-lawmakers-file-anti-critical-race-theory-bills?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.chalkbeat.org/22525983/map-critical-race-theory-legislation-teaching-racism>

educational content of certain perspectives<sup>5</sup>, posing concrete threats to academic freedom and the development of critical thinking skills at institutions of higher education<sup>6</sup>; and

WHEREAS The Ohio House of Representatives State and Local Government Committee introduced H.B. 327 (“Prohibit teaching, advocating, or promoting divisive concepts”) in June 2021<sup>7</sup> and has since accepted multiple substitute bills, including the most recent version Sub. H.B. 327 -12 (“Promoting Education not Indoctrination Act”) on 2/16/22<sup>8</sup>; and

WHEREAS the State and Local Government Committee held a hearing on 3/9/2022 on Sub. H.B. 327 -12 (hereafter just H.B. 327), reporting the legislation out of the committee and onto the full House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS according to the Ohio Legislative Services Commission, H.B. 327, *“prohibits public schools, state agencies, and state institutions of higher education from (1) offering teaching, instruction or training on “divisive concepts” and (2) accepting private funding to develop curriculum, purchase or select course materials, or provide training for a course promoting “divisive concepts”*”<sup>9</sup>; and

WHEREAS ‘divisive concepts’ refers to a wide body of content related to race, ethnicity, sex, religion, or national origin, including *“That meritocracy or traits such as a hard work ethic are racist or sexist, or were created by individuals of a particular race, ethnicity, color, sex, religion, or national origin to oppress individuals of another race, ethnicity, color, sex, religion, or national origin”*(lines 73-77)<sup>10</sup>; and

WHEREAS the definition of ‘divisive concepts’ in H.B. 327 would, according to the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio, have the consequence of prohibiting instruction on the historical and ongoing impact of race, sex, and other social characteristics on one’s ability to achieve success in the United States, while also restricting education and training on the existence and alleviation of individual implicit biases<sup>11</sup>; and

WHEREAS H.B. 327 explicitly mandates that, *“No state moneys shall be expended by any state institution of higher education in support or promotion of any [divisive] concept”* (lines 688-690)<sup>12</sup>; and

WHEREAS H.B. 327 requires that the board of trustees for each institution of higher education review and modify tenure policies in accordance with the provisions of this bill (lines 716-719)<sup>13</sup>; and

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2021/05/28/1000537206/teachers-laws-banning-critical-race-theory-are-leading-to-self-censorship>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.thefire.org/new-wave-of-bills-on-race-and-sex-stereotyping-violate-academic-freedom/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-documents?id=GA134-HB-327>

<sup>8</sup> [https://ohiohouse.gov/committees/state-and-local-government/meetings/cmte\\_h\\_state\\_local\\_govt\\_1\\_2022-02-16-0300\\_1156](https://ohiohouse.gov/committees/state-and-local-government/meetings/cmte_h_state_local_govt_1_2022-02-16-0300_1156)

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=16997&format=pdf>

<sup>10</sup> [H.B. 327 \(-12\)](#)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.acluohio.org/en/news/whitewashing-history-not-answer-hb-322-and-hb-327-will-erase-progress-and-silence-people>

<sup>12</sup> [H.B. 327 \(-12\)](#)

<sup>13</sup> [H.B. 327 \(-12\)](#)

WHEREAS H.B. 327 prohibits state institutions of higher education from including, “*as part of new student or freshman orientation teaching, instruction, or training promoting or compelling adherence to any of the [divisive] concepts*” (lines 703-705) OR requiring “*any student to complete any course that contains instruction on any of the [divisive] concepts... as a condition of selecting a particular major in any undergraduate program*” (lines 707-710)<sup>14</sup>; and

WHEREAS the full consequences of H.B. 327 on the curricula, training programs, and other educational processes of The Ohio State University are unclear given the confusing terminology and non-defined language used throughout the bill but have the potential to significantly alter student experiences; and

WHEREAS the provisions related to freshman orientation and required coursework are highly likely to impact the implementation of The Ohio State University’s new general education curriculum, which includes foundational classes on “Race, Ethnic and Gender Diversity” and “Citizenship for a Diverse and Just World”<sup>15</sup>; and

WHEREAS on November 30, 2021, The Ohio State University President Kristina Johnson sent a letter to Ohio House of Representatives Speaker Robert Cupp opposing H.B 327, arguing that the bill, “*will significantly impede the ability of The Ohio State University to carry out our mission of creating knowledge to improve the well-being of our state, educating students through distinguished academic programs, preparing our students to be leaders and engaged citizens, and fostering a culture of engagement and service*” and that, “*Education, not legislation, is the correct way to address the issues raised by the sponsors regarding divisive concepts*”<sup>16</sup>; and

WHEREAS The Inter-University Council of Ohio believes that H.B. 327 poses substantial threats to academic freedom and local rule in education, potentially resulting in Ohio public universities losing their accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission and other educational bodies<sup>17</sup>; and

WHEREAS both President Johnson and the Inter-University Council of Ohio believe that H.B. 327 will put graduates of Ohio public universities at a competitive disadvantage on the job market given the restrictions placed on the free exchange of academic thought and development of critical thinking skills by this legislative imperative, resulting in a “brain drain”<sup>18</sup> of top talent from the state<sup>19</sup>; and

WHEREAS the Undergraduate Student Government and University Senate of The Ohio State University passed resolutions condemning H.B. 327 on 10/27/2021 and 2/25/2022, respectively<sup>20,21</sup>; and

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<sup>14</sup> [H.B. 327 \(-12\)](#)

<sup>15</sup> [https://oaa.osu.edu/sites/default/files/links\\_files/General-Education-Structure-rev-10-2021.pdf](https://oaa.osu.edu/sites/default/files/links_files/General-Education-Structure-rev-10-2021.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> [President Johnson letter to Speaker Cupp](#)

<sup>17</sup> <https://blogs.bgsu.edu/realcrt/files/2022/02/HB-327-134-Ltr-Speaker-Cupp-12.6.21-with-Signatures.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> [President Johnson letter to Speaker Cupp](#)

<sup>19</sup> <https://blogs.bgsu.edu/realcrt/files/2022/02/HB-327-134-Ltr-Speaker-Cupp-12.6.21-with-Signatures.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> <https://osu.app.box.com/s/ld1w3uwcm979oku95ate1osj1br3gy3e>

<sup>21</sup> [https://senate.osu.edu/sites/default/files/links\\_files/hb327-resolution-passed%20by%20Senate.pdf](https://senate.osu.edu/sites/default/files/links_files/hb327-resolution-passed%20by%20Senate.pdf)

WHEREAS education and other advocacy organizations including but not limited to the American Civil Liberties Union, Ohio Council for the Social Studies, Ohio Poverty Law Center, Ohio Education Association, Honesty for Ohio Education, Ohio Student Association, Ohio Faculty Council, and Equality Ohio have released statements and/or testimony opposing H.B. 327<sup>22</sup>; and

FINALLY, WHEREAS political intervention in the spaces of higher education for the purposes of restricting content related to ‘divisive concepts’ in any manner will impact not only the ability of graduate students to learn about race, sex, and other social concepts but also curtail the free development of academic scholarship; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students strongly opposes the Ohio General Assembly H.B. 327 and any other legislation that attempts to prohibit the free development and exchange of academic thought or restrict the comprehensive teaching of race, sex, and other social concepts

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students calls upon The Ohio State University leaders to continue their advocacy against H.B. 327 and other similar legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students calls upon students, staff, and faculty of The Ohio State University to consider contacting Ohio elected officials relevant to the fate of H.B. 327, including members of the Ohio House of Representatives and its Speaker Robert Cupp, the Ohio Senate and its President Matt Huffman, and Ohio Governor Mike DeWine.

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

Approved: Yes/No

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Nicholas Messenger, President

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<sup>22</sup> [https://ohiohouse.gov/committees/state-and-local-government/meetings/cmte\\_h\\_state\\_local\\_govt\\_1\\_2021-09-22-0300\\_792](https://ohiohouse.gov/committees/state-and-local-government/meetings/cmte_h_state_local_govt_1_2021-09-22-0300_792)