



COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
Delegate Meeting Minutes

October 7th, 2022

Location: Ohio Union Senate Chamber



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY



Attendance

Executive Committee Members Present:

Katie Conner, Michelle Scott, Nathan Grizenko, Gordon Goodwin, Mary Griffith

Executive Committee Members Absent:

Jorge E. Clavo Abbass

Delegates Present:

Paige Barton, Shreeya Behera, Emma Brzezinski, Clyde Compton, Elena Cruz Lopez, Michaela Dengg, Thomas Elton, Kenneth Harvey, Deanna Holroyd, Ryan Huston, Michael Insko, Debra Jones Elizabeth Kazemi, Connor Kelly, Gillian Kim, Jaclyn Kirsch, Josh Kramer, Kaustubh Kumar, Michelle Leao, Congwen "Kevin" Lu, Zari Mahmoudi, Molly Mccullough, Emma McNamara, Tyson Montgomery, Dhara Patel, Sophie Richard, Patrick Rowan, Kat Sikiric, Shyam Singh, Yonaida Valentine, Charliza Wang, Rob Williams, Christina Zachariadou, Simin Zhang, Ash Lewis, Bailey Fitzgerald, Mila Gajic, Kevin Donnelly, Jack Lanza, Dylan Page, Sabrina Durso

Delegates Absent:

Datu Adiatma, Marie Bissell, Yelena Erez, Jon Fritz, Lydia Fyie, James Holley, Kaytie Jones, Madeleine McClung, Critstian Morton, Matthew Nazzarro, Christa Ruark, Ayesha Seth, Aleksandra Shubina, Prabu Singh, Juan Torres Brenes Laroche, Megan Ward

Senators Present

Peter Carrera, Carrie Anne Thomas, Sagarika Taneja, Iresha Jayasinghe, Sarah Sturgill, Benjamin McKinley, Garrett Tatum, Lane Rumreich



01. GUEST PRESENTATION

- a. Introductions
 - i. Mary Stromberger - Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School
 1. Philosophy: Education should be graduate student-driven.
 2. Important initiative: Mentoring of graduate students; wellbeing; career and professional development
 3. "I believe in a very student centered model for graduate education and training, where we need students where they are, and with their career goals in mind, so aspiring to support graduate and professional student success according to their career goals."
 - ii. Charlene Gilbert -Senior Vice Provost, Student Academic Excellence
 1. New Provost came in last year around time President joined
 2. Reorganization of Academic Affairs Office: Allow us to think and move in more strategic ways with more collaboration and synergy
 3. Pipeline program (into undergrad and graduate programs): Thinking a little more about how to best support the pipeline of talent that is coming to this institution and within the graduate programs
 4. Elevating the reputation of OSU students' academic talent
 - a. There is a lot of recognition of our football team
 - b. Personal goal is to elevate the academic reputation
 5. Supporting Dr. Stromberger's mission to elevate the graduate school
 - iii. Rebeka
 1. Graduate Students Ombudsperson; Department of Hispanic Linguistics
 2. At OSU since 2007
 3. Sharing issues and conflicts on campus
 4. Brochure offered to provide information regarding Ombudsperson and services/consultative expertise provided
- b. Panel Discussion: Q & A Style
 - i. Christina Zachariadou - Graduate student stipend
 1. Charlene: Several recommendations are being entertained currently.
 - ii. Jaclyn Kirsch - Mental health services are very limited and do not reflect best practice.
 1. Mary: My role as dean is to learn about the current resources available and help to make students aware of those resources. We're trying to be proactive to address triggers of mental health concerns. How can we put in place programs and resources to reduce anxiety and depression proactively? What works well? I'm also an advocate, so when I hear concerns, I can help to advocate with higher levels of admin.
 - a. Do students like to have more localized support within their college? Is that an appropriate solution/model to employ or consider?
 - i. Kirsch - The issue of limited and infrequent numbers of sessions/time is still present regardless.
 2. Rebeka - My role is very different, but is working to amplify students' voices. Sometimes people come to me as a counselor, and I'm not a counselor. I help to redirect them to resources that are accessible and helpful for them.



- iii. Michael Insko - How do we support students in distance learning programs and help them to feel as though they are part of the community?
 - 1. Mary: As we offer more online programs, we still have to provide professional development, mentorship, and career development support virtually. We're not well-staffed in this area, but it's an area we're looking to grow in partnership with ODE. We also need to be developing the curricular programs to support our current online students.
- iv. Emma McNamara - Has the university considered providing reproductive resources, products, and support for individuals with vaginas. Men are supplied with resources such as condoms. It would be nice to have support from the female leadership at the University
 - 1. Rebeka: I agree. I know some faculty members are starting the conversation around this topic. We're looking to create those partnerships.
 - 2. Charlene: I definitely agree. CGS is a part of that conversation with University leadership and cabinet. We're in scary times and the question of what we can do—we need to spend more time thinking about and listening. There must be orgs that are already addressing these concerns with their own initiatives. We, the university leadership, can help by adding our voices.
 - 3. Emma: The Roe v Wade status going into effect puts a specific group at risk. This impacts how people get to interact and where they get to be and feel safe.
- v. Peter Carrera: What are the primary approaches being employed to improve academic excellence?
 - 1. Charlene: new senior vice provost focusing on faculty recruitment and excellence.
 - a. Focus is on recruiting top faculty members at OSU
 - b. I think that faculty mentoring and having exemplary programs will be of interest to support to elevate the experience of our graduate students.
 - c. Next year - new initiatives for hiring top faculty
 - d. Scarlet and Gray: making sure graduate students have options and less financial pressure
 - 2. Carrera: So the faculty initiatives are not currently in place?
 - 3. Charlene: No, but we're working on putting them in place.
- vi. Delegate from the College of Engineering: Inquiry about the distribution of information regarding fellowships and process of identifying/seeking out opportunities
 - 1. Mary: Fellowship programs: students are nominated through faculty (faculty advisor or department chair)
 - 2. Communication is sent to deans, department chairs, faculty coordinators)
 - 3. I have not heard any other issues regarding people not receiving the email.
 - 4. Maybe we can connect after this meeting.
 - 5. I'll direct you to our fellowship manager to help answer your question



- vii. Yonaida Valentine - I love hearing about academic excellence. How do we hold chairs accountable for hiring faculty who are good teachers but also good mentors and are doing their job. How do we reward faculty?
1. Mary: How do we incentivize faculty to be good mentors and cultivate mentoring excellence? There are ways we can do this. I hadn't considered the role of the department chair. We're launching an award for excellent mentors across the university. What are the qualifications that go along with mentoring and advising masters and PhD students? What are the training requirements and qualifications to achieve that status as a good mentor and sustain that status. I appreciate your question
 2. Charlene: Looking into best practices in mentorship; examining institutions that do this well in terms of rewarding faculty. A chair group has already convened to discuss the role of hiring qualified faculty. I don't like to see poor mentorship, discriminatory mentorship. Those relationships can be so impactful [when positive].



02. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Meeting called to order at 4:20pm by Acting President Katie Conner.280
- b. Statement of Purpose
 - i. To effectively advocate and program to ensure that The Ohio State University graduate student experience is the best it can be.

03. ROLL CALL

- a. Completion of attendances survey via Google Forms.

04. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- a. Minutes from September 2, 2022
 - i. Under special order items:
 1. September meeting notes have an error under Special Order Items 9.1.2. It's an incomplete sentence: "Jorge: It is possible the University"
 2. Another incomplete sentence for 9.1.3.2 "In terms of WorkDay I've gotten"
- b. Motion made to amend incomplete sentences into complete sentences.

05. OFFICER REPORTS

- a. President's Report
 - i. Absent; presented prerecorded zoom recording message.
- b. Vice President's Report
 - i. All information for delegates will be located in the OneDrive folder. Please reference to look for information or answer to a question before reaching out
 - ii. All external seats have been filled
 1. If you have not heard from an external chair yet, let Katie know. This may be an error or the committee may not meet until spring.
 - iii. An Ad Hoc committee will be created to update the Code of Ethics. Email Katie Conner.280 if you're interested in participating.
 - iv. Jorge is on medical leave, so please email and cc as appropriate
 - v. Fill out website survey and upload a picture
 1. It was reported you cannot upload a picture. Katie will look into this.
 - vi. If you're a current or former GAA (or know one) please email Katie about sitting on the grad comp and benefits committee.
- c. Treasurer's Report
 - i. We do have spending reports.
 - ii. Update numbers are outlined in today's version of the powerpoint.
 - iii. If you have any questions, let Michelle know.
- d. Secretary's Report
 - i. (INSERT)
- e. Parliamentarian's Report
 - i. (INSERT)
- f. Strategic Communications Director's Report
 - i. IN charge of newsletter and external communication
 - ii. Send preformatted as outlined in slideshow.
 - iii. Please adhere to deadlines for the newsletter.



06. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

- a. Membership Wellness
 - i. Being presented by committee member, Shyam Singh
 - ii. Sign up for the CGS Buddies Program: <https://go.osu.edu/CGSbuddies>
 - iii. QR code offered for CGS events and shout-outs
- b. Academic Affairs
 - i. Committee met 9/26
 - ii. Review of current issues raised and discussed.
 - iii. Reach out to Chair Carrie Anne Thomas.4051 if you have any concerns or ideas
- c. Arts and Culture
 - i. Robin unable to attend as she is currently running advocacy event
 - ii. Please reach out to Robin Gordon.215 if you have questions.
- d. Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity - VACANT
- e. Government Affairs
 - i. October 11th is Deadline to Register.
 - ii. Double check to make sure you're registered and that information is correct.
- f. Graduate Caucus
 - i. Met prior to the University Senate Meeting on 9/22. Will reconvene prior to October Meeting on 10/27
 - ii. Review of selected updates from first University Senate Meeting
- g. Graduate Student Affairs
 - i. Review of advocacy goals for the year
 - ii. Review of events to be organized/hosted
- h. Health, Wellness, and Safety
 - i. Presented by committee member, Sarah
 - ii. Committee is interested in collaborating with other committees to meet some of their initiatives
- i. Housing and Family Affairs
 - i. Survey is being prepared to acquire housing and family/parenting data
 - ii. Please email Isobel Bowles.124 if interested in this topic
- j. International Student Affairs
 - i. Review of advocacy goals
 - ii. Review of events being planned/to be hosted
 - iii. Next committee meeting and OIA meeting TBD
- k. Research and Data Operations
 - i. Working with HFA to help design survey
- l. Sustainability and Environmental Responsibilities
 - i. REview of advocacy ideas
 - ii. Review of programming ideas
 - iii. Next meeting 10/7

07. OLD BUSINESS

- a. None

08. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Senator Elections
 - i. Candidates: Murtaza Arshad and Pipasha Biswas
 - ii. Acting President Katie Conner called for two candidates in the running to fill 2 vacancies.
 - iii. Neither candidate present for election procedures
 - iv. Election procedures terminated as candidates were unable to participate in Q&A period (per Section 6.5.C of the CGS Bylaws)



09. SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS

- a. Delegate Issues and Concerns [REVEW!!!]
 - i. Peter Carrera.55: Do individuals need to announce their candidacy for senator?
 1. According to the Bylaws, the senator elections are tied with the delegate elections so that is how you formally apply.
 - ii. Sarah Sturgill.74: Finances are really hard right now; I'm wondering if there is support or resources: Grocery gift cards, raffles, housing subsidies?
 1. We're likely not going to be seeing an increase in stipends this year.
 2. Katie and Jorge are discussing options with leadership. Removing fees, housing subsidies hasn't been discussed but that's a great idea.
 3. We're meeting with President Johnson next Wednesday to work on where we can access money and pull it from somewhere else.
 4. There is a period of time you're able to opt out and get that money back from them (Katie).
 5. Katie asked Sarah to submit an email to discuss the option to opt out.
 - iii. Carrie Ann thomas: Finances - I agree with the need to increase stipend to match cost of living. What are the avenues to navigate department disparities? There's a huge need for graduate labor; we're overworking the younger students in the first four years and neglecting older students (cheaper to pay younger students - extra 25% GA stipend).
 1. The disparity is related to college or department based on the structure of that program. Not sure how much oversight there is here.
 2. We're discussing closing the gap between colleges especially during the summer as there is a huge discrepancy
 - iv. Valentine: Benefits - Is there consideration for options beyond OPERS. Is it possible to partner with Huntington bank? [It would be a] great selling point for recruitment.
 1. Katie dislikes OPERS, too.
 2. Will discuss with Jorge to discuss with those in charge of finances.
 - v. Tattum.71: Student Emergency Funds - Are those coming back?
 1. Jorge and I are asking about that and discussing it with Gilliam, Gilbert, Stromberger, and hopefully Johson next week.
 2. Undocumented and COVID students are also being left behind.
 3. There is not currently a structure for it.
 - vi. Singh.143: Inquiry related to state subsidized child care
 1. This is a problem we've been addressing pre-COVID times
 2. Child care subsidies is so limited
 3. Graduate family housing concerns and difficulty with acquiring childcare.
 4. It's an issue we're aware of and are trying to figure out if the University can pay or if we need to partner with community organizations.
 - vii. Singh.143: For C parking, we have to pay that upfront unlike A and B parking fees (which can be paid on a plan).
 1. Michelle: Student and employee designation when purchasing a C pass. I've had to call each time they put me down in the wrong category.
 2. We can bring that up with them. Graduate students should be allowed to pay over time.
- b. Motioned to extend by extension by 5 minutes made by Mace.103
 - i. Motion passed to extend until 5:19
- c. Carrera.55: Comments regarding OPERS and eligibility.



- d. Kirsch.35: Follow-up for workday issues: Multiple people have not gotten paid the correct amount and was told to wait until next month
 - i. Katie: Whenever something happens with not getting paid, please email time period, amount, your appointment, etc. so we can help advocate. (late pay, incorrect pay)
 - ii. This helps us show them this is a common occurrence.
- e. Bedant.1: Promoting racial diversity: Buckeyelearn course works for GTA, GRA; helps educate on implicit bias. What are departments and the University doing to help educate on implicit biases?
 - i. Katie: I don't think this is required at a University-level.
- f. Griffith.1035: Inquiry about privacy when advocating for students and payment or issues with workday.
 - i. Katie: We usually don't bring up specific names unless it directly impacts you.
 - ii. If there is a time when someone or a department retaliates, please let us know. This applies to all issues.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Next General Delegate Meeting: Friday, 7 October 2022 at 3:30pm (1000 Fontana Hall)
- b. Exec will be dressing up, so please wear a costume if you're so inclined.

11. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Meeting adjourned at 5:21pm

Submitted By,

Nathan L. Grizenko

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