



Council of Graduate Students
The Ohio State University

Date: September 3rd, 2021

Location: Cartoon Room – Ohio Union

Time: 3:30 pm

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

CGS Delegate Packet July 9th, 2021

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1. **CALL TO ORDER** (3:30pm)
 - 1.1. **Statement of Purpose**
 - 1.1.1. *“To effectively advocate and program to ensure that The Ohio State University graduate student experience is the best it can be.”*
2. **ROLL CALL: Attendance Sign-In** (5 min.)
3. **APPROVAL OF July 9, 2021 MINUTES** (5 min.)
4. **CGS ORIENTATION** (30 min.)
5. **OFFICER REPORTS** (15 min.)

<ol style="list-style-type: none">5.1. President, Nick Messenger.375.2. Vice President, Abby Grieff.25.3. Treasurer, Michelle Scott.1445	<ol style="list-style-type: none">5.4. Secretary, Alissa Geisse.15.5. Chief of Staff, Javonte Lipsey.255.6. Parliamentarian, Brandon Free.41
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6. **COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES** (15 min.)

<ol style="list-style-type: none">6.1. Academic Affairs, Meng Wu.48996.2. Arts & Culture, Gordon.2156.3. Research & Data Operations, Katie Conner.2806.4. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, Sly Worthy.30 And T’Euvyn Page.4056.5. Government Affairs, Brian O’Rourke.1306.6. Graduate Student Affairs, Kam Rinehart.2286.7. Health, Wellness, & Safety, Lewis.2365	<ol style="list-style-type: none">6.8. International Student Affairs, Ranjit.56.9. Strategic Communications, Carrie Anne Thomas.40516.10. Graduate Caucus, Nick Klein.4366.11. SERC, Sally Ross.16686.12. Membership Wellness, Caroline Fitzpatrick.2716.13. Housing and Family Affairs, Blaise Truesdell.27
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7. **NEW BUSINESS** (40 min)
 - 7.1. A Resolution Supporting Ohio State’s COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement
 - 7.2. A Resolution to Suspend the 40% for the Ray Travel Award
8. **SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS** (15 min.)
 - 8.1. Delegate Issues and Concerns
9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** (5 min)
 - 9.1. October Delegate Meeting – October 1 @ 3:30pm
10. **Adjourn** (~5:30pm)



1. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 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

2.1. Carmen log-in

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1. Minutes from June 6th, 2021

- 3.1.1. Minutes approved.

4. OFFICER REPORTS

4.1. President (Messenger.37 – presented by Abby Grieff.2)

- 4.1.1. HR is keeping Nick updated with the Workday issues.
- 4.1.2. In the Fall they should have a means of reporting issues for graduate students.
- 4.1.3. We are not anticipating mask or vaccine requirements as of now.
- 4.1.4. Currently working with OIA to work with international grad students making sure they can be accommodated for if they have to arrive up to 3 weeks late.

4.2. Vice President (Grieff.2)

- 4.2.1. Nick and I have been having conversations about how to have communications done.
- 4.2.2. We will be starting power point slides during our meetings. If you have any ideas on how we can make these meetings more accessible, please reach out to us.
- 4.2.3. We are filling our vacant seats via mass emails. If anyone has any questions, please contact Abby grieff.2.
- 4.2.4. I sent an email to our delegates and senators about university and senate committees. This is a way for graduate student voices to be heard on these university committees. There's a very short application, you may mark down a preference.
- 4.2.5. We will be having delegate and senator orientation as we get closer to the Fall. We will get communication out for that as the time approaches.
- 4.2.6. All of the meeting dates are in my report, put these in your calendar.
- 4.2.7. We will be having Fall elections to fill any remaining vacancy seats.

4.3. Treasurer (Scott.1445)

- 4.3.1. The Ray Travel Grant period 2 closes August 1st.
- 4.3.2. Travel restrictions will be lifted July 1st, encourage people to apply.
- 4.3.3. Give yourself plenty of time if you need to make purchases.

4.4. Secretary (Geisse.1)

- 4.4.1. Career Development Grant period 2 closes August 1st.

- 4.4.2. Looking for people to join the Career Development Grant Committee. You can join and still apply. You do not need to be a delegate to be on the committee.

4.5. Chief of Staff (Lipse.25)

- 4.5.1. I am on the search committee for the Vice President for Institutional Equity. Interviews were conducted and we have some semi-finalists. I will keep you updated about that process, if you have questions please email me.

5. COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES

5.1. Academic Affairs

5.2. Arts & Culture

- 5.2.1. The Arts & Culture committee is looking forward to re-animating the campus. We want a diversity of committee members, again you do not need to be a CGS delegate to join.

5.3. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

- 5.3.1. Met with past chair, looking for people to join the committee.

5.4. Government Affairs

- 5.4.1. The budget for state of Ohio has changed. College athletes can profit of their name.
- 5.4.2. A bill with nothing to do with vaccinations was passed with an amendment that prohibits emergency vaccine (like COVID) mandates for public schools and universities in Ohio.
- 5.4.3. There are many bills going on that has to do with Critical Race Theory, this is something very relevant that is worth getting involved in, if you're passionate about this or other government affairs please apply.

5.5. Graduate Student Affairs

- 5.5.1. Currently working on a welcome back to campus event.

5.6. Graduate Caucus

- 5.6.1. This is a new role occupied by Nick Klein that connects the dialogue between CGS and the University Senate.

5.7. Health, Wellness, & Safety

- 5.7.1. Doing the transition process now.

5.8. Internal Student Affairs

- 5.8.1. Continuing projects from the previous chair and working on transitions.

5.9. Strategic Communications

- 5.9.1. Looking for people interested in social media and graphic design to join.

5.10. SERC

5.11. Research and operations

- 5.11.1. Katie is currently onboarding people! If you like archival and research work, or know someone who does, please reach out.

5.12. Membership and Organizational Wellness

- 5.12.1. Our goals is to increase feelings of belonging as well as inclusivity to make our CGS atmosphere better as a whole.
- 5.12.2. Committee reports will have links to what the committee is doing.
- 5.12.3. There will also be links for an "idea form" as well as a "concern form". They can be anonymous or not.
- 5.12.4. Looking at the data from our wellness survey.

5.13. Housing & Family Affairs

- 5.13.1. We will be doing a lot of work focusing on affordability of childcare this year.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- 6.1. None.**

7. SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS

7.1. Delegate Issues & Concerns

- 7.1.1.** It seems that the new onboarding process in work day for TAs and Gas are a lot more difficult. If people were GAs in the past, you can go through a job change in work day. However, if not there will be many steps and clicks and DocuSigns. The university has acknowledged that this is not the best process, and we are hoping changes will be made.
- 7.1.2.** There are issues with the health insurance for some grads where there is a disconnect between doctors and pharmacies. This is being worked through as we speak
- 7.1.3.** Students want to push for clarification on administrative hierarchy. It seems that there is always confusion on who to contact, who reports to who, and what each job's specific responsibilities are. Workday can tell you who reports to who within your college, and this goes all the way up to the president.
- 7.1.4.** We are still not sure on President Johnson's stance on unionization efforts. We will pursue this.
- 7.1.5.** Concerns for graduate students that need to travel abroad to complete research and dissertation work was expressed.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 8.1. Next meeting is September 3rd, 2021 @ 3:30 pm.**

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 9.1. Meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm.**

1 **RESOLUTION 2021-00X**

2 **A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY’S SARS-COV-2 VACCINE**
3 **MANDATE**

4 Authors: Katie Conner.280, Chair of Data and Operations
5

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

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

14 WHEREAS, as of August 29th, 2021, the United State’s Centers for Disease Control determined that Franklin
15 County and all other counties in Ohio were then, and are still, experiencing high levels of COVID-19 community
16 transmission amidst the delta variant surge alongside notable upticks in hospitalization and mortality rates in the
17 state ^{1 2}; and
18

19 WHEREAS on August 23rd, 2021 the United States Food and Drug Administration announced that it had given
20 full approval to the Pfizer-BioNTech SARS-COV-2 vaccine (henceforth referred to by its market name Comirnaty
21 (koe-mir’-na-tee) aka [ko mir’ nə ti]) “for the prevention of COVID-19 in individuals 16 and older”; and ³
22

23 WHEREAS per the US Food and Drug Administration, “*FDA-approved vaccines undergo the agency’s standard*
24 *process for reviewing the quality, safety and effectiveness of medical products. For all vaccines, the FDA*
25 *evaluates data and information included in the manufacturer’s submission of a biologics license application*
26 *(BLA). A BLA is a comprehensive document that is submitted to the agency providing very specific requirements.*
27 *For Comirnaty, the BLA builds on the extensive data and information previously submitted that supported the*
28 *[Emergency Use Authorization, henceforth EUA] EUA, such as preclinical and clinical data and information, as*
29 *well as details of the manufacturing process, vaccine testing results to ensure vaccine quality, and inspections of*
30 *the sites where the vaccine is made. The agency conducts its own analyses of the information in the BLA to make*
31 *sure the vaccine is safe and effective and meets the FDA’s standards for approval.”; and ¹
32*

33 WHEREAS acting FDA Commissioner Janet Woodcock, M.D has stated, “*The FDA’s approval of this vaccine*
34 *is a milestone as we continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. While this and other vaccines have met the*
35 *FDA’s rigorous, scientific standards for emergency use authorization, as the first FDA-approved COVID-19*
36 *vaccine, the public can be very confident that this vaccine meets the high standards for safety, effectiveness, and*
37 *manufacturing quality the FDA requires of an approved product,” and, “While millions of people have already*
38 *safely received COVID-19 vaccines, we recognize that for some, the FDA approval of a vaccine may now instill*
39 *additional confidence to get vaccinated. Today’s milestone puts us one step closer to altering the course of this*
40 *pandemic in the U.S.”; and ¹
41*

42 WHEREAS other schools in Ohio requiring the COVID-19 vaccine include (but are not limited to) Case Western
43 Reserve University, the Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland State University, Denison University, Kenyon
44 College, Mount St. Joseph University, Ohio Wesleyan University, and the College of Wooster; and ⁴

¹ <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

² <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/ohio-covid-cases.html>

³ <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-covid-19-vaccine>

⁴ <https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/list-of-colleges-that-require-covid-19-vaccine/>

45

46 WHEREAS other schools in the United States of similar size and/or prestige (bolded schools below are those that
47 have been specifically identified in the past as being peer institutions or benchmarking institutions for OSU) that
48 are requiring the COVID-19 vaccine include (but are not limited to) the entirety of the California State University
49 system, **the entirety of the University of California system**, the entirety of the University of Colorado system,
50 Yale University, Georgetown University, Gallaudet University, Howard University, Morehouse College,
51 Spelman College, the entirety of the University of Hawai'i system, **University of Chicago, the entirety of the**
52 **University of Illinois system [Including Urbana Champaign], the entire Indiana University system,**
53 University of Notre Dame, Louisiana State University, Bowdoin College, the entirety of the University of Maine
54 system, Johns Hopkins University, **the entirety of the University of Maryland system**, Boston College, Boston
55 University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tufts University, **Michigan State**
56 **University, the entirety of the University of Michigan system**, the entirety of the Minnesota State Colleges and
57 Universities system, **[including the University of Minnesota]**, the University of Nebraska Medical Center,
58 Dartmouth College, Princeton University, **Rutgers University**, the entirety of the University of New Mexico
59 system, the entirety of the City University of New York system, Columbia University, Cornell University, New
60 York University, the entirety of the State University of New York system, Syracuse University, Duke University,
61 Wake Forest University, Oregon State University, University of Oregon, Carnegie Mellon University, University
62 of Pennsylvania, Brown University, Vanderbilt University, Rice University, University of Virginia, Virginia
63 Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), William and Mary, and **the entirety of the University**
64 **of Washington system**; and ⁴

65

66 WHEREAS given that the Centers for Disease Control has stated in regard to COVID-19 generally that, “*Wearing*
67 *masks can help communities slow the spread of COVID-19 when worn consistently and correctly by a majority*
68 *of people in public settings and when masks are used along with other preventive measures, including social*
69 *distancing, frequent handwashing, and cleaning and disinfecting.*”; and ⁵

70

71 WHEREAS given that the Centers for Disease Control has also stated in regard to the recently surging Delta
72 variant specifically, “*Given what we know about the Delta variant, vaccine effectiveness, and current vaccine*
73 *coverage, layered prevention strategies, including wearing masks, are needed to reduce the transmission of this*
74 *variant. At this time, as we build the level of vaccination nationwide, we must also use all the prevention strategies*
75 *available, including masking indoors in public places, to stop transmission and stop the pandemic. Everyone who*
76 *is able, including fully vaccinated people, should wear masks in public indoor places in areas of substantial or*
77 *high transmission.*”; and ⁶

78

79 FINALLY, WHEREAS The Ohio State University’s Council of Graduate students advocates for OSU to support
80 and protect graduate students in all facets of their educational, professional, and personal lives to the best of its
81 ability--of which health and safety is a key component, it is clear that advocating for and supporting COVID-19
82 vaccine mandates, masking, and other layered prevention strategies is in the best interest of public health at The
83 Ohio State University, and for the greater Columbus area.

84

85 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students supports the decision of Kristina M.
86 Johnson along with The Ohio State University’s administration, to mandate vaccination against COVID-19 in
87 order to participate in on campus activities for Spring 2022.

88

89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at this time, the Council of Graduate students also supports a continuing
90 mask mandate in all Ohio State University buildings and facilities, regardless of vaccination status of students,

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/mask-evaluation.html>

⁶ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>

91 faculty, and staff for, at a minimum, the remainder of the 2021 - 2022 school year, and thereafter so long as case
92 counts in Ohio remain above a substantial level according to Centers for Disease Control criteria.

93
94 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate students supports additional COVID-prevention
95 requirements for sporting and other public events at The Ohio State University, such as those implemented by
96 Louisiana State University football and many Columbus area venues that require proof of vaccination or a
97 negative PCR test in the last 72 hours.^{7 8}

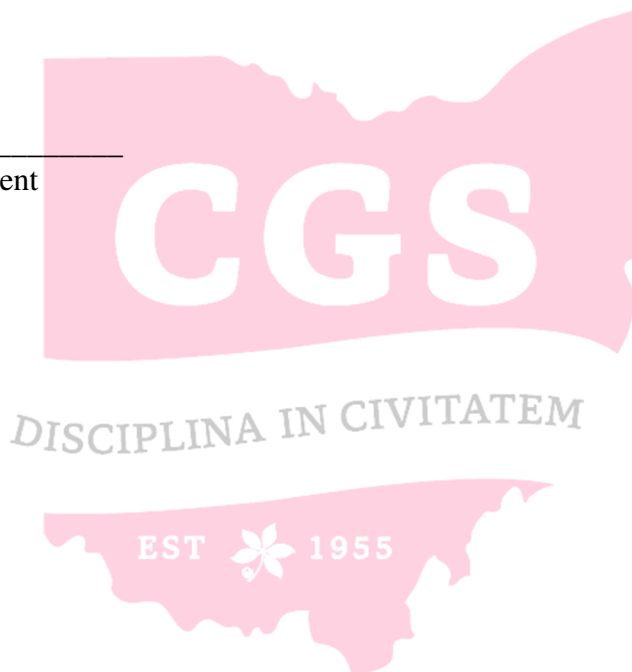
98
99 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students directs its President, Vice President, and
100 Chief of Staff to distribute this resolution to all proper leadership and authorities of The Ohio State University
101 and its partners.

102
103 Approved: Yes/No

104
105 Date: _____

106
107
108 _____
109 Nicholas Messenger, President

110



Council of Graduate Students
at The Ohio State University

⁷ <https://apnews.com/article/sports-college-football-football-coronavirus-pandemic-louisiana-state-tigers-football-b5481b05fef1f68b4f3e6b8317aa1574>

⁸ <https://www.dispatch.com/story/entertainment/2021/08/13/proof-vaccination-required-express-live/8120853002/>

