



## **COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

# Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2022  
Location: Virtual via Zoom



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY



## Attendance

**Executive Committee Members Present:**

Jorge E. Clavo Abbass, Katie Conner, Michelle Scott, Nathan Grizenko, Gordon Goodwin, Carrie Anne Thomas, Robin Gordon, Peter Carrera, Om Prakash Bedant, Isobel Bowles, Yang Du, Alissa Geisse, Bill Wang, Amrita Sen

**Executive Committee Members Absent:**

Mary Griffith, Charlie Mace. Karla Shockley McCarthy



## 01. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Meeting called to order at 4:00pm
- 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.

## 02. OFFICER REPORTS

- a. President's Report
  - i. The CGS roster in the Student Org Management System has been updated to include all members of Exec
    1. What this means for you: access to Resource Room assets and ability to purchase materials, printouts, stationary on behalf of the Council.
    2. We are allotted \$250. If we need more, Jorge can talk to Michelle
  - ii. Please ensure you have access to the CGS offices according to your role
    1. Chairs: Office space. Can get you closet access as needed.
    2. Officers: All of the above and the P/VP suite
  - iii. Check-ins have been sensational! I am so proud of and thankful for each of you and your committee members!
  - iv. Reminder: when engaging outside partners, please copy me or keep me apprised of your contact
    1. "Outside partners" = anyone beyond Exec, or Jen Pelletier + Matt Couch
    2. Why? To ensure proper follow-up on my end and so that I stay in the know on what your committees are up to!
    3. Let me decide if I need to be (not) included in correspondence.
  - v. Communicate early and often! I prefer over communication to radio silence.
    1. Please copy Katie on any email sent to me until 17 October
  - vi. Include your name and .# on committee slides!
  - vii. Graduate School and CGS are hosting the University Leadership Listening Session and Town Hall!
    1. Please attend if you're able to!
    2. Register online by October 6<sup>th</sup>
  - viii. The Doctoral Funding Task Force's report was sent to Provost Gilliam earlier this week. I am not allowed to share the contents at this time.
    1. Unsure what the outcome will be but short and long-term goals are being developed to address this issue.
    2. What I can tell you is the report included a broad slate of recommendations, including many made within the space of CGS and the Graduate Compensation and Benefits Committee.



- ix. Student Health: Katie and I have been involved in several fronts on improving Wilce and Student Health Services as a whole.
  - 1. Currently 7 providers with 3 to be added on by the end of SP23.
  - 2. Context: Last year, 14 providers (2 times as many as now)
  - 3. Our wins
    - a. Students will now receive a Secure Message via MyBuckMD when the provider-patient relationship is dissolved. Previously, students were not formally notified of provider departure, leading to undue stress and burden.
    - b. Katie and I participated in the ACHA review of Wilce in a student focus group. We addressed various issues with care, including long wait times, lack of appt. availability, staff treatment of students, etc.
  - 4. Mental Health services are not currently provided, but there are screenings and basic assessments in the works to help address more common health and mental health risks and concerns
- x. Going to be having the Dean of the Grad School and Vice Provost and one other person for the panel at the October 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting.
- xi. Jorge meets with the Grad School Dean biweekly. He's open to inviting delegates/chairs to meetings when necessary.
- xii. Jorge and Katie to interact with Muslim Student Association: Discussion for accommodations and other cultural considerations
- b. Vice President's Report
  - i. Elections
    - 1. Seating 18 new delegates (16 departments; 11 department seats are seats that weren't previously represented
    - 2. 6 Senate Candidates (next meeting will be election)
    - 3. 10-15 folks after the election deadline; were notified of an appointment process
      - a. Will have to follow up with them and make sure they're eligible.
  - ii. Committee Meeting Apportionment: Been reaching out to members and unresponsive members
  - iii. OneDrive will be created to share information with Delegates
  - iv. New Name: Advanced Research Forum (post-doctoral/post-grad involvement)
    - 1. Heavy faculty recruitment
    - 2. Thank you notes for previous judging
    - 3. Abstracts : Mid October
  - v. Communicate with Katie during Jorge's Medical Leave: October 3-16
  - vi. We will be working on desktop access (typically you have to be a SL employee)
  - vii. If your committee is not in charge of something, please allow the appropriate group to participate and run specific projects.
  - viii. Will be reaching out to specific individuals for specific concerns.
- c. Treasurer's Report
  - i. Expense reports to be reviewed in preparation for next week's meeting.
  - ii. CampusParc delivered parking passes but they're not activated.
    - 1. Michelle is working with them to figure out what's going on.



- d. Secretary's Report
  - i. If you haven't submitted a report, please email/text me to provide an update. I'd like to have those in the next 24 hours.
  - ii. Powerpoints will also be due with your chair/officer report at Exec meetings from here on out.
  - iii. Nesterly Update:
    - 1. COAAA reached out and is interested in advertising and promoting Nesterly in collaboration with CGS.
    - 2. I thought it would be worthwhile to discuss with COAAA and Isobel, HFA chair.
    - 3. Will set up a meeting between HFA/Isobel and COAAA
- e. Parliamentarian's Report
  - i. Has been attending Rules Committee meetings where the current conversation is on Faculty Resignation
  - ii. Upcoming work on Senate bylaw issues w/ Steering Committee and agenda building
- f. Strategic Communications Director's Report
  - i. Report not submitted

### **03. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

- a. Academic Affairs
  - i. The Committee met September 26th to brainstorm ideas for advocacy.
  - ii. Some issues of concern that were raised and discussed include: affordability of PhD regalia, the university's communication with distance students, lack of transparency of fees for international students and bridge programs for Master's students, lack of summer funding, lack of transparency about program enrollment.
  - iii. Our October meeting date is TBD
  - iv. As a delegate, if you have any concerns or ideas that you feel fit under the expertise of the Academic Affairs committee, please contact the committee chair (thomas.4051).
- b. Arts and Culture
  - i. The Committee met September 16th in the new Timashev Family Music Building & September 27th at Raney House to prepare for Unstoppable Voters: Columbus, an Artistic Activism Workshop, October 3 – 8, 2022, facilitated by the New York-based Center for Artistic Activism. Our thanks to CGS for funding this event!
- c. Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity
  - i. Vacant
- d. Government Affairs
  - i. Not present; did not submit a report



- e. Graduate Caucus
  - i. Grad Caucus met on 9/21 before the first University Senate meeting on 9/22. Our next meeting will be in the week leading up to the second Senate meeting on 10/27.
  - ii. Office of Academic Affairs update from the Provost
  - iii. Senate Makeup:
    - 1. 71 faculty ~50%
    - 2. 41 students 29%
    - 3. 17 administrators 17%
    - 4. 5 staff ~4%
  - iv. Our report details every CGS Senator and the committees they're on.
  - v. Selected updates from the first University Senate meeting:
    - 1. % of incoming students in the top of their high school increased, underrepresented students, highest ACT scores
    - 2. Pilot launch of the Scarlet and Gray Advantage program (125 students)
    - 3. US News National ranking for public universities increase 17 to 16
    - 4. OSU won a major grant for Starlab's George Washington Carver Science Park Terrestrial Laboratory
    - 5. Launched a new department of molecular medicine and therapeutics in the college of medicine
  - vi. Any student can bring up a request or concern to the University Senate! Please don't hesitate to do that yourself or encourage a peer!
  - vii.
- f. Graduate Student Affairs
  - i. Encourage interdisciplinary research across the university
  - ii. Graduate Picnic
  - iii. Meeting Dates: September 6 and 12, 2022
  - iv. Meeting with Katie to discuss ideas and plans within the first two weeks of October
  - v. Gathering information via graduate student surveys – will be discussing this with Katie and relevant parties
  - vi. Grad Student Appreciation Week
    - 1. No restrictions due to COVID so we're really thinking of good event ideas within budget
    - 2. Will continue to explore additional CGS funding
  - vii. Wanting to collaborate with other committees/members.
  - viii. In the spring, University will be running an extensive survey (Bill has also started to run point) to collect information. The Grad Dean is open to CGS input for the "wild card" portion of this survey.
- g. Health, Wellness, and Safety
  - i. Objectives
    - 1. Establish a standard means of receiving communications from delegates to ensure our awareness of issues affecting graduate student well-being
  - ii. First-generation opportunities being prioritized for this committee this year



- h. Housing and Family Affairs
  - i. Finalized survey questions for Housing and Parenting Resources at OSU
    - 1. Does not overlap with University or Graduate school surveys
  - ii. If you are currently in a parenting role at OSU and would be willing to test out the survey for us, I would be extremely grateful. Please come find me after the meeting or email me bowles.124
  - iii. Housing and Finances questions for everyone; Parenting questions will be exclusive to those with families.
  - iv. Deadline for the Survey is early November
  - v. Will be reaching out to Michelle to consider opportunities for an incentive to improve survey response rate.
  - vi. Will be developing a list of resources to be shared to help address parents' concerns or issues.
  - vii. Adoption support is given to staff and faculty at OSU. Does not include students, so we're looking into some advocacy efforts.
  - viii. Last meetings: 9/12 and 9/26
  - ix. Next meeting: 10/17
- i. International Student Affairs
  - i. OIA Meeting Yesterday went really well
  - ii. Advocacy Efforts:
    - 1. Listening session/focus group
    - 2. Orientation services
      - a. Hoping to have more standardization
    - 3. Resource presentation
      - a. We're hoping to be a part of the process of creating a resource page
    - 4. Workshops
      - a. PNA sessions
      - b. Unique questions/issues covered relevant to International Students
      - c. Emergency funding
      - d. Gateway offices (China, India, Brazil)
  - iii. Event Planning
    - 1. Tax workshop in spring
      - a. We need to look into whether our funding allows us to provide assistance or advice related to taxes as the University is somewhat hesitant.
      - b. Pro Bono? We'll have to look into this! Reach out to Jorge for more information.
      - c. OIA does offer tax filing workshops and they're somewhat limited.
      - d. Many of the committee members are willing to serve as peer supporters for the process/workshops.
    - 2. Continue brainstorming other ideas
  - iv. Next Meeting: TBD



- j. Membership Wellness
  - i. Suggestion to have membership wellness go first to allow for shoutouts and reminders for the general delegate body
  - ii. Cultural Calendar
    - 1. We want to acknowledge and provide visibility for holiday
    - 2. May be important for those teaching as you may have students who observe various cultural holidays and may want to be more accommodating and supportive
  - iii. Buddy Program (via WhatsApp)
    - 1. We'll have biweekly prompts so we can get to know each other
    - 2. Screenshot every time you have participated in a prompt! At the end of the semester, email 3 screenshots to Alissa to be entered into a raffle for a CGS gift basket
    - 3. Use the chat to make friends, discuss grad school concerns, and as a way to ask each other for resources on campus
    - 4. This is a delegate only chat group (no Exec)
  - iv. QR provides a survey about what kinds of social events we should host this year! ([go.osu.edu/CGSevents](http://go.osu.edu/CGSevents))
  - v. Delegate shoutouts
    - 1. We want to take time to recognize the awesome things our delegates are doing! From presenting a research talk, passing candidacy, getting married, or just being a good friend!
    - 2. QR code provided ([go.osu.edu/delegateshoutout](http://go.osu.edu/delegateshoutout))
  - vi.
- k. Research and Data Operations
  - i. Have been discussing with Isobel about the questionnaire for the parenting student survey
    - 1. Next semester will include 2 additional surveys
  - ii. Will learn from Katie how to access old CGS data
    - 1. We recently figured out how to access our archives. Please reach out to Katie if you'd like more information for your committee's work
  - iii. Meeting with Yang later.
  - iv. Previous committee meeting was 9/2/2022
- l. Sustainability and Environmental Responsibilities
  - i. Advocacy Ideas:
    - 1. Training modules on BuckeyeLearn to spread awareness on campus recycling opportunities and sustainable practices
    - 2. Ensure native and diverse plan cultures are included in the tree planting drives by the Office of Administration and Planning at OSU
  - ii. Programming Ideas:
    - 1. Coordinate with the City of Columbus for wetland clean-up drive
    - 2. Trash pickup drives
  - iii. Last Meeting was 9/9/22
  - iv. Next Meeting is 10/7/22



**04. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Next Executive Committee Meeting: October 28 at 4 p.m.

**05. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 5:25pm

Submitted By,

*Nathan L. Grizenko*

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