



CGS Executive Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: Rania Khamees, Mark Pauley, Ty Bender, Priscilla Rodriguez Garcia, Andrea Davis

1. President's Report

- 1.1. Since the grad ombudsperson resolution was passed last delegate meeting, Post.144 has been in meetings with the President and Provost to talk about moving this process forward. They want to make sure that this will be a good solution to the problems we have presented and suggested a pilot position. Post.144 brought this resolution to the Senate and got an endorsement from them but we need to gather some more information from institutions who already have these positions in place. Issue still needs to be discussed at GCBC, Grad Council, possibly CSA, CAA, and Faculty Council. Once the resolution is passed in the Senate, the university administration will have to follow through on the issue. If there will be a faculty, staff, and grad ombudsperson, there may be a separate office formed for these positions.
 - Questions were asked about the specific reasons to do a pilot program- seems like in order to choose a good candidate, you are already doing the work to find someone who would hold the position more permanently. Clott.1 suggests that this may be a way for them to nip this in the bud if this position is not visited by a lot of students. Students may not want to talk to someone who is only in this position temporarily. It is also unclear if this person would be selected by the same process as a more permanent person, who would serve a 2 year term.
- 1.2. Post.144 met with Jay Kasey about the new Lyft program. Lyft is being used 3x more than the previous ride service, but the ride cap is still not being met. The cost for this service is less than the previous service for the department. There was a state tax that was implemented so the rides have been slightly more expensive than advertised. To be eligible for the discount through this program, you must be traveling during a certain late time window and be located in a small area near campus.
- 1.3. An announcement will be made on Monday about housing. Buckeye Village tenants are being moved (with expenses covered) to University Village. They will be paying a subsidized rental rate that matches their previous rent at Buckeye Village and can stay at this subsidized rate for 2 years. There is a concern that UV will not be a good environment for students with families.
 - Uanhoro.1 is requesting the results of the 2018 survey stratified by family type so that we can have an up-to-date idea of what the needs of grad students with families are and what other information needs to be collected.

- As of yet, there are no plans to build new housing for these students which is unacceptable. Uanhoro.1, Brandl.8, and Lomax-vogt.2 will draft a resolution to release as a response to this announcement.

2. Vice President's Report

- 2.1. Student Health Services is looking for graduate students to serve on an advisory committee about updates to the student health plan. Interested parties should be in contact with Bauman.193.
- 2.2. The application is now open for the 2020 Hayes Forum.

3. Treasurer's Report

- 3.1. Budget update will be coming next week. We were refunded \$5,000 from CSA that carried forward from last year.
- 3.2. The Trademark and Licensing Office should have been paying for our website from the beginning so we will no longer pay for the website and the costs already charged will be refunded to us soon.
- 3.3. Anyone who wants to be a facilitator for one of the Diversity & Dialogue Series should let Davis.5688 know.

4. Secretary's Report

- 4.1. Students who are on fellowship are often not made aware that taxes are not being taken out of their monthly stipend. Perhaps we can put together some resources that outline the stipends, the different grad appointments, the tax situation. Light.109 will reach out to Matt Page within the Graduate School who works on student affairs.
- 4.2. Website meeting is next week- we will hopefully come out of that meeting with a clear agenda of updates and changes to be made.

5. Committee Member Agenda Items

- 5.1. Health, Wellness, & Safety
 - There will be a tabling event in the spring- committees will be contacted when the event gets closer.
- 5.2. International Student Concerns
 - The committee has organized a film series which will be starting soon.
- 5.3. Government Affairs
 - The unionization discussion is ongoing and background research is happening.
 - Lobby days at the state house are being planned for the spring and interested grad students will be recruited to work on bills.
 - The Ohio House is discussing a bill that will allow victims of sexual assault to sue their institutions. This Bill was supported by a resolution passed by USG. Consensus is that CGS does not want to pass a similar resolution.
- 5.4. External Collaborations
 - The Committee is working on a report with data and information gathered from other institutions who already have unions to help CGS make informed decisions about this issue.
- 5.5. Academic Affairs
 - Graduate students must be registered for classes every semester however we do not have vacation time built into our academic schedule. In discussions with Matt Page, the admin response has been that advisors have the responsibility to set that vacation policy. In general, grad students do not find this policy fair.

5.6. Arts & Culture

- There is a survey that shows that OSU is low on the list for arts spending as compared to similar benchmark institutions. The way forward to try to get increased funding from the university is to start with a resolution to be presented at a delegate meeting.
- There will be another raffle for a theatre performance on campus going live soon.

5.7. SERC

- An ex-EPA official, Clint Woods, has been hired by CFAES as the Strategic Communications Chair and SERC is working on a resolution to be presented at the next delegate meeting challenging the hiring of this official over other qualified candidates.

5.8. Delegate Relations

- Happy hour will be held after our next delegate meeting (final location TBD).
- Could be good to start highlighting a delegate each month who has accomplished something of note.
- There is a CGS holiday party planned for the end of the semester (tentative date Friday, Dec 6th). As a separate event, we may be organizing a trip to the Zoo Lights.
- There will hopefully be a party held early next spring that would be open to all graduate students.

6. Old Business

- 6.1. None.

7. New Business

7.1. Resolution 19-20 AU-004 aims to ask for more grant funding from the Graduate School because the funding rates for each of our three grants are all very low. We are funded \$35,000 from Academic Affairs and we are hoping that we will get a similar amount of money or more.

- Brandl.8 asks whether the possibility exists to move money that we are not spending in other areas to grants. The current CGS budget is 32% grant funding. This reshuffling would technically be possible, but we will not know what extra money we have left over until the end of the year and leftover money is not automatically rolled over. Also, we feel that CGS should not necessarily be responsible for funding all student travel expenses.
- One possibility is that if we have more funding available, we can also increase the award amount for each individual grant, increasing their efficacy.
- Departments are trending toward cutting funding for students. Uanhoro.1 suggests that we should draft a separate resolution addressing this issue because we do not want any departments to continue cutting funding if they believe that their students can get awards from CGS.
- This resolution will be presented at the next delegate meeting.

8. Open Floor Announcements

- 8.1. Next delegate meeting November 8th, 2019 @ 3:30 PM – Moritz 348

9. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.