



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

Present: e alexander, Luke Andrejek, Ali Asghari Adib, Selasi Attipoe, Tyler Beauregard, Aaron Beczkiewicz, Jessica Blackburn, Mary Byrne, Qiuchang (Katy) Cao, Yu-chun Chang, Steph Charles, Austin Cool (ALT), Katherine Conner, Paul Consiglio, Robert Dahlberg-Sears, Ty Drayton, Benjamin Duran, Story Edison, Jorge Torres Espinosa, Micheline Fahrbach, Brandon Free, Elizabeth Galko, Jahmour Givans, Abigail Grieff, Lindsey Hernandez, Kathryn Holt, Carly LaRosa, Yifan Li, Ho-chieh Lin, Stephen Lo, Madeleine Lomax-Vogt, Raven Lynch, Lucas Magee, Tori Magers, Rohit Mukherjee, Aviva Neff, Kate Ormiston (ALT), Mark Pauley, Miguel Pedrozo, Maritza Pierre, Avi Pokala, Zeltzin Reyes, Marie Rineveld, Priscila Rodriguez Garcia, Ashweta Sahni, Conner Sarich, Erik Scaltriti, Michelle Scott, Melika Shahhosseini, Karla Shockleympcarthy, Ryan Slechta, Kye Stachowski, Lindsey Stirek, Leila Vieira, Sarah Walton, Daniel Williams, Yu Lun Wu, Piao Yang, Megan Zib

Absent: Pranav Ambardekar, Jacky Anderson, Om Prakash Bedant, Andrew Borst, Min-Seok Choi, Jorge Clavo Abbass, Alec Clott, Archit Datar, Kat Ellis, Jenna Greve, Lauren Howard, Audrey Hungerpiller, Sarah Hyman, Kevin Ingles, Jeffrey Kast, Pouya Kousha, Arsh Kumar, Jungmin Lee, Ruonan Lin, Eric Loria, Emily Lundstedt, Matthew Maynard, Alejandro Otero Bravo, Tricia Oyster, Ryann Patrus, Kelsey Pinckard, Ken Poland, Isaac Reynolds, Lena Schreiber, Sarah Scott, Utkarsh Shah, Shruthi Shetty, Preeti Singh, Sundeep Siripurapu, Nithya Sivashankar, Nicole Tchorowski, Philip Tice, Taylor Tomnu, James Uanhoro, Jennifer Valdez, Mitch Vicieux, Derek Walton, Soroush Zamanian

1. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 3:32pm

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. GUEST SPEAKER

3.1. Dr. Alicia Bertone (Dean of the Graduate School)

- 3.1.1. Grad student recruitment is down slightly for next year (about 5% for PhD, 20% for masters, and 16% overall). This likely reflects uncertainty for new students who can't anticipate what the next few semesters will look like. The Grad School is looking into alternative ways to boost or maintain enrollment. There was a 23% increase in grad student enrollment in non-degree courses, which allow students to start working toward their degree (up to 10 credit hours) without being on campus. Graduate programs can be flexible with their application deadlines and may reoffer acceptances to students who had previously been rejected.
- 3.1.2. Carolyn from Assistant Dean of Diversity for the Grad School – The office is working on alternative plans to still move forward with a coalition of research programs typically held on campus over the summer. Some of these have shifted to virtual and a new program called Wednesday Webinars has been introduced that will address some of the topics that students in these programs would normally be getting with in-person instruction. The Diversity Dials program is starting up and will target master's students who are considering OSU for graduate school.
- 3.1.3. This year saw the highest ever acceptance rate for fellowships. These commitments will be honored even through budget cuts.
- 3.1.4. Questions:
 - Will PhD students whose research was interrupted get an extra year of funding or extension of the time to degree clock?
 - A student now gets 5 years after candidacy to graduate and may petition on Grad Forms in the semester after this deadline expires if they need to stay

longer. The grad school does not have its own funding for students outside of already established scholarships and fellowships. They are encouraging the individual research groups and departments to find the funding wherever possible and encouraging PIs to allow their students to spend 100% of their time on their research. The Provost is very supportive of graduate students, but any new funding requests are unlikely to be successful.

- How is the continuous enrollment policy being mandated throughout this pandemic?
 - Students with a 9 month appt aren't required to enroll over the summer but can if they want to. If a program waives this policy, the program does not receive any tuition revenue from students. The deadline to apply to graduate end-of-semester has been extended to July for students who are graduating in summer but defending past the spring deadline.
- How will different numbers of undergrads be handled? Will there be more GTA positions or will each GTA simply have more students?
 - Programs and departments have been encouraged not to cut any GTA positions.
- Is there a plan to help international student enrollment as students may not be able to obtain a visa in a reasonable timeline in order to arrive on campus for the start of the fall semester? Can we defer their offers for a semester?
 - Students that can't take the TOFEL exam can meet their language requirement with Duolingo. Many international students already do take classes online so they would be able to do this and make progress toward a degree in Fall 2020 even if they can't be on campus in person. The current fellowship policy does not allow deferrals but there will be flexibility where needed based on what can be offered by the individual programs.
- Undergrads got the 25% summer discount. How will this be extended to graduate students next year? Is there a possibility for tuition and fees to be frozen next year?
 - All students got an additional 25% tuition reduction this summer because of COVID.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1. Minutes from April 3, 2020

- 4.1.1. Minutes approved.

5. OFFICER REPORTS (as submitted in Delegate Meeting Packet)

5.1. President (Post.144)

- 5.1.1. Please fill out the CGS feedback survey so we can improve things for next year!
- 5.1.2. The Student Life Emergency Advocacy Fund and the CARES funding are both open to graduate students and applications are being considered with a quick turn-around time.
- 5.1.3. 25% tuition reduction for the summer is being applied to all students but we will still push for a tuition freeze for graduate students in the next academic year.
- 5.1.4. 10,000 undergrads have paid acceptance fees but only 7,000 have registered for orientation. These numbers may still fluctuate as students decide not to begin their college career. The Provost directed all Deans to avoid cutting budgets for graduate appointments but CGS also drafted a letter advocating for prioritization of graduate student funding as well. Departments will likely only have to do a 6% budget cut on average, but these cuts may be disproportionate based on existing department funding. There have been no formal announcements made about this policy, but we are advocating for a "trim the branches, not the roots" approach.
- 5.1.5. There are lots of sub-committees within the Student Life Transition Task Force working on different aspects of the transition back to campus. Likely, fall semester will be at least partially online. It will be

impossible to house all students safely on campus so they are considering which students can continue their work to a reasonable level online. The decision about fall semester will likely go out between June 1 and 15.

5.1.6. Questions:

- Sahni.16 asked what the deadline is for getting students, faculty, and staff back in labs?
 - Post.144 clarified that the timeline for the first wave of people to return to campus will likely be June or July. There is a committee that is working on drafting opening procedures. This reopening will also likely occur in phases.
- Jameson.61 asked what the hybrid in-person/online instruction will look like?
 - It's possible that classes may be held in person only once a week or certain courses will just not occur in person. Course with a clinical or laboratory appointment will be prioritized for physical space.
- Conner.280 asked about single unit grad student campus housing unrelated to Buckeye Village.
 - There are a lot of grad students on campus right now because they did not go home for the summer. OSU is helping to make sure that all students find housing when they need it.
- Neff.336 asked what the system will be for determining which courses will be prioritized for in-person instruction.
 - The academic task force will likely be making these decisions and will probably take a lot of guidance from the departments. If you are very concerned about a particular course, reach out to your department chair. Courses with clinical or performance components will be priorities.

5.2. Vice President (Haynes.242)

- 5.2.1. The university-wide spending freeze is still active. The budget for next year will likely look very different because much of it comes from student activity fees, which are based on enrollment. The new budget will still be presented at the next delegate meeting but may be subject to change when more information becomes available over the summer.
- 5.2.2. The delegate engagement fund will now be administered by the Internal Affairs Committee.
- 5.2.3. We have reorganized the internal structure of CGS slightly. We are still looking to fill 3 committee chairs, as well as find a deputy treasurer. Some committee names have been updated this year to more closely align with the mission of the committee and to be more consistent.
- 5.2.4. 85 new delegates were elected and will start their terms in August. Run-off elections are happening next week. Internal committee appointments will be decided in the next few weeks. Senate and University committees still have a lot of open seats so if you are interested, please let DaVonti' know.
- 5.2.5. The ad hoc governance review committee to look over our constitution and bylaws will begin working this month.

5.2.6. Questions:

- Slechta.3 mentions that only 4 of the 12 seats on the committee will be able to vote on whether or not changes and updates will be proposed.
 - Actually, 6 of the seats on the committee are voting members and 6 are not. Anything proposed by the committee will have to be approved by the delegate body and discussion boards will be used to gather feedback.
- Dahlberg-sears.1 asks what the timeline and process is for anyone who missed the spring delegate election?
 - This will be announced in newsletters but there is a fall semester election to fill seats that remain open.

5.3. Treasurer (Lynch.389)

- 5.3.1. Funding period 1 of Ray was cancelled. Funding period 2 is happening on the normal timeline but applications will only be accepted for virtual conference registration fees and the maximum award will be \$350. Previous winners can't apply again until they use their funds.

5.3.2. Questions:

- Galko.3 asks if a student is planning to attend an in-person conference, would they be able to use funds for travel or be awarded more than the reduced max of \$350?
 - The Student Life travel restrictions will likely cover this whole activity window, so we made the blanket decision to not fund any travel. The new maximum award is not flexible until things return to normal.

5.4. Secretary (Light.109)

- 5.4.1.** 2020 Global Gateway Grant winners will have a full year to use their travel funding beginning September 1, 2020.
- 5.4.2.** The application window for the first funding period of the Career Development Grant has closed and judging is underway. Applicants will only be funded for non-travel expenses because of current and anticipated travel restrictions imposed by the university. Funding period 2 is still happening and will also be non-travel expenses as well.
- 5.4.3.** Newly elected delegates have been added to the CGS website so if there are still empty seats for your program or department, please encourage your peers to petition for those spots.
- 5.4.4.** Winners of 2020 CGS Awards:
 - James M Siddens Award for Distinguished Faculty Advising
 - Dr. Simone Drake
 - Larry M Lewellen Award for Distinguished Service
 - Briana Brownlow
 - Delegate Award for Exceptional Service
 - Katy Cao
 - Committee Chair Award for Excellence
 - Ehsan Estiri (International Student Concerns)

6. COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES (as submitted in Delegate Meeting Packets)

6.1. Housing and Family Affairs (Vieira.13)

- 6.1.1.** The Housing and Dining transition task force is considering the possibility that all students living in dorms will have a single room in the fall in order to comply with social distancing guidelines.

7. SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS

7.1. Delegate Concerns

- 7.1.1.** None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Act 1920 SU-008: An Act Establishing the 2020-21 Standing Committees for the Council of Graduate Students

- 8.1.1.** Post.144: Some committee names were updated. Grants Administration Committee has been dissolved and the Career Development Grant and Global gateway Grant committees are now stand-alone as they function entirely separately.

8.1.2. Questions:

- None.

8.1.3. Discussion:

- None.

- 8.1.4.** Voting conducted via Carmen survey.

- 8.1.5.** Act passes (37 Yeas, 1 Nay, 3 Abstentions).

8.2. Act 1920 SU-009: An Act Establishing the 2020-21 Meeting Dates for the Council of Graduate Students

- 8.2.1.** Post.144: It's almost certain that all fall meetings will be held virtually as we are such a large body. When we are back on campus, we will try to reserve the new auditorium space in Drinko Hall. The meeting dates were chosen to be the first Friday of the month and offset from Senate meetings. Those that are not the first Friday were chosen to avoid holidays and breaks.

8.2.2. Questions:

- None.

8.2.3. Discussion:

- None.

8.2.4. Voting conducted via Carmen survey.

8.2.5. Act passes (38 Yeas, 1 Nay, 3 Abstentions).

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

9.1. Next meeting is June 12th, 2020 @ 3:30pm: <https://osu.zoom.us/j/95384125740>

9.1 The OSU chapter of the AAUP has published a statement (link below) advocating for prioritization of graduate student funding and a “trim the branches, not the roots” strategy for budget cuts. Signatures are being accepted until May 15th. The Linguistics Department is hosting a zoom meeting to discuss the variety of needs of graduate students across different departments and disciplines (registration link below). Even if you can’t attend, you can still join the email list by registering.

9.1.1 AAAUP statement:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScCLZ86hfmQkqiZNYGHpfQODI9jcvzawtxRoiAm06FbWV_VosA/viewform

9.1.2 Zoom meeting registration:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScCLZ86hfmQkqiZNYGHpfQODI9jcvzawtxRoiAm06FbWV_VosA/viewform

9.1.3

9.2 If you are in need of financial assistance, please apply for funding through the CARES act! You can apply multiple times if you are denied or receive a smaller amount than requested.

10. Meeting adjourned at 5:11pm.