



CGS Executive Meeting Minutes

Present: Stephen Post, Sarah Light, Maddy Lomax-Vogt, DaVonti' Haynes, Conner Sarich, Jenna Greve, Kathryn Holt, Verdaynea Eason, Abigail Grieff, Leila Viera, Aviva Neff, Jack Brandl, Melika Shahhosseini, Michelle Scott, Wanderson Novais Pereira

Absent: Raven Lynch, Rania Khamees

1. President's Report

- 1.1. So far, 78 GAs have asked for accommodations and about half have already been approved and 0 were denied. If there are people struggling with getting approval within their department, we encourage people to submit an official HR request.
- 1.2. Within Arts & Sciences, there has been a stipend decrease and students are concerned about this change. It's not clear what this decrease is being prompted by and departments are working to resolve out this issue and continue to receive the same stipend as previous years. Anyone post-candidacy should be getting their scheduled raises as the spending freeze has been lifted in this case.
- 1.3. Each department received funding specifically allocated for GAs to cover gaps in departmental funding for students. We have not had access to see any actual budget documents so it's been hard to evaluate what is happening.
- 1.4. The Grad School has been lenient in granting time-to-degree extensions through the normal process.
- 1.5. We are having a lot of conversations with Dean Bertone and other offices about how to ensure that graduate students are prioritized in the greater mission of the university.
- 1.6. If you are not able to make progress on your degree and you are post-candidacy, there is now an option for you to take leave. A new leave policy should be announced soon.
- 1.7. The pandemic transition task force has not met for over 2 weeks and we have been meeting directly with Dr. Shivers individually.
 - 1.7..1. Maybe we should do a survey to gather information about how grad students are currently feeling with the return to campus.
- 1.8. There are a lot of concerns about the logistics of students returning to campus and the current safety precautions and protocols that are in place.
 - 1.8..1. There have been some concerns with the Safe and Healthy Campus documentation and pledge that everyone is required to sign. A waiver is generally used as a deterrent and is not often actually used in a lawsuit. In a court setting, it would probably not absolve the university of any responsibility.
 - 1.8..2. The consequence for not signing the pledge may be that students is stated below: "Students who decide not to sign the pledge will be alerted by Student Conduct using an automated/email process that they have five (5) days to sign the pledge. If they do not sign the pledge within five (5) days, they will

only be permitted to take courses virtually, may not schedule a move-in time (if intending to live on-campus), may not physically enter any campus or university facility, and may not physically participate in any university activity on or off campus.”

1.8.3. There is only a certain amount of accountability that can be achieved with an app-based self-monitoring approach and there is concern about people not following the guidelines and not monitoring themselves as they should be. There is already some infrastructure in place to check these submissions when students are on campus.

1.8.4. If things transition back to online, OSU will not discount, refund, or prorate any tuition. However, facility and activity fees, along with housing fees, will be refunded and prorated if it is not possible to remain on campus for the entire semester. If you are taking classes entirely online, you will not be charged these fees and therefore will not be able to participate in those activities or facilities.

2. Vice President's Report

2.1. This year is CGS' 65th Anniversary and we are planning to do some virtual and (potentially) in-person events to celebrate this occasion. We are working with the Alumni Association to put together a magazine

2.2. Our Engaged Scholar Grant now has a budget of \$30,000 and graduate students may begin to apply for it next month.

2.3. Fall elections coming up for empty seats.

2.4. This fall, we are hosting a BIG10 graduate student government conference. We are in the process of planning the schedule to effectively do this event virtually over 3 weekends (beginning October 12th).

3. Treasurer's Report

3.1. The budget is uncertain at this time but use the approved document moving forward.

4. Secretary's Report

4.1. CDG

5. Chief of Staff's Report

5.1. We are thinking about creating the position of CGS Historian to research, investigate, jkengiubewg

6. Committee Member Agenda Items

6.1. Academic Affairs

6.1..1. The committee is interested in how different departments across campus have responded to recent protests and is addressing issues of racial justice in the future. It's critical that student input is part of any new policies or committees. If you have any information about efforts being undertaken within your department, please pass that along to Aviva.

6.2. International Student Affairs

6.2..1. There is a new Carmen Orientation for new international students that has included a lot of new material. There will also be an online platform for students to submit questions.

6.2..2. There are a lot of questions and issues for new international students who are trying to get the appropriate visa documents and entering the country. The

committee is thinking of drafting a resolution about these topics requesting stronger support for international students from the university.

- 6.2..3. Students who are currently enrolled but have returned to their home country have not been able to receive their stipend even though they have a US bank account because of tax laws.

6.3. Racial Justice Ad Hoc Committee

- 6.3..1. The committee is making a lot of progress and there will be 5-10 resolutions to put forth by mid-September.
- 6.3..2. The committee is starting a schedule of listening sessions within different groups on campus.

6.4. Government Affairs

- 6.4..1. With the presidential election approaching this year, the committee is planning to do a lot of virtual outreach to students about registering to vote and volunteering as poll workers.
- 6.4..2. The committee is putting forth a resolution about election day (see below).
- 6.4..3. The committee, in collaboration with OSU Votes, is focusing on awareness about how to correctly vote absentee and potentially provide stamps for students to mail their absentee applications and ballots.
- 6.4..4. The committee might draft a resolution in the future requesting support from the university to provide transportation to the polls for students.

6.5. Health, Wellness, and Safety

- 6.5..1. The Mental Health task force is doing a large campaign around creating a culture of care on campus. They are gathering ideas of how to effectively implement this and specific examples that can be shared.
- 6.5..2. There will be a lot of collaboration with the Racial Justice committee to think about the mental health needs of graduate students in the current climate of pandemic and protest.

6.6. SERC

- 6.6..1. The committee has plans to create a sustainability pledge for new graduate students
- 6.6..2. Also doing the case competition that had to be postponed from last year.
- 6.6..3. The committee is also looking into a pilot project exploring the use of recyclable gloves.
- 6.6..4. Also working on a partnership with the Sustainability Institute

7. Old Business

- 7.1. The minimum increases that were laid out in the GCBC recommendations really are a cost-of-living increase but they are not scheduled to happen because of pandemic-related budget cuts and concerns. It is important for us to continue to advocate for these stipend increases because the university should be prioritizing the expense of graduate students.

7.2. COVID-19 concerns:

- 7.2..1. As an exec committee, we will work on drafting a resolution addressing all of these very timely issues to be discussed at our delegate meeting next week.
- 7.2..2. There have already been issues with graduate students and staff already on campus not observing the proper social distancing and PPE guidelines. There is no recourse to discipline anyone who don't follow these policies.
- 7.2..3. As the people who are going to directly interact with students in a classroom setting, GTAs are weathering the majority of the risk. For many students, they have not been given the option to not return to campus.
- 7.2..4. The university is hiring individuals to handle the need for contract tracing.

- 7.2..5. There is supposed to be enhanced and updated testing measures being announced soon.
- 7.2..6. Students have to follow the published policies and procedures for social distancing and wearing masks even when they are not on campus. Instances of violations should be reported by calling 311, which will trigger

8. New Business

- 8.1. Resolution 2021-001: A Resolution Calling Upon the University to Observe Election Day as a Paid Holiday Recognized as the John Lewis Voting Rights Day
 - 8.1..1. This would make it a lot easier to vote for those who are not able to vote early or by absentee ballot.
 - 8.1..2. Could be good to include information about graduate students having the opportunity to participate as poll workers on election day if it is a holiday.
 - 8.1..3. Is the 41% of graduate students voting of all students or only eligible voters?
 - 8.1..4. Resolution is approved by exec to go to the delegate body.

9. Open Floor Announcements

- 9.1. Next delegate meeting August 14th, 2020 @ 3:30 PM

10. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.