



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

Delegates Present: Ali AsghariAdib, Selasi Attipoe, Blake Barnett, Rob Barry, Om Prakash Bedant, Polina Berezina, Jessica Blackburn, Anthony Bowersock, John Bundschuh, Yu-Chun Chang, Steph Charles, Jacob Compaleo, Carrington Conerly, Katherine Conner, Paul Consiglio, Adam Culiver, Robert Dahlberg-Sears, Archit Datar, Ty Drayton, Benjamin Duran, Meaghann Dynes, Story Edison, Megan Espana, Caroline Fitzpatrick, , Jahmour Givans, Annedra Gladney, Colby Gregg, Jenna Greve, Sarah Haines, Keira Hambrick, Jordan Hartman, Nathaniel Heiden, Lindsey Hernandez, Christian Hines, Sarah Hyman, Gregory Jameson, Ellia La, Yifan Li, Ho-chieh Lin, Javonte Lipsey, Madeleine Lomax-Vogt, Zari Mahmoudi (ALT), Krutant Mehta, Benjamin Mertus, Alexander Milder, Aviva Neff, Wanderson Novais Pereira, Brian O'Rourke, Felipe Pacci Evaristo, Maritza Pierre, Kelsey Pinckard, Swetha Rajasekaran, Marie Rineveld, Mary Sagatelova, Akanksha Sahni, Ashweta Sahni, Erik Scaltriti, Michelle Scott, Melika Shahhosseini, Karla ShockleyMccarthy, Daniel Smith, Kye Stachowski, Goran Stevanovski, Matthew Stuckey, Jamie Utphall, Ana Maria Velasquez Giraldo, Ericka Velez-Bonet, Yitong Xin, Megan Zib

Delegates Absent: Deja Beamon, Riley Debacker, Todd Derose, Steph Fanelli, Brandon Free, Bethany Frick, Paul Gregor, Jake Hausmann, Ashwin Kane, Pouya Kousha, Matthew Maynard, Armando Roman, Derek Walton

Senators Present: Aaron Beczkiewicz, Tyler Beauregard, Jenna Greve, Gala Korniyenko, Laine Rumreich, Conner Sarich, Dustin Servello

Senators Absent: Shawar Ali, Akshay Asaithambi, Utkarsh Shah

Executive Committee Members Present: Jack Brandl, Katherine Conner, Jenna Greve, Abigail Grieff, DaVonti' Haynes, Kathryn Holt, Sarah Light, Madeleine Lomax-Vogt, Raven Lynch, Aviva Neff, Wanderson Novais Pereira, Stephen Post, Conner Sarich, Michelle Scott, Melika Shahhosseini, Leila Viera

Executive Committee Members Absent: Verdaynea Eason Agondanou, Rania Khamees

1. Guest Speaker: Kerry Hodak.2, Office of Student Life

- 1.1. OUAB offers a wide range of activities, many of which have been adapted to a virtual format, including programming for personal enrichment, professional development, social engagement, family programs, as well as special events. Also, the D-Tix program is back.
- 1.2. BuckIServ will be offering a virtual experience in January.
- 1.3. The Wellness Center has recently hired a new position that will focus on graduate and professional students and this person will be working with OUAB to plan some programming.
- 1.4. There are opportunities for in-person events if you can be creative and keep the groups under 10 people.
- 1.5. Questions:
 - 1.5.1. Novaispereira.1: If SERC would like to organize a river clean-up, is this something that CGS could sponsor?
 - Yes, as long as it is organized such that it will be a group of 10 people or fewer.

2. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 3:50pm

2.1. Statement of Purpose

- 2.1.1. To effectively advocate and program to ensure that The Ohio State University graduate student experience is the best it can be.

3. ROLL CALL

3.1. Carmen log-in

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1. Minutes from September 11, 2020

- 4.1.1. Minutes approved.

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

5.1. President (Post.144)

- 5.1.1. There are a handful of accommodation requests that are still pending approval, most of which have run into issues at the department level. President Johnson is aware of the issue and we will be working with her to investigate these further.
- 5.1.2. The number of graduate associates this year has not changed much from last year.
- 5.1.3. Graduate Council recently approved a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading option for graduate students this semester. The deadline to withdraw from a class has been extended until November 20th.
- 5.1.4. OSU has announced that Election Day is now a paid day off and they are encouraging people to volunteer as poll workers. We are still hoping to get this instituted as a formal holiday beginning next academic year.
- 5.1.5. There is now a website where you can sign up for the bus to get to the Board of Elections for a few days leading up to the election.
- 5.1.6. President Johnson was open to the idea of increasing the minimum stipend for graduate students and we have lots of support from the faculty in the Senate. The Office of Academic Affairs is currently considering the GCBC recommendations from last spring. We will talk more about this more later in the meeting as it is relevant for one of our resolutions.
- 5.1.7. Questions:
 - Light.109: is the S/U system only in place for this semester or will it be available in spring semester as well?
 - The current change is just for this semester but there is a possibility it will be instituted in the spring as well.
 - Velasquezgiraldo.1: Does the university have plans to evaluate the pass/no pass system for spring/summer semester?
 - Some students have petitioned to have their grades changed back to a letter grade because they ended up doing well in the class. We encourage students to really think hard about whether opting into this system is the best choice.

5.2. Vice President (Haynes.242)

- 5.2.1. Fall elections are happening next week so new delegates will begin in November. We will be working with departments directly to fill any seats that remain open after that.
- 5.2.2. CGS is sponsoring a Graduate Student Engagement Fund for events that will support the wellbeing of graduate students. Departments can apply for up to \$250 per event.
- 5.2.3. The Engaged Scholar Grant is now open. This grant is funded in collaboration with Student Life, Outreach and Engagement, The Office of Research, and University Extension. Students will be awarded between \$500 and \$1,500.
- 5.2.4. If you are interested in serving on the College of Arts and Sciences Dean Advisory Board, get in touch.
- 5.2.5. Questions:
 - Dahlberg-sears.1: Who is the person that can apply for this engagement funding?
 - Anyone who has the authority to spend department money can apply.

5.3. Treasurer (Lynch.389)

- 5.3.1. The university-wide spending freeze is still active although we have some flexibility to purchase necessary operational items.
- 5.3.2. Ray funding period 3 is now open and closes November 1st.

5.4. Secretary (Light.109)

- 5.4.1. The application window is now open for funding period 3 (activities between January 1 and March 31, 2021).
- 5.4.2. We have changed the letter that CDG winners get to streamline the information we are sending to them. We will also be working on an FAQ document and some example documents. We are hoping this will cut down on the numbers of students who are confused by and make mistakes with the reimbursement process. The goal is to get students their money as fast as we can.

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

6.1. Government Affairs (Lomax-vogt.2)

- 6.1.1. The committee is working on putting together absentee ballot packets for students including an envelope, stamps, absentee ballot application, and instructions for the process. These packets will be able to be requested via a Google form. They will be available for on-campus pick-up at the Ohio Union or delivered to your home. If you are interested in helping to deliver, please get in touch.
- 6.1.2. Lyft has a discount for a 1-way ride to the polls on election day.

6.2. Health, Wellness, & Safety (Grieff.2)

- 6.2.1. The committee sent out a wellness survey last week and the response rate has been good so far. Please send out this survey to your constituents!

6.3. SERC (Novaispereira.1)

- 6.3.1. The committee is working on a project to obtain and promote recyclable gloves.
- 6.3.2. Also continuing a project from last year that was cancelled to host a case competition in the spring in collaboration with the Sustainability Institute.

6.4. Graduate Student Affairs (Scott.1445)

- 6.4.1. The committee is working on infographics with information about working at the polls and voting – please circulate these to your constituents.

6.5. Graduate Caucus (Greve.41)

- 6.5.1. Facilities Operations and Development wants feedback about tailgating so please talk to Gala Korniyenko.1 if you have opinions you want to share.

6.6. International Student Affairs (Shahosseini.2)

- 6.6.1. Currently, international students can stay until the end of their program however there is a new proposal that would update this to require visa renewal every 2 or 4 years. The committee is talking with the Office of International Affairs about how this would affect students.

7. SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS

7.1. Delegate Concerns

- 7.1.1. Conner.280: There has been conflicting information about where students can get COVID testing, which locations will fulfill the requirement for surveillance testing, and which tests will be covered by student health insurance. Would be great if we could clarify and disseminate this information.
 - You can still schedule drive-through testing and that should fulfill the requirement. In the past, only positive tests from outside vendors have been allowed to be submitted but this has been changed to include negative tests for surveillance purposes as long as it is submitted within 48 hours of when the surveillance test was requested.
 - Students also have the option to apply for exemption for a single testing request if they will not be on campus that week.
 - The capacity for the asymptomatic testing program is not unlimited so it's possible some may be denied.
- 7.1.2. Datar.10: Where can we find more information about the S/U policy?
 - The Grad School has not pushed this announcement out yet so there will be more information available next week.
- 7.1.3. Dahlberg-sears.1: There has been talk about suspending grad student admissions beginning next year because of funding limitations. Are there any updates about this possibility?
 - There has been no official talk about this at the grad school level and these conversations are largely happening in individual departments that have particular funding issues.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Resolution 2021-003: A Resolution In Support of the Prioritization of Graduate Student Compensation

8.1.1. Conner.280: This resolution is asking for OSU to increase the minimum grad student stipend to follow through on the recommendations made by GCBC last spring. It asks for a University Senate resolution requesting immediate institution of the new stipend (including backpay) and also for admins making above a certain amount to take voluntary pay cuts to cover this pay increase.

8.1.2. Questions:

- Barnett.615: Is the expectation that these pay cuts are to make everything work out to a net zero? What happens if they just decide to raise tuition?
 - We could add in language that specifically asks that these cuts will be used to offset the costs of meeting the stipend funding increases but this possibility is not likely.
- Velasquezgiraldo.1: What do we know about the nature of the bonus that former President Drake received? Was it contractually obligated?
 - Not sure but the university policy states that the bonuses were not being given during the COVID crisis.
- Velasquezgiraldo.1: In Line 66, why the 20% cut specifically?
 - This is not a pay cut ask, it's just an example.
- Velasquezgiraldo.1: In Line 66-68, there is info about things Susan Basso has said but there is no reference or footnote associated with this clause?
 - She said this repeatedly in the town halls and we could add in the link to the recording if necessary.
- Hambrick.25: Would we need a separate resolution to address the cuts in stipend raises for students that passed candidacy this year?
 - Yes, because this differs a lot by department.
- O'Rourke.130: Does this only apply to students who are not currently receiving the minimum stipend?
 - Yes, this would only affect those who are below the minimum stipend level. However, departments who pay more than the minimum tend to also raise their funding levels when the minimum increases.

8.1.3. Discussion:

- Dahlberg-sears.1: It may be a good idea to include language that asks for the minimum stipend to always be at a certain level above the living wage for Columbus.
 - GCBC has talked about this possibility but has determined that working on this every few years allows for the group to evaluate benchmark institutions, living wage, etc. more specifically when making recommendations.

8.1.4. Resolution is voted on via Carmen survey.

8.1.5. Resolution passes (60 Yeas, 2 Nays, 0 Abstentions).

8.2. Resolution 2021-004: A Resolution Against the Use of The Ohio State University's Community Enrollment Question in All Part of the Student Application Process

8.2.1. Edison.22: When students apply to OSU, they are required to answer the Community Enrollment question that asks about academic misconduct, behavioral misconduct, and felony convictions. Those who check yes to this question have their application put on hold and must go through a review process to determine whether they will be admitted. This resolution is asking for more transparency about this whole process and for this question to either be abolished or, if not abolished, applicants should be given more information about the ramifications of answering or not answering this question.

8.2.2. Questions:

- Drayton.18: Is there any legal reason that OSU could use to argue for not removing this question?
 - Actually, there is a state law that prohibits this question from being asked for private institutions but not public institutions. This was not included because it does not currently apply to OSU applicants.
- Korniyenko.1: Does "criminal history in academic institutions" include crime of sexual nature, offense etc?
 - Yes, but most of these offenses do not result in a conviction.

8.2.3. Discussion:

- O'Rourke.130: In Line 56, it should read "did **not** complete their enrollment" instead of "did complete their enrollment"
 - Accepted as a friendly amendment

8.2.4. Resolution is voted on via Carmen survey.

8.2.5. Resolution passes (52 Yeas, 4 Nays, 5 Abstentions).

8.3. Resolution 2021-005: A Resolution for Childcare and Dependent Assistance for all Graduate Students

8.4. Viera.31: OSU is not collecting data about grad student parents, but we know that this population is particularly vulnerable. For a single income household, much of this income must be allocated toward childcare expenses. OSU is falling behind benchmark institutions on this and this negatively impacts recruitment efforts. This resolution is asking for OSU to establish a fund for student parents and increase the capacity of the childcare spots for students and a paid leave fund for students when they travel for research and academic reasons.

8.4.1. Questions:

- Drayton.18: This resolution is about both childcare and dependents, but the language used in the latter half of the text only talks about childcare costs. Both should be mentioned in all the asks or the language about dependents should be removed.
 - Yes, this change will be made.
- Milder.3: Where does this \$60,000 amount come from in Lines 77-78? This seems low even for families with 2 working parents.
 - This was based on the average income for a family with two graduate student parents who make more than the minimum stipend.

8.4.2. Discussion:

- Stachowski.7: Suggested amendment to lines 70-72: "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these financial assistance funds amount to at least 75% of incurred cost per semester per child or dependent, and also cover expenses incurred as a result of academic and professional pursuits such as conference participation (travel or virtual), other professional development events, and fieldwork; and"
 - Jameson.61: This could favor those who have the means to spend more money on their childcare.
 - Stachowski.7: Putting a specific dollar amount would not allow this amount to scale up over the years and putting in a percentage would give parents the flexibility to choose the childcare that best meets their needs.
 - Greve.41: 75% is a huge ask since faculty and staff do not get this so this may not be realistic.
 - Conner.280: If we only ask for a lower percentage, they can bargain us down from that level. If we ask for more than we think is reasonable, this gives us more room for bargaining.
 - Sahni.16: 75% can be a little vague- could we add more information about what these costs might be?
 - Dahlberg-sears.1: The original reason to ask for \$1,000 is that it's easy to calculate and we thought it was reasonable enough that they would not say no. It's also based on what benchmark institutions give to their students.
 - Drayton.18: You could take out a specific number or percentage completely and just ask that it the amount be comparable to the institutions listed in the appendix.
 - Truesdell.27(non-delegate): The potential problem with removing a specific amount and benchmarking non-specifically is that there is a large range mentioned in the appendix.
 - Velasquezgiraldo.1: A potential different way to phrase this would be to say that if OSU does not have a spot for you at their childcare centers, you will receive compensation for costs incurred by enrolling your child at a different center.
 - Final accepted amendment to Lines 70-72: "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these financial assistance funds be in an amount competitive to benchmark institutions and also cover expenses incurred as a result of academic and professional pursuits such as conference participation (travel or virtual), other professional development events, and fieldwork; and"

- Amendment is voted on and passes.
- Stachowski.7: Suggested amendment to Lines 77 and 78: "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that assistance should be based on financial need and open to all graduate students regardless of household income, with preference given to households with incomes less than \$75,000; and"
 - No discussion.
 - Amendment is accepted.

8.5. Resolution is voted on via Carmen survey.

8.6. Resolution passes (52 Yeas, 2 Nays, 4 Abstentions).

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

8.1 Next meeting is November 6, 2020 @ 3:30pm.

10. Meeting adjourned at 5:32pm.