



**Council of Graduate Students**  
The Ohio State University

**Date:** February 5, 2021  
**Location:** Zoom Meeting

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

**Delegates Present:** Luke Andrejek, Ali AsghariAdib, Selasi Attipoe, Ada Barach, Blake Barnett, Om Prakash Bedant, Polina Berezina, Jessica Blackburn, Anthony Bowersock, John Bundschuh, Steph Charles, Kacey Clark, Jacob Compaleo, Carrington Conerly, Katherine Conner, Robert Cremins, Adam Culiver, Robert Dahlberg-Sears, Archit Datar, Riley DeBacker, Austin DeGross, Todd DeRose (ALT: Flint.80), Kendra Dickinson, Ty Drayton, Benjamin Duran, Meaghann Dynes, Story Edison, Steph Fanelli, Caroline Fitzpatrick, Jahmour Givans, Annedra Gladney, Robin Gordon, Colby Gregg, Paul Gregor, Jenna Greve, Sarah Haines, Keira Hambrick, Jordan Hartman, Nathaniel Heiden, Lindsey Hernandez, Morgan Heyde, Christian Hines, Sarah Hyman, Gregory Jameson (ALT: Sturgill.74), Shontiera Johnson, Ashwin Kane, Noor Khalayleh, Pouya Kousha, Ellia La, Yifan Li, Ho-chieh Lin, Madeleine Lomax-Vogt, Xinyue Lu, Charles Mace, Zari Mahmoudi, Matthew Maynard, Krutant Mehta, Doricka Menefee, Alexander Milder, M. Dominique Nagasawa, Laura Neese, Aviva Neff, Wanderson Novais Pereira, Shane O'Neil, Brian O'Rourke, Felipe Pacci Evaristo, Maritza Pierre, Kelsey Pinckard, Rosie Rabati, Swetha Rajasekaran, Bryan Remaily, Lauren Riley, Marie Rineveld, Morgan Ross, Mary Sagatelova, Akanksha Sahni, Ashweta Sahni, Erik Scaltriti, Michelle Scott, Karla ShockleyMccarthy, Kumar Somnath, Kye Stachowski, Goran Stevanovski, Matthew Stuckey, Garrett Tatum, Greyson Teague, Ekaterina Tikhonyuk, Jamie Utphall, Ana Maria Velasquez Giraldo, Ericka Velez-Bonet, Derek Walton, Brett Wedding, Yitong Xin

**Delegates Absent:** Rob Barry, Yu-Chun Chang, Fouad Choueiry, Paul Consiglio, Megan Espana, Bethany Frick, Javonte Lipsey, Alan Lujan, Benjamin Mertus, Madison Mize, Jaychandran Padayasi, Armando Roman, Melika Shahhosseini, Daniel Smith, Andrew Wilson, Megan Zib

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

**Senators Absent:** Shahwar Ali, Akshay Asaithambi, Utkarsh Shah

**Executive Committee Members Present:** Katherine Conner, Caroline Fitzpatrick, Brandon Free, Jenna Greve, Abigail Grieff, Kathryn Holt, Sarah Light, Madeleine Lomax-Vogt, Raven Lynch, Nick Messenger, Aviva Neff, Wanderson Novais Pereira, Stephen Post, Conner Sarich, Michelle Scott, Carrie Anne Thomas, Leila Vieria

**Executive Committee Members Absent:** Melika Shahhosseini

## **1. Guest Speaker: Dr. Rebeka Campos-Astorkiza, Graduate Ombudsperson**

- 1.1. Dr. Campos-Astorkiza is an Associate Professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and has been the Director of Grad Studies for 5 years. She has also served on GCBC and been a University Senator in the past. As this position is completely new, it will likely evolve and grow as she figures out how best to move forward. It will focus on issues and challenges faced by students and support a positive work and learning environment and advance equity at the university. The main goals of the position are to serve as a resource for students for conflict resolution and mediation to provide a neutral person for students to talk to. This position is based on independence, confidentiality, neutrality, and informality.
- 1.2. If you have a problem or a concern, reach out via email: [gradombuds@osu.edu](mailto:gradombuds@osu.edu)
- 1.3. **Questions:**
  - 1.3.1. Korniyenko.1: How would you handle being a mandatory reporter for Title IX issues?
    - There is a meeting with the relevant offices next week to get more clarity about when this would apply.
  - 1.3.2. Mace.103: How often do you expect to make reports to the university?
    - There are no existing parameters so this report can be designed or handled in whatever way seems best based on student usage of the office. These reports will likely be
  - 1.3.3. Sahni.16: Will zoom meetings with students be recorded, and will names be reflected in the reports?
    - No, the reports will be generalized to recurring issues and themes and everything will be

kept anonymous.

- 1.3.4. Conner.280: In the past year or two, there has been a large breakdown of the relationship between students and faculty and administrators. How do you see this position operating within this framework?
- The position works directly with students and is not part of the administration. Planning to use her long history as a faculty member and member of the University Senate as leverage to advocate for students.
- 1.3.5. Shockleymccarthy.2: Is the position focused on conflict resolution or is it a position for policy and support advocacy for students?
- This position is both but focuses primarily on conflict resolution. Over time, it will likely become more about advocacy.
- 1.3.6. Kousha.2: Different departments have different or unclear policies concerning
- Her role would be to help the student find the correct information by communicating with the department and program.
- 1.3.7. O'rourke.130: This position seems like it may be difficult to access for those students who may need it most? How will you make it accessible and raise awareness for all students?
- As members of CGS, we should share this information with our constituents. Working with the Grad School to send information to all the grad studies chairs. She has experience working with a diverse population in her position as a grad studies chair and will use that experience to make the office as accessible as possible.
- 1.3.8. Barnett.615: How will you determine when there are systemic issues? Do you have metrics in mind?
- She is primarily a researcher and plans to use that experience to help look for threads and connections between different individual student situations. The metrics are still TDB.
- 1.3.9. Sahni.16: Conflicts between students and advisors are one of the most common problems. What kind of mediation can be expected in this type of situation? How would you ensure there is not any retaliation from the advisor?
- The first step would be to meet with the student and figure out what is the best option to move forward. There are a lot of possibilities and would need to be based on what the student needs. There will also be follow-ups to see how the conflict is resolving.

## **2. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 4:11pm**

### **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.

### **2.2. Land Acknowledgement**

- 2.2.1. CGS acknowledges central Ohio as the traditional homeland of the Shawnee, Miami, Wyandotte and other Indigenous nations who have strong ties to these lands. Today, individuals from a broad range of Indigenous backgrounds call Columbus and central Ohio home.

## **3. ROLL CALL**

### **3.1. Carmen log-in**

## **4. SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS**

### **4.1. Delegate Issues & Concerns**

- 4.1.1. Dickinson.130: There is some confusion about what emergency funds can be used for. Students have applied for things like a laptop to be able to teach virtually and the request was denied.
- It seems that there is very specific wording in the rules about what this funding can be used for, and it seems that if you need something related to your teaching responsibilities, it should be covered by your department. More information that was given to us by Financial Aid was sent out via Carmen.

- 4.1.2. Lomax-vogt.2: Representative of CGS met with EHS today and they have agreed to postpone the rollout of this plan and also to start it as a pilot program rather than immediately implementing the change for 15% of labs. If you have opinions about this, please share with Maddy and Blake.
- 4.1.3. Milder.3: Are graduate students going to be included in the vaccine phase for educators?
  - Gov Affairs is still advocating for this, but we don't have anything yet.
- 4.1.4. Conner.280: Constituents have been wondering about what the procedures will be for GTAs continuing to need to teach with or without the vaccine? When can we expect to hear about long-term plans?
  - All the HR accommodation requests have been approved so far and the expectation is that the current procedures will continue through summer and potentially into next fall.
- 4.1.5. Dahlberg-sears.1: The Graduate Performance Award was supposed to open January 30<sup>th</sup> but there is no information about how to self-nominate. Interested parties were told to just talk to their college or department.
  - We advocated for more transparency about this and now the website lists the contact person for each college.

## 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 5.1. Minutes from January 15, 2021

- 5.1.1. Minutes approved.

## 6. OFFICER REPORTS (as submitted in Delegate Meeting Packet)

### 6.1. President (Post.144)

- 6.1.1. Buckeye Village residents were granted a housing extension and can now stay there until 2022. We are still in conversations and working with different groups to plan more for the next housing project.
- 6.1.2. This semester, grad students automatically have the option to take advantage of an emergency pass/no pass system for grading.
- 6.1.3. The OSUPD officers who participated in the sledding incident last week were reprimanded and now have a mark on their record. Student conduct cases have been opened against those students who were identified in the videos.
- 6.1.4. We have been advocating for student representation on The University Community Enrollment Review Committee and this request has been denied. We are still working on some policy changes for how this committee functions.
- 6.1.5. We are advocating hard to get increases to the Matching Fee and Tuition Program (MFTA). About 60 GA ships have already been extended to those who needed an extra semester to complete their degree. We are advocating for some of this funding to be available in future academic years.
- 6.1.6. We are trying to get more information about what the new CARES funding can be used for and there might be funds specifically allocated for grad students.
- 6.1.7. We are in conversations with the Grad School and the Provost about moving up the AGGRS decision deadline so that applicants will know before summer if they will have funding.
- 6.1.8. We are waiting for more information about exceptions to the travel restrictions. This may impact a lot of students who need to be able to travel to complete their research and graduate.
- 6.1.9. GCBC wants an equity report that looks at the gender pay gap and benchmarking both against other universities and within colleges and departments at OSU.
- 6.1.10. Questions:
  - Holt.351: Many of the summer funding opportunities have been put on hold because of the ongoing travel restrictions. However, students still need funding for their research, whether or not travel is involved.
    - The faculty are in support of flexibility on this issue so hopefully we can get more specific information about the travel restrictions and the process that students can use to still access this funding.

### 6.2. Vice President (Messenger.37)

- 6.2.1. There is a listening session planned for February 19<sup>th</sup> to talk with the Office of Academic Affairs about

the issues that will need to be addressed for fall semester 2021.

- 6.2.2. Nick will be serving on the working group this is meeting weekly all semester to plan for a full return to campus next fall.
- 6.2.3. The University Senate Diversity Committee is undergoing renovation and will hopefully become a high-level place for diversity, equity, and inclusion issues to be addressed in concert with other relevant offices. Some of the other issues that will be receiving more attention and focused committees are: sustainability, wellness, international students, and distance learning.
- 6.2.4. We are working with the Grad School to draft an orientation experience for graduate students. The rough plan right now is to put together a robust virtual resource on Carmen that students can access at any time throughout their graduate career.
- 6.2.5. Officer elections will happen at the March delegate meeting. Please reach out to the current officers to find out more information if you are interested in running for a position.
- 6.2.6. The Hayes Forum is still in need of volunteers to proctor zoom rooms on the day of the forum.
- 6.2.7. Questions:
  - Heyde.9: What is the time commitment for Hayes proctoring?
    - We will take you for as long as you are available.
  - Heyde.9: Some sort of centralized resource bank would be really helpful even for students who are trying to decide to come to OSU.

### 6.3. Treasurer (Lynch.389)

- 6.3.1. The application window for funding period 4 of CDG closed February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 6.3.2. We have spent a small portion of our grants budget and our committee budget.

### 6.4. Secretary (Light.109)

- 6.4.1. The annual CGS Awards will begin accepting nominations soon. Keep an eye out for that announcement and nominate!

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

### 7.1.1. Government Affairs

- The committee is working on a monthly legislative update about things happening in the state and local government.
- The committee will be hosting some workshops with local council members with the aim of sharing advice for advocacy.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

### 8.1. Act 2021-002: An Act Updating and Clarifying the Language of the Constitution of the Council of Graduate Students

- 8.1.1. Light.109: This act contains a multitude of content updates to the text of the CGS Constitution to clarify questions of procedure and more closely match how CGS operates in practice.
- 8.1.2. Questions:
  - None.
- 8.1.3. Discussion:
  - None.
- 8.1.4. Act is voted on via Carmen survey.
- 8.1.5. Act passes (65 Yeas, 0 Nays, 2 Abstentions).

### 8.2. Act 2021-003: An Act Updating the Apportionment Procedure as Described in the Bylaws of the Council of Graduate Students

- 8.2.1. Light.109: This act will shift the requirement for apportionment of delegate seats to every three years rather than annually. Additionally, because of the unique situation this academic year, we will continue to use the approved apportionment passed last spring for academic years 2021-2022 and 2022-23.
- 8.2.2. Questions:

- None.

**8.2.3. Discussion:**

- None.

8.2.4. Act is voted on via Carmen survey.

8.2.5. Act passes (68 Yeas, 1 Nays, 0 Abstentions).

**8.3. Act 2021-004: An Act Updating and Clarifying the Language of the Bylaws of the Council of Graduate Students**

8.3.1. Light.109: Similar to Act 2021-002, this document contains content updates and clarifies procedure.

**8.3.2. Questions:**

- None.

**8.3.3. Discussion:**

- None.

8.3.4. Act is voted on via Carmen survey.

8.3.5. Act passes (69 Yeas, 0 Nays, 4 Abstentions).

**8.4. Resolution 2021-015: A Resolution to Improve Graduate Student Awareness and Access to Counseling and Consultation Services**

8.4.1. Grieff.2: The resolution proposes creative solutions to address the current issues of access and availability for counseling services.

**8.4.2. Questions:**

- None.

**8.4.3. Discussion:**

- Tatum.71: Proposed amendment to Line 81 to say, "review unmet student needs" instead of "review the needs of students whose needs are not met".
  - Amendment is accepted as friendly.
- Gordon.215: Proposed amendment to Lines 68-70 to say, "to increase accessibility to counseling resources".
  - Amendment is accepted as friendly.

8.4.4. Resolution is voted on via Carmen survey.

8.4.5. Resolution passes (60 Yeas, 0 Nays, 3 Abstentions).

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

9.1. Next meeting is March 5, 2021 @ 3:30pm.

**10. Meeting adjourned at 5:14pm.**