Delegate Meeting Minutes

Date: March 3, 2012 (3rd Winter Delegate Meeting)
Location: Ohio Union, Senate Chambers

1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
   1.1. To effectively advocate and program to ensure that The Ohio State University graduate student experience is the best it can be.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
   2.1. 2/20/2012 Meeting Minutes Here
      2.1.1. Gadepally.1 Motion to Approve Minutes
      2.1.2. Reinke.12 And Fry.228 Second
      2.1.3. Minutes Pass

3. OFFICER REPORTS
   3.1. President: Gadepally.1
      3.1.1. President's Report
      Gadepally.1: What did we as a council of graduate students determine that we wanted to work towards and where are we based on what we said we would do. Partnership is something we wanted to work on. We have added a lot of partnerships over the past year and will continue to expand on as we move forward. Student compensation is another area where we made tremendous progress. Health and Wellness concerns, International student concerns (creating a brand new grant, and a International concerns committee), keeping abreast of the quarter to semester conversion, student advisor relationships (tremendous progress – we are looking forward to additions to the Graduate Handbook and initiating the dialogue between students and advisors), promoting environmental sustainability, and promoting CGS to our constituents – how do we make sure that everyone is a part of the CGS and feel that they have ownership of us as an organization. Our global grants program is successfully underway and we will be awarding this quarter. Next Thursday – parking Town Hall meeting. NAGPS conference will be April 13-15th. Promoting CGS to our delegates – how can we expand our outreach to the delegates? You are the owners of CGS and you being able to outreach on your own is very helpful – we want to empower you to have activities that best suit your department. We want to begin this in Spring Quarter – you will see a budget amendment later in the meeting. Working to finalize the details and will have it finalized by the beginning of Spring Quarter.
      Another area we want to work on is having our department chairs and delegates communicate. Looking to invite the chairs to a meeting next quarter. We want to empower each delegate (just a pilot program) – put aside $200/delegate. Every delegate will be able to request up to $200 from us, we will be setting some stipulations on – how much per head, what kind of activity, etc. We will have rules set at the beginning of the Spring quarter. We have currently budgeted for 25 delegates. We would like delegates to organize some
sort of event for their department – at that time, we’d like you to 1. Explain what the role of CGS is and 2. More importantly, hear feedback from delegates! It’s when you talk to people individually you hear what concerns they have around campus. We’d love to have our delegates be that in-between constituents and CGS. We’d love to hear your thoughts and suggestions on how we can make this a success. Beginning of Spring quarter – we will put together a presentation.

Brief update of DC trip: team of 6 of us were in D.C., we met with 7 congressional offices, met with OSU governmental relations team, we requested support on 3 major issues facing all graduate students: 1. Reintroduction of subsidized Stafford loans, 2. Maintaining/increasing the funding for federal research foundations, 3. Make it easier for international students to stay in the United States if they choose to (fast tracking students with advanced degrees to get Green card, etc.) We went part of an international organization and picked up 6 co-sponsors on a bill – most of these bills are bi-partisan.

3 more council meetings – and please keep committee chairs abreast of university committee updates!

3.2. Vice President Cochran.291

3.2.1. Hayes Forum Updates

Cochran.291: Last Friday was the Hayes Forum. We had attendance of nearly 350 (guests, judges, attendees). We did an excellent feedback survey for the forum this year and have a lot of great responses to help generate new ideas and format the Forum better for next year. We received great feedback from the judges who participated about the organization of the Forum, the quality of the presentations, communication, the students too felt the judges were excellent and received polished feedback. We already started to finalize next year’s Forum dates. Over the last 2 years, we slowly transitioned the Forum to be a little earlier in the year so that it would be better for semester. So when it actually happens – the Hayes Forum is still expected to be in February. We’re setting up the 2013 dates now – the winners are posted on the CGS blog and Hayes Forum website. For those of you who were a volunteer/participants – applause for participants. Our entrepreneurship panel was a HUGE success – people not even associated with the Forum were impressed and came out to the Forum.

As Vijay hinted at too, we have elections coming up. This applies to everyone in the room. This applies to anyone who is interested in being involved with CGS. Delegate Elections: any graduate student in a graduate department of the university is eligible. Applications & Nominations: you can self-nominate or you can be nominated by someone else. Any student, again, is eligible to nominate someone or apply to be a delegate. Process: Only students from your department may vote for you to be a delegate. Timeframe: Elections occur between 5th and 6th weeks of Spring term. Within the first week of Spring Quarter – we will send out announcements to the study body – we are already seeding those hard announcements with softer announcements to individuals so that we can generate a lot more interest. In the first week of next quarter we will send out HARD announcements to large groups of people – all graduate student organizations, graduate body, graduate coordinators, etc. Second week of the quarter – nominations are the first step. They occur through our online submission form on our CGS website. The third week of the quarter is when elections begin – usually run Wednesday to Wednesday. In the third week we will also remind everyone that
elections are going on and they need to vote. Voting occurs between third and fourth Wednesday of the quarter. All delegates much be re-elected each spring. Each spring quarter it’s the executive’s responsibility to reapportion the delegate body so based on winter quarter enrollment we have to reapportion that. 2 years ago we decided to stick with 1 delegate per department. Eg- the education department change has to change first before we can adapt our delegates to it. When we’re working with the apportion-ate – we do get data from the Graduate school if they know of an upcoming change like that.

Gupta.325: Suggestion – we had a change to interact with students who were not aware of CGS – maybe write even if you haven’t won for elections you can still participate in CGS.

Cochran.291: term for a non-delegate is “member.” Which may be not such a great term. Maybe we have to come up with a different term for those not-elected. The next aspect: every spring we elect Officers and Senators. These Senators fall around generalized areas. Voting members of CGS – appointed from CGS to university senate. They help inform what’s happening at the university at large. Any graduate student may run for an officer student. The Chief of Staff and all Committee chairs are appointed officials –we do not elect those positions. Applications and nominations will happen during the first meeting of Spring quarter. Potential officers must fill out an application and submit forms to CGS. After that, at the second meeting in Spring Quarter we allow each officer candidate to do a 5-minute presentation and answer questions.

Senators are done in a very similar way – usually, people will apply and submit resume not necessarily have to submit a proposal. We elect those by secret ballots as well as officers. Time frame – the first meeting of next quarter – (Friday April 6th) - take nominations for officer positions and senators – form 2nd week to the 5th week of the quarter we will accept nominations for officers and senators. May 4th those people will be elected. At the third meeting of spring quarter – officers are inaugurated and we hold awards. Spring service and acknowledgement awards – the Siddens award – advising has been a hot topic with CGS this year, this is a prime opportunity to bring a great candidate who exemplifies advising to the forefront of CGS. These are done through nominations – you may nominate anyone at the university who has been an exceptional advisor – all of these will start at the 1st Spring quarter meeting (Friday, April 6th) We also award the Lewellen award for distinguished service – any distinguished person, essentially, may receive this award on behalf of CGS to service graduate students. It can be someone from CGS, a faculty member, a friend, etc. The last two awards – a Delegate award for service and contribution – nominations by you guys and final vote happens through the exec board. A Committee Chair Award for excellence will be recognized by the executive board and you as the delegate body can make nominations.

Gadepally.1: I want to take one minute to recognize the work allen has done! Applause

3.3. Secretary

Sturm.42 – 4:30

Ghane.2: regarding some of the topics in the newsletter- for example, the ray travel award and career development grant – it has become to redundant – for example after the deadlines - and then two months before the deadline may 11th – send it starting from 2 months before 1 every 2 weeks – we would like your feedback on

Billet.7: maybe placing the awards on the end of the newsletter

Gadepally.1: keeping a specific spot for these awards
3.4. Treasurer

3.4.1. Ray Travel Award

Tan.182: We had 103 completed applications and we were able to fund 29 applications this quarter.

Committee project updates.

Gadepally.1: we approved sponsorship for Buckeyemala – we’re currently working with them – recently we found that they were able to get sponsorship from OUAB – so we’re trying to figure out the best way for us to contribute. The Small Business Beanstock – we’re looking at this as a way to support local business. We’re still working on this. If anyone has any thoughts about deadlines for this E-mail suggestions to Allie.

4. UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE UPDATES

Gadepally.1: Senate Steering: Creating a new FAQ section – while parking is something we’re concerned with it’s not the ONLY issue we’re concerned about. I’ll send that out to everyone as soon as I get it.

Ghane.2: University Recreational Sports Committee: this summer term fee is going to be reduced to $61.50, the fee for semesters will remain as $123 for semesters and summer term will be $82 – so the total is the same. Fitness classes – for fall semester – they’re increasing the number of classes and another thing they’re trying to do – ONLY the spring quarter they’re offering those who purchased those 50$ passes for winter and spring, they won’t have to stand in the regular line to get in to the class. They’re going to do a survey and see the outcome of this change and hopefully work on it. Rec sports is trying to build “Leadership Challenge” course – it’s going to be indoors and outdoors at the ARC – they are having a focus group that will review the elements for that challenge that will take place on this Thursday from 10-12PM – we need a representative for CGS to attend that session so if anyone is interested come to me and I’ll let you know the details of this.

Gadepally.1: this may be something that delegates can do with their departments

Billet.7: I will be out of town for our next Senate meeting

Kotian.2: I’m a senator – my role is also to serve on CAFR – we were under this notion that this committee represents academy rights and protects interest of graduate students as well – but after – I realized it only represents tenure faculty. I began questioning my role – I came up with this suggestion and put it in front of the CAFR to include Graduate students role. (see handout) We have to present an official proposal in front of the committee: why they should be included and how they would be represented by the committee. What do you think? What involves academic freedom and responsibility for graduate students and are you aware of any avenues already existing for graduate students? The dean and department chair may be biased – the CAFR could serve as an unbiased body and intervene on graduate students behalf. We don’t have to come up with a list of responsibilities for graduate students today but it would be useful to have a discussion about this.

Billet.7: they tried to eliminate the student membership on this committee.

Kotian.2: academic misconduct (not getting authorship, funding, etc.) they have been

Gadepally.1: the CAFR because of historical nonattendance of graduate students, voted to reduce the graduate student membership from 2 by 2 to 0. We had a good discussion about them and when we looked at the case history about what happens, we decided that having the graduate student perspective would be
helpful especially when we’re working with a faculty member when there’s a grad student involved closely. Being sent to Senate. Question that Shweta is asking: do we need something similar to this? Do we have channels when we feel our freedom and responsibility has been infringed? Currently, the CAFR is there to hear the graduate student perspective but the graduate student is not being acted on. So the question is that 1. Is there anything that anyone knows of? Central resource? 2. If not, is it valuable to have something like this available on campus?

Kotian.2: We don’t have any power to intervene on behalf of the graduate students that might be affected.

Gadepally.1: that is because graduate students are not allowed to vote on tenure or promotion of faculty.

Acome.1: what is a infringement on academic freedom

Kotian.2: not getting authorship, advisor not reading papers etc.

Gadpeally.1: it looks like there is no resource on campus and we’d like to see this resource on campus

Gupta.325: from what I understand, is that they do not want a committee for this – they don’t want students to go outside the college. The graduate studies chair is supposed to be an unbiased person – they should be unbiased. They feel that there shouldn’t be a committee on this. that unbiased person has no idea what’s going on.

Kotian.2: we’re looking out for the welfare of graduate students so we should expect resistance from faculty

Fry.228: I don’t really know what that looks like as a graduate student – this document talks about teaching, etc. and in my department I am TOLD what I am to teach? Most of these points do not apply to a large portion of graduate students, and giving the work that we did with graduate student advisor because the graduate school came to us and352x402

Rao.99: Student Advocacy center

Reinke.12: has anyone done research in graduate study abroad? If I could talk to you guys after the meeting that’d be great. University senate fiscal – pushing for 50% of students to study abroad – we’re ranked 7th nationally for total students that study abroad. So anyways, our 2000 number has some graduate students that study abroad but many fewer than undergraduates –so I’m hoping to get a few perspectives. We want to talk how OIA can best tailor their work for graduate students as well. OIA has been neutral in terms of graduate students and not so proactive.

5. **DELEGATE ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

Colin from Council of Library and Information Technologies: CIO – to take control over the university wired network to the jack – the jack in the wall of your office. Proposing a coherent network that will help you get to your stuff anywhere you go – downsizing IT (Department level IT will lose control of a lot) and they want to issue a mandate – they’re proposing “give us the money to do this and then we’re going to issue an edict across units across the university to turn off their equipment and you’re going to run off of ours).

Ghane.2: vacate 3 days after the commencement and now – the termination of the lease will be active upon the last day of classes!
6. OLD BUSINESS


[4:42 PM]
Cochran.291: We need a majority vote for this to pass to add to our bylaws. Today we will have a vote on this. Recap: the first clauses are background information of course, documenting where things as far as responsibilities are located. Where last time we really had a lot of discussion was about the amendments that make to the actual bylaws and specifically – in section 2.

Gadepally.1: we’ve heard from a lot of people who are thinking of applying/who are delegates who say what are the responsibilities? We thought this would be really beneficial to specify what this role is especially moving into elections. We also want to have parallel legislation for senators and “members.”
Fry.228: instead of part 1 to say committee – say “committees” just because that alludes to the fact that delegates may sit on more than one committee and attendance at all of those meetings is important.
Propose that we put ("s") my second – in Part 4, signify that these are CGS Committee Chairs.
Kuzawa.1: In number 2, since we got rid of the list of the committees we need to get rid of at least one of the following.
Hammer.: Point 5 – is it important to try and quantity the statement “must regularly meet and communicate.” Obviously that will mean different things for different people. It seems a little bit like soft language. Is there an opportunity to more solidify what the actual expectation is.
Cochran.291: it is different for groups of people – eg in my department there are 20 of us versus another department that has 300.
Hammer.: delegates should meet and communicate “regularly”
Billett.7: being available to the constituencies – keep regularly for meeting with department chair and be available to meet with their contingency people.
Cochran.291: delegates must communicate ongoing with their constituencies and chairpersons and then leave it up to their delegates whether to meet in person or communicate via e-mail.
Acome.1: I think that meet is implicit with communicate – that clearly says that someone has to meet. I guarantee you if I organized a meeting. I don’t think we have fun here – I can’t sell this to people. I don’t think we can get that investment in who we are. So two points: meeting is implicit with communication.
Cochran.291: to your other point is that you think this should be more of an advertisement to CGS
Acome.1: everything is taken too seriously with formal rules
Gadepally.1: what are your suggestions with respect to this
Acome.1: are we a deliberate body to sit here and talk with each other
Cochran.291: your primary responsibility is to represent to their constituencies
Gadepally.1: we are a legislative body – we would love to increase the deliberative discussions, etc. but if you go back to what the organization is and what it does it is to find issues to share what the issues are and potentially bring up legislation that addresses these issues.
Crowsley.1: more conversation would be better but that would require more time
Cochran.291: we provide avenues for you to attend committee meetings, etc. I would love more discussion
Acome.1: I think a lot that happens at these meetings could be handled more efficiently
Delegate in green shirt: I agree that conversation is good as well as legislative aspects, I think that it seems like sometimes when we try to do things like this act it ends up taking way longer than either of you envisioned.
Gadpeally.1: this is what I hope a first step in getting there that yes we would like this to be communicated in advance to the meeting – we do spend a lot of time disseminating information from a few people but it is necessary. Wed like to move to a place where we’re able to spend more time discussing more of the bigger issues – we have no communicated this clearly to the delegate body. This is not meant to be an advertisement
Cochran.291: also the language about the officers in the constitution is also loose. I’m all open to tightening that language and ask you to help come up with the language.
Point 5 – “Delegates must maintain ongoing communication with their constituencies and department chairs t....”

6.1.1. Motion to approve change in point 5 as written
6.1.2. Billet.7 and Ghane.2 approved motion
6.1.3. Motion passes at 5:02PM
Kotian.2: the number 1 problem is that some of the delegates are very serious about their responsibilities – but there are some that it’s something for them to add on their CV. How do you keep track of delegates fulfilling responsibilities. That’s what we want to get to. What if delegates write a short paragraph describing what they did in terms of their responsibilities as delegates.
Gadepally.1: point 4 – we are giving the option of even verbal communication and our committee chairs will make sure that that happens.
Cochran.291: there has been one issue where students have had a significant issue with the curriculum of their department and that it’s not as effective as it should be – and the delegate body from that department is the perfect channel for that to come up and become a better issue but if we don’t know who that delegate is then it comes to us so yes- it’s not necessarily the collective bodies responsibility to make that a goal but it certainly should be an aspect about what you do and hold your selves accountable
Gupta.325: we have talked about this multiple times in Exec meetings that we’re going to come up with a way to keep track of what delegates are doing and we’re going to try and meet with all of the delegates and take to them. I think that’s a way for us to find out if these delegates are responding to our emails. We won’t even let them run for election next year.
Weber.460: at orientation – have each delegate put on the university committee and university committee – you go to orientation and you get your assigned internal and external committee and it’s ready to go

6.1.2. Gadepally.1 motion to pass ACT 1112-WI-009 An Act Establishing the Roles and Responsibilities of CGS Delegates and Amending Article I of the Bylaws of the Council of Graduate Student.
6.1.2. 31 unanimous votes to pass
7. **NEW BUSINESS**

7.1. **ACT 1112-WI-010 An Act Amending the Budget**

7.1.1. **Budget Update [5:12 PM]**

Tan.182: we have $2000 from CSA – at the expense part, on second page, under 3000 committee projects, we created a new funding item – “Delegate Outreach Program” about we will allocate $200/delegate and they can bring that $200 to their departments and outreach with their constituents. The total now is 5,000 – we took that 2000$ from CSA and $2500 from Committee Projects and brought this budget item to make a total of $5,000. Item 3370 is the new budget item. The goal of that budget item is to empower delegates. Shirley will be working and administer those rules.

7.1.2. **Gadepally.1 motion to approve**

7.1.3. **Rao.99 and Gupta.325 seconded motion to approve**

7.1.4. **None opposed and budget passes at 5:15PM**

7.2. **Changes to Student Health Insurance**

7.2.1. **Chris Volpe 5:16PM**

Volpe.26: OSU to take all of the risk associated with health care changes but in exchange we have a lot more say. What’s been going on over the past year – there was a request for proposal out and they still need some administration for claim processes. We have about 5 or 6 really strong vendors interested in doing this and 1 or 2 that seem to be well on their way. There’s a list of benefits and adjustments that all of these different groups will have to judge each other by. Last week, we started talking about some of these changes: there was a subcommittee out of the health insurance (preventive) that committee just recently stopped because in the process, they proposed their recommendations and it’s gone into the ether of the RFP process. As of right now, the big things: obviously semesters will play a big role in it – the distribution of premiums will have to change, the idea right now is that there will be 2 payment periods: autumn and spring summer – autumn August 15th to December 31st – Spring and summer - January 1st to August 13th. There’s going to be a summer for new students only enrollment period, a prorated period so that your first year that you come in you’ll e babel to get prorated amount and then form then on you should be in the two period cycle for semesters. So if for whatever reason you’re not in one of the professional schools and you decided to come in summer term – you’ll be able to get this prorated small block for your first time. If you have some sort of change in student status or if you fall behind in eligibility someway, there is a petitioning process where you theoretically can maintain coverage if you already have it or get coverage earlier. The rates haven’t been established – but there’s some examples potentially looking at each of the autumn and the spring being around 1150/each. What we’re trying to figure out now is traditionally, we’ve taken in more premiums that we’ve payed out in expenses. Those go into a pool. What we’ve done – that extra money taken in as premiums we’ve used in the subsequent year to reduce the rates for students. So whats happening if we change form insurance to a self funded model? We have to maintain 15% of expected claims in a count – we spend 25million +/- and we currently have about 9million in this reserve fund so
we’re having this discussion of how much we want to allocate next year to reduce premiums – we’re going to spend about 1.2 million dollars to reduce claims next year, leaving us with a little over 7 million in the reserve, but we have to budget a little more than the 15% because we have outstanding claims hanging in the wind. Hopefully what’s going to happen is once we regulate – once we switch, we will be able to straddle that 15% exactly and any additional money that is made through premiums – we are going to be able to use towards reducing student payments. Make sure that all the excess money if it’s not going towards reducing student premiums there has to be a legitimate reason why it isn’t happening.

New benefits: the ACA (health reform that passed 2 years ago) – has some mandates in it, if student health insurance counts as an health insurance plan – and if it will be requiring to adhere to these things? Answer is yes. The way it’s formulated now it will be held accountable under the ACA. But more importantly, Diane (director of student health insurance) they’re looking at any decision we make – even if we don’t need to meet the ACA standards, our plan is going to strive to do that. Our premiums may be a little higher than necessary but students get all of the benefits federally mandated. There’s currently a lifetime maximum of student health insurance plan – it’s rarely met, the really strange cancers and premature babies is where you hit that maximum. We’re going get rid of that change to a 1.2 million annual maximum but NO maximum limit no matter how long you’re here. It will reset every year at 1.25 million. Removing the 3 month preexisting exclusion – it’s generally not something that student health insurances have done anyway, they haven’t used that as a reason to not give us student health insurance, they’re going to try and get rid of that. Right now there’s a 750 annual limit on complementary and alternative medicine (acupuncture. Etc) the idea is to remove this limit – also going to start providing, 100% in network coverage for all the ACA mandated preventive screenings and immunizations. We’re going to try and get all those covered. We are going ot hopefully start having 100% in network wellness exam – physical done at the student health center. One you can do every year for all students it will be covered things like preventive care. The plan is to have 100% coverage for birth control. Adjustment to prescription drug coverage’s – unlimited prescription drug coverage received at nay preferred pharmacy locations start making partnerships with pharmacies available in the community pharmacies. The RFD process scheduled to be done within next 2 weeks.

Reinke.12: in the past, when accounts have been in the positive, that money was applied to future years so that rates can go down for everyone. So when addressing specific rates, it’s a complementary formula and I saw this at senate fiscal – one of the things that went through was a proposed rate increase and it was passed, and if you paid in the year before, this net year you’re not going to be a student anymore and you kind of overpaid there’s been some talk about kicking that money back. Kicking that money back to students who actually paid and were in the positive balance. There are increased rates and that’ because in the 10-11 years, they dropped rates for graduate students and what happened was in 2003-2004, rates increased for the % that we pay as a % of salary, and for GA specifically, that rate went up from 4 to 11% and maintained around 10-11% and then 11-12 it actually dropped due to a lot of the accounting stuff – something like a 2 million shortfall- so they’re trying to make up for that by increasing 9-11% for this net year. It kind of stink s for us but interestingly it has to do with student issues, the general students rate is increased as well but % wise what they’re paying it’s large. Post doc fellows it going down and faculty its going up a % and a half –
all in all rates are going up for everyone. So our total pay into that is not as much as faculty’s.

8. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

8.1. **Academic Relations**

8.1.1. Graduate Advising went to graduate council

Fry.228: great feedback however they wanted to see two changes: half the people wanted to see the language more positive the other half wanted to see it more cut throat so I have to find a nice balance. The second part is they want to see a section on how the department should react. We have how the advisor and graduate student should interact. And now they want to see what part the department plays. We’re working with that – and then we’re going to be meeting with Dean Osmer and he wants to sit down and write out a plan for how we’re going to push this through. Allen and I will be meeting with Dr. Wallace to discuss the general chapter. We found out that this used to happen 40-60’s. so this will definitely be positive progress.

8.2. **International Concerns**

Crowsley.1: application deadline closed for global gateway grant – I’m arranging a meeting with my committee members to start with the judging – we had 40 complete applications in! we should get that sorted in the next few weeks.

8.3. **Diversity and Inclusion**

Kuzawa.1: May 22nd LGBT professional development panel discussion type thing and we’re working on getting people who have recently been on the job market and talk about their experiences and navigating that for LGBT people and may 11th we’ll be having a brown bag discussion about disabilities and being a graduate student. If you know of any participants please let me know – and stories for students! Look in the newsletter!

8.4. **Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility**

Kleinman.20: Sustainability summit on April 18th and meeting on March 8th for SERC committee

9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

9.1. **Upcoming Spring Meeting Dates**

9.1.1. 1st Quarter Meeting

9.1.2. 2nd Quarter Meeting

9.1.3. 3rd Quarter Meeting

9.2. **Additional Announcements**

*Gadepally.1 motion to adjourn 3rd Winter Quarter Delegate Meeting at 5:37PM.  
Ghane.2 and Rao.99 seconded.  
Meeting adjourned at 5:37PM.*