



CGS Delegate Packet December 2017

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1. CALL TO ORDER

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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 2.1. Minutes from October 27, 2017

3. GUEST SPEAKER

- 3.1. General Education Curriculum Proposal Listening Session
3.2. President Michael Drake

4. Officer Updates

- 4.1. Treasurer
4.2. Secretary
4.3. Vice President
4.4. President

5. Committee Chair Announcements

6. OLD BUSINESS

7. NEW BUSINESS

- 7.1. RESOLUTION 1718-AU-04: An Act Condemning the Tax Cut and Jobs Act

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 8.1. January 12, 2018 – 1st Spring Semester Delegate Meeting @ 3:30 PM Ohio Union



Council of Graduate Students
The Ohio State University

Delegates Meeting
Date: October 27, 2017
Location Cartoon Room in the
Ohio Uni

Present (based on signed time sheets):							
Alcock, Maureen	Caliva, Kathryn	Dodbele, Samantha	Holt, Kathryn	Le, Jenny	Mueller, Sara	Stamper, Christine	Weiss, Elan
Andrejek, Luke	Chatelaine, Haley	Dubrow, Geoff	Hutson, Elizabeth	Lipman, Jules	Ormiston, Kate	Stevens, Guille, Symon	Wesaw, Alex
Attipoe, Selasi	Clott, Alec	Freudenbur g, Jenna	Ismail, Bushra	Lo, Stephen	Panczyk, Erin	Stone, Elizabeth	Whitaker, Bennett
Bannister, Alan	Cohen, Michelle	Gandhi, Deep	Kenly, Travonya	Loiewski, Christopher	Perkins, Jennifer	Szkoda, Blake	Wilson, Jessica
Bean, Joachim	Connolly, Matthew	Gemelli, Cesar	Klainot, Elizabeth	Loria, Eric	Phelps, Christopher	Tchorowski, Nicole	Wituszynski, David
Beattie, Mark	Dalglish, Steven	Givans, Jahmour	Koss, Liz	Manton, Jesse	Pierce, Christopher	Uhm, Eunice	Womack, Malia
Black, Nicholas	De Grandis, Mario	Gumpper, Kristyn	Kuric, Justin	Mazumdar, Anurag	Rengers, Brooke	Wadhwa, Vibhuti	Young, Nathan
Bower, Justin	De Luca, Elizabeth	Harris, Kayla	Larsen, Nickolaus	Mielke, Sarah	Reymore, Lindsey	Wallenmeyer, Petra	Zhang, Xiaochen
Braunreiter, Kara	Deshpande, Prutha	Hatoum, Hoda	Lassman, Andrew	Mignin, Marjorie	Riley, Christopher	Walterbusch, Tracey	
Buffington, Abby	Dillard, Rebecca	Hodak, Kerry	Latham, Matthew	Montoya, Amanda	Serai, Prashant	Wan, Yao	
Present with Alternate:							
Faieta, Julie-Rachel Tatarski							
Not Present:							
Adeeko, Omotayo	Benzle, Kyle	Douglas, Jasmine	Goudy, Jazelynn	Lilien, Felicia	Onnen, Nathaniel	Siripurapu, Sundeep Krishna	Wallace, Kathleen
Agarwal, Vibhor	Billman, Brianne	Farinas, Coralie	Hardtmayer, Douglas	Mandal, Soumik	Parlindungan, Firman	Slechta, Ryan	Wheeler, Gregory
Alizadehbirjandi, Ati	Bowers, David	Flannery, Meghan	Haynes, DaVonti'	Mansouri, Mahan	Pissini, Jessica	Smith, Trent	Williams, Chloe
Allen, Erin	Cantonwin e, Sara	Forquer, Matthew	Henry, Lauren	McAfee, Katie	Polite, Tiffany	Snoke, Deena	Zhang, Qionsihan
Anderson, Jason	Cline, Jennifer Joy	Gill, Jon	Herschmeyer, Auggie	McLoughlin, Shannon	Rutledge, Donna	Stegall, John	
Barton, Madith	Dahiya, Vinita	Glimois, Laurene	Law, Erica	Mueller, Carolin	Shahhosseini, Melika	Truett, Joshua	

1. GUEST PRESENTATIONS

1.1. Office of Student Life: Javaune Adams-Gaston, PhD (Dr. J) – Senior Vice President for Student Life, Molly Calhoun, Gretchen Metzlaars

- 1.1.1. Graduate housing
- 1.1.2. LGBTQ community
- 1.1.3. University's stance on the DACA
- 1.1.4. Student trustees

2. CALL TO ORDER at 4:07pm

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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1. Minutes from 2nd Autumn Semester Meeting (September 29, 2017)

- 3.1.1. Motioned to strike "Spiel.1 recommended the use of the \$3000 for lawyers for the student of international affairs for lawyers." and insert "Stevensguille.1 raised the concern that \$3000 is an unnecessary budget for an executive retreat. Secondly, compared that sum to the sums given as total budgets for each committee. He noted that currently international students do not have legal coverage through the student legal aid offered to domestic students. Money allocated for a retreat could be better used for directly helping the student body we are nominally elected to serve, a significant portion of which does not enjoy the benefits of citizenship. Hence the mention of lawyers for international student affairs. And that given the cost of some of the other committees, whose work-particularly diversity and inclusion-is very valuable, the retreat money could cover any discrepancy between the committees' budgets and what is needed for their good work" and to add "Stevensguille.1 requested re-opening the discussion on the budget." And "Hodak.2 and Montoya.29 recommended following the order of the meeting and that we should not re-open the budget at this time so that we can go home." for line 13.1.1 by Stevensguille.1
 - Motioned passed by, a divided, voice vote in the affirmative.
- 3.1.2. Hodak.2 provided a clarification regarding comments on 13.1.1 from 9/29/17 being a procedural point of order.
- 3.1.3. Wesaw.1 stated that the issues regarding the detail of meeting minutes that is currently done is more than can feasibly and accurately be provided with resources available and that it is not a requirement in Robert's Rule's of Order, and therefore entertained a motion to send the issue, of the meeting minutes, to the Marketing & Communications committee to bring a recommendation to the Delegate Body at the 12/1/17 Delegate Meeting.
 - Mueller.352 Moved to refer the motion to the committee. The motion was seconded.
 - Motion approved.
- 3.1.4. Whitaker.105 moved to amend the spelling of his name on 12.1.9 and 13.1.2. The motion was seconded.
 - Motion approved
- 3.1.5. Bannister.14 moved to strike the current name of the Resolution in 16.1 and add "Resolution 1718 AU 001 A Resolution Regarding the Discontinuation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program" and to create 16.2 after 16.1.9 and add "Resolution 1718- AU-02: A Resolution Calling Upon the University to Reconstitute Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day"
 - Motion approved

- 3.1.6. Kenly.1 moved to amend the spelling of her name on 16.1.8 and 17.4
 - Motion approved
- 3.1.7. Caliva.1 motioned to strike “specifically she asked about whether or not we would remove Columbus day or not?” and add “and suggested we strike “or not we would remove Columbus day or not?” and replace “this resolution is meant to impact Columbus Day as observed in October or as observed by OSU in November””. The motion was seconded.
 - Motion approved
- 3.1.8. Stevensguille.1 motioned to approve amended meeting minutes. The motion was seconded.
 - Motion approved

4. OFFICER UPDATES

4.1. Treasurer

- 4.1.1. There will be an updated report sent regarding the budget once the budget office sends the updated monthly reports (90/91s).
- 4.1.2. If anyone is interested in providing additional information regarding research misconduct please reach out to Montoya.29.

4.2. Secretary

- 4.2.1. Reviewed report in packet.

4.3. Vice President

- 4.3.1. Feedback for the next meeting: Make sure you bring your name tag back.
- 4.3.2. Things needed done by delegates before our next meeting (12/1/17): The Hayes Forum is on 3/2/18, please tell people to submit abstracts. Abstracts are due 11/10. Also, please nominate judges!
- 4.3.3. If you have not heard from your committee chair please let me know.
- 4.3.4. For apportionment I am going to be sending out the numbers of people who are enrolled in each program, Walterbusch.1 is fearful that it may not be entirely accurate; so, if everyone could please look at this information to ensure it's exact we would greatly appreciate it.
- 4.3.5. Opportunity: Consider applying for the Board of Trustees.

4.4. President

- 4.4.1. Graduate school dean search committee met this week and interviewed a number of candidates. The committee's recommendations will be sent to the Provost who will decide next steps.
- 4.4.2. Wesaw.1 said that in addition to his report, there was a question raised during Dr. J's presentation about CGS previously having a housing committee.
 - There hasn't been a CGS Housing Committee in, at least, the last 3 years and he said he was pretty sure it's been much longer than that because previous delegate bodies dissolved the committee due to lack of issues.
 - Wesaw.1 reminded everyone that, when he ran for CGS President, he stated that he would establish a committee to handle major issues impacting the lives of Graduate Students—specifically, one of the issues that this committee would work to address is the graduate student housing environment at OSU.
 - So, all housing issues will be referred to our Graduate Student Affairs Committee, which has already taken up the housing issue; Dorma Flemister.10 is the GSA committee chair and will be tackling this issue among other issues impacting the lives of graduate students.
- 4.4.3. Committee goals from the Executive Committee retreat were provided to all of the Delegates. Wesaw.1 has requested committee's chairs report progress on goals monthly and should be included in the delegate meeting packets.

5. COMMITTEE CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

5.1. SERC:

- 5.1.1. Invited speaker to discuss the OMEGA farm project for a more sustainable technological system, there will be an information meeting in November to bring interdisciplinary graduate students in to facilitate this project. So please keep a look out for an email with more information soon.

5.2. Arts & Culture:

- 5.2.1. Lotteries will be coming for events on and off campus so please keep an eye open for emails regarding these FREE events.

5.3. Academic Affairs:

- 5.3.1. Committee members expect an email in the next week to organize a meeting.
- 5.3.2. As of yesterday, the general education committee submitted a new proposal for an update to the general education curriculum, which will directly impact what is taught to undergraduate students in the GEC courses. This has been posted, so please take a look and encourage your department to take a look and submit comments to Puthawala.1

5.4. Marketing & Communications:

- 5.4.1. We have developed a social media schedule and have scheduled content coming out on a daily basis but would like to include more meaningful things going on around campus. Please email Connolly.93 with anything you think may be appropriate for our social media feeds.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Resolution 1718—AU—003: A Resolution Regarding Football Seating for Graduate Students

- 6.1.1. Walterbusch.1 provided rationale for resolution
- 6.1.2. 5 minutes of questions from the delegate body
- 6.1.3. Whitaker.105 moved to amend the resolution to strike “now, therefore let it be resolved” and let it be replaced with “whereas”, and to strike the “and” at the bottom of that paragraph, and the following “let it further be resolved” have it read “now therefore let it be resolved.” The motion was seconded.
 - Amendment approved
- 6.1.4. Whitaker.105 moved to amend the resolution to insert the word “have” in between “students” and “the” in the second line on the last sentence. The motion was seconded.
 - Caliva.1 moved to amend the resolution to “strike the word maintain and replace with offers and to strike the word “have.” The motion was seconded.
 - Amendment approved
- 6.1.5. Resolution as amended approved.

7. DELEGATE CONCERNS

- 7.1. Puthawala.1 said that he confirmed that the new proposal was not yet posted to the website, but he will send the information to Koss.31 to share with delegates once it is posted.
- 7.2. Intellectual Patents and Property Committee:
 - 7.2.1. Please email Pierce.508 with comments and concerns regarding ownership of scholarship and artistic work, specifically course material work of GTA's and whether or not they are the lead instructor.
- 7.3. The concern was raised regarding what is considered a major issue that would be sent to the Graduate Student Affairs committee
 - 7.3.1. Wesaw.1 stated that any issue that does not fit into a specific committee could go be

addressed by the GSA committee. This committee should be a committee that catches any issues that impact the lives of graduate students that may or may not fit into the other committees.

- 7.4. The concern was raised regarding start time and limited audibility.
 - 7.4.1. Wesaw.1 stated that he was advised to call the meeting to order following the guest presentations. Tonight, our guests were late getting to the meeting. He agreed to strive to start sooner at the next delegate meeting.
- 7.5. The question was raised regarding external committee updates about progress.
 - 7.5.1. Wesaw.1 said those reports are really a mechanism to keep the officers up-to-date about what is happening across campus; mainly, a way of reporting whether action is needed to be taken by CGS. Wesaw.1 said that it would not be an issue to include those reports in future packets though.
- 7.6. The concern was raised regarding funding as a concern for graduate students.
 - 7.6.1. Wesaw.1 stated that CGS represents all 10,708 graduate students, not just the approximately 45% of graduate students that are fortunately enough to have a Graduate Associateship.
 - 7.6.2. Additionally, the University Senate's Graduate Compensation and Benefits committee actively monitors all issues related to graduate compensation and benefits. CGS works with this committee to coordinate efforts.
 - 7.6.3. Wesaw.1 also explained that the issue of graduate student funding is a standing item on the agenda of meetings with University Administrators and is something that CGS is constantly doing what advocating for.
- 7.7. The concern was raised regarding exploitation of graduate students by their advisors.
 - 7.7.1. Wesaw.1 suggested reaching out to Matt Page.324, an assistant dean within the Graduate School, who handles issues such as these.
 - 7.7.2. Hodak.2 added that the student should consider talking with their department chair, or escalate it to someone in their College. .
 - 7.7.3. Hodak.2 explained that she has seen others be successful with this process in the past and recommended students reach out to Student Advocacy as they are separate from the graduate school and academic colleges and can help advise you to get to the right person and ensure that your rights are protected.
 - 7.7.4. A delegate stated their experience with Student Advocacy helped resolve a similar issue they were facing.
 - 7.7.5. Wesaw.1 encouraged him to reach out to Student Advocacy with questions regarding confidentiality and stated that he would follow up with the delegate expressing the concern.
- 7.8. The concern was raised regarding a graduate student's rights and responsibilities document that is being drafted by a departmental committee with mostly faculty members on the committee.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 8.1. **December 1, 2017 – 4th Autumn Semester Delegate Meeting @ 3:30 PM Ohio Union**
- 8.2. **January 12, 2018 – 1st Spring Semester Delegate Meeting @ 3:30 PM Ohio Union**
- 8.3. **February 2, 2018 – 2nd Spring Semester Delegate Meeting @ 3:30 PM Ohio Union**
- 8.4. **February 23, 2018 3rd Spring Semester Delegate Meeting @ 3:30 PM Ohio Union**
- 8.5. **March 23, 2018 4th Spring Semester Delegate Meeting @ 3:30 PM Ohio Union**
- 8.6. **April 13, 2018 1st Spring Semester Delegate Meeting @ 3:30 PM Ohio Union**
- 8.7. **May 11, 2018 2nd Summer Semester Delegate Meeting @ 3:30 PM Ohio Union**

9. Meeting adjourned at 5:18pm

TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: W. Alex Wesaw, President
DATE: November 24, 2017
RE: President's Report

December 1 Delegate Meeting Guests

The final meeting of the 2017-18 Autumn Semester is going to be a busy meeting. We will be getting a presentation from the Review Committee that have been working on establishing possible changes to the General Education Curriculum, President Drake will be visiting the body, and we will be considering a resolution on the House's passed version of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Please come to the meeting ready to start promptly at 3:30 PM.

March to Save Graduate Education

I would like to thank all of the several hundred graduate students that participated in the March to Save Graduate Education. The University has heard the calls from graduate students that the Tax bill that the US House of Representatives passed and stands by us in opposition to the House's actions. I'm sure President Drake will have more to say about that when he is visiting us.

Graduate School Dean Search

On November 15, the first candidate for the Dean of the Graduate School participated in all day meetings and interviews with various stakeholders that work with the Graduate School. I believe that there will be at least two addition candidates going through the same process. All of the candidates are internal to OSU. When there is more information, I will be sure to pass that along to everyone.

Graduate/Professional Student Trustee

If you are going to be at the University from May 2018-May 2020, I would highly encourage you to consider applying for the search for the next Graduate or Professional Student representative to the OSU Board of Trustees. More information about the eligibility requirements can be found here:
<https://trustees.osu.edu/about/student-trustee-application.html>

In closing, if you have concerns, comments, questions—please do not hesitate to reach out to me, I would be happy to meet with anyone either in the CGS Office (2088A Ohio Union) or around campus. Just send me an email (wesaw.1@osu.edu).

TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Amanda Montoya
DATE: November 24, 2017
RE: Treasurer's Report

Hello CGS Delegates,

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Break! First, I want to say that I've been traveling very frequently and fairly unexpectedly for job interviews, so if you've requested something of me and I haven't gotten back to you yet, please forgive me. I'm still working on getting through all my emails from when I was gone. If something is urgent, please email me again, and include URGENT REQUEST in the subject line and I will get to it ASAP.

Lot's has been going on since last we met, so I'll try to give a brief update on the status of everything. The Ray Travel Award application deadline was November 1st. We had 53 complete applications. Judging is still being completed, but we're hoping to notify applicants next week. The next funding period opens December 15th, and closes February 1, 2018. This period is for travel April 1 – June 30.

We now have finalized numbers for all of our income this year. We've received actually slightly more than we budgeted for, so you'll be voting on a budget amendment at the delegate meeting, which updates the income which we received, and allocates the additional funds primarily to our committees. The executive committee met on November 17th, and discussed their preferences on how to incorporate these funds. They've decided on having a communal pool of funds for which committees can apply, and the executive committee will review these applications as they come in.

Finally, as I'm sure many of you have heard there has been a lot of movement regarding the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. At the delegate meeting you'll be reviewing our proposed Resolution regarding the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. I've had the great pleasure to work with a variety of members of the executive team, the delegate body, and some concerned graduate students on drafting this resolution together. We hope that it represents your views, and are happy to hear your concerns and change the contents such that it does represent the views of the body of graduate students here at Ohio State.

Thank you!
Amanda Kay Montoya
CGS Treasurer

TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Anneliese Antonucci
DATE: November 16, 2017
RE: Chief of Staff Report

Food Concerns at Delegate Meetings

In September, a concern over lack of vegetarian options arose. October's delegate meeting had more options that were not considered side dishes. Labeling of food was still an issue. SERC is monitoring the amount of food waste so that we can cut down on waste.

Student Advocate's for Graduate Education (SAGE) Conference

Removed AAU membership as a prerequisite for SAGE membership.

Main Areas of Focus Discussed:

Healthcare

costs (Phd vs. Masters), structure (private/ university), wellness programming, cost of insurance, childcare, spaces for families, awareness of services, mental healthcare, access to healthcare, maternity leave

Housing/Transportation/Off Campus Life

Cost of & need for parking, need for family housing, cost & duration of graduate housing, fees for transportation, late night rides, timely buses, on vs off campus housing

Campus Climate

Lighting, partnerships with city council, local police, concealed carry, alt-right groups, Free Speech, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, title IX

Professional Development

certificate programs, business fundamental training, partnerships with different offices, placement programs, resume help, headshots, differences by college/ department

Funding Opportunities

cost of fees, raises, legal services, travel funding, consistency of pay across departments, grants, Student Debt, Unionization

Student Government Structure/ Participation

funding opportunities for students, free events, motivating overall student body, inclusion, internal communication, working with undergraduate body, motivating/empowering delegates, committee structure, shared governance, representation

Day on the hill scheduled for March 25th to 28th. Proposed white papers on campus climate, immigration, finance, and campus wellness.

National Association of Graduate Professional Students (NAGPS) Conference

Attended sessions on graduate student governance in 2017: questions from Ohio public universities, author rights and open access: The hidden issues that affect all of us, creating a more transparent landscape for graduate student success, state Advocacy- Northeast and Midwest Regions, and The Future of Graduate Student Mental Health. I was elected as the Midwest region director of legislative affairs. In March, the regional meeting will be held at Kent State.

SAGE Call

Missed SAGE call on November 12th

Council of Student Affairs (CSA)

I am now an Alternate For Alex Wesaw. Attend first meeting on Monday November 13th.

Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Resolution

A group of people including myself met on November 14th to draft a resolution about the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Resolution.

NAGPS Call

Participated in NAGPS call on November 14th. President Drake was given credit for making a statement about the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Discussed the difference in the house and senate. NAGPS made a cheat sheet distinguishing them. The senate has no interest in taxing tuition waivers, but the house does. The house amendment was struck down. At least 2500 phone calls were made to representatives. Discussed doomsday scenario and how the house would fight for its version in the conference committee. NAGPS will continually give weekly updates. Requested people keep calling and send letters. They have also started a photo campaign and youtube ads. Any help with these two would be greatly appreciated.

The house bill passed 11/16/2017

Dean Search Committee

On November 15th, part on the Graduate Council interviewed of Candidate A with David Bowers and Alex Wesaw. The scheduling of Candidate B has begun.

Student Trustee Search Committee

We met once and will meet more in the Spring once applications are received.

TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Liz Koss
DATE: November 16, 2017
RE: Secretary's Report and Grants Administration Committee Report

Secretary Report

We are continuing to pilot a QR Reader option for signing into delegates meetings for the future. Currently executive members are trialing the app and the guides for usability, be prepared for this to be introduced in the new year! We're excited to have a more efficient way of tracking attendance that could be located on our website for data collection and for constituents to review if interested.

Grants Administration Committee Report

1. Expand outreach and awareness of CGS funding opportunities.
 1. Emails are being shared with the graduate school listservs, as well as to delegates.
2. Increase number of applicants by 10% as compared to the 2016-2017 academic year.
 1. We had 13 more applications than last funding period and 25 more applicants than 2016-2017 funding period 3.
3. Increase recognition/prestige of the awards.
 1. There will be an awards ceremony for recipients in the spring semester to address this objective.
4. (A) Review previous CDG awardees; and (B) Prepare a summary of who has received CGS funding support.
 1. Grants Admin Committee meeting at the end of November where we will begin this process.

The Career Development Grant funding period 3 judging process is finishing up, grants should be awarded shortly. The Global Gateway Grant will open this spring.

Thanks,
Liz Koss, MOT, OTR/L
CGS Secretary

TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Hoda Hatoum, International Students Committee
DATE: November 16, 2017
RE: Internal Committee Report

The international students committee has met 3 times in October and November:

- a) Goals of the committee were set and agreed upon. Currently, a presentation summarizing the international students immigration requirements is under progress. The next step once the presentation is finalized is to send it before Spring semester to the Office of International Affairs so they incorporate it within the orientation program.
- b) ISC has coordinated with the organizers of the #metoo week that's taking place during the last week of November to include a seminar dedicated specifically for international students. The prospective date is November 28 however we are still waiting on the organizers to let us know which time slot work for them best. The next step after this is set is to advertise for it through a general email to all the graduate students and through CGS social media pages.
 - a. We have confirmed the date and time for the seminar on sexual harassment, and here's the link to the page where our event has been published - <http://titleix.osu.edu/global-navigation/news/metoo-community-conversations-week-november-27-december-1,-2017.html>. We have reserved RPAC Meeting Room #2 for the event, but we haven't gotten a confirmation about the reservation yet.
- c) The committee is working with the counseling and mental health department in OSU to put together a booklet that lists the available resources for international students. The project is supposed to kick off after the international students appreciation week.
- d) The committee started investigating the OPA requirements for international students from the standpoint of increasing the slots available for TAs to register before the semester starts so no TAship is jeopardized for any student.
- e) The committee is reaching out to students who have difficulties in English on a one by one basis. Every student who reaches out to the committee is provided with all available resources in OSU.

TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Jules Lipman, Senate Advisory & Government Relations
DATE: November 17, 2017
RE: Internal Committee Report

Update: Continuing to meet monthly and work closely with the Senate. We are launching a new initiative to provide informative updates about current issues via the CGS social media channels, by coordinating with the Marketing and Communications committee.

TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Deborwah Faulk, Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair
DATE: November 22, 2017
RE: Internal Committee Report

The overarching goals of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee (hereafter referred to as the DIC) are to educate, celebrate, and advocate for diversity & inclusion across the University. This year we hope to achieve the following:

1. Improve the reach and depth of educational programming through the Diversity & Implicit Bias Awareness Certification Program.
Progress: The DIC is in the process of identifying presenters and financial support for the annual Diversity & Implicit Bias Awareness Certification Program. The DIC would like to add more sector specific tracks to the program expanding our focus on the academy and moving to other work environments such as medicine and law. We also would like to allow for discussions of specific forms of diversity & implicit bias (e.g. racial, gender/sexuality, religious). The DIC is taking recommendations for speakers.
2. Improve collaborations with other student organizational and university efforts.
Progress. In the face of many issues related to sexual harassment and violence in the public sphere (i.e. #MeToo) The DIC is exploring options to collaborate with the Multicultural Center and the "Take Back The Night" event in the spring. Due to the overlap of issues related to gender and sexuality (as well as other axis of identity) and their connection to sexual harassment and violence, the DIC hopes to support this effort.
3. Assess and address issues related to diversity and inclusion internally and on campus specifically in regards to religious diversity and implicit bias.
Progress. (1) The DIC is supporting the efforts of Tracey Walterbusch with the assessment of implicit bias in the Hayes Research Forum. Specifically, the DIC is working to draft a one-page information sheet to raise awareness of implicit bias.
(2) The DIC is developing a survey to assess the need for and knowledge of spaces for meditation and other religious/spiritual practices at the University.

Other News.

The DIC hopes to host a mixer before the end of the semester to meet with members of the graduate student population and take suggestions as to how the DIC can better serve our constituents.

TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Dorma Flemister, Graduate Student Affairs Committee Chair
DATE: November 22, 2017
RE: Internal Committee Report

Goals

1. Establish new Graduate Student Affairs committee to address the major issues impacting the lives of graduate students. (**Achieved**)
2. Recruit delegates/graduate students to join the committee. (**Achieved**)
 - 4 delegates (wheeler.1008, panczyk.3, bower.183, zhang.8303)
 - 2 non-delegates (uanhoro.1, fosu.4)
3. Monitor housing options available to graduate students and families (current and future). (**Ongoing**)
 - Investigating...
4. Advocate for expended mental health options for graduate students. (**Ongoing**)
 - Investigating...

Committee Meeting

We are looking into the Buckeye Village situation. Will make a meeting with the Housing office to get an update on the current status.

In light of this Tax bill business, many in my committee was concerned about taxes, student financial rights and institutional support systems.

1. After hearing reports of domestic and international students having fellowship disbursement issues.
 - In these cases, a student's fellowship funding is being withheld or moved to another semester so that the advisor could make the student take up a TA position.
 - According to people whose fellowships are managed by the university, no one was clear on who made the final decision on when fellowship support could be or had to be used.
 - The request to the fellowship office to disburse that funding is sent by a department administrator; however, no one was sure if the advisor's approval was needed or not.
 - For people who have five-year fellowships handled in this way, several reported that their advisors had pressured them to forego a semester of fellowship support and teach (always a class the advisor needed a TA for).
 - International students with five-year fellowships from their home governments were more complicated and varied. Some were handled as 5-year fellowships through the department while others were paid directly to the student.
 - In the case of the student retaining control, they reported still being pressured by advisors to do TA or RA work they

presumably would not have been paid for due to student via requirements.

- The downside of this is a greater tax burden, since they received taxable income to pay tuition instead of a waiver.
- Three main things wanted from students who are concerned about this issue.
 1. Fellowships to be handled uniformly.
 2. Receive a clear explanation of what their rights are (how much control can departments and advisors assert).
 3. A clear explanation of their tax responsibility.
- 2. Tax 101 workshop, especially for those students who have less clear instructions on what needs to be done.
- 3. The student wellness (at the RPAC) does include financial wellness. Do they offer workshops specifically for graduate students to help with these financial questions when the students begin school. Any other benefits for graduate students that we should know?
 - a. Tax policy implications to graduate students
 - b. Deductions for
 - i. Single students
 - ii. Students with families
 - iii. Home-owning Students
 - iv. International students
 - v. Tips to maximize return

TO: Council of Graduate Students, Delegates
FROM: Chris Pierce, Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility
Committee (SERC) Chair
DATE: November 22, 2017
RE: Internal Committee Report

SERC has applied to the Coca-Cola Sustainability Grant for funding of a pilot graduate compost program and is awaiting a response. The Greenlabs initiative is scheduled to launch in Spring semester, and will engage numerous sustainability groups on campus. A team of CGS SERC members and staff from FOD has been assembled to work on this issue, including organizing and looking for funding. The event and program details will be finalized and made public at the end of January. SERC co-sponsored a film screening on November 9th in collaboration with USG and other groups.

1 **Resolution 1718- AU-004**

2 **A Resolution Condemning the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act**

3 Authors: Amanda Montoya (.29), Joachim Bean (.240), Anneliese Antonucci (.21), Julie Dentzer (.3),
4 ~~Dorma Elemister~~ (.10), Blair ~~Shevlin~~ (.11), Chris Pierce (.508), Symon Jory Stevens-Guille
5 (stevensguille.1)
6

7 WHEREAS The Council of Graduate Students (CGS) is the representative body of all students enrolled in
8 graduate programs at The Ohio State University (established by Article II.1 of the CGS Constitution); and
9

10 WHEREAS CGS represents The Ohio State University graduate student body at the national level
11 (established by Article II.4 of the CGS Constitution); and
12

13 WHEREAS the US House of Representatives passed their version of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (H.R. 1
14 115th Congress) on November 16th, 2017 by a vote of 227-205, which would eliminate section
15 1204(117.d5) of the Tax Code, making tuition waivers taxable income; and
16

17 WHEREAS graduate students are integral to the workforce for undergraduate education, University
18 research, and administration at the Ohio State University; and
19

20 WHEREAS in one instance, an out-of-state graduate student whose sole income is making the minimum-
21 stipend at The Ohio State University (\$15,750) for a 9-month contract, filing as a single individual, under
22 the proposed tax plan would see their yearly tax liability increase from \$535 to \$4,410, resulting in 28%
23 of their earned yearly income going to taxes; and
24

25 WHEREAS including tuition waivers as taxable income may put undue financial burden on graduate
26 students resulting in the need to take out student loans; and
27

28 WHEREAS under the version of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (H.R. 1) passed in the US House of
29 Representatives, the student loan interest deductions of up to \$2,500 yearly would be eliminated; and
30

31 WHEREAS the increased financial burden on graduate students through taxing tuition waivers would
32 greatly impact the retention and recruitment of graduate students, particularly those of low socioeconomic
33 status, minorities, and international students; and
34

35 WHEREAS under the version of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (H.R. 1) passed in the US House of
36 Representatives, could drastically decrease available funds for higher education, the National Science
37 Foundation (NSF), and the National Institute of Health (NIH), as well as other national research facilities,
38 impacting the quality of research and innovation at The Ohio State University and throughout the United
39 States; and
40

41 WHEREAS the version of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (H.R. 1) passed in the US House of
42 Representatives, is in direct opposition to the pillars of The Ohio State University's Strategic Plan of
43 Access & Affordability, Research & Creative Expression, Teaching & Learning; and
44

45 WHEREAS the Mission of The Ohio State University Graduate School specifically declares that, "The
46 Graduate School provides strategic leadership for graduate education at The Ohio State University...[and]
47 is an essential partner with the colleges and graduate programs in leveraging financial resources to recruit
48 and support highly talented graduate students;" and
49

50 WHEREAS the Graduate Quality of University Experience report issued jointly by the OSU Graduate
51 School, and Council of Graduate Students recommends that the university "alleviate graduate student
52 financial and health care concerns;" and

53
54 NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that we, the Council of Graduate Students, oppose the
55 version of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (H.R. 1) passed in the US House of Representatives, and all other
56 bills which would tax tuition waivers or decrease funding for higher education or national research
57 funding agencies;

58
59 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that we direct the CGS President, Chair of CGS' Government
60 Relations Committee, and Chair of CGS' Graduate Student Affairs Committee to advocate for this
61 position on behalf of the Council to all appropriate members of The Ohio State University community
62 and elected officials from the state of Ohio;

63
64 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that CGS calls upon President Drake, the University Senate, Faculty
65 Council, and the Graduate School, to condemn efforts to repeal Tax Code 1204 (117.d5);

66
67 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that should Tax Code 1204 (117.d5) be repealed, CGS calls upon
68 President Drake, the University Senate, and the Graduate School, to create and communicate their plan to
69 support graduate students financially and to minimize the impact on retention and recruitment of graduate
70 students, especially those from diverse backgrounds;

71
72 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED CGS will support the efforts by graduate students on the Ohio State
73 campus and at the national level to raise awareness about the impact of the changes in the version of the
74 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (H.R. 1) passed in the US House of Representatives, on graduate students'
75 livelihood;

76
77 LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED the the Council of Graduate Students urges the faculty and
78 administrators at the Ohio State University to develop a statement to affirm that students will not face
79 repercussions for supporting reasonable efforts by graduate students on the Ohio State campus and at the
80 national level to raise awareness about the impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Bill on graduate students'
81 livelihood.

82
83 Approved: Yes/No

84
85 Date: _____

86
87
88
89 _____
90 W. Alex Wesaw, President – Council of Graduate Students