**Graduate Student Senate- September Agenda**

Date and Time: January 16th, 3-5pm

**Call to Order**

* 3:02PM

**Roll Call**

* Quorum achieved.

**Approval of Minutes**

* Minutes stand approved.

**Speaker(s)- Chris Bullins- Student Health Insurance**

* Health insurance is a system where you pay money in advance for instances you need medical care. Costs of medical care is shared making more expensive medical care affordable.
* The university selects a plan that achieves a standard based on the quality of services and size geographic area of coverage. Within this context, the university selects plans that have the lowest cost while still maintaining quality of insurance.
* The university has ability to negotiate for group rates to keep prices lower.
* Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) is the standard for United States Tertiary Education Institutions.
* Other options for health insurance policies include: (1) Marketplace, which is the government governed policies, (2) Medicaid, also a government governed option, (3) International Student Insurance isoa.org (for international students), (4) PSI psiservice.com (for international students)
* Other Ohio universities with lower costs, have lower costs because they do not allow for International students to have an opt out option to go with outside providers.
* Health insurance coverage is required for full-time students and all international students, but the choice of which policy to have, is still with the student.
* Emergency Rooms are very expensive forms of medical care, when possible, avoid use.
* Policies with the same quality of coverage generally cost over $5000.
* Students can expect to see a 5-10% increase in cost of health insurance next year.

**Question and Answer**

* Question: Regarding Medicaid eligibility
* Answer: It is based on income for tax purposes tuition waivers are not included.
* Question: Regarding not having university run medical care coverage.
* Answer: The university used to have this, but switched away from it due to a need to build a new building in response to minimum standards needed and this was considered too expensive of an option. Additionally, managing a medical care facility is very costly. It was determined that it was less expensive to stitch to external providers.
* Question: Regarding the impact on the cost and how it is shared.
* Answer: instead of a full university cost, it is now shared only with people participating in the plan.
* Question: Regarding cost comparison based on number of students and enrollment:
* Answer: This is not something that is shared with the university by the providers and cannot be accurately speculated on.
* Question: Regarding why universities impose the system of required health insurance coverage.
* Answer: It is the standard for tertiary education institutions and is not a BGSU specific issue.

**Officer Reports**

* **President: David M. Fisher**
	+ Reordered to after report from Vice President
* **Vice President: Christopher Chandler**
	+ FPD, over 200 letters were sent and almost 70 regalia awards.
	+ Shanklin: Applications are open, there are many awards available. See canvas for the applications. There is over $10,000 in available awards. Spread the word about the awards. Most awards are due on March 1st.
	+ BoT Applications: Applications were going to close but were extended. For more information see the GSS website. There is one complete application, and the state of Ohio wants 5 candidates. We need to spread the word for the applications and the importance of the position.
* **President: David M. Fisher**
	+ Try to be mindful and aware of your mental health.
	+ Recruitment
		- We need help to put the word out for the open positions (Senator and SEC alike).
		- We are doing a more transparent process that gives better indication for the level of engagement.
		- We are a student organization and are flexible to work with students at within the limits of their capacity.
		- We need to ensure the work we do will be continued next year.
	+ Board of Trustees Meeting
		- February 23, 2024, 1:30PM BTSU 308
		- We don’t get to address the BoT at each meeting. The president addresses the BoT twice per year.
		- We have asked to be able to address the BoT upon request.
		- If we can get a strong graduate student presence at the meeting, it will have an impact.

**Old Business**

* **Second read through of the Pay Schedule Resolution**
	+ Motion: To bring the resolution to the table by Philosophy
	+ Second: History
	+ A second reading was conducted.

**Question and Answer**

* + Question: Regarding if there was consideration for how moving forward the pay would move the gap from the beginning of the semester to the beginning of the summer.
	+ Answer: It was considered that it was likely a smaller issue comparatively.
	+ Question: was a survey conducted of students.
	+ Answer: Not on this topic, but with the first reading in November, Senators had time to reach out to their constituencies and report back.
	+ Motion to extend time for Question and Answer to accommodate one more question by History.
	+ Second: American Culture Studies
	+ Question: Regarding whether a change in pay dates would cause issue with contracted dates.
	+ Answer: This is something that can be addressed with university if it becomes an issue. The university is likely to consider this in any action it takes.
	+ Motion: To end Question and Answer by History
	+ Second: Psychology
	+ Motion: To end discussion by Popular Culture Studies
	+ Second: Philosophy
	+ Vote: Carried
	+ Yes: 26
	+ No: 1
	+ Abstain: 2
* **Empathy and Storytelling events update**
	+ Events in part funded by the Division of Diversity and Belonging
	+ 2 Events on February 29
		- **Understanding and Combating Islamophobia: How to Create a Safe Space & Support Our Campus Communities:**
		- will be held in the BTSU Ballroom B from 11:30am-1PM
		- **Know Your Rights as a Student: How to identify Islamophobia and how to advocate for yourself & others:**
		- will be held in Central Hall 1007 from 3:30-5:00PM
* **All senators please join slack here:** [**https://join.slack.com/t/bgsugraduates-qqa1854/shared\_invite/zt-29qiie50n-EecGBhG6b90ptMaG4AqXvg**](https://join.slack.com/t/bgsugraduates-qqa1854/shared_invite/zt-29qiie50n-EecGBhG6b90ptMaG4AqXvg)
* **Revisions for the GSLOC open letter**
	+ The letter did not pass in GA and GSLOC is asking for comments/feedback.
	+ Task Force has offered to help.
	+ Even with the concerns, the idea behind letter is important.
	+ The letter indicates with unreasonable authority that it speaks for all graduate students, but a significant number of graduate students do not believe the letter accurately describes their experience.
	+ Concern over quality of sources (reputability and transparency)
	+ Email Ariel with input.

**New Business**

* **Vacant Secretary position**
* **University wide database for professional development events**
	+ There is a gap between existing resources for professional development and the knowledge of those events as well as the utilization of those events.
	+ There is a survey where you can add in on campus currently existing professional development opportunities for GSS to help update and maintain a list of opportunities.
	+ <https://bgsu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d5MhkOZtR6kJMQC>
* **Funding for professional development updates**
	+ Thanks to the members for all their work: Christopher Chandler, Kellyanne Bunkley, Afolasade Ola, Shahryar Zainaee, Sashetter Mcpherson, Ebun Adegbola Dosumu, Marianne Vanderbeke
	+ About 200 people received the FPD award and about 34 people received the regalia award.
	+ There was over $200,000 in total requests for FPD, of which over $189,000 were eligible requests.
	+ GSS was able to fund about $24,000 in awards this year. Most of the funding came from carry-forward funds. Funding this year was reduced from last year. Next year’s funding will likely be reduced further.

**Discussion**

* + The process for reimbursement is difficult.
	+ Making changes to the process is very difficult.

**Announcements**

* 3MT has been completed.
	+ The winners were 1st Place, Margaret Carr; 2nd Place, Theresa Lee; 3rd Place, Tamara Norris.
* Take a poster for open forum for SEC positions.

**Adjournment**

* Motion: To Adjourn by Philosophy
* Second American Culture Studies
* 4:59