

Graduate Student Senate—General Assembly Meeting—September

Date and Time: September 13, 2024, 3-5PM

Location: Hybrid Zoom and Olscamp 221

Call to Order 3:00 PM

Roll Call:

- Quorum Met

Approval of the Minutes

- Motion to approve the General Assembly April Minutes: Sociology MA
 - Second: Theatre and Film
- Minutes stand approved by unanimous consent

Chair Remarks

- Presented video welcome on the role, purpose, responsibilities, and expectations of a senator with printed introductory material and video transcript.

New Business

- Removal of Officers
 - Motion to remove Sarah Olesky as 2024-2025 Treasurer: Theatre and Film
 - Second: Psychology
 - Discussion: The motion was presented to the GA after being carried in the Senate Executive Council by a unanimous vote.
 - Question: How does the removal of the Treasurer impact our programs.
 - Answer: Having a Treasurer is a requirement imposed by the university and is tied to the good standing of GSS. Having an inactive treasurer prevents GSS from properly administering the Funding for Professional Development and Regalia Awards.
 - Vote: 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 14 Abstain
 - Carried by simple majority¹
- Informational Item
 - The Senate Executive Council accepted the resignation of the Online Graduate Student Representative

Speakers

- Dr. Eskandarian, Interim Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate and Professional Programs, and Dr. Ludy, Associate Dean of the Graduate College
 - The Graduate College focuses on removing obstacles for graduate students and promoting success at BGSU and after BGSU
 - Graduate College Mission Statement
 - Provided information on enrollment numbers, graduate student demographic statistics
 - Note that doctoral enrollment is on the rise with the recent creation of the Doctorate of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Doctorate.
 - Recommendation to become more familiar with the university's strategic plan *Forward*

¹ Error in procedure later corrected.

- The Graduate College takes “Inspired Action” based on feedback from graduate students including: updating the TA/TAI training, the sharing of the meal swipe benefit with contracted graduate assistants, etc.
- Question regarding the Student Emergency Fund and how many times a student can utilize the fund
 - Answer: Information is on the Office of the Dean of Students Website. As of last spring the limit was once per year.
- Question regarding stipend amounts and process of stipends
 - Answer: The university sets a total amount of allocation. The university differentiates between scholarships and assistantships. The total allocations for scholarships and assistantships have been stable at BGSU for graduate students, but this is not the case for most other universities. The Graduate College works with the other colleges to allocate the totality of scholarships and assistantships. Primarily the colleges (Arts and Sciences; Business; Education and Human Development; Health and Human Services; Musical Arts; Technology Architecture, and Applied Engineering), set the total allocations for programs. There is an issue with whether more assistantships are given at lower amounts or larger assistantships are given to fewer GAs. The Graduate College wants to hear more from students and for program faculty to collaborate more with graduate students on attaining external grant funding.
 - Recommendations: VP of Research Laura Regassa, Heidi Bouza, and CFE. Recommendation to engage in more advocacy and share more stories in increasingly public settings. Acknowledgement that doing more and providing more is the goal.
- Motion to extend time for Q&A by 5 minutes²
 - Moved: Sociology
 - Second: History

Officer Reports

- Kathryn Ware
 - BG Save Our Neighborhoods Group (BG SONG)
 - Housing insecurity is a growing issue and this external group has been founded to address the issue
 - There is an open forum on October 12 9:30 am-2:30 pm
 - The group is calling for more people to help represent and advocate. If you are interested in helping out reach out to gss@bgsu.edu

Committee Reports

- Service and Engagement Committee, as chaired by Ariel Esposito
- Completed a recent day of service event
- Sign up for BGSU Serves to track your service

² Time was extended by 11 minutes.

- There will be service opportunities through the year, reach out to gss@bgsu for more information or to express your interest in joining the committee

Special Elections

- Treasurer
 - Candidates
 - Ginikachi Ifenatuora: Self-nomination accepted as motion
 - Second: Theatre and Film
 - Acquaaah Boakye
 - Self-nomination accepted as motion
 - Second: Philosophy
 - Floor Nominations
 - None
 - Point of Order
 - Theatre and Film: Question of if the vote to remove Sarah Olesky as 2024-2025 treasurer met the 2/3 majority vote
 - A revote was conducted to correct the procedural error
 - Vote: 25 in favor, 0 opposed, 6 abstain
 - Motion to enter Q&A: Theatre and Film
 - Second: History
 - Motion to Enter Deliberation: Sociology
 - Second: Logistics and Engineering
 - Motion to Vote: Theatre and Film
 - Second: History
 - Results
 - Ginikachi Ifenatuora: 27
 - Ackquaah Boakye: 4
 - Ginikachi Ifenatuora Elected as GSS 2024-2025 Treasurer
- Secretary
 - Candidates
 - Pranavesh Sunil: Self-nomination accepted as motion
 - Second: Theatre and Film
 - Floor Nominations
 - None
 - Motion to enter Q&A: Psychology
 - Second: History
 - Motion to Enter Deliberation: Theatre and Film
 - Second: Sociology
 - Motion to Vote: Theatre and Film
 - Second: History
 - Results
 - Pranavesh Sunil: 28
 - Pranavesh Sunil Elected as GSS 2024-2025 Secretary
- Representative-at-Large

- Candidates
 - Halima Akter Rube: Self-nomination accepted as motion
 - Second: Theatre and Film
 - Ariel Esposito: Self-nomination accepted as motion
 - Second: World Languages
- Floor Nominations
 - None
- Motion to enter Q&A: Theatre and Film
 - Second: Philosophy
- Motion to Enter Deliberation: Theatre and Film
 - Second: World Languages
- Motion to Vote: Theatre and Film
 - Second: Curriculum and Teaching
- Results
 - Halima Akter Rube: 1
 - Ariel Esposito: 22
 - Ariel Esposito Elected as GSS 2024-2025 Representative-at-Large
- Professional Development Representative
 - Motion to Table until the October General Assembly Meeting: Theatre and Film
 - Second Communication and Speech Disorders
 - Carried by unanimous consent
 - Motion to Extend the Interim Appointment of Abiola Sobayo as Interim Professional Development Representative until the October General Assembly Meeting: President
 - Second: Theatre and Film
 - Carried by unanimous consent

Old Business

- None

Announcements for the Good of the Order

- None

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Vice President

- Second: Theatre and Film
- 5:02