

USG General Assembly Meeting

The Official Minutes of the Undergraduate Student Government General Assembly

On This Day, 3/16/15

Room 308 BTSU @ 7:30pm

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting called to order at 7:30
- II. Roll Call
 - a. Senators not in attendance: Bartelt, Katz, Lotz, Patton, Vandevort, Wylie
- III. Swearing in of New Officers
- IV. Open Forum
 - a. Counseling Center, Dr. Denise Litterer
 - i. I am the assistant training director of the BGSU counseling center. There are five full time psychologists, three full time counselors, one full time case manager, and one part time licensed social worker. We also house four full time doctoral interns. There are two clinical psychology students also in the building.
 - ii. We have walk in hours Mon-Fri from 1:30-4, and we find that these are the most effective and the quickest way to treat students. All sessions beyond walk in are scheduled. Students are allowed 16 sessions per academic year, we often see our clients on an every other week basis. Most students only stay for between five or six sessions.
 - iii. We have a great partner in the psychological services center on campus, they have the ability to see students on a smaller scale, but on a longer term scale.
 - iv. We have seen increased utilization in the past years, this can be attributed to the stigma of mental health is getting better and we also see more students who have gotten health before college.
 - v. The counseling center fee helps reduce the overall cost of the counseling center to the university. The counseling center hasn't received any more money in total, but just less from the university. The fee also allows for us to avoid cutting services. Whether or not the fee will increase next year is not known yet. 95% of the counseling center costs stem from the staff. We

have a need for more funding because we do not have enough support staff on staff.

- vi. Importance of counseling centers- personal and mental health stresses are one of the biggest threats to student success, retention and graduation. The stresses and social and academic pressure felt by students need a support system. The students who already have preexisting mental health issues are using our services too. We see mental health issues start to arise around this age, so continued use of the health center is vital to our campus. Another thing we do on campus include community prevention programs and outreach. We do this because we want our name to be out there because we want them to utilize our resources as much as possible. BGSU has put an emphasis on keeping the counseling services available despite recent budget cuts.
- vii. We work with other agencies in town, and the job of our case manager is to connect some of these students to these community resources. We have been focusing on trying to come to the students rather than them coming to us. Last semester we piloted a program called grit week, these programs worked on building resilience and hardiness which are useful in dealing with stressful situations.
- viii. Questions:
 1. Senator Mullins- What do you think we should tell students that are interested in going to the health center but may be hesitant or embarrassed?
Answer: We try to educate as much as possible on how the walk in process works, so they don't feel surprised. Talk to people and convince them to go one time, just tell them it isn't a commitment and see how it goes. It is almost good that we are in the college park building because it is slightly more confidential because we are farther away from main campus.
 2. Chair Puffenberger: Walk in hours are every day you said?
Answer: Yes 1:30-4 Monday-Friday
 3. Chair Timbrook: could you talk about the peer ambassador program?

Answer: That is a rather new program, basically the basis of what they do is getting people to get involved on campus and even pointing them in the right direction as far as things to join or participate in. This is very focused on making connections to campus for the students the ambassador is involved with.

4. Senator Dortch: How do you go about reaching out to non-traditional students and off-campus students?

Answer: That is an area we need to work on, but we do reach them in classes. But we work with the office of non-traditional students as well.

5. Senator Dortch: Would you be open to having non-traditional students as peer ambassadors?

Answer: Of course, these students have had barriers to getting involved on campus, so they would definitely be able to help certain students get involved on campus.

6. Senator Mathis: Do you have staff that is trained to deal with domestic violence, or would couples counseling be in charge of that?

Answer: Typically we would not do counseling with the couple until the violence has stopped. We would most likely outsource those people to better options

7. Senator Mathis: We have students who identify as LGBT, do you have staff who would be able to deal with the mental health of LGBT related issues?

Answer: I trust all of our staff to handle these issues, but we do have LGBT people at the health center. We also have interns who serve as liaisons to those communities.

V. Lobby Time

- a. None

VI. Old Business

- a. None

VII. New Business

- a. None

VIII. Executive Branch Reports

- a. President – Brian Kochheiser

briantk@bgsu.edu

- i. Last week I attended IUC day (Inter University Council) to discuss issues in higher education and specifically the financial model.
- ii. Freshman confirmed to BGSU for next year is up 13% from fall of 2014
- iii. BGSU athletics is having a competition for spirit t-shirt for next year, you can view these designs on Facebook

- b. Vice President – Nicole Neely

nneely@bgsu.edu

- i. Voting for End of the Year Awards

- c. Cabinet Reports

- i. Ebonee Johnson- City, State, National, Liaison

- 1. The city is considering making an old school building into a green space.

IX. Procedures and Appeals Reports

bmiesle@bgsu.edu

- a. We will be having a debate between the presidential and vice presidential candidates on Tuesday march 31st at 6 pm in the Union theatre.
- b. We will begin advertising the elections the day after the debate.
- c. Students will be receiving emails to vote via their email throughout the week. If you vote, you won't receive the other emails.
 - i. Questions:
 - ii. Chair Puffenberger: How many presidential candidates will there be this year?

Answer: There are three.

- X. Treasurer's Report - Reece Timbrook

reecet@bgsu.edu

XI. Speaker's Report

- a. Speaker of the Senate – Kasie Durkit

durkitk@bgsu.edu

- i. Next Monday we do not have a speaker coming in, but the following week we have a speaker named Provost Rogers. Do your absolute best to find a proxy for that meeting if you are going to miss for the Greek awards.
- ii. The Monday following the announcements of those who have been elected to positions, we will be electing chair positions within USG internally.

XII. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Affairs – Amy Puffenberger apuffen@bgsu.edu
 - i. Several people stopped by lunch with USG, thank you to those who stopped by. We have one next week Wednesday the 25th from 11-1 pm.
- b. Auxiliary Affairs – Aeden Timbrook atimbro@bgsu.edu
- c. Internal Affairs – Jeff Devereaux jdevere@bgsu.edu
 - i. Tonight in committee you will be discussing the resolutions provided from the next GA meeting, we want this to go to the floor at the next meeting.
- d. Student Affairs – Nadia Oehler noehler@bgsu.edu
 - i. The green fund survey, if you're interested in that, just go ahead and contact me about that. We will need to have someone else to take that position before we make the transition into the new senate.

XIII. Senator Reports

- a. Senator Baumbaugh
 - i. We are having nominations for IFC positions next week.
 - ii. Greek weekend is this weekend
- b. Senator Shmidt
 - i. March 28th throughout the day there will be a musical event held by the college of musical arts. The schedule of musical performances with locations will be coming out in the future.
- c. Senator Berry
 - i. Color run, event for those getting involved in STEM programs. April 25th and it starts at 8 am. There is a 5k for adults and a 1k for children.
- d. Senator Dortch
 - i. Cleaning for a reason-Women who are going through chemotherapy, this program has people go into their houses and do various tasks such as cleaning. You can go to cleaningforareason.org for more information.

XIV. Advisor's Remarks

- a. Dean Jodi Webb jwebb@bgsu.edu
 - i. I just want to make sure that everyone is clear that not everyone on the ballet is in this room. When the election wraps up at noon on Thursday the 9th, the announcement will occur on Friday at noon in the Falcons Nest.
 - ii. Monday April 13th will be the swearing in of all President, Vice-Presidents and Senators. You must be present to be sworn in if you want to hold the

speaker chair, or another chair position. The newly elected Vice president will serve as speaker until the new one is elected.

- iii. If you have suggestions for guest speakers for April 20th and 27th, let me know. It is hard to get guest speakers for those dates because new leadership will still be transitioning.

XV. Closing Remarks

- a. Liaison Johnson- There are a lot of open seats on the Statehouse day to Columbus trip, so please sign up as I picked up a lot on my trip to D.C.