

Hello Senators -

In the midst of the University suspension of large gatherings, we apologize for the cancellation of our in-person senate meeting. In lieu of the meeting, the Executive Board has put together this document of the information we would have been presenting to you at our April 3rd meeting. Please read through it carefully and reach out if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

We know that this is not the easiest way to communicate information to you, but we hope that it's concise enough for the time being.

Thank you!

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## Executive Board Reports

### **Executive Chair** – Anna Solberg – [asolberg@kent.edu](mailto:asolberg@kent.edu)

1. [Award Survey](#): Thank you to those of you that participated in the Award Survey we passed out after our last meeting and for those of you who sent it along to your constituents. For those that have not completed it yet, please continue to pass around the [link](#) to the survey so we can have good data about the way people use awards, how they help grad students, and what things could be changed. This will allow us to have a full report to pass along to the administration asking for future money.
2. Engage/Reimbursement Process: After a few meetings, we have come to the new conclusion that the use of Engage as our award application and reimbursement platform would not work for the purposes of GSS. However, we are still going to be pursuing a change in reimbursement process by providing upfront money to awardees. We are working with Barb Spencer and hope to have some solid plans to hand off to the next board. The hope is still to have this in effect for Fall 2020 Semester.

### **Executive Vice Chair** – Victoria Reynolds – [vreynol1@kent.edu](mailto:vreynol1@kent.edu)

1. International Travel Award: The ITA Review Committee will be meeting virtually on April 2 to discuss the applications. I will send out award letters the following week. There were 29 complete applications in Qualtrics and GSS is able to award 22 full awards (\$1500 each).

### **Finance Chair** – Xin Hong – [xhong1@kent.edu](mailto:xhong1@kent.edu)

1. Special Contingency Award (SCA): The SCA is to be used for funding in extenuating circumstances as determined by the SCA Committee. The funding is used for costs associated with the active generation and/or dissemination of the applicant's primary graduate work.
  - a. The application is expected to be available in May, depending on the summer Senate meeting schedule. The exact application deadline will be announced

once the Executive Board of 2020-2021 sets up the summer meeting schedule. The application is due by 11:59 p.m., three weeks prior to the summer GSS Senate meeting.

- b. We are looking for volunteers to form the SCA Review Committee. Please email me if anyone is interested in being a part of the Committee.
2. Summer Domestic Travel Award: The Summer DTA application will be available on Thursday April 23rd. It is used for travel between May 14 and August 27, 2019. The application deadline is May 14, 2020 by 11:59 p.m. EST.

**Advocacy Chair** – A.J. Giorgi – [ajgiorgi2@kent.edu](mailto:ajgiorgi2@kent.edu)

3. Research Award: We have received 46 applications for the Spring 2020 Research Award. Decisions for awardees will be emailed out in early April.
4. Habitat for Humanity: Our Habitat for Humanity involvement has been canceled for the foreseeable future due to the current outbreak.
5. Kent State of Wellness: Kent State of Wellness will be meeting virtually in early April. More information to come.

**Research Symposium Chair** – Srijana Bhandari – [sbhandas3@kent.edu](mailto:sbhandas3@kent.edu)

6. Research Symposium canceled: Due to the ongoing Coronavirus outbreak, we have decided to call off the 35th Graduate Research Symposium. We would like to thank you all for your great effort to make this event BIG.
7. Symposium 2021: We will announce next year's symposium date as soon as we get the information on the national graduate and professional student appreciation week for next year.

**Info Services Chair** – Grace Murray – [gss.info@gmail.com](mailto:gss.info@gmail.com)

1. Please make sure you are checking your email frequently, as email will be the main form of communication from GSS moving forward. Be sure to send these updates out to your constituents who likely are wondering when they can expect to receive funds and what the plans are for GSS moving forward. Thank you all for your work!
2. If you have published/presented recently, let us know. We'd like to spotlight you on social media.
3. Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter ([@KSUGSS](#))

## Old Business

### A. Charter

1. The updated GSS Charter has been sent on to the Dean of Students and will be added to the Board of Trustees next meeting. However, I am not sure of timing on this now due to the coronavirus outbreak. We will keep you posted when we hear word of it, but for now, assume it's on it's way and will be addressed over the summer.

### B. Bylaws

1. Liz Aulino and the Committee to Update the Bylaws have been working on the rest of the sections that need updating. Though we now will probably be unable to finish this project by the end of the semester, we at least have a very good start to the bylaw changes to hand on to the next Senate.

2. Liz will be hanging up her laptop at the end of the semester as the chair of this committee. Please consider taking her place and finishing what this committee has started this year! Anyone interested, please email Liz ([eaulino@kent.edu](mailto:eaulino@kent.edu)) or Anna ([asolberg@kent.edu](mailto:asolberg@kent.edu)).

## New Business

- C. Elections will take place between now and 5:00 pm on April 3rd. Please complete the election online through this [Qualtrics survey link](#). Before completing the online vote, please read through all candidate's statements and CVs, all of which can be found in the email we sent out or [here](#).

## Announcements

- D. Grad Fest has been canceled for the remainder of the semester due to COVID-19. Please make sure you stay safe and healthy!