

- I. Graduate Student Trustee – Jennifer Bryant (jbryan24@kent.edu)
- II. Call to Order: 11:06am
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Approval of September 8, 2015 Minutes - Approved
- V. Executive Board Reports
 - A. **Executive Chair** – Fritz Yarrison – fyarriso@kent.edu
 1. Faculty Senate
 - a. The university is seeking to reduce student fees by 5%. They hope to do so via 7 options including:
 - i. Limit all majors to 120 credits
 - ii. Expand distance learning
 - iii. Reduce/Remove remedial classes
 - iv. Expand the tuition plateau to 18 credits
 - v. Stress all students to attend regional campuses for a year
 - vi. Extend 3 year completion degrees
 - vii. Earn Credit in high school
 - B. **Executive Vice Chair** – Andrea Meluch – ameluch1@kent.edu
 1. Committee Representation
 - a. Thank you to all those who chose to serve on committees this year. There are still some opportunities as listed on our website, so please email Andrea if you have any interest in filling these spots.
 - b. Going forward we will be evaluating new or outdated committees so that we have a more complete picture of current committee representation needs on campus.
 2. Student Media Board
 - a. There is a \$40,000 budget deficit for the next two years, and they will be looking for ways to decrease that deficit.
 - b. Kieren Binus, a graduate student, will serve as the new editor for *Fusion Magazine*.
 3. International Travel Award
 - a. If you or your constituents are interested in applying for the Spring International Travel Award, please email Andrea with any questions, and she can share with you some of her best practices for putting together your presentation.
 - b. Spring 2016 International Travel Award
 - i. Deadline: November 30th, 11:59pm
 - ii. If you are interested in sitting on the Spring 2016 International Travel Award Review Committee, please contact Andrea.
 - Q. Committee Reports from the Floor
 - c. University Libraries Committee
 - i. There was a legacy scholarship dinner which currently just affects undergrads, which they don't plan on expanding to graduates at this time.

C. Finance Chair – Suparna Navale– snavale1@kent.edu

1. Fall 2015 Domestic Travel Award
 - a. There were 164 applications and, after removing duplicates, incompletes, and applications that weren't actually fall or domestic, there were 129 awardees.
 - b. Since we allocated \$40,000 or about 133 awards for Fall 2015, we won't be using all of that money and the excess will be rolled over into Spring.
 - c. Remember that proof of travel can be tickets, gas receipts, or hotel receipts and that you must also submit proof of presentation with your funding packet.
2. FY 2016 Budget (See attached)
 - a. The Balance Forward, which has rolled over from last year, is \$24,000.00
 - b. The General Fund, which comes from student fees, at \$161,000.00, has increase about \$5,000.00 from last year.
 - c. The Leadership Fund, which is an amount that comes directly from the university, has also increased by about \$1,500.00
 - d. The Travel Fund also comes from the university as a set amount for the International Travel Award.
 - e. With an increase of \$6,500.00 from the university and a large amount being rolled over we are increases the budget on the following items:
 - i. The Research Award will be increased by \$6,000.00 to \$20,000.00.
 - ii. The Domestic Travel Award will be allocated \$40,000.00 for the Fall, \$60,000.00 for the Spring, and \$20,000.00 for the Summer
 - iii. The Research Symposium budget will increase by \$5,000.00 to \$20,000.00.
 - iv. The International Travel Award will increase by \$5,000.00 to \$20,000.00.
 - v. We have added a Flex Fund for emergencies or ad hoc expenses at Executive Board discretion with the surplus value that will hopefully act as a cushion moving forward in order to keep our annual budget relatively stable.
 - f. Vote on Budget: Passes Unanimously (32 Senators)

D. Advocacy Chair – Megan Hornyak – mhornya6@kent.edu

- 1 Fall 2015 Research Award
 - a. We had 35 complete applications as of the time of the meeting.
 - b. Some of the issues with the Research Award currently are:
 - i. Submitting all paperwork within a year of receiving the award

- ii. Remembering that, based on senator responses last year, we pushed the deadline back into the middle of the semester and that you cannot apply for the award retroactively to your research.
 - c. We will be creating an infographic for when you can and should apply.
 - 2 Service Activity
 - a. We received 20 responses to survey results
 - b. For the spring we will be doing a Habitat for Humanity service activity
 - c. This Fall we will be conducting a goods drive for the Kent State University Women's Center (Attached)
 - i. Running now through December 4th 2015 we will be collecting non-perishable food, feminine sanitary products, and clothes.
 - ii. Goods can be brought to the November or December General Senate Meetings, the November or December GradFests, or to Megan's office, room 306 in McGilvrey Hall.
 - iii. One suggestion for senators is to set up a box in your academic unit main offices to collect goods.

E. Research Symposium Chair – Morgan Chaney – mchaney1@kent.edu

- 1 The 31st Annual Graduate Student Symposium: A World of Research will be on Earth Day, Friday, April 22nd, 2016.
- 2 We are currently in the organizational process of securing various rooms and spaces in the Kent Student Center
- 3 Paul DiCorleto, Vice President for Research, will be the keynote speaker for the symposium.
- 4 The Senators then completed a survey during the meeting to provide specific information from the academic units about the symposium.

F. Info Services Chair – Mark Rhodes – gss.info@gmail.com/mrhode21@kent.edu

- 1 CSI President's Lunch
 - a. There have been issues of harassment and other instances from individuals who are visiting campus and utilizing the various public spaces. If you have any issues moving around campus or are being harassed in any way the Center for Student Involvement is in charge of dealing with these issues, or you can contact Campus Police via 911.
- 2 Senator Updates
 - a. Please email Mark mrhode21@kent.edu or gss.info@gmail.com with any senator or alternate senator updates or if you are not receiving emails. Your information at <https://www.kent.edu/graduatestudies/gss-senators> should be up-to-date.
- 3 Social Media
 - a. Please encourage all of your constituents to like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter ([@ksugss](#))!

VI. New Business

A. Organization Request

1. Computer Sciences

- a. Seeking funding for their coffee/social hour in order to get more international students involved and foster communication
- b. Vote: Passes unanimously (32)

2. American Institute of Architecture Students Kent State Chapter

- a. On November 27th there will be a design ball at the Hotel and Conference Center hosted for architecture, internal design, and graphic design
- b. Vote: Passes unanimously (32)
- c. One question was raised whether we can fund more than \$50.00 for a request. We cannot because it is within the bylaws, but we can discuss at the next meeting whether we want to make this change.
- d. Last year we funded two organizational requests
- e. This year so far we have funded 4.

VII. Announcements

A. Kate McAnulty –Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies - Faculty Advisor for GSS.

1. International Graduate Student Association (Attached)

a. New student organization for all international graduate students. We are trying to address issues of all international graduate students by helping them socially and academically. Right now they are working on marketing our organization, so please spread the word. They seek to be a platform or hub for all international graduate students on campus. Their first workshop is this Friday working with Career Services from 3:00-4:00pm in the Michael Schwartz Center.

2. Empowering Students in Recovery (Attached)

a. There is a new student substance abuse support group on campus. Every Thursday evening the group is set up like a 12-step program and place of support. There are 400-500 students each year on campus seeking help, mainly substance abuse and this organization hopes to be an ancillary support group for this need.

3. Graduate Student Socials are held in the Atrium of Cartwright Hall as an on-campus platform for graduate students held twice a semester. This semester they are Wednesday, October 14th, and Thursday, November 12th.

4. Kent State and Graduate Studies will be running a Three-Minute-Thesis Competition this year. There are 61 competitors this year, so please come to the events to support your colleagues. The final round will occur on October 30th in the KIVA.

B. GradFest will be this Friday, October 16th, 2015 from 6-8:00pm, at Dominick's

C. Our Fall 2015 General Senate Meetings will be the following times, days, and locations:

1. Tuesday, Nov 3rd from 11am-1pm in the 3rd Floor Ballroom Balcony of the Kent Student Center
2. Tuesday, Dec. 1st from 11am-1pm in the 3rd Floor Ballroom Balcony KSC

VII. Adjournment 12:03pm – Motion: Music ; Seconded: Physics