

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
 - A. Absent: Digital Science, Economics, Fashion, Nursing
- III. Approval of October 3, 2017 Minutes
- IV. Executive Board Reports

A. Research Symposium Chair – Elizabeth Melick – emelick@kent.edu

1. Update: Symposium planning
 - We are changing the Symposium to a two-day event this year. In the past, the Symposium has been confined to one day.
 - The KSC Ballroom has been booked for Thursday evening, 4/19/18! Poster presentations and the art exhibit will be on Thursday from 3:00pm-7:00pm. Oral presentations, along with the awards ceremony, will be held the following Friday (as usual).
 - Betsy is looking for a committee of people who are familiar with poster presentations, as well as volunteers from the fine arts.
2. Please inform your constituents that the 33rd Symposium will be held on April 19-20, 2018!

B. Executive Chair – Mark Rhodes – mrhode21@kent.edu

1. Report: Faculty Senate Meeting (October 9, 2017)
 - Discussion at this meeting was dominated by potentially combining tenure and promotion to Associate. Currently, KSU awards these two things separately.
 - (Faculty) University Employee Separation Plan (UESP), open until November 8, 2017
 - Provost Diacon hopes that this will allow KSU to hire three early-career tenure-track (TT) faculty members for every two TT faculty who take advantage of this program.
 - The KSU Library is changing how they process book requests such that the money will be spent as a lump-sum, and not partitioned by department. This may result in book-requests from graduate students to be heeded more than they currently are.
2. Report: Faculty Senate Budget Advisory Committee (FaSBAC)
 - College deans are developing three- to five-year plans from all colleges to allocate funds from UESP to hiring faculty members mentioned above.
 - 2018-2019 enrollment
 - The university is putting a heavy focus on increasing graduate student enrollment for next year.
 - KSU is anticipating a further decrease of about 300 fewer international students, graduate and undergraduate, across the university.
 - Provost Diacon is very unsure about how 2018-2019 enrollment will play out, but he and his associates are hoping for the best.
 - Responsibility Centered Management (RCM) 2.0
 - Currently, funding is doled out to departments based on enrollment in courses, but FaSBAC discussed how to integrate research into the calculation for funding allocations.
 - Administration fees in online programs
 - Many online programs use a third-party company for administration of online coursework.

- In the future, all third-party work will be through the company EverSpring will be targeted as central administration for online in order to reduce costs.
 - Currently, ~40% of administrative fees go to these third-party providers. FaSBAC would like this figure to be reduced by about 10%.
 - Central Administrative Fees for online programs will also be decreased from 49% to 20%
3. Spring Banquet
- A banquet will be held on the evening of Wednesday, April 18, 2018. All GSS senators and awardees will be invited to this banquet to celebrate graduate-student research and accomplishments.
 - Division of Graduate Studies will sponsor this event.
- C. **Executive Vice Chair** – Kathryn Klonowski – kklonows@kent.edu
1. Update: Spring/Summer [International Travel Award \(ITA\)](#)
- On October 30, awardees were decided, and they were informed via email.
 - There were 15 total applicants, but only 12 complete applications. The following students were selected by the committee:
 - Nola Daley, Psychological Sciences
 - Michelle Rivers, Psychological Sciences
 - Kevin Spence, Foundations, Leadership and Admin.
 - Kayla Morehead, Psychological Sciences
 - Li Yu, Foundations, Leadership and Administration
 - Lydia Snyder, Music
 - Kate had difficulties in recruiting volunteers for the selection committee. Please urge your constituents to sit on this committee in the future.
 - Next ITA deadline will be on March 5, 2018 at 11:59pm.
 - \$8500 were budgeted, and \$8308.00 were awarded.
2. Report: Educational Policies Council (EPC)
- College of Arts will be reinstating graduate program in Fashion.
 - College of Public Health is establishing a clinical epidemiology master's degree. This program will be online.
 - Modern & Classical Language Studies is continuing suspension of Spanish program for the next five years.
3. Report: University Diversity Action Council (UDAC)
- UDAC watched the [\\$100 race video](#), which provides a demonstration of White Privilege.
 - UDAC is currently reading [The Blind Spot](#) together.
 - UDAC discussed Green Dot training, which involves standing up for people in crisis or who are in vulnerable situations.
 - Kate will try to schedule an abbreviated training session for a future GSS General Meeting.
4. Committee representation
- Report: University Teaching Council (UTC), reported by Kathryn Hannum from Geography
 - The UTC discussed an overview of the process and timeline of UTC awards.
 - Kate has not been receiving very many committee reports. Please notify her if there are any developments with your committee, if you have been taken on this responsibility.
5. Update: Undergraduate research mentorship program through the Office of Experiential Education and Civic Engagement
- Kate met with Ann Gosky from Division of Research & Sponsored Programs (RASP). RASP already has a started a database (in beta testing) to help graduate students to connect with

professors/mentors for our research:

<https://www.kent.edu/research/find-researcher>

- Kate and Ann Gosky would like translate this idea to make something for undergraduates to connect with graduate students.
 - Additionally, they are considering having short seminars, similar to the Graduate Professional & Academic Development (GPAD) workshops—but these seminars would be for undergraduates interested in research or graduate school.
- 6. National Association of Graduate & Professional Students (NAGPS)
 - Midwest regional conference will be held in Kent, OH at KSU Conference Center & Hotel on March 2-4, 2018!
 - Kate is looking for additional sponsorship from Kent departments.

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

1. Update: Fall [Domestic Travel Award \(DTA\)](#)

- A sizable number of Fall DTA awardees have reported that their award letters were sent to their spam inboxes. Please have any of your constituents check their spam inboxes if they applied for the Fall DTA!
- Suparna budgeted for 143 awards to be given out, but there were only 123 complete applications. Therefore, we will give out a maximum number of 123 DTAs for the Fall travel period.
- Please consider advertising any of those who receive funding from the GSS. This will likely boost the number of applicants we receive for these awards.
- The application deadline for the Spring DTA will be on January 29 at 11:59pm.

2. Update: Special Contingency Award

- The application for this new award will open sometime soon.
- Question: If you received a DTA this semester, can you receive another next semester?
 - Answer: No. The GSS Bylaws allow for one award per category per academic year is allowed.

E. Advocacy Chair – Timothy Rose – trose16@kent.edu

1. Graduate Appointee Advocacy Program (GAAP)

- Report: Ohio University graduate employees compared to other Ohio public universities
 - Almost all public Ohio universities, with the possible exceptions of Central State University and Northeast Ohio Medical University, have minimum stipend levels, except for KSU.
 - First GAAP survey (from Spring, 2017) tells us that ~95% of graduate assistants at KSU fall within the stipend levels observed at other Ohio public universities.
 - Example: Graduate assistants (GAs) at Ohio University cannot receive less than \$7200 yearly.
 - About 10% of KSU GAs receive less than this, but our health subsidy is generally superior to that of other Ohio universities.
 - When the survey goes live in the Spring, we need as many people to take it as possible—so please talk about this with people in your academic unit!
 - If you would like to review the actual survey draft, please contact Tim. He'd be happy to share it with whomever.

- Tim emphasized that he is not claiming that KSU students are doing poorly in comparison to other Ohio public universities. Rather, we are an aberration because of our lack of a minimum-stipend policy.
- Question: Does this refer to just the KSU Kent Campus?
 - Answer: No, this is across the entire KSU system.
- Announcement: Tax reform in the US Congress
 - Republicans in Congress are trying to overhaul the federal tax code. One possibility that has been highlighted by [the Council of Graduate Schools](#) would involve making tuition waivers taxable income in order to pay for tax cuts implemented elsewhere!
 - Example: Assume that a GA receives a \$7000 stipend along with a \$6500 tuition waiver.
 - Currently, this GA would have a tax burden of \$105. If this plan becomes part of the US Tax Code, such a GA would have a tax burden of \$755! This would be a 619% increase in tax burden.
 - Use [this webpage](#) to contact your elected representatives at the following webpage and tell them to leave **Section 117(d) in the Tax Code** as it is currently written!
 - Question: Is there a bill number associated with this?
 - Answer: The section of the US Tax Code in 117(d).
 - Question: Have you heard anything about taxing student loans or GSS awards as income?
 - Answer: Tim has not heard anything, but he will stay alert for this.
 - Question: When are they trying to pass this?
 - Answer: Republicans want to pass comprehensive tax reform before the end of the calendar year.
 - Comment: CSPAN is a great resource for staying updated on this topic.
- 2. Update: Fall [Research Award \(RA\)](#)
 - We received more than 60 applications, but only applications 22 were complete. This is mostly due to incorrect blinding of submitted materials, especially the class schedule.
 - Please make sure that constituents know that materials *must be completely* blinded or they will be disqualified!
 - The Research Award Committee will be meeting on November 4th to decide on which applications will receive funding.
- 3. Announcement: Graduate Survey Research Council
 - Located within Sociology Department
 - Offering free consultation with grad students who use survey data
 - Information is available here: <https://www.kent.edu/sociology/srl/gsrc>
- 4. Update: Books for Prisoners philanthropy project
 - Tim is still gathering books for this initiative. Please contact him if you would like to donate books.
 - Geography and Political Science have contributed lots of books so far!

1. Send Morgan news (e.g., thesis defenses) or content (e.g., blogs, pictures) from your department that you'd like him to share on GSS's social media
2. Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter ([@KSUGSS](#))

V. New Business

VI. Announcements

- A. The next General Meeting will on December 5, 2017 at 2:00pm in room 310AB of the Kent Student Center.
- B. Grad Fest will be on November 3, 2017 at 6:00pm and 8:00pm. We have reserved the 3rd floor of Zephyr, and we have booked a professional trivia host.
- C. Also on November 3, the KSU Museum is having a 1980s-themed mixer in the Rockwell Hall atrium between 7pm and 10pm. Advance tickets are \$10 apiece; tickets will cost \$15 at the door. Register here: <http://www.kent.edu/artscollege>
- D. Mark is going to the NAGPS National Conference to present alongside OU's GSS president on "Graduate Student Government in 2017: Questions from Ohio public universities".
 1. They will focus on how we've coped with difficulties in the current political environment.
 2. If you have any contributions to this, please email Mark. He would love to include your thoughts in this presentation.
 3. Mark will report on this at the next GSS General Meeting.

VII. Adjournment at 2:52pm

- A. Motion by English; second by Biological Sciences