

I. Call to Order at 11:04am EST.

II. Roll Call

A. Absent: Applied Engineering, Sustainability, and Technology, Communication and Information, Computer Science, Digital Science, Health Sciences, History, Mathematics, Music, Nursing, Public Health, Theatre & Dance

III. Approval of minutes from September 11, 2020

A. **Motion:** Psychological Sciences, second from Physics

IV. Manfred van Dulman, Interim Dean for Graduate Studies and Interim Associate Provost for Academic Affairs(mvandul@kent.edu)

- A. Dr. van Dulmen joined the GSS meeting to provide some important updates for the Senate. He thanked everyone for their hard work this semester and explained that the Pass/Fail policy that was available during the Spring semester will be extended for this Fall semester. Academic Units will likely use this enhanced flexibility on a limited basis at the graduate level, but Dr. van Dulmen wanted to share the update regardless. Additionally, the Academic Dismissal policy, which was suspended for Spring and Summer, is being put back into place. Any student who is affected by that has an opportunity to appeal these decisions. Furthermore, Dr. van Dulmen reminded the Senate that the time limit for Graduate Students was extended by one year for all students last semester. This semester, they are not planning to do this again, but he is hopeful that this is a policy that will be revisited early next semester depending on student need. There is so much uncertainty surrounding the challenges the university will face in the coming months, the outcomes of which will guide the conversation around time limits.
- B. Another item Dr. van Dulmen discussed, is the effort to ensure that faculty are remote ready. Currently, there are two groups of courses that faculty teach; Tier 1, which are courses that are offered in person right now, but could not continue if the university had to move to remote delivery. Tier 2 or 3 courses on the other hand, are classes that could continue even if the university had to move to remote delivery. At this time, instructors who are not teaching a Tier 1 course have been asked to be ready for remote delivery. Dr. van Dulmen is hopeful that this will allow Tier 1 courses to remain in person and on campus for as long as possible, even if campus capacity needs to be scaled back further.
- C. Dr. van Dulmen also explained that as they are creating plans to (re)open campus and make decisions about daily operations, they are constantly examining several key factors. Kent State has a team that explores campus risk factors daily, which are aspects that play a big role in deciding what campus operations look like on a day to day basis. There now is a significantly increased capacity for testing. Starting this upcoming week, all faculty, staff, and students can get tested at any CVS Minute Clinic in the country, without symptoms and without a doctor's order. Additionally, they are also starting screening testing at the KIVA.
- D. Questions:

1. *Claire:* At the beginning of the semester, individuals needed to quarantine if they got tested, even if the result was negative and they had no symptoms. Will students still be asked to quarantine for those 14 days now?

Dr. van Dulmen: Anyone who tests negative and was not in close contact with someone who has tested positive will not be asked to quarantine. Please check out [Kent's Coronavirus Updates website](#) as well as the [COVID Response Team website](#) for more information.

2. *Biological Sciences:* Previously, if you wanted to get tested at the CVS Minute Clinic you had to have symptoms. Is this no longer the case?
 - *Dr. van Dulmen:* Correct, you do not need to be symptomatic or have a doctor's order to get tested. CVS has a database that includes anyone who is a member of the Kent State community, which is what they will use if you want to get tested.

V. Max Adjei, International Graduate Student Association President
(madjei1@kent.edu)

- A. Max presented information about the International Graduate Student Association. The presentation is attached to the Minutes email.
- B. If you are interested, you can join IGSA at any point in the academic year!

VI. Executive Board Reports

A. Executive Chair – Claire Jackman – cjackma2@kent.edu

1. Faculty Senate Meeting Updates

- a. President Diacon stated that COVID-19 and racism are both public health crises. Many committees are working on these issues.
- b. Portage County has returned to a red level. As of right now, in-person classes can still occur.
- c. Residence Halls are at about 60% capacity. There are no triple rooms and over 300 rooms have been designated as isolation spaces.
- d. Student mental health needs have been addressed. General fees of \$1.6 million will be allocated to enhancing student mental health over the course of this year. Telehealth and more clinicians will be added to DeWeese and point of service costs will be removed. They are also working to establish a care service, which is similar to OneStop, just for student health.
- e. There is a clear need for emergency funding. Approved requests have been funded by the Cares Act as well as funds from Institutional Advancement.
- f. Technology needs are especially important at this time and therefore \$700,000 have been allocated for hot spots, enhanced WiFi, and computer hardware.
- g. Make sure you read through the new guidance from Kent City Council that was sent by the Provost's Office on 10/8/2020. Individuals can be fined for attending gatherings greater than 10 people and if they are Kent State students the violation will be

- communicated with the university.
2. Student Leader Advisory Group
 - a. Student Affairs staff and student leaders come together to discuss problems that face the KSU student body.
 - b. This group will meet monthly for the rest of the school year.
 3. Rock Policy Development Committee
 - a. The rock is typically used to display art and positive messages, but recently there have been several points of contention and racist messages displayed on the rock.
 - b. This committee has been meeting once a week and they are discussing codes of conduct surrounding the rock (lights, video surveillance, etc.) and exploring what other schools do.
 - c. The group is working to provide examples of what is acceptable to be painted and displayed on the rock.
 - d. A policy will be drafted to go before the Board of Trustees.
 4. Joint racism statement and efforts with Faculty Senate and Undergraduate Student Senate
 - a. This group has decided that they want to do more than just send a statement to the Administration.
 - b. They want to implement training for faculty, staff, and students. Union contracts make this difficult, as it is hard to require faculty to attend these training sessions. If the training programs are optional, the individuals who need them the most might not attend.
 - c. The group is planning to talk to Department Chairs, because they can be required to undergo training. That way they would be informed about important steps and procedures.
 5. Gradfest Friday, October 9th at 6pm. Halloween/Fall theme. See flyer and sign up via the Qualtrics link.
 6. Questions:
 - *Psychological Services*: Do we know what the process for sanctions for violations of the health ordinance might look like?
 - *Claire*: Anyone in Kent who is violating the new health ordinance will be held responsible and any student can be held responsible through Kent State. Before this ordinance, the school was unable to do anything about off campus conduct. Now, the Office of Student Conduct will be notified and each situation will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Hopefully, this will help reduce the increase in numbers.

B. Executive Vice Chair – Jordyn Stoll – jstoll7@kent.edu

1. We have awarded about 215 book awards. There are approximately 35 awards remaining. Last week, Jordyn sent an email to everyone who has received this award about how they will receive their money. A new workflow needed to be created for the awards and funds will be distributed to student's Bursar accounts, much like the DTA award process. Unfortunately, if you have outstanding bills in your bursar account the book award would go towards that. We are working hard to ensure that any GSS award that goes to the Bursar account will be refunded to the student directly, regardless of any outstanding balances.
2. Arts and Sciences College Curriculum Committee Report (Sarah Sternbach, ssternba@kent.edu): Anthropology altered the core to

include options beyond general chemistry. No impact on graduate studies.

C. **Finance Chair** – Maneesh Shukla – mshukla@kent.edu

1. Award overview
 - a. Summer DTA
 - i. 8 applicants
 - b. Fall DTA
 - i. 28 applicants
 - c. SCA for the month of September
 - i. 1 applicant
2. FY 20/21 Budget proposal
 - a. The budget proposal presentation is attached to the Minutes email.
 - b. Our Fee Allocation this year is 7.5% lower than last year due to budget reductions.
 - c. The amount allocated to the DTA includes the Summer DTAs that have already been awarded as well as the Fall DTAs, which would allow for up to 120 DTAs for the Spring semester.
 - d. There is enough money allocated for 10 full ITA awards, if the travel ban is lifted.
 - e. The money allocated to the ITA Book Award allows for 400 \$200 awards total, or 200 awards per semester.
 - f. The amount allocated to the RA awards allows for 35 full RAs.
 - g. At \$1,500 per award, the amount allocated to the SCA allows for 10 full awards.
3. Questions:
 - a. *Biological Sciences*: The Book Award was originally intended to just be for one semester, but now it seems like it will be offered next semester as well. It has more money allocated than the RA or SCA. Can the money be used for the RA and SCA, instead of the Book Award for another semester?
 - b. *Maneesh*: Usually we have a lot more money allocated towards the DTA and ITA, but due to the current travel restrictions the budget looks much different from previous years. We are expecting to be in a similar situation next semester, which is why we decided to allocate this money to the Book Award that will be accessible to every graduate student. If the situation changes, we can use the Book Award money to fund more ITAs.
 - c. *Biological Sciences*: Only awarding 35 RAs for the whole year seems pretty low though.
 - d. *Anna*: All applications for the Fall RA are due on Monday, 10/12. As of right now, we only have a handful of applications. Usually there are less applications in the fall than in the spring semester. Funding more Research Awards is great, but we will likely have less applications than usual due to the travel ban, which we do not expect to be lifted anytime soon. As a result, we expect less applications throughout this year.
 - e. *Jordyn*: We have to allocate funds assuming that the travel ban is going to be lifted, but I would assume that it will not be lifted. This means that the amount allocated to the ITA, and potentially even some of the amount allocated to the DTA, could be redistributed to

the SCA or the RA. Also, we have received over 200 applications for the Book Award in a little over a month. The great thing about the Book Award is that it can support every graduate student; not every student does research, but pretty much everyone needs books. We can also always revisit this conversation in the spring. If we notice that people stop applying for Book Awards, those funds can be reallocated towards the RA or SCA.

- f. *Claire*: This budget is our starting point. Anyone can make a motion to allocate funds from one index to another during a given meeting. Senators have this ability.
- g. *Biomedical Sciences*: I agree with Biological Sciences. Would it be possible to redistribute the money for the Book Award to the RA and SCA? The \$15,000 allocated to the ITA could then be used for the Book Award if the travel ban is not lifted. Due to COVID, students might need to change their research and do more things remotely, which could result in more RA or SCA applications.
- h. *Jordyn*: I am not opposed to that by any means. We planned to use \$30,000 of the money that is currently allocated to the Book Award in the spring so if everyone is for moving that to the RA and SCA that is perfectly fine. In theory, we then have the \$15,000 from the ITA for the Book Awards. You can apply for one Book Award per year.
- i. *Claire*: If we do move the remaining \$30,000 to the RA and SCA, we would have enough money left for 75 Book Awards for the spring. The budget can be approved and amended in new business. [Claire then clarified that the budget must first be approved before amendments can be made.]
- j. *Biological Science*: I see Operating Costs on the budget. I just want to clarify that these are on there assuming that we are in person at some point this year?
- k. *Maneesh*: Yes. There are some fixed costs, regardless of whether we are in person or not, but we have allocated more money in case we return to in person meetings and such.
- l. *Biological Sciences*: Ok, thank you! Did you allocate \$15,000 for a virtual Symposium? Or is this the budget for an in-person event?
- m. *Maneesh*: That is for the virtual Symposium. We do have some speaker fees associated with the event. Usually, we allocate \$25,000 for the Symposium, but this year we reduced it to \$15,000.
- n. *Claire*: The budget allocated to this event mostly covers awards that we give out for oral presentations, performances, and poster awards.

D. Advocacy Chair – Anna Solberg – asolberg@kent.edu

- 1. Research Award applications for the fall semester are due by 11:59pm on October 12th
 - a. You can apply for one RA per year. If you apply a second time in another year, it cannot be for the same project.
 - b. If you have further questions about the guidelines or rules for the RA you can read more on our [website](#).
- 2. Research Award Review Committee

- a. If anyone else is interested in serving on the committee please let Anna know!
- 3. Research Award Upfront Money
 - a. We run into similar issues with the RA as we do with the Book Award (money will be deposited into your Bursar account, which unfortunately will be used to cover any outstanding balances). We are working on getting this fixed and hope to have more information for you soon!
- 4. Anti-Racism Committee - Graduate and Doctoral Student Life Subcommittee
 - a. The larger Anti-Racism Committee has about 12 to 15 people on it and then oversees 12 separate committees. If you know of anyone who would like to serve on the committee, or if you yourself would like to be a part of it, please email Anna.
- 5. Review of the Student Code of Conduct
 - a. We are looking at the sanctions in the university's code of conduct. Hopefully we will have an update for the university community in the upcoming weeks.
- 6. Questions:
 - a. *Biomedical Sciences*: Since the money will now be awarded upfront, will it still go to the student or can it go to a department directly?
 - b. *Anna*: We are engaged in conversations to figure out the specifics of this at the moment. We will get you an answer by the next meeting.
 - c. *Kyle*: I just wanted to provide some more background on the scholarship workflow. Basically, all of the awards are going through the scholarship workflow process and the payments go to the Bursar Account. I have a meeting on Monday, 10/12, to discuss this issue, because it has been a concern for multiple people across offices. We are seeking an exception, to make sure that any awards a student receives do not go towards outstanding debt (parking ticket, registration holds, etc.). This is something that the President's cabinet has to make an exception for. Members of the cabinet will attend the meeting on Monday and we are really hoping we can work something out soon so that we can proceed with giving out the awards and making sure you receive your money. Dr. van Dulmen is very understanding of these concerns as well and is working with us on this.

E. Research Symposium Chair – Payel Datta – pdatta1@kent.edu

- 1. Symposium date change due to the Spring Break shift
 - a. Original date: April 14th
 - b. We will move the Symposium to the week before. It will be a 2 day virtual symposium.
- 2. Judges for symposium
 - a. Payel would like to meet monthly with all of the senators during the fall semester (bi-weekly in the spring semester) to get their help with judges. She wants 2-3 judges per group for both poster and oral presentations.
 - b. As of right now, the deadline for Abstract submission is January

31st.

3. Symposium details

- a. The symposium will be held on Blackboard Collaborate Ultra.
 - i. Payel will need moderators to help with the different sections and events.
- b. Poster presentations and the keynote speech will occur on April 7th.
- c. Oral presentations, music and art presentations, and the award ceremony will take place on April 8th.

F. **Info Services Chair** – Maike Amann – gss.info@gmail.com

1. If you have published/presented recently, let us know. If you have any other exciting accomplishments or events to share, please do so! We'd like to spotlight you on social media.
2. If you are reaching out to us, please make sure to use the gss.info@gmail.com email address.
3. Make sure to let me know about any senator changes in your department!
4. Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter ([@KSUGSS](#))

V. Old Business

A. None

VI. New Business

A. Budget

1. **Motion** to approve budget: Biological Sciences, second from Psychological Sciences
2. Discussion/Amendments:
 - a. Biological Sciences suggested taking \$30,000 from the Book Award and putting \$15,000 towards the RA and \$15,000 towards the SCA.
 - i. **Motion:** Biological Sciences, second from Physics
 - ii. Amendment passed.
 - iii. Note from Jordyn: If we receive more than the 250 Book Awards we have currently allocated money for, we can start a waitlist. The Senate can then decide whether to allocate money for the Book Award in the Spring.
3. Budget was voted on and passed.
4. Note from Claire: She reached out to RASP about additional funding after the last General Senate Meeting. She has not yet heard back.

B. Organizational Funding Request- QGrad

1. Eunice Reyes, the Treasurer for QGrad (an organization for LGBTQ+ and Ally graduate and professional students) explained that the organization is planning on hosting an event on National Pronoun Day, October 21st. Eunice requested \$250 to invite a speaker for this event.
2. Question:

- a. *Biomedical Sciences*: Is this a virtual event and will the money go towards the speaker?
 - b. *Eunice*: Yes it is virtual and the money would cover the speaker fee.
3. **Motion** to approve the funding by Biomedical Sciences, second from Geology.
 4. Funding was approved.

VII. Announcements

A. *Kyle*:

1. The 6th annual Three Minute Thesis competition is coming up. The deadline to submit presentations is Wednesday 10/14. This year, students can record their presentation in advance instead of presenting it in real time. You can find more information [here](#) and on the flyer attached to the minutes email.
2. The Division of Graduate Studies has reconfigured how they are doing professional development this year. They have started to build up video libraries of presentations in different areas. For the month of October they have 7 videos related to research, including things like grant writing, APA formatting, etc. The videos will be up on the website for at least 1 year.

VIII. Thoughts/Concerns

- A. The new academic year has started and COVID-19 has caused us to make many changes across the university. If there are any important thoughts or concerns you want to share with the senate, please take this opportunity to share them.
 1. *Biomedical Sciences*: Have you heard anything about the general feelings of graduate students across campus? Is there anything we can do to help them more?
 2. *Claire*: We have not heard anything. These concerns might come up more at the department level.
 3. *Kyle*: Social isolation has been difficult for many students, especially for new students. Students have been asking for more opportunities to connect socially, especially within their specific programs and colleges.
 4. *Jordyn*: Funding has also been challenging for some graduate students.
 5. *Geography* mentioned that some graduate students have faced racism on campus and they have reported it to ISSS.

IX. Adjournment

- A. **Motion**: Anthropology, second from Political Science. Meeting adjourned at 12:50pm EST.