

- I. Call to Order: 11:05am
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of October 13, 2015 Minutes - Approved
- IV. Executive Board Reports

A. **Executive Chair** – Fritz Yarrison – fyarrison@kent.edu

1. SSI Review Committee

a. The Student Survey of Instruction (SSI) sub-committee, within the Faculty Senate is working on a comprehensive review of the survey. This includes evaluating both face-to-face, and online classes, how to get the surveys to online students, when to administer the surveys, and what to do with the data.

b. They are also evaluating the purpose of the survey. Is it for external faculty evaluation or faculty self-evaluation?

i. Graduate students have been charged with providing feedback for these issues via Ssireview.kent.edu – a discussion forum

Q. Are all of these evaluations the same?

A. The first twenty are similar across the university. Beyond that, departments can add additional questions.

Q. Is this link just for senators or can anyone participate?

A. Yes, Please share this with your constituents.

2. Effectiveness and Efficiency Taskforce

a. President Warren has charged the committee to cut 1%

b. If you have any suggestions, no matter how far-fetched, to make the university more efficient, please email Fritz

3. Organization Funding

a. Last week, it was brought up that we want to discuss increasing the Organization Funding requests.

b. Right now Organization Funding is limited to \$50 per academic unit per year.

Q. Can different units apply for funding from the same event?

A. Yes, every unit can request up to \$50.

Q. Rather than increasing the amount, what about increasing the number of opportunities for each unit to request funding?

Q. This might also help with the scattered timing of events throughout the year.

Q. How many are given out each year?

A. Two last year, around five the year before.

Q. Is it possible to have a stipulated amount for each organization?

A. That would be a problem because that would focus on the organization rather than unit, and there are multiple organizations in a unit, coupled with our lack of information on all of the graduate student organizations

c. The senate agreed and that a survey would be the best way to continue this discussion.

i. Fritz will send out a survey before the next meeting

Q. What would an increase to this budget effect?

A. The general fund.

B. Executive Vice Chair – Andrea Meluch – ameluch1@kent.edu

1. Committee Representation: Student Health Advisory Committee
 - a. The university is reactivating the Student Health Advisory Committee and has requested graduate student representation and the position has since been filled.
 - b. 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.
2. Educational Policies Council
 - a. The Trumbull campus Public Health program is being suspended due to low enrollment.
3. Spring 2016 International Travel Award
 - a. Application is open on the website
 - b. The guidelines are also up-to-date and available on the website.
 - c. Deadline: November 30th, 11:59pm
 - d. This will cover travel from Jan 19th – May 22nd
 - e. If you are interesting in sitting on the ITA Review Committee for the Spring, please contact Andrea.

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

1. Domestic Travel Award Reimbursement Process
 - a. Remember that we do not accept electronic submissions of funding packets
 - b. You can however mail your packets in via campus mail or drop them off at our office in the Student Center – 120L/M
 - c. You must turn your funding packet in within 14 days of traveling
2. Spring 2016 Domestic Travel Award
 - a. Award opens on January 18th
 - b. Deadline: February 1st, 2016 at 11:59pm

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

- 1 Fall 2015 Research Award Updates
 - a. We are allocating \$10,000 for the Fall and \$10,000 for the Spring
 - b. 61% of (or 22) application were thrown out because of improper blinding or being incomplete. This includes course schedules and CVs
 - c. We had 14 complete applications (39%).
 - i. From those the applications are evaluated based on the rubric available online

d. Committee Process

i. The Committee had a week to review all applications that met the requirements of the review process and then a meeting was scheduled to share the committee's findings. The meeting took a total of two hours to go through each application, for a two-step process of who should be funded and then by what increments could we afford to give and who would be awarded partial funding and by how much.

ii. During this process Megan argues for each application based on its merit, not based on topic or department, or the type of research and the committee awards applicants based on the application itself and how it adheres to the Rubric and Guidelines.

e. Results

i. We funded 4 application fully and 2 partially totaling \$10,002.42

ii. Architecture and Environmental Design, Biostatistics, Chemistry, Psychological Sciences, Cultural Foundations, and Geography were the six programs represented in the awards.

f. If you have any questions going forward with the research award or want to sit on as one of the committee members email Megan.

g. Please email Megan if you have questions about the Research Award Process or why you were not allocated funding.

h. Spring 2016 Research Award: Please be advised, during the meeting the wrong date was mentioned for the Research Award Deadline for the spring and it is actually February 29th, 2016. You will still be able to start applying January 1st when the application opens. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Q. If a student has questions can they email you about why they didn't get funded?

A. Yes, I would love to speak to students about any concerns they have. Please email Megan and set up a personal appointment.

2 Women's Center Goods Drive

a. Running now through December 4th 2015, we will be collecting non-perishable food, feminine sanitary products, and clothes.

i. Goods can be brought to the December General Senate Meeting, the November GradFest, or to Megan's office, room 306 in McGilvrey Hall.

ii. 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 Symposium Judging Rubrics

a. We are establishing a taskforce to discuss the judging rubrics used for the symposium, *especially* the way in which these rubrics are

processed between the conclusion of the final presentation session and the awarding of prizes.

i. If you are interested in serving on this taskforce please email Morgan before midnight on November 7th.

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

1 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.

i. Remember that having alternate senators can only be a benefit to you. They will be your back-up in case you can't attend a meeting.

2 Social Media

a. Please encourage all of your constituents to like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter ([@ksugss](#))!

VI. New Business

VII. Announcements

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

1. Thanks to those who participated in the 3MT as participants and observers. It has been given the go-ahead to run again next year.

2. Graduate Student Socials are held in the Atrium of Cartwright Hall as an on-campus platform for graduate students held twice a semester. The next social is Thursday, November 12th.

B. GradFest will be Friday, November 6th, 2015 from 6:00-8:00pm, at 157 Lounge

C. Remaining Fall 2015 General Senate Meeting:

1. Tuesday, Dec. 1st from 11am-1pm in the 3rd Floor Ballroom Balcony KSC

VII. Adjournment 11:47pm – Motion: Sociology; Seconded: Psychological Sciences