

I. Call to Order @ 8:04 a.m.

- A. Anna Solberg asked for a motion to move Dr. Pam Grimm's talk to the beginning of the meeting to accommodate her schedule.

1. Motion by Business Administration; Second by Theater and Dance

II. Dr. Pam Grimm - pgrimm@kent.edu - Faculty Senate President regarding SSI

- A. Dr. Pam Grimm visited GSS to discuss the Student Surveys of Instruction (SSI) or teaching evaluations. Faculty Senate voted on making the SSIs online, and this required a major system change from previous years. With the online SSIs, there will be nine fixed questions, which can be viewed in the attached PowerPoint document. These fixed questions relate to student profile questions as well as university-wide questions, such as questions like "My instructor challenged me to think." Each department or school has the ability to add custom questions to specific groupings of courses. Instructors also have the option of adding their own personalized questions as well as modifying the start date for SSIs. The deadline to modify the start date is 11/17/2019. More information on the schedule can be found [here](#). Dr. Grimm suggests having students fill out the SSIs during class, as instructors are more likely to get responses if they are completed during class time.

1. Other important information related to SSIs:

- If equal or less than 3 students respond to the SSIs, no report will be generated. This is to protect the identity of the students but also to ensure statistical power to generate the report.
- Any personalized questions that an instructor added to the SSIs are the instructor's. The only way the information from these questions will be shared is if the instructor chooses to share it.
- If you are co-teaching a course, the evaluations will be delivered for *each* instructor. The online system will make it clear which instructor the evaluation is for.
- Dr. Grimm also mentioned that it is important to note that SSIs are not the only piece of information that is important regarding evaluations of teaching. SSIs are the students' perspectives of what's happening in the classroom, and research indicates SSIs tend to be biased against women and people of different ethnicities. She says, while they are valuable information, they shouldn't be a determinate piece of information. As instructors, we should try to get a peer to evaluate our teaching and give us feedback on what we're doing well and what needs some work. It will help to draft a faculty narrative when applying for academia-related jobs.
- If you have any questions related to SSIs, you may contact Dr. Grimm (pgrimm@kent.edu) or the Center for Teaching and Learning (www.kent.edu/ctl).

III. Roll Call

- A. Absent: Applied Engineering, Sustainability, & Technology; Computer Sciences; Digital Sciences; Foundations, Leadership, & Administration, History, Lifespan Development and Educational Sciences; Music; Sociology

IV. Approval of minutes from Oct. 18, 2019

A. Biological Sciences asked that the Oct. 18, 2019 minutes be changed to reflect the points she made regarding recruitment for the Charter & Bylaw Committee as well as a correction to her academic unit within the minutes. Upon these corrections, the meeting minutes were approved with no abstentions:

1. Motion by Economics
2. Second by Chemistry & Biochemistry.

V. Dr. Jennifer Mapes and Harrison Wicks - Community Heart and Soul

A. Dr. Jenn Mapes discussed Community Heart & Soul, a program she came in contact with when she was in her graduate program researching small towns. She was interested in anything related to, "What's going on in the small towns? What does the future of the small towns look like?" When she was in Steamboat Springs, CO, she came across Community Heart & Soul, a program that was developed by a man who had put a lot of money into improving small towns. This program uses voices from the community to help move the town forward. A lot of it is listening to people, talking to them, and asking them about their experiences -- something individuals with a qualitative background are used to doing. The program has now expanded to Kent in an effort to get an understanding of what people want from the city.

1. Information from these interviews and Community Heart & Soul events will be used as evidence to make actual changes to master plans, zoning, etc. This research, stories and experiences from community members, can be used to support the decisions the city is making, so it is really important to hear from as many people as possible. Community Heart & Soul is interested in hearing from students. The changes that may be made may not be enacted for you, but they may be enacted for future students, which is important. We want to hear all of your voices at the meetings. You don't have to come to all of the meetings. You can come to just one. If you are interested in helping Dr. Mapes with qualitative data analysis of these interviews and experiences, please let her know.

B. Harrison Wicks also spoke on behalf of Community Heart & Soul. He works for the City of Kent. The City Council started this is a way to get information from the community about the changes that they wanted to see made for the future and to allow community members to have a greater stake in the policy. The City wants to hear from as many voices as possible because they know previous policies and projects didn't necessarily capture all of the voices within the community.

1. Phase I Project meeting will occur Nov. 13 at 4:30 p.m. at the Kent Police Department Community Room. Refreshments will be provided.
2. Harrison said, again, individuals are more than welcome to attend one or many events. They're hoping to keep the meetings fun with a celebratory atmosphere.
3. Currently, the [City of Kent Facebook page](#) is housing information on Community Heart & Soul events, but he expects the project will likely develop its own social media presence down the road. More meetings will occur as the project continues.
4. You may contact him at wicksh@kent-ohio.org or (330) 676-7572. Interest forms for the Community Heart & Soul project have been attached to the email with the meeting minutes.

C. **Executive Chair** – Anna Solberg – asolberg@kent.edu

1. Faculty Senate Meeting Report

- President Diacon is hoping to make the transition to college for first-generation students easier. He is trying to facilitate a plan to do this within the Kent State community. This will most likely affect graduate students as instructors more than as students and trying to help facilitate that conversation with first-generation college students.
- Question from Political Science: Have they thought about first-generation graduate students?
 - Anna: It seems as though this initiative is more focused on terminology (e.g., graduate vs. undergraduate).
 - Jenn Mani: There is research on first-generation graduate students. If you have family members who went to grad school, then you likely understand the political atmosphere a bit better.
 - Dr. Cindy Stillings: This is going to be a part of the mental health subcommittee. Kyle Reynolds is sending forth recommendations for this committee, so if you're contacted, it is for that committee.
- Approval from Architecture and Environmental Design to establish a construction management major within the Master of Science degree to be offered both at the Kent and Stark campus. This was approved.
- In the Department of Geography, there was a switch from the Master of Arts in Geography to a Master of Science in Geography.
- John Rathje, vice president of Information Technology, apologized profusely for the Blackboard outage on Oct. 25. It was an issue with the host application. There was a process to fix it that was automatically running and it couldn't be interrupt it for that 24-hour period so they just had to let it run and fix itself. They are working on a new solution for 2020 to fix that issue.

2. Breakfast Choices

- Anna discussed the breakfast choices for senators. She said she had received an email about dietary restrictions related to this issue. So she opened the floor for questions or concerns:
 - Question from Biomedical Sciences: Did everyone have a chance to partake in the survey? There was a really quick turnaround.
 - Anna: There was a quick turnaround because we had to put in the order more than a week ahead for this meeting. There wasn't a lot of time in order to get it out to the senators. There were 21 responses, so not everyone did put in their opinion to the survey. Would it help if it was available for a week. (nodding)

How about the actual structure for the survey?

- Biological Sciences: I think it would be helpful if there was a comments section that included why people voted for which options. Having more data about why people are making the decisions they are would be helpful. I think the food ordered is probably more appropriate. The individual cereal containers will help to actually tell us how much people took, so that is really informative.
- Question from TLC: I wasn't at the last meeting. What was the survey about?
 - Anna: We sent out a survey to the senators in order to allow them to determine what is ordered. We discussed possible cost efficient options and decided that sending out a survey would allow senators the greatest opportunity to have a voice. If senators don't like the option that was chosen for today, we can go back to the way it was or we can change it again.
 - Statement from Mathematics: The survey was a bit misleading based on how it was created. The button didn't tell you that you were submitting the survey options. It looked like you were just going to another page, so I actually submitted something that I didn't actually want.
 - Anna: That is good to know. I made the survey quickly, so I will have to address that.
 - Question from Political Science: Compared to how much we bought last meeting, how much are we saving?
- Political science = compared to how much we bought last meeting, how much are we saving pricewise?
 - Jenn: The meal price per person for the last meeting is \$14.99 and the price for this meal per person is \$7.49. We spent about \$300 for this meeting, and previously, we spent \$600 to \$800. The previous E-Board chose the more expensive option because it had the most vegetarian and vegan options.
 - Anna: Again, this is totally up to you. We can always switch it back to what it had been.
- Statement from Political Science: It would be nice to have a hot breakfast now that it's colder. Maybe you could ask people about different sensitivities and make a decision based on that? I am

totally OK with having the E-Board making the final call on the breakfast option because they are the ones reviewing the responses.

- Anna: OK. All those in favor of still doing the survey, adding in dietary restrictions, changing the submit button, and adding comments at the end and eboard looking at? Or, who is in favor of going back to what we had before?
 - Question from Psychological Sciences: Did we go over budget last year? Did we get a reduction? What is the plan for the funds? I want to know why we're cutting down.
 - Anna: Any money that is rollover goes straight into awards the following year, so any money that we save on this would potentially mean possibly 5 more DTA or something along those lines. It would rollover into award money. There wasn't any talk of this last year. It was worked into the budget. We thought this may be somewhere where we can make a change. We don't have to. We are just wondering about it.
 - Statement from Political Science: You made clear that other senates get paid, so the breakfast is a nice option because our university can't afford to pay the senators.
 - Anna: Yes, we don't have as large of a budget as other schools, so this is where breakfast comes into play. Breakfast allows us to provide something for you guys as a perk for being a senator.
 - Statement from Anthropology: I don't think we should cut from the food budget for awards. That's why you fundraise. I really don't think we should have to cut funds from us. I think we need to do more fundraising.
 - Anna: That's good to know. That's why we're bringing up this question.
 - Question from Biomedical Sciences: With the hot breakfast, there could be a lot of waste, could the caterers bring in boxes? We could take the excess food to our departments to share with other graduate students.
 - Anna: We did cut down on the food, but the caterer would not provide boxes. I definitely encourage you to bring your own tupperware.
 - Unofficial vote to keep the survey rather than just go back to the old breakfast. Anna is going to tweak the survey to include the suggestions discussed at the meeting. GSS will send it out and then we can see how it goes the next meeting.
3. President Diacon will be coming to our next senate meeting. He will be here in the last half hour of the meeting. If you could have questions prepared that you want to ask him, please bring them. Start thinking about what you want to ask him.
 4. Anna said she wanted to apologize for how the last senate meeting went. She said she did a poor job of listening, and she deeply apologizes.

Hopefully everyone got her email regarding how awards are going to be looked at with the 3-day grace period where we will send you back information letting you know if the application was complete. She also said she did not appreciate there were people talking over each other. She welcomed people to talk or yell at her but she asked that it remained civil in the senate to ensure all voices can be heard.

D. Executive Vice Chair – Victoria Reynolds – vreynol1@kent.edu

1. Committee reports

a. Advisory Committee for Academic Assessment from Nicholas Adams

- i. Assessment review reports for the departments should be sent directly to assessment@kent.edu. Victoria unsure whether this affects graduate students. This is because of the turnover in the
- ii. Communication is down from the “Great Colleges to Work For” survey. The main causes of concern according to faculty are budget transparency and top-down communication and understanding of turnover and replacement throughout the university.
- iii. The graduate employee results have been posted but after a lot of criticism, it is now noted as a work in progress from the University Communications Committee.

b. Public Safety Advisory Committee from Winnie Bush

- i. The Parking Services, Division of Police Services, and Division of Emergency and Special Services all came in and shared summaries of incidences. Parking Services shared permit sales are down compared to last year due to the decrease in enrollment and the new apartment by the Rec Center. There is also discussion of building a parking deck that is tentatively going to be located at Midway Drive, and the work would commence in Summer 2020.
- ii. In place of parking meters on campus, they’re working on pay-by-phone apps where students can get alerts when their meter is running low. They would also allow you to add money to the “meter” from your phone without having to go out to your car.
- iii. Police Services shared several incidences. Victoria did not share all of the details, but if you’re interested, you can send her a note. They also discussed ways Kent State Law Enforcement is building community through the creation of “Coffee with a Cop” and the “Police Experience Academy,” which shows students how the police are trained and gives them a day-in-the-life experience. This happens every Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m.

2. International Travel Award

- a. ITA committee met Thursday, Nov. 7, and could fund \$12,000 for this round of applications. The committee decided to fully fund eight applications and partially fund one application. That leaves \$22,500 for the spring deadline.

E. Finance Chair – Xin Hong – xhong1@kent.edu

1. Fiscal Year 2019-20 Budget

- The numbers in this, hopefully final, version of the budget are final. GSS has \$156,323.74 from the fee allocation, \$43,331.46 from Student Leadership and \$51,000 from Research and Sponsored Programs.
- The new budget includes indices that are the same from the previous version, so Xin did not go over the indices. She said the goal was to approve this most recent (and final) version of the budget, focusing on the FY20 budget. The award budgets were approved at the Oct. 18 Senate meeting, so the rest of the budget (the entire budget) is being presented to the senators for approval.

2. Question from Biological Sciences: I know we switched to a fiscal year format rather than a school year, but it seems odd that we'd include allocated money but not spent money although it's essentially spent because it's already been allocated. I'm unsure why that is rolled in the new budget.

- Xin: The money is allocated for the awards but it hasn't been paid out.
- Biological Sciences: I understand that it hasn't been paid out, but it's not as if we're going to strip away those research awards for example. People could, of course, not spend that award but that doesn't mean that money is available.
- Jenn: The money is still in our account, so when we're presenting the budget, we have to show that it's still there.
- Biological sciences: I understand. We really don't have all of the money that's listed on the budget, and I get that. My confusion is the way the budget.
- Xin: What if we look at it this way: For example, the FY19 allocated not spent column shows \$103,313.00 that has been allocated for the research award but not reimbursed. That is added to the \$46,000 for the new fiscal year. When we add those columns together, we get \$149,313.00.
- Anna: We have to say our budget is the \$564,148.83 because that's what we had at the beginning of the year. That's part of showing our budget from the beginning of the fiscal year to the end of the fiscal year, so it is all of the money that we have for the fiscal year whether we *actually* have it or not.
- Biological Sciences: OK. That was part of my confusion. *Why* it is there. That was the question.

3. Motion to approve the entire budget: Political Science; Second: Psychological Sciences

- Approved by all. Opposed: none. No abstentions.

F. Advocacy Chair – A.J. Giorgi – agiorgi2@kent.edu

1. [Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week \(HHAW\)](#)

- A lot of these programs are still being scheduled from Sunday,

Nov. 17 through Friday, Dec. 13th. There are going to be several events related to homeless and hunger-related issues, such as a winter clothing and coat drive as well as food drives and day of service.

- GSS is doing this in partnership with USG and other organizations on campus. It is a huge, university-wide effort. Be on the lookout for an email from A.J. on this information.

2. Research Award

- The Research Award committee deliberated on 28 applications. The committee was able to fund 15 total awards with 9 fully funded and 6 partially funded. In total, \$23,000 was spent. The same amount will be in the budget for the spring semester. The deadline from the spring semester is March 2, 2020.
- Award letters were sent out, so please share this information with your constituents in case the email went into their spam folder.
- Question from Anthropology: For those who received the award for Fall but are graduating in the spring, I know there is a requirement to present at the symposium, but they will not be here. In this case, what do we do?
- A.J.: It's a current stipulation that's on the book for accountability, but there is no penalty to actually enforce it. As this bylaws and charter discussion is ongoing, we could possibly find some kind of amendment to that if you so choose, but that is the current stipulation.
- Question from Business Administration: I have a general question about award recipients. Are you not informed if you don't receive the award?
 - Victoria: For the ITA, I send out a rejection email when I send out the acceptance emails. This is something that operates differently between the awards. We know this is flawed, which is why we're working on this with the bylaws. We want continuity between the awards. It's definitely something that is not going to be fixed for the spring.
 - Xin: It's the same process for the spring.
 - Anna: We will be talking about awards later in the meeting.

G. Research Symposium Chair – Srijana Bhandari – sbhand3@kent.edu

1. Announcement of specific dates and registration material coming next meeting.
 - a. Srijana is looking for volunteers for the Graduate Research Symposium on April 9 and 10. It would be a great opportunity if you're looking to get more involved with GSS or if you'd like to take over the Symposium Chair position.
 - b. Registration for the symposium begins January 2 and ends January 31, so please be sure to let your constituents know.
 - i. This deadline may be extended depending on how many

submissions are received. All submissions will be accepted.

- c. Please also ask your constituents if they would be interested in helping volunteer at the symposium.

H. Info Services Chair – Grace Murray – gss.info@gmail.com

1. *If you have published/presented recently, let us know. We'd like to spotlight you on social media.*
2. Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter ([@KSUGSS](#))
3. Check the website and let us know if your information is not up-to-date. We also created a [Senator FAQ](#) page on the website to give you and future senators more information about your role.

V. Old Business

A. Discussion of Incomplete Award Applications

1. Anna sent out an email stating GSS' stricter policy. This was an attempt to have consistency across the board to ensure the fairness level is accurate for everyone regardless of committee or award. Does anyone have any questions?
2. Question from Psychological Sciences: Is this about the email that was sent out?
 - Anna: Yes, this isn't a change to the bylaws. It's just going along with the bylaws that we have and making sure that we are consistent across the board.

B. Charter

1. Biological sciences presented information on suggested charter changes and changes to the bylaws related to the awards. She said: The awards are a mess and the committee is trying to make them less so. While it looks like the committee has done a lot, she said they actually haven't. They fixed the wording and made the charter actually reflect how GSS currently operates. The charter has essentially not been changed. It has been edited for clarity. It reflects how the current GSS actually functions. She said she knows that the suggested revisions have been sent out, and so she wanted to open a discussion to see if anyone had any thoughts on the changes. She said the plan was to discuss the potential revisions and vote to approve this version. However, the charter functions as law, so it has to get passed through lawyers and the Board of Trustees for it to go into effect.
2. Question from Psychological Sciences: I see for senators, wording has been changed from "elected" to "selected." Why? "Selected makes it sound like someone is choosing the senators."
 - Biological Sciences: Academic units are choosing the senators. I don't know how they are doing it, and I don't want to tell units how to do it.
 - Anna: In my department, we elect a senator. But, for other departments, sometimes they just have someone volunteer.
 - Biological Sciences: I'm uncomfortable telling academic units to hold elections, so "selected" means whatever you want it to mean.

- Psychological Sciences: Aren't these the bylaws? They shouldn't be ambiguous. It changes how we report what we do on our CVs. If it's just selected, now the departments can make up what they want to interpret it as. Even if someone just volunteers, that is still an election. If you volunteer and no one runs against you, you have won the election. "Elected" looks better on our CVs.
- Biological Sciences: Anyone else have thoughts about this?
- Anthropology: I was selected because of seniority. We didn't have an election, so it is different by department. So saying "elected" doesn't really define what is going on.
- Biological Sciences: The fact of the matter is whether you just show up one day and decide you're the senator, you're still doing the work of being a senator. You still sit on committees and make hard decisions. I guess "selected" could mean different things, but we have really diverse academic units on campus, and I really don't want it to come down to a twisting of words where, potentially, there's no election of record and X, Y, or Z happened. It's not about de-legitimizing senators. It's about making sure the smaller academic units are legitimized.
- Anna: That's not to say that within your academic unit, you could still be elected. This is just making it easier for smaller academic units or those that don't meet a lot.
- Biological Sciences: It's giving people more options than just having an election. Do you have something to add?
- Business Administration: What if it was "elected or selected"? This way it includes the word "elected." I think part of the ambiguity here is that "selected" makes the whole election process seem irrelevant to this, and I think keeping the "elected" wording will help to reinforce the idea that the departments elect OR select their senators.
- Biological Sciences: Does that then not make those who are selected less legitimate than those who are elected? It creates a dichotomy.
- Psychological Sciences: I just don't think it should be ambiguous in what we say. If we say "selected," how a department chooses that in the example of when someone just volunteers, what happens when you have two people who volunteer? I think it should just be clear. Maybe something along the lines of "selected as determined by the academic unit" so they can make the decisions.
- Biological Sciences: Let me find it in the actual document.
- Anna: I think it's in there a couple of times.

- Biological Sciences: Does anyone else have any thoughts on this? [Reads Section D part 2]. As an aside, you actually do want the charter to be more vague than the bylaws because you don't want to revise it. I want to hear more. Does anyone else have any thoughts on this?
- English: Since I'm new to the Senate, I just had a side thought. What happens in the case that a department doesn't send a senator? How do you reach out to their department to get them to send a senator?
- Biological Sciences: I'm going to let Anna answer that question.
- Anna: It's messier than it should be right now. This is something that I would like to make clear by adding the FAQs to the website. Right now, from the communications especially with Grace because she is the one that deals with updates and communications with the senators, basically, if we haven't gotten an update, we assume the previous year's senator continued on in the position. At the meetings, we've been telling you that if you're a new senator to let us know your email and update us. Unless we're reached out to, we don't ask departments about who their senator is.
- English: What happens if the senator graduates? Do you still keep sending emails to them? What if then there is no senator? This is what happens in my department. Very few graduate students show interest in the association within our department. So, I volunteered to come here. No one else was willing to set aside time. I believe that if I had not stepped in, there would be no one to come to the Senate. I ask this because we're discussing elect/select.
- Biological Sciences: Again, "provide a process." That's the point in having "select," so I'm not telling academic units how to go about this process.
- Jenn: When Fritz was president and I was a senator, in my department, you would just have someone volunteer. So, I just talked to the senator before me and told her that I wanted to be the senator. So when I was done being the senator, the E-Board told me it was my responsibility, because my department doesn't have elections, to find someone to fill my position or my department would lose funding. They wouldn't be eligible for the awards.
- Cindy: I have to leave in 3 minutes, Madam Chair. Just a concern about a totally different point, and I'm sorry to interrupt.
- Anna: Yes, we're getting there.
- Cindy: Good.

- Anna: Yes.
- Biological Sciences: OK. Current wording does not say someone is selected. It says, each individual academic unit will provide a *process* -- not the process not a specified process, provide a process - for the selection of a voting representative. That means something to probably every academic unit here depending on different circumstances. Not saying they are selected but that there is a process for selection. Is that the issue? Does anyone have an issue with that phrase still? Are you sure? Please now, this matters. Process for selection.
- A.J.: May I posit a compromising phrase?
- Biological Sciences: Sure.
- A.J.: Appointment.
- Biological Sciences: But you're not appointed because you're elected or selected.
- A.J.: But by appointment, you could have vagueries of a selection process and/or an election process.
- Anna: I'm thesaurus-ing "appointment."
- Biological Sciences: The reason I didn't select appointment is because appointment implies a board to do such a thing -- a higher power of some sort. I feel like the "process of selection" includes many other things. As an aside to this, are there any other things with the changes?
- Psychological Sciences: Just an unrelated question and I don't feel entirely strongly about this, but can we talk about having alternates? I know this is how it's always been, but do we want to consider removing the word "alternate" and just have each academic unit get one vote? Then, you can have two senators. The only reason why I'm proposing such a change is because of how that looks on our CVs. We can just report it as being a senator. Each academic unit still gets one vote and if the primary senator and the other senator is, that's fine. "Alternate" seems like weird wording. Again, I don't feel strongly about it, but I think it could be beneficial to all of us.
- Anna: I do like that but then I would wonder about the actual communication from senator to senator to academic unit. So, having one person to go to initially vs two people to go to and receiving a bunch of emails.
- Biological Sciences: Also as an aside, only one placard with which to vote per unit exists.
- Psychological Sciences: That's what I'm saying. Only one vote but we have two senators. Both senators get all of the emails. We handle this within the department. This is already happening, so

if you have a senator and an alternate, we're already getting both communications and sharing a placard. The only thing would be changing would be the title.

- Srijana: But I think having two senators could sometimes be confusing because who sends the information to the constituents?
- Anna: He's saying they do already coordinate that.
- Biological Sciences: I'm just going to take more questions here.
- Mathematics: I wanted to say that I support changing the title because I'm in my last year, so the alternate will probably take on a bigger role in the spring.
- Political Science: I feel like the current language allows for that and it should be decided by the department. It says "voting representatives." Each academic unit could decide whether they want to have an alternate and a primary. It's open for each academic unit to decide.
- Anna: It's just changing the name alternate.
- Biological Sciences: I think it's important to state that these are general guidelines that are further distinguished within the bylaws. I'm willing to take things into consideration if everyone feels really strongly about them. But, I think it's important to note that there are bylaws that then apply these things more specifically. You don't want to write anything into law that you then have to put up through lawyers again to get fixed. I would take that into consideration when you're proposing changes.
- Jenn: I just want to propose adding a word to C.E. It says promote equality, which is great, but I think we also need to be promoting equity, which is giving everyone what they need to be successful. Equality is treating everyone the same. Equity is giving everyone what they need to be successful. What I need to be successful may be different than what Xin needs to be successful for example. I think we should include "equity."
- Anna: Can we finish the conversation about the alternate senator?
- Biological Sciences: Could we actually first finish the conversation about D.2.?
- Anna: Yes.
- Biological Sciences: Are there any further conversations or thoughts or things that need to be changed with D.2. Baby vote. Not real vote. [Majority OK with D.2.] CE has now been put forth as an issue. Does anyone have any further thoughts about changing equality to equity.
- Jenn: We can keep equality. I just think we should add equity because it's very important.
- Anthropology: Is GSS actually doing that?

- Jenn: If we aren't, we should. If we're saying that we're promoting equality, I don't think it's right that we should be saying equality without saying equity because equality is saying we're going to promote fairness but that only works if everyone is starting from the same place and needs the same help. That's not the case with all graduate students coming in. Someone brought up first-generation graduate students. They're going to need more help than someone whose parents went to grad school or already has a master's degree. I think if we're saying we're going to promote equality, we need to promote equity.
- Anthropology: I think that's great, but I don't see GSS actually doing that.
- Biological Sciences: Any thoughts on adding the word equity?
- Political Science: When we say equity, what kind of specifics are we talking about?
- Jenn: I can't come up with that on the spot. I would need time to think.
- Biological Sciences: Any other thoughts?
- Political Science: Does that mean we're all looking for the same stipends or...?
- Jenn: No, technically that would be equality. Everyone would get the same thing. Equity would be what you would need to be successful.
- Anna: What about thinking about that when we talk about the bylaws? Not necessarily worrying about it here? Just throwing this out there.
- Jenn: Here is a little infographic. [Shows laptop.]
- Anna: We are going to have to keep this moving along.
- Biological Sciences: Ok. I'm going to do a baby vote on equity now.
- Physics: I have a comment before we continue. If we included equity, would it mean when all of the people are applying for certain awards, each of them have their own needs, so we would be violating the process and charter? Each of them has different needs, so I think that might be an issue.
- Anna: I hear what you're saying. I wonder if it would actually make it stronger because it would make us more just in our selection process?
- Business Administration: We do have the contingency award, which is a more specialized award for the individual needs. I am in favor of there being a more individualized aspect to the charter here, but I don't think it has to go as far as saying each individual award, such as the DTA or ITA, has to be tailored to that

individual because we are providing other awards, such as the contingency award, which is for the individual circumstances.

- Biological Sciences: OK. I'm going to put it to a baby vote. All in favor of equity raise your placards.
- Question: What was the question again?
- Biological Sciences: Didn't you just vote?
- Question: Yes, but I was trying to figure out what you were saying.
- Biological Sciences: All in favor of adding equity to C.E., please raise your placards.
 - In favor - 9
 - Opposed - 9
- Anna: It's a tie.
- Statement: I think the senators against this because we're not doing this doesn't mean we're never going to do it. If we start with this small step of putting it into the charter to be more accountable to do it in the future, it's a good start.
- Biological Sciences: I think the issue people are having is more about what the definition of equity is.
- Jenn: Here is a great demonstration of equity.
- Anna: I am going to suggest that we table this for the next meeting. Think about equity and we'll do another vote then. Also, think about alternate senator name. The other issue was to think about the administrative chair position. For administrative chair, there have been a couple of changes over the past year from making the position a GA-ship rather than an hourly position. We would like to recommend that it clearly state that it's not a GAship. This wouldn't affect Jenn for this year. I just want to be clear. But, we would like to suggest having it written in the charter to stay as an hourly position so we're not changing it back and forth. That has caused a lot of confusion along the way -- particularly related to budgetary stuff.
- Biological Sciences: Yes, does anyone have thoughts or concerns about the charter?
- Political Science: I think the name of the Daily Kent Stater got changed to Kent Wired. I'm not sure.
- Biological Sciences: OK. I'll change that to Kent State media.
- Business Administration: Where does it say something about the hourly position?
- Anna: It doesn't say anything about the hourly position now, but we'd like to add that.
- Business Administration: Oh, OK!

- Biological Sciences: Any other questions or concerns? We have to vote on this in December. Please read it! Please read it and think about what you want to be put into actual law.

C. Bylaws

1. Biological Sciences: The bylaws were sent out. You have all received a copy of proposed changes to the award section of the bylaws, Section 8 of the bylaws. Here is what I have proposed that we do: I have pulled out common sections for each award and made it its own section so that we have a standard for streamlining. Other than that, we have attempted to make the awards work the same. If you open up that file, there is a rationale file, a description of what was changed, and the new wording. We don't have time to talk about it, but we're going to talk about it at the next meeting. What I need you to do is read those files! Think about how you want your awards to work. I need that from you! I will also be at Grad Fest tonight, and I would love if you would ask me questions or opinions like I have been asking for over and over again. I need input. For the love of God, I need input about these things!
2. Victoria: There is a comment for a proposed change for how the ITA is reimbursed. In a perfect world, we would like to have it set up like this, very similar to the RA. But, take this as a very tentative proposal because I am currently talking to people who do the financial processing of the ITA. Because the ITA is a travel award, compared to the RA, it might be a little different. I'm hoping to get answers soon. I'm in a holding pattern. I should have an answer soon, so when we actually propose changes to the bylaws, we can have a concrete answer.
3. Biological Sciences: So, every award has been changed. Please look at them!
4. Anna: Thank you to those of you who did look over the awards in preparation for this meeting. Keep up the good work!

VI. New Business

A. Gradfest

1. Anna: Grad Fest was brought up at the last meeting. There was a suggestion to stop having Grad Fest. If anyone has any thoughts, we'd like to hear them.
 - Biomedical Science: I like grad fest. It's good for all grad students - especially after GSO - especially if they're coming from out of state, they may be coming to Grad Fest to meet some people.
 - Anna: We have talked about this. We typically have a lot of people at the first Grad Fest after GSO and at the last Grad Fest of the semester. I have been trying to branch out for where we typically go to for Grad Fest. I just booked the ice rink for December. We'll have discounted skating. Adding in more variety for Grad Fest, so there are some changes that Anna has been trying to implement.
 - Political Science: I don't attend, but I think it's a great idea. It's the only informal opportunity for grad students to interact with one

another from other departments.

- Anthropology: Is it possible to invite other graduate students from neighboring universities and maybe charge admission?
- Anna: That's a cool idea.
- Anthropology: I have friends who would want to come, but maybe we could have them pay admission as a fundraiser.
- Anna: I don't know how we would actually do that, but I think it's a really good idea. I'm going to think about that. I have been trying to think of ways to get more graduate students together from other universities. Let's do an unofficial vote. [Majority]

B. Organizational Request - Political Science Graduate Student Association

1. Political Science: The request is to run a week-long event. It's a writing bootcamp to provide an environment on campus for students to complete end of the semester projects, final papers, prospectus, etc. It's week long running from Nov. 18 to 22. We think that having you work in unison with other grad students will help to keep you honest. It's in Bowman Hall Room 202. We have three different time slots: to 10:30, 2:15 to 4 and 5:30 to 8 p.m.

- Request = \$100
 - About \$15 for a box at a given coffee store. Remaining for bananas and granola bars.
- Motion to approve: MCLS; Second: political science. No oppositions or abstentions.

C. Organizational Request - Modern and Classical Languages | Kent Lingua

1. Kent Lingua is the graduate student association for MCLS. We're having a professional event later today (11/8) from 2 to 4 p.m. in Satterfield 122. They invited the COO of Morningside Translations. Anyone is welcome to attend who is interested in project management, freelancing, translation and other interesting topics.

- Request = \$50
 - For refreshments like coffee and cookies
- Motion to approve: Chemistry & Biochemistry; Second: Theater & Dance. No opposition or abstention.

D. Anna: Any new business?

1. Theater & Dance: I just wanted to quickly ask about the DTA and taking out the maximum financial aid. If you take out the maximum financial aid and receive the DTA, that awarded money is then taken out of your financial aid. That has happened to two students in my department. They've talked to One Stop, and they've told them, "Oh yes. That's how it goes." I'm wondering if we could make that more clear to people?
2. Victoria: Recently when Jenn has been sending out the processing emails, she's been very clear about what happens now. She lays it out like, "Hey, if this is how it is set up, it might be deducted from your financial aid." She's been very clear.

3. Jenn: I include the link to One Stop. I know the individuals you're talking about because the department contacted us, but they really just need to talk to One Stop in person. I've tried calling One Stop and they just put you on hold. I don't know why that's an issue.
 4. Victoria: It's happening, but I think with how Jenn is processing the awards, she is making them aware.
 5. Theater & Dance: They did contact One Stop, and One Stop essentially told them this is how it is. So, you just essentially didn't get the award. There's less incentive to apply.
 6. Anna: You're saying we should put it on our website or make it clear?
 7. Theater & Dance: Yeah, I think that would be helpful.
 8. Anna: OK. Yes, we can do that. It's kind of like us giving money to the university rather than just the student.
- E. Xin: I just wanted to add on to what the senator from Anthropology mentioned regarding equity. We have students who want to use the ITA or RA to go to Muslim countries or Cuba, but we wouldn't be able to honor these because of the government policy. I just want to mention this because how would GSS exercise equity in this case? The government would essentially restrict us from doing this. I just want to bring this up for us to think about.
1. Anna: That's good to think about.

VII. Announcements

- A. Gradfest Tonight at Madcap Brewery 6-8pm

VIII. Adjournment @ 10:02 a.m.

- A. Motion: Biomedical Sciences
- B. Second: Business Administration
- C. All in favor. No opposed