

- I. Call to Order: 11:12am
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of November 3, 2015 Minutes - Approved
- IV. Executive Board Reports

A. **Executive Chair** – Fritz Yarrison – fyarriso@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. They are in the process of finding examples of other surveys.

b. Graduate students have been charged with providing feedback for these issues via <http://www.ssireview.kent.edu> – a discussion forum is available.

2. Effectiveness and Efficiency Taskforce

a. They are still brainstorming ideas about making a more efficient Kent Campus and University system and saving money from the budget.

3. Presidents Lunch

a. University Stewards Program

i. The program is intended to identify faculty and staff who will agree to serve as points of support, resource, and referral for students. The role of a steward is to serve as confidential, informal, and neutral resources for students provide referrals and support. This effort coordinated between Student Affairs; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and Academic Affairs is designed to offer personalized support to students who experience issues related to climate on campus.

ii. List of University Stewards

- N.J. Akbar, Associate Dean, University College
- Jacquelyn Bleak, Mediator/Lecturer CACM
- Pat Dennison, Interim Student Ombuds
- Ken Ditlevson, Director of LGBTQ Student Center
- Shana M. Lee, Director Special Projects & Initiatives, DEI
- Eron Memaj, International Student Affairs Director
- Oscar Ramos, Director of Student Multicultural Center
- Dr. Timeka Rashid, Associate Dean of Students
- Dr. David Taylor, Associate Director, Residence Services

Q. Can you be a steward if you are both staff and a grad student?

Q. Should we be sharing this information now?

A. They did not say not to share it, so yes.

4. Organizational Request Changes

a. 70% said that we should change it, but that is only 5 people.

- b. Vote to change the Organizational Request in some way
 - i. In favor: 20
 - ii. Opposed: 3
 - iii. Abstentions: 3
 - iv. Motion Passes
- c. Discussion of changes
 - i. Increase the amount of times you can apply for the award
 - ii. Seconded that idea
 - iii. Discussion of two awards per year at \$100 total
 - iv. What if we just allowed one award per semester?
 - v. Would this impact the budget of the travel awards?
 - vi. Not with the low current number of applicants
 - vii. Is there a way to set a max amount of awards period. It's important, but should this take priority above more professional development funding via the awards. What if it is dependent on remaining money?
 - viii. Even if there are 70 awards, the maximum, that is only \$7000, so in the big picture it wouldn't have too much of an impact.
 - ix. What if we want a different option?
 - x. This motion would have to fail, and then there would have to be a new motion.
- d. Vote: All in favor (26)
- Q. Will this be competitive?
- A. No, the application will be the same and the senate will continue to vote on each request as it is submitted.
- e. This constitutes an official change of the bylaws to allow for 2 awards per year (one in Fall and one in Spring) at a maximum of \$100. Academic Units who received organizational funding this Fall 2015 semester will be eligible to apply again in Spring 2016.

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

- 1. Educational Policies Council
 - a. The College of Arts and Sciences established a Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality that will provide support for study and research in the areas of gender and sexuality.
- 2. Student Health Advisory Committee:
 - a. There is going to be Lifeshare blood drive on Dec. 2nd and 3rd
 - b. A previous survey showed various issues on drug and alcohol use, but now the university is aware of a major eating disorder problem on campus and there will be an eating disorder awareness day next semester
 - c. There was concern about healthy food options on campus and are seeking out GSS opinions on campus, as well as graduate student opinions on tobacco use on campus.

- i. President Warren wants a Tobacco Free Campus
- ii. The committee is wondering if the Senate could pass a resolution or move to support a tobacco free campus and or the banning of e-cigarette use inside classrooms.

Q. Has there been any analysis of the healthiness of food or tobacco use on campus?

A. We're not aware of any specific analysis, but the committee is definitely concerned about it

Q. Do they want a GSS endorsement then?

A. Yes, they would like a GSS resolution.

Q. How would we do that, then?

A. We can take a vote, and if it passes Fritz would look into more specifics on the issues.

A. We could also have a representative from the committee come talk to us first.

A. In addition, more data on these issues would be helpful.

Q. That comment was seconded

Q. Do we have any authority over the food providers in the Kent Student Center

A. We're not aware if there is, but those food choices are certainly part of the problem.

Q. How would the enforcement and or the planning processes of a Tobacco Free Campus?

Q. What is the current university policy on e-cigarettes?

A. We're not aware of any rules, but even if there are, they aren't being enforced

Q. What about the problems currently with the enforcement of the 20ft smoking zone. It's not happening now, why would in any future plans?

Q. Designated smoking areas might help.

Q. It's important to acknowledge that graduate students will take advantage of any leniency they are offered, so smoking zones might not be the solution.

A. We have many excellent questions, and it seems like the best step forward is to bring someone here from the committee that will be able to answer more of them.

3. Spring 2016 International Travel Award

- a. There were 16 applications, though not all may be complete.
- b. Overall, there will probably be about \$5000-\$7000 awarded.
- c. All applicants will know before the end of the semester.

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

1. Spring 2016 Domestic Travel Award

- a. Award opens on January 18th
- b. Deadline: February 1st, 2016 at 11:59pm

2. 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. Your proof of travel is also required. A travel ticket, hotel receipt, or gas receipt will work.
 - d. You must turn your funding packet in within 14 days of traveling.

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

- 1 Spring 2016 Research Award Updates
 - a. Deadline: February 29th, 2016, 11:59pm
 - b. Look for new guidelines later this month including an update to how the letters of recommendation, IACUK, and IRB work.
 - c. The application will basically be the same, except there will be a small update to the way budgets are included.
 - d. Please email Megan with any suggestions or questions.
- 2 Women’s Center Goods Drive
 - i. Thanks so much for all of your donations! If you do have any other donations I will still take them through December 4th.
- 3 Spring Volunteering
 - a. There will be a Habitat for Humanity activity in the Spring
 - b. If you have other events you would like to share, please let Mark know, and he will send them out to the Senate list-serv.
- 4 Student Affairs Council Meeting
 - a. A new Flashline will be released that will work better with mobile and touchscreen devices, so look for more information about that and how to provide feedback. In the meantime you can email Megan with suggestions.

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 Registration Opens December 1st – Today
 - a. Link: <http://www.kent.edu/graduatestudies/research-symposium>
- 3 The last meeting of the Taskforce will be Thursday at 10:00am. The taskforce has accomplished much in their first two meeting and plan on wrapping things up at this final meeting.
 - Q. When will registration close?
 - A. We don’t have a specific date yet, but it will be mid-February.

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

- 1 University Diversity Action Council
 - a. Primarily the council discussed a new framework going forward as far as their diversity initiatives are structured. Previously, most initiatives

have had a combination of deficit or diversity goals, but not included the more structural equity mindset of looking at how the university as a system or the greater state and community systems cause issues of diversity, deficiency, and equity. Going forward UDAC will be more inclusive of all three of these frameworks and encouraging the university as a whole to do as well.

2 Senator Updates

a. Check the dates and times of next semester's meeting below, and 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. We've passed 600 likes on Facebook!

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

VI. New Business

VII. Announcements

A. Please share and take the Fashion Survey that will be sent out to everyone.

B. The Black Graduate Student Association is collecting ACME receipts in the Fashion Building, but also Cartwright Hall.

C. Spring 2016 General Senate Meetings:

1. Tuesday, Feb. 2nd from 1:00pm-3:00pm, Kent Student Center Ballroom Balcony

2. Tuesday, Mar. 8th from 1:00pm-3:00pm, KSC Ballroom Balcony

3. Tuesday, Apr. 5th from 1:00pm-3:00pm, KSC Ballroom Balcony

4. Tuesday, Apr. 26th from 1:00pm-3:00pm, KSC Ballroom Balcony

VII. Adjournment 11:57pm – Motion: Psychological Sciences; Seconded: Sociology