

- I. Call to Order: 11:00am
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of November 5, 2014 Minutes - Approved
- IV. Executive Board Reports

A. **Executive Chair** – Alexandria Lesak – alesak@kent.edu

1. Faculty Senate Report – September Meeting

a. It was noted that during President Warren's announcement regarding the search committee for the new Vice President for Research that there was faculty and administrators serving on the committee. Being that research is one of the primary focuses in graduate education and that there has been graduate student representation on other integral University positions, such as the University President, Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, the Executive Board felt it would be beneficial to have graduate student representation on the search committee for the new Vice President for Research. Since Provost Diacon is heading the search committee, the Executive Board sent a letter to him requesting graduate student representation. He quickly responded and was more than happy to have a graduate student representative on the search committee. In the letter, I offered to serve as the graduate student representative. The search committee met once already, but is meeting early next week, so I will be able to catch up quickly on their progress.

i. If you have any suggestions as to what you would like to see in the next Vice President for Research, please email Alex, who will then bring it to the committee.

b. Faculty Senate also passed the EPC item regarding the number of retakes per course for undergraduate students. Effective in Fall 2015, undergraduate students will be limited to three overall attempts for any single course before campus/college intervention.

B. **Executive Vice Chair** – Fritz Yarrison – fyarriso@kent.edu

1. Educational Policies Council Report

a. The School of Foundations, Leadership, and Administration created Career Advising Post-Bachelorette and Post-Masters certificates and also established an Institutional Research and Assessment certificate.

b. The School of Lifespan Development and Educational Sciences created a Nursing Administration certificate.

2. Transportation Advisory Committee

a. Snow removal and removal of black ice needs to be solved without blocking accessibility.

b. PARTA is in the process of developing better systems of GPS and signage.

3. Public Safety Advisory Committee – Lauren Woolum

a. Kent State Police will be adding a new officer

- b. Crime is down on campus but theft is increasing
- c. The Kent State notification system will be updated
- d. Summit Street Project Fall 2015
 - i. Two round-a-bouts will replace two traffic lights
 - ii. West campus will be under construction and down to one lane next fall along Summit. Only eastbound traffic will be allowed.
 - iii. The restructuring of the current roads will result in 70 less parking spaces.
 - iv. ODOT and the City of Kent has more information.
 - v. The project will lessen traffic congestion overall, but peak hours will remain congested.
 - vi. Pedestrian and Bicycle traffic has not been discussed
 - vii. It was advised that a parking garage will never happen.
- 4. Teaching Award Committee Update
 - a. We are still seeking members to sit on a committee to implement a Teaching Service award. Please email Fritz if you are interested.

C. Finance Chair - Gordon Cromley – gcromle2@kent.edu

- 1. Domestic Travel Award Vote
 - a. Roll Call Vote – Motion from Liquid Crystal Institute; was not seconded.
 - b. Please see attached for the details of the two options for a temporary Domestic Travel Award modification
 - c. Questions from the floor:
 - Q. Is there any worry about overloading the system with Time of Submission with everyone submitting at the same time?
 - A. It is a concern, but EmailMe is a large company and should be reliable under these circumstances, and we have never had any issues in the past.
 - Q. Is Time of Submission essentially ‘first-come-first-serve’?
 - A. Yes
 - Q. In the application is there anything like a recommendation letter that is required since that might create an issue with Time of Submission?
 - A. No, unless you are submitting a letter from a faculty as evidence of presentation. We attempted to keep the overall process similar to what we’ve been doing and reserve large changes for next fall.
 - Q. Is there a large variation from semester to semester as to how much money awarded individually?
 - A. Last fall the average Domestic Travel Award was about \$270, in the spring it was about \$312, and it has continued to climb. The trend is moving towards the maximum of \$350.

Q. Can we begin incorporating more statistical analysis into the budgeting and organization of the award?

A. That would be something that could be implemented as part of the larger changes next fall.

Q. Will these awards continue to be advertised as non-competitive awards, particularly if the Time of Submission option is passed?

A. All 'non-competitive' language would be removed from GSS literature.

Q. Is a faculty registration letter basically just saying that the student plans to present at the conference?

A. Yes, it is for circumstances where conference registrations might not be open yet, a decision might be pending on a presentation submission to a conference, or a conference has not sent a letter of presentation acceptance.

Q. Have the issues from this past semester in figuring out Time of Submission been resolved or will they continue to occur?

A. They have been resolved.

Q. Could we include travel to Mexico and Canada in the International Travel Award?

A. That would be something to consider for the larger changes that will be discussed in the spring.

Q. In the past it was possible to apply for the Domestic Travel Award for internships, how does that change now?

A. In the past there was more flexibility in the budget to allow internship funding. Internships are still able to be funded through the Research Award. In discussions this spring it will be a perfect time to reevaluate what should be funded since GSS understands that each field holds a different value for different activities and what might be paper presentation to one field might be a discussant or internship to another. This is why it will be necessary for many people from many fields to sit on the committee this spring.

Q. If you realize that the number of presenters is actually smaller than the allotted budget would you begin funding non-presenters?

A. We do not anticipate that occurring, but if it did there would be a reconsideration once the application window closes.

- i. **Option 1: Randomization** – Motion: Chemistry;
Seconded: Modern and Classical Language Studies
 - a. For 20; Against 12
 - b. Option 1 passed and will be implemented for the Spring 2015 and Summer 2015 Domestic Travel Award
 - ii. Option 2: Time of Submission
- d. Due to time constraints in implementing a change to the Domestic Travel Award, the committee decided that a temporary change

should be implemented for the Spring and Summer, but that additional committee meetings will occur in the Spring to discuss a more permanent solution to the Domestic Travel Award that will be implemented Fall 2015. These further meeting will take into account issues such as award amounts, eligibility, and requirements.

2. Anyone who would like to sit on a committee next spring to advise the senate on a permanent change to the Domestic Travel Award for Fall 2015 please email Gordon.
3. The Spring 2015 Domestic Travel Award application will open on January 1st, 2015 at 8:00am.

C. Advocacy Chair – Andrea Meluch – ameluch1@kent.edu

1. Philanthropy
 - a. A thank you from the Women’s Center Pantry for your donations.
 - b. Spring Ideas
 - i. Raise funds for Ebola support.
 - ii. Pediatric Cancer family support group.
 - iii. Winter clothing drive.
 - c. General trend towards a goods drive rather than a monetary donation. The senate decided to wait till February to make a decision.
2. Spring 2015 Research Award
 - a. Deadline: 11:59pm Jan 19th, 2015.
 - b. Please email Andrea if you are interested in sitting on the review committee for the Research Award.
 - c. Please email Andrea or visit her during office hours for any questions about application procedures or the Research Award.

D. Research Symposium Chair – Scout McCully – smccull5@kent.edu

1. Spring 2015 International Travel Award
 - a. There were 8 submissions, four of which were complete.
 - b. If you are interested in sitting on the International Travel Award review committee please email Scout.
2. 30th Annual Graduate Research Symposium - April 3, 2015
 - a. Registration is open until Feb 13th at 11:59pm.
 - b. Spread the word! The Symposium has grown every year and we hope to see an even higher number of presenters this year.
 - c. Presentation
 - i. Graduate Students may present oral or poster presentations. All forms of scholarship are encouraged. Presentations/posters may be work that has been shared at a conference, or new material.
 - ii. Awards and monetary prizes will be given for outstanding presentations in each group session.

- d. Please also reach out to faculty members to help judge!
- e. Funding
 - i. We are currently reaching out to external sources of funding to lessen the symposium's demand on our budget and free up funding for student awards.

E. Information Services Chair – Mark Rhodes – 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.
- 2. Social Media
 - a. Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter ([@ksugss](#)) for news!
- 3. Graduate Student Funding Database
 - a. Please email Mark with any information you have about funding opportunities you know of for graduate students at departmental, school, college, university, and external levels.
- 4. University Teaching Council/University Council on Technology Report
 - a. Blackboard
 - i. Update
 - i. A new Blackboard interface that will be coming soon. They will begin easing users into it this spring.
 - ii. The Blackboard mobile app directed toward students just developed a grading app and will be tested and installed over the next few months
 - iii. Library –
 - 1. NBC Learn has been implemented from the Provost office
 - 2. There is a new Discovery Service for EBSCO searching and reading lists
 - 3. There is an Electronic Reserve update that will integrate the electronic reserve with Blackboard
 - ii. Blackboard Performance Concerns during Finals of last year and midterms of this year there were issues
 - i. Started monitoring details of problems instead of a simple functional not functional alert
 - ii. Began archiving courses older than two years and inactive for one
 - iii. Recently acquired a new hardware system for speed but won't be done before December so there may still be issues during the upcoming finals week
 - b. There is currently a search for a replacement for FolioWeb that will function similarly.
 - c. Any broken links on the Kent website can be addressed through a technology ticket directed to the web team.
 - d. Scantron

- i. Use value to some departments and monitoring issues with BlackBoard testing
 - ii. Not trying to remove Scantron, but replace it with department level resources that achieve similar tasks.
 - e. Concerns about big data research. There is a lack of architecture to conduct research using high performance supercomputing.
 - f. Clicker Technologies
 - i. There are about 75 faculty across campus using clickers
 - ii. We are currently using Turning Technologies.
 - iii. There is a debate between switching to or adding Tophat Technology.
 - iv. Ideally there would only one system.
- V. New Business
 - C. Domestic Travel Award Bylaw Change
 - 1. Since this temporary modification to the Domestic Travel Award remains within our bylaws, we won't be adjusting the bylaws until a permanent change is voted upon.
- V. Old Business
- VI. Announcements
 - A. Spring Graduate Student Orientation: January 9th, 2015 from 12:00-5:00pm in the Kent Student Center
 - 1. Required for any new teaching appointment
 - B. Next General Meeting: Tuesday, February 3rd, 2015 from 10am - 12pm (Ballroom Balcony)
 - C. Next GradFest: Friday, February 6th, 2015 from 6-8 pm (Location TBA)
- VII. Adjournment 12:13pm – Motion: Liquid Crystal Institute; Seconded: Applied Engineering, Sustainability, and Technology