

- I. Call to Order at 10:00 a.m.
- II. Roll Call
 - A. Absences: Business Administration, Digital Science, Fashion, Philosophy
- III. Approval of minutes from December 7, 2018
- IV. Dr. Lamar Hylton, Dean of Students
 - A. Dean Hylton greeted the Senate and wished everyone a positive start to this new semester. He looks forward to continued work with the GSS for the benefit of KSU graduate students. Dean Hylton said that he would love to help if he can. If there are any ways that Student Affairs can be supportive to any students' efforts, those individuals are invited to contact Dean Hylton or visit his office on the second floor of the Kent Student Center.
- V. Executive Board Reports
 - A. **Executive Chair** – Mark Rhodes – mrhode21@kent.edu
 1. Report from Faculty Senate Meeting
 - There is now Aviation Management and Logistics major within the Master of Science in the College of Aeronautics and Engineering
 - The Regional College, which houses any programs which exist exclusively on the regional campuses, has changed its name to the College of Applied and Technical Studies.
 - The most important point discussed was recommended changes to the Research Misconduct Policy. This policy affects employees at Kent State conducting research. Concerns were raised that the language wasn't including graduate students, and a rather long conversation ensued where it became obvious many Faculty Senators are not aware that graduate students are explicitly not employees of the university. This concerns Mark greatly, because it is through our restricted standing as students that we are also restricted from any of the benefits granted to regular employees at Kent State. Dr. Tankersley cleared this up, but I imagine the lack of clarity as to where graduate students and assistants fall within the broader university structure is pervasive and must be addressed. Due to this and other confusions about the policy, which, as written, would NOT include graduate students, it was sent back to committee. Any concerns further questions can be directed via email to Mark by email.
 2. Update from Presidential Search Committee
 - Mark is currently serving on the search. You should have received an email last week about completing the survey for updates. Mark was looking at the data the other day and it wasn't entirely clear if any graduate students had completed it. Mark would urge you to share any thoughts you have via that survey or with myself concerning the search for a new

President.

3. Update from Dean of Libraries Search Committee
 - You should have received an email from GSS this week encouraging you to attend the three public forums with the three candidates. Mark would like to thank Ph.D. Candidate Michael Hawkins for keeping us updated and serving as the GSS representative on the search, as well as the GSS Board members who also evaluated the candidates through our role on the Committee of Executive Officers.
4. Update about Institutional Advancement Chair (also see Old Business)
 - As you saw in the Agenda, following meeting that Tim and Mark had both with the Student Affairs Advancement Officer, Laurel Wirtanen-Siloy, and Vice President of the [Division of Institutional Advancement](#) Stephen Sokany, Mark recommended the Senate vote down the additional of an Advancement Office. These were incredibly productive meetings, and we believe the Advancement Office will actually do much of what we were proposing a new officer do.
5. Update about Organizational Funding Requests (OFRs; see New Business)
 - Following conversations with some grad organization leaders, Dr. Tankersley, Dr. Hylton, and the Board, Mark has proposed a loosening to our current organizational request structure. Essentially, by deleting the wording in the Bylaws that, as far as he can tell, dates back to the very establishment of the Senate in the 70s, we free up the amounts that can be used for different social and academic requests from the department and organizations of grad students. Rather than being limited to \$50 once a semester, the Bylaws, should they be adopted as proposed, would remove any cap for funding, allowing for broader impact in terms of symposia, colloquia, and social events. The funding would still need to first be approved by the Board and voted on by the Senate to pass. The budget would still maintain at least \$3,300, or more should the next board decide to increase the allocation, but rather than leaving a majority of the funds unused as currently occurs, it could actually benefit the Academic Units and Organizations that need it. All applications must come from Academic Units or Graduate Student Organizations which exist outside of Academic Units and recognized by the Executive Board of the Senate during the first week of the semester.
6. Announcement about elections for the GSS Executive Board
 - Mark urged everyone to start thinking seriously about GSS Executive Board Elections. The timeline is as follows. Nominations (and highly encouraged self-nominations) will open at the next General Senate Meeting and can be made at that meeting or via email to Mark (who will oversee the elections as he will be graduating) anytime up until March 29th.

If you are self-nominating, please include a paragraph as to why you are interested in the position and your CV, otherwise Mark will reach out to anyone nominated to confirm their willingness and collect this information. Each Senator will then receive the elections packet along with the Agenda for the April meeting and elections will be held during the meeting on April 12th.

- A number of things need to be kept in mind:
 - All positions, except Administrative Chair, are elected each year.
 - There are no requirements, other than that you cannot already have more than 23 hours of employment. So, you may have a full-time, 20-hour assistantship and still hold the 5-hour GSS position. Likewise, you may be an adjunct for two 3-credit classes for a total of 18 hours and still hold a 5 hour Board position.
 - There is a small stipend included, but Mark emphasized that this is a service position, and those who are elected will be doing more work than they will technically be paid for. The primary reasons for running should be to offer one's time and talents for the benefit of Kent State and the entire grad student body, then as an exceptional experience and CV line, and lastly for whatever little stipend you might receive.
 - All terms will serve from May 2019 to May 2020.
 - There are some excellent initiatives Mark has seen over the course of my 6 years in the Senate. Working closely now with almost every cabinet position across the university and many other organizations, GSS is well positioned to continue playing a significant role both in the University and the lives of Grad Students. Mark would hope that you or your constituents, particularly if you have plenty of energy to give and are looking towards a long tenure at Kent State to tip your toe into keeping much of this momentum going as much of the current board will be stepping down after this year.
 - If you have any questions about any of the positions don't hesitate to reach out to the current holders of those positions for more information. We are all very willing to share all the details of our positions.
- At this point, each member of the GSS Executive Board summarized their responsibilities and declared whether they were currently intending to run for an executive position for the 2019-2020 academic year. With the exception of the Administrative Services Chair (which is not an elected position), all executive officers, with the single exception of Xin Hong (Finance Chair) did not intend to run for a position next year.

- Morgan Chaney pointed out that the GSS Bylaws allow for former executives to serve in an *ex officio* advisory role for subsequent GSS Executive Boards. Mark added that he would be happy to provide his cell phone number to the next Executive Chair in case they had any questions for him next year.
- Dr. Melody Tankersley, the GSS Advisor and Dean of the Division of Graduate Studies, reiterated that the GSS has been instrumental in elevating the roles and responsibilities of graduate students and making sure that they had a big part to play in decisions being made at KSU. She said that this year's Executive Board has very impactful in these respects. Dr. Tankersley emphasized that Senators seriously consider nominating their great colleagues, or self-nominating in order to sustain this impact beyond the current academic year.

B. Executive Vice Chair – Timothy Rose – trose16@kent.edu

1. [International Travel Award](#) (ITA)

- Submission for the ITA is now open. Tim reminded everyone that recipients of the ITA are expected to present at the [Graduate Research Symposium](#).
- Question: What if a student does not know if they will be accepted for a conference before the deadline?
 - Answer: In these cases, a letter from a faculty member would serve as “proof of presentation”, attesting to their confidence in the acceptance of the student.

2. [Committee Representation](#)

- A number of external committees still need a primary representative (see below), but many others could benefit from a secondary representative.
 - Need primary representatives: Advisory Committee for Academic Assessment, Student Health Advisory Committee, University Council on Technology, and University Student Research Council.
- Two internal GSS committees also require more members: the Graduate Research Symposium Committee and the review committee for the International Travel Award.

3. Committee Reports

- Report from the [Women's Center Advisory Committee](#). Not many things were discussed that pertained to graduate students. The committee discussed recent events and award nominations, but nominations closed before February 1.
- Question: Where can I find more information about these committees?

- Answer: This can be found on the website on the [Committee Representation Page](#).

C. **Finance Chair** – Xin Hong – xhong1@kent.edu

1. [Special Contingency Award](#) (SCA)

- Update about SCA review committee
 - All of the current committee members come from College of Arts & Sciences and the College of Education, Health, and Human Services. Xin wants to have a more balanced committee and invited students from other colleges to join the committee. Anyone interested should email her.
- Announcement of previous SCA awardees: Tien Hong Stanley Seah from Psychological Sciences, \$1,500 to travel to Singapore.
- Announcement of new SCA awardees:
 - Elizabeth Aulino from Biological Sciences, \$1100 for conference travel to Israel
 - Alex Coucci from Geography, \$200 for inviting a research presentation to State University of New York at New Paltz.
 - Karla Rodriguez from Biological Sciences, \$200 for conference travel to Israel.

2. [Domestic Travel Award](#) (DTA)

- We received 201 entries, but Xin estimated that ~180 applications will be valid. This semester's DTA budget will fund 179 awards, so Xin said there would be a very good chance that all applicants will be funded without the need to resort to the lottery system outlined in the GSS Bylaws.

3. Update from GSS Awards Subcommittee

- In their last meeting, the committee expressed concerns that the current DTA may not be sufficient for graduate students traveling to some more distant locations that are described in the DTA guidelines (e.g., California). A new proposal from this committee to remedy this is forthcoming.
- Question: Can a field be added to the DTA submission form for "any additional information"?
 - Answer: There is an item allowing for additional, miscellaneous documents. Anyone wishing to provide more information should make use of that item on the submission form.

D. **Advocacy Chair** – Mitch Powers – mpower16@kent.edu

1. Report from National Meeting of the [NAGPS](#)

- The national NAGPS meeting was last November, and the theme of the meeting was "Graduate Lives and Advocacy". Because the KSU GSS is so active, Mitch found that many of the ideas mentioned for this theme were already being implemented in some form, with the exception of collective

bargaining (which we are current legally prohibited from doing by Ohio state law) or unionization.

2. New guidelines for the [Research Award](#) (RA)
 - The deadline for the RA is March 4 at 11:59 p.m.
 - New guidelines have been uploaded to the website. A stronger emphasis has been added to the composition of their budgets.
 - Question: Would a graduate student be allowed to receive funding for a group project *and* an individual project in the same semester?
 - Answer: Every graduate student is only eligible to receive one ITA or RA per academic year, so this would not be allowed if this student were in the authorship for both of the RA proposals in this scenario.
3. [NAGPS Legislative Action Days](#) (LAD)
 - The next LAD will take place in Washington, DC on March 9-11, 2019. Mitch intends on going and would like other volunteers to accompany him. Anyone interested in participating in the next LAD should contact Mitch by email.
4. Call for RA committee volunteers
 - Mitch needs volunteers to adequately judge the diverse applications that will likely be submitted for this round of the RA. This need is especially strong for graduate students in the following categories: artists, survey scientists (e.g., with Qualtrics), educational psychology, or really anyone outside of the College of Arts & Sciences.
5. Update about GSS award-writing workshop
 - Mitch has had meetings with people from the Writing Commons about the creation of a workshop for writing proposals for GSS award. He is currently in the planning stages for this initiative. An email will be sent in the near future with more information.

E. Research Symposium Chair – Danielle French – dfrenc12@kent.edu

1. Danielle announced that the deadline will be extended until February 8 at 11:59 p.m. She clarified the following points, which have stood out in her correspondences about the Symposium in recent weeks:
 - There have been concerns about the definition of interdisciplinary sessions. Graduate-student applicants are able to craft their own session if they would like, making themselves the de facto chair of that session. If applicants know at least three more students related to their field, they can do this through the online Symposium registration form.
 - Poster presentations will take place during the afternoon of Thursday, April 4. Later that same day, performance and fine-arts presentations will be take place in the evening. These will be followed by a performance by [Tayo Aluko](#), our keynote speaker. Oral sessions will take place on the morning of Friday, April 5.
 - The awards banquet will take place at 12:30 p.m. on April 5,

and awardees must be present to receive their awards (unless they have sent Danielle an excuse by April 3).

- If someone is required to present (e.g., RA and ITA recipients) but cannot be there because of a scheduling conflict, then proxy presenters are acceptable. Anyone in this situation, however, should let Danielle know ahead of time that this will be the case.
2. Report about registration for the [Graduate Research Symposium](#)
 - There have been a large number of requests for extensions because of the recent weather-related campus shutdown. Around 230 submissions were in the system at the time of the meeting.
 - Question: Should we register our own session if there is a lot of interest in our departments?
 - Answer: This decision is very much up to the graduate students interested in doing this. Importantly, these sessions need not be only from one department; rather, they can be interdisciplinary.
 - Question: How early will we know about other sessions?
 - Answer: This information will not be available until a few weeks after the deadline closes. If anyone would like their oral presentation added to an existing session at this point, they can contact Danielle to make this happen.
 - Suggestion: Thought DTA recipients are not *required* to present, the Finance Chair urged those recipients to register since they would already have an existing presentation ready from the conference for which they applied for their DTA.
 3. Call for *immediate* volunteers for the Symposium committee
 - Danielle needs anyone willing to help with sundry tasks related to the Symposium. Anyone interested should contact Danielle over email.

F. **Info Services Chair** – Morgan Chaney – gss.info@gmail.com

1. If anyone has any recent publications or if anything else noteworthy is happening around your departments (e.g., events, awards), they should send them to Morgan by email. He will share them on the GSS social media.
2. Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter ([@KSUGSS](#))

V. Old Business

A. Bylaws change: Creation of an Advancement Chair on the GSS Executive Board

1. §I-A-viii: Advancement Chair
The Advancement Chair is responsible for securing the necessary funds to grow the official endowed fund of the Graduate Student Senate. Pursuant of this primary goal, the responsibilities of this person include

contacting alumni, working with the Division of Institutional Advancement, and organizing other campaigns or events for the financial benefit of the Graduate Student Senate. Additionally, the Advancement Chair must provide a formal report on the state of the endowed fund at each General Meeting of the Graduate Student Senate. The Advancement Chair works closely with all other positions on the Executive Board to acquire and organize information from past awardees and those involved with the Senate. Similar to the Administrative Assistant, this position will be hired through a competitive application process led by the Executive Board under the supervision of the Division of Graduate Studies. This position will end at the conclusion of Spring, 2023.

2. The Executive Chair recommended voting this down because the Division of Institutional Advancement would be able to achieve the objective of this role more effectively.

- The Bylaws change was voted down by a voice vote.

- B. Bylaws change: Instituting a requirement for Senators to serve on at least one committee per academic year

1. § III-B-iii

Beginning in the Fall of 2019, each Senator or their designee will be required to sit on one committee per academic year ~~and regularly report that committee's proceedings~~. Such committees, which can be ad hoc or standing, can be either external or internal to the GSS. Proceedings of internal GSS committees will be reported by the Chairs of those committees. Proceedings of external committees will be reported by each Senator. All reports will be managed by the Vice Executive Chair (§I-A-ii-a).

2. Further discussion

- Question: Is the wording for reporting internal committees necessary since they will be automatically reported anyway?
- Motion by Geology to remove “and regularly ... proceedings”, second by Psychological Sciences
 - Passed by voice vote
- Question: Does the burden of finding a designee fall on the Senator who would be required to attend committee meetings?
 - Answer: Yes, this was the intention behind the wording.
- Question: Must the designee be from that Senator's department?
 - Answer: No.

3. Vote

- Passed with all in favor with the exception of two abstentions.

VI. New Business

- A. Bylaws change: Striking language to broaden organizational funding

1. § VIII-D-ii-a
One request per semester per academic department or organization up to ~~\$50~~ with a maximum of two requests per year.
2. Motion to adopt Bylaws change by Geology; seconded by Mathematics
3. Discussion
 - Question: Is there a maximum limit for this to prevent AUs from requesting illogical amounts of money?
 - Answer: Our intention behind leaving this open-ended is to allow for the Executive Board or Senate to make decisions about this on a case-by-case basis.
 - Question: What is the budget for Organizational Funding Requests?
 - Answer: \$3300 for the 2018-2019 Academic Year, and this amount remains almost entirely remaining unused.
4. Vote
 - Passed unanimously.

B. Bylaws change

1. Suggest the removal of § VIII-D-ii-b: "Food, supplies, advertisements, and entertainment are eligible for funding."
2. Motion to adopt Psychological Science; second by Liquid Crystal Institute
3. Vote
 - This motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

VII. Announcements

- A. Dissertation Boot Camps are scheduled for the dates below, and [registration is also required](#). These events cost \$40 per attendee, and the cost covers all meals and a stainless steel travel mug.
 1. February 15-17, 2019
 2. March 15-17, 2019
 3. April 26-28, 2019
- B. GPAD workshops will be on the first weekend in March.
- C. Graduate Student Appreciation Week will be the week of the Graduate Research Symposium. This will include an awards banquet, which is still being planned.
- D. Grad Fest will be held on Friday, February 1 (i.e., today) at [Barflyy](#) in downtown Kent!
- E. The remaining Fall General Meetings will be on the following dates:
 1. March 1, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Kent Student Center, Room 306
 2. April 12, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Kent Student Center, Room 306
 3. May 3, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Kent Student Center, Room 310
- F. Black History Month lecture: "A Cleveland Clinic Surgeon's Journey to Address the Elimination of Health Disparities", featuring Dr. Charles Modlin, MD, FACS
 1. Tuesday, February 19, 4:00 p.m. in the KSC Ballroom Balcony
- G. Nomination for the Graduate Trustee are now open. Anyone interested in knowing more about this position is welcome to contact Jessica Peck, the

current Trustee, at jpeck12@kent.edu.

VIII. Adjournment at 11:15 a.m.

A. Motion by Geology; seconded by Communication & Information