

- I. Title IX Training
- II. Call to Order: 10:34am
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Approval of December 3, 2014 Minutes - Approved
- V. Executive Board Reports

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

1. Senator Responsibilities

- a. With the beginning of a new semester, there is a high likelihood that there are new Senators joining the Senate. I would just like to briefly review Senator responsibilities for both the new and returning Senators.
- b. Major responsibilities of Senators include
 - i. Attending all general meetings
 - ii. Disseminating information to your constituents
- c. Please reference our website and bylaws for a more specific outline of Senator responsibilities.

2. Faculty Senate Report –December Meeting

- a. There were many discussion during December's Faculty Senate meeting, two in particular stood out – AALANA hiring and faculty retention and updates on the Women in STEM initiative. The overall summary from both of these discussion centers on the fact that as a University, we are low in faculty AALANA diversity. Through AALANA faculty support groups and different methods recruiting AALANA faculty members, the University hopes to improve diversity in the upcoming years.

3. Vice-President for Research Search Committee

- a. This committee has met once since our last General Meeting. The search is confidential, in that what was discussed at the meeting, I am not permitted to share. If you have questions regarding the committee, please feel free to forward your concerns to Provost Diacon (provost@kent.edu).

4. Executive Board Elections

- a. The window to nominate future board members will open at the next GSS General Meeting on Tuesday, February 24th and will continue until Tuesday, March 10th. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the February 24th meeting and by email from February 24th to March 10th. Email nominations should be sent to gss@kent.edu. We encourage you to nominate graduate students who are extraordinary leaders at Kent State University. Detailed job responsibilities are available for each position in the bylaws.

- b. After the closing of nominations, we will reach out to all those nominated to ask whether they would like to accept the nomination. If the nominee chooses to accept, they will be highly encouraged to prepare a statement to present to the Senate at the March 17th General Meeting.

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

1. Educational Policies Council Report
 - a. Financial Engineering Master's degree has been 'deactivated'
 - b. School of Foundation, Leadership, and Administration established the Ohio Superintendents' licensure Post-Master's Certificate which is online only and 18 credits
 - c. School of Lifespan, Development, and Educational Sciences
 - i. Name change from Counseling and Human Development Services major to Counseling, Education and Supervision
 - d. School of Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum Studies
 - i. Established the and Advanced Pedagogy in Physical Education and Sport major within their Master's degree joint with the University of Wollongong.
2. Advisory Committee on Academic Assessment
 - a. College of the Arts
 - i. Starting in Fall 2015, they will be using a standard template for syllabi.
 - b. Library Sciences suggested a university standardization of Blackboard

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

1. Spring 2015 Domestic Travel Award
 - a. We have \$60,000 to award which results in 171 awards to be randomly selected using random.org out of the 198 applicants.
 - i. This selection was completed during the meeting.
2. Domestic Travel Award Committee
 - a. Meetings will begin soon. Those interested will be contacted this week and anyone who is still interested in sitting on the committee please email Gordon as soon as possible.
3. Fall 2014 Domestic Travel Awards will be finished processing by March

Q. If an applicant does not present at a conference does that make you ineligible?

A. Going forward it will.

Q. If someone does not end up presenting this semester, where will that money go?

A. Any extra money from the Spring will roll into the Summer 2015 Domestic Travel Award.

We have also begun requiring proof of presentation at the front end the application as well as afterwards.

Q. What if the conference has not yet confirmed our presentation?

- A. A faculty letter can substitute for proof on the front end
On the back end we will continue to require both proof of attendance and presentation

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

1. Spring 2015 Research Award

- a. We received 45 applicants, 23 of which went on to committee
- b. We had an annual total of 86 research awards applications over the year compared to 67 in 2013-2014
- c. We had \$8000 to award this semester and awarded \$7999
- d. 7 awards were partially funded
- e. 2 awards were fully funded
- f. We had a 20% funding rate of applications this spring with a 17% funding rate for the year.
- g. There were many extremely well put together proposals but there were still some concerns overall including:
 - i. Lack of Blinding
 - ii. Not meeting application deadlines
 - iii. Not turning in all required materials
 - iv. The committee made up of senators from many different fields rejected many proposals because there was a lack of writing to a general audience.
- h. Thank you to the 12-member committee reviewing the Spring 2015 Research Awards
 - i. Funding times
 - i. The Research Award deadline is set at the beginning of the semester and possibly hinders IRB completion or proposal defenses
 - The RA can't happen for the summer because of complications with budgeting in another year-long award at the end of our fiscal year.
 - ii. Senate needs to consider moving the RA award back into the second month of each semester rather than the first or second week.
 - Paulette Washko, Chair of Research and Compliance, is supportive of this idea. Meeting with her before the next General Meeting.
 - iii. At the next meeting we'll do a Qualtrics Survey during the meeting to get senate feedback, so bring a means of completing the survey during the meeting (e.g., laptop, tablet).
- Q. There has been some concern over the reimbursement form and the 14-day deadline after the experience of the award or the purchase of items

A. Since there are so few Research Awardees we can work with them on individual basis. The 14 day time frame is preferable, but if a student wants to turn in all receipts at once before their deadline that is a possibility too.

Q. Could we look into a different funding form or process for Research Award funding?

A. Yes, as we make changes to the Research Award that is another part of the process we can evaluate.

2. Philanthropy

a. Spring Ideas

i. Miller House

- Shelter in Kent who helped some graduate students who experienced a fire in their house. They are looking for goods such as towels, washrags, blankets, sheets, toiletries to help maintain their shelter.

ii. Akron-Canton Food Bank

- Portage County-based organization

iii. Dress for Success

- Help women prepare for job interviews through donated professional attire

iv. Senate decided that the Spring Philanthropy event will be a goods drive for the Miller House

E. **Research Symposium Chair** – Scout McCully – smccull5@kent.edu

1. Spring 2015 International Travel Award

a. We received 8 applications, 4 were complete and reviewed by committee and 2 were fully funded.

2. Summer 2015 International Travel Award deadline April 27th 11:59pm

3.

30th Annual Graduate Research Symposium

April 3, 2015 – Kent Student Center – 9:00am-2:00pm

<http://www.kent.edu/graduatestudies/research-symposium>

a. Registration is open until Feb 13th at 11:59pm.

b. Spread the word! The Symposium has grown by at least 50 presentations every year and we hope to see an even higher number of presenters this year. President Warren will be our Keynote speaker.

c. We need help on three specific things:

i. Do everything you can to encourage your constituents to participate in the Symposium Presentation

i. Graduate Students may present oral or poster presentations. All forms of scholarship are encouraged. From research already presented to simply a research

proposal to class projects are forms of scholarship are possible.

- ii. Awards and monetary prizes will be given for outstanding presentations in each group session.
- ii. Reach out to faculty members to help judge! We rely on faculty as judges in certain areas to serve as experts.
 - i. Specifically we need help in certain areas that we have many presenters for and no judges from:
 - Chemistry and Biochemistry
 - Biological Sciences
 - Biomedical Sciences
 - Geography
 - Modern and Classical Language Studies
 - Education, Health, and Human Services
- iii. Consider signing up to volunteer to help out with the event.
 - i. Jobs include set-up, tear-down, session monitors, serving as a floater
 - ii. We will work with you to make sure that your presentation and volunteering schedule does not conflict

Q. Newer students are hesitant to present only a proposal

A. This is absolutely a great forum to gather feedback on your proposal especially at such a great interdisciplinary event.

Q. Who is the audience of the symposium?

A. We have had senior administrators, graduate students of all disciplines, and faculty.

Q. Would it be possible to get a poster printing discount?

A. It is something to consider, but we encourage presenters to reach out to their departments.

d. There will be a Free lunch and monetary awards in the form of \$100 for best presentation in every session

i. Last year \$4700 out of the \$12000 budget were given out last year. This year we have \$15000.

As the largest showcase of research on campus this is the 30th Annual Symposium, the first time President Warren will attend, and the last time for Dean Stephens before she retires.

Let's make this the biggest and best symposium yet!

F. **Information Services Chair** – Mark Rhodes – mrhode21@kent.edu

1. University Teaching Council Report

- a. The meeting was dedicated towards discussing Summer Teaching Development Grants and it was decided that anyone on a graduate contract would not be eligible for the award.
2. Graduate Student Funding Database
 - a. I will begin email senators soon for more detailed information on research opportunities. Please email Mark with any information you might have on funding opportunities you know of for graduate students at departmental, school, college, university, and external levels.
3. 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.
4. Social Media
 - a. Please encourage all of your constituents to like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter ([@ksugss](#)) for news!
 - b. Twitter especially will be utilized more with the upcoming symposium.

VI. Announcements

- A. GPAD Workshops: February 9th-13th
 1. Registration is open for the 14 workshops next week.
- B. Next GradFest: February 6th, 2015 from 6-8 pm (Dominick's)
- C. Spring General Meetings
 1. Tuesday, February 24th – Kent Student Center 3rd Floor Ballroom Balcony – 10:00am-12:00pm
 2. Tuesday, March 17th – Kent Student Center 3rd Floor Ballroom Balcony – 10:00am-12:00pm
 3. Tuesday, April 28th – Kent Student Center 3rd Floor Ballroom Balcony – 10:00am-12:00pm

VII. Adjournment 11:28am – Motion: Chemistry and Biochemistry; Seconded: Liquid Crystal Institute