

- I. Call to Order at 11:02am
- II. Roll Call
 - A. Absent: CAE, Communication and Information, Computer Science, Digital Sciences, History, Music, and Nursing
- III. Approval of minutes from December 11, 2020
 - A. Motioned to approve the minutes from Psychological Sciences. Second from Political Sciences. No discussion. Motion passed.
- IV. No members of the public were present at this meeting.
- V. Executive Board Reports
 - A. **Executive Chair** – Claire Jackman – cjackma2@kent.edu
 1. December Faculty Senate Meeting
 - a. High frequency and high volume testing was effective in preventing the spread on campus, which affected the decision to create a mandatory testing structure.
 2. Vaccine Task Force Meeting
 - a. Once we receive vaccines, they will be distributed to all Portage County residents depending on the state guidance at the time.
 - b. At the moment, vaccines are only certified for emergency use and therefore they cannot be made mandatory on campus. This could change in the future.
 - c. This task force meets twice per week, every week.
 - d. While the rollout has been slow, the vaccine distribution is improving. Masking and social distancing will likely still be a reality in the fall semester.
 3. Graduate Studies Advisory Committee
 - a. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to be a part of the Strategic Planning event taking place in March!
 4. Student Leadership Advisory Committee
 - a. Wastewater testing has started, which will help identify where positive cases are.
 - b. At home and move-in testing went well and randomized on-campus testing has begun now. If you are selected, you will get tested at the Ice Arena and receive information related to that process in an email. You can also still get tested at DeWeese and CVS.
 5. Gradfest Friday 2/5 at 7pm
 6. Questions:
 - a. *Geology*: Did they mention if vaccine priority would be given to GAs having to teach in person classes?
 - b. *Claire*: The university is working on a priority list for when we do get to the distribution point. At the moment, this list includes folks like faculty members, custodial and dining staff, or researchers who conduct in person experiences, for example.
 - B. **Executive Vice Chair** – Jordyn Stoll – jstoll7@kent.edu
 1. The Graduate Student Support Award reached its allocated funding capacity of \$15,000 on 1/16/21, funding 83 students who did not receive the Fall book award. We currently have 240 applicants requesting \$

43,000 in funding.

2. Special thanks to the Graduate Student Support Award Committee for doing an outstanding job preparing the award guidelines and reviewing applications: Daniel Scheibe, Maren Greve, Klaire Mathews, Shebo Moini, Chathuranga Prageeth Rajapaksha, Senay Ustunel and Laura Mendez Carvajal.
3. College of Arts and Sciences Committee: Meeting focused on undergraduate revisions. A subcommittee is working to create a Data, Science, and Analytics graduate program.
4. Reminder: if you are serving on a committee, please submit your committee report form [here](#) after each meeting.
5. General Comments:
 - a. *Claire*: University sponsored travel is still not allowed, which was originally a budgetary decision. Now that Kent has been able to maintain a healthy budget, the main priority is public health related. This is why we have money left to allocate to other awards.
 - b. *Jordyn*: Those who received the ITA before the pandemic hit and were not able to use their award received an award extension until May of this year. However, due to university regulations the awardees will unfortunately not be able to use this money, but they can still put it on their CV of course.

C. Finance Chair – Maneesh Shukla – mshukla@kent.edu

1. General updates on Domestic Travel Award
 - a. The DTA is now closed. The deadline was February 1st. We have received over 60 awards and they are currently under review.
2. General updates on Special Contingency Award
 - a. We received 2 complete SCA applications and they are currently under review.

D. Advocacy Chair – Anna Solberg – asolberg@kent.edu

1. Research Award Updates
 - a. Spring Application Opened January 18th, 2021
 - b. Spring Application Deadline: March 8th, 2021
 - c. Anna is willing to look over applications before they are submitted.
2. Anyone interested in serving on the Research Award Review Committee, please contact Anna.
3. Research Award changes regarding the acquisition of funds
 - a. IDCs are no longer available. In the past, we were flexible and funds could go to the department to purchase items for the student. However, this is no longer possible as a result of the switch to upfront money.
 - b. All money will go to your individual Bursar Account and will arrive as a scholarship.
 - c. You may get money via BankMobile. OneStop can help you if you have any issues or questions about this process.
 - d. This process will also be outlined in detail in the award letter.
 - e. Questions:
 - i. *Biomedical Sciences*: Will this affect individuals whose award money has already been given to their respective department?
 - ii. *Anna*: No. If it is already done that way, it is done, but it

- can no longer happen moving forward.
- iii. *Biological Sciences*: If someone needs to hire an undergraduate assistant with their award money, how would they go about doing that since that is usually run by the department?
 - iv. *Anna*: An email was sent to every Business Manager so that they know about this change. The graduate student who received the award needs to work with the Business Manager to figure out what this process looks like for each department.
 - v. *Biological Sciences*: Since this is awarded as a scholarship, does this impact people's ability to receive financial aid?
 - vi. *Kyle*: We have had some conversations with folks around that as some students have been impacted by this. There is an appeal process for a student to increase their total financial aid package and this will be further discussed in an upcoming meeting so that it can be shared with students who are affected by this.
 - vii. *Biomedical Sciences*: Since this award is now considered a scholarship, will it affect taxes? Can the award be changed to a grant so that students would not get taxed on it?
 - viii. *Anna*: It is really frustrating to watch especially international students get taxed so much, but unfortunately we cannot do anything to change the structure of this process.
 - ix. *Kyle*: This is a university-level decision and it is not just a GSS/USG decision. All awards are going through the scholarship process to ensure consistency across the board.
 - x. If you have specific questions about tax forms or your personal accounts, we would recommend contacting OneStop as they have access to all of your information.
4. Anti-Racism Task Force Updates
 - a. The task force is working on solidifying their goals and recommendations for the university. Another town hall is coming up at the end of April.
 - b. If you have any thoughts or recommendations, please get them to Anna.
 5. Graduate Student Expectations Committee Updates
 - a. Meetings will start soon.
 - b. If you have anything that you would like us to know, please reach out to Anna!

E. Programming Chair – Payel Datta – pdatta1@kent.edu

1. The deadline for the Symposium has been extended to February 7th, 2021. Please make sure you forward the email you received to your constituents!
2. Note: Graduate Students cannot be judges. This role is usually reserved for faculty members. There will be a lot of other involvement opportunities for graduate students at the Symposium! Reach out to

Payel if you are interested in helping out.

F. **Info Services Chair** – Maike Amann – gss.info@gmail.com

1. Please make sure to send us your signed Senator contracts if you haven't already.
2. If you have published/presented recently, let us know. We'd like to spotlight you on social media.
3. If you are reaching out to us, please make sure to use the gss.info@gmail.com email address.
4. Make sure to let me know about any senator changes in your department!
5. Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter ([@KSUGSS](#))

V. Old Business

- A. Motion to allocate RASP funding (\$10K) to research-oriented awards.

VI. New Business

- A. Request to reallocate funds to Graduate Student Support Award

B. Overview:

1. Proposed additional sources of funding:
 - a. \$10,000 from RASP
 - b. \$4,000 from operating costs
 - c. \$17,544 from clerk position
 - d. Total: \$31,544 to add to the support award

C. Questions:

1. *Biological Sciences*: An award cap would make sense to ensure that there aren't more applications than we can cover.
 - a. Note: We can technically lift the cap at a later time if more funds are needed (and we have funds available), but with the decrease in applications we have received, it will likely not be necessary.
2. *Biomedical Sciences*: There are also funds left over from the DTA, correct?
 - a. Note: Yes, we still have funds leftover, but it was decided that the DTA money will not be used for this award to ensure that we have money for summer DTAs.
3. *Biomedical Sciences*: Would it be possible to reopen this award again after we close it?
 - a. Jordyn: We can definitely talk about it. It all depends on who will be on the board, as this is not a traditional award and was intended to temporarily replace the ITA. It is certainly an option.

D. Motions:

1. Motion to untable the RASP funding motion from Biomedical Sciences. Second from Political Sciences. Motion passed.
2. Motion to allocate RASP funding to the support award from English. Second from Physics. No discussion. Motion passed.
3. Motion to allocate operating costs funding to the support award from Biological Sciences. Second from Anthropology. No discussion. Motion passed.
4. Motion to allocate funding for the clerk position to the support award from Psychological Sciences. Second from Fashion. No discussion. Motion

passed.

5. Motion to discuss placing a cap on the support award from Biomedical Sciences. Second from Biological Sciences. No discussion. Motion passed.

VII. Announcements

- A. The Black Graduate Student Association is hosting an event on Wednesday, February 17th, from 5-6pm. They are hosting Dr. Charles Modlin, who is an African American kidney transplant surgeon. See the minutes email for the flyer for this great event.
- B. Kyle shared that the university is going through an RFP process for the student health insurance plan. Kyle is on a committee that will begin reviewing proposals for changes to the insurance plan soon. Kyle is planning to advocate for a payment plan and see if dental and vision can be included in the insurance plan. If you have any questions, concerns or recommendations related to the student health insurance plan, please email Kyle at kreynol3@kent.edu.

VIII. Thoughts/Concerns

- A. None.

IX. Adjournment

- A. Motion to adjourn the meeting from Biomedical Sciences. Second from Anthropology. No discussion. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 12:11pm.