

- I. Provost: Spring 2016 Commencement at Dix Stadium
 - A. Please send comments, suggestions or concerns to graduate@kent.edu
- II. Call to Order: 10:15am
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Approval of March 17, 2015 Minutes - Approved
- V. Executive Board Reports
 - A. **Executive Chair** – Alexandria Lesak – alesak@kent.edu
 1. Vice-President for Research Search Committee
 - a. Three candidates have been selected for presentations. The two remaining presentations will be in May. If you have any concerns or questions there is a survey that was sent out by Provost Diacon
 2. Annual Report
 - a. The reports went out last night. If you would like a copy please contact Alex. They will be printed and sent out next week to higher administration on campus.
 - B. **Executive Vice Chair** – Fritz Yarrison – fyarriso@kent.edu
 1. Committee Report: Educational Policies Council
 - a. The Division of Graduate Studies has set regulations for undergrads to take graduate level courses. Students are required to be senior standing (90+ credit hours) and have a GPA of 3.3 or higher). A form must be filled out to approve the graduate class. They also revised the Multiple Degrees Policy to the Graduate Dual Degrees Policy. You can now continue on working on a second concurrent degree after you finish your first degree without any break if the proper procedure is followed.
 - b. The Dept. of Management and Information Systems established a Business Analytics Major within the Master of Science
 2. Committee Report: Faculty Senate
 - a. Office of the Provost brought up the issue of academic presence and the awarding of federal funding. Next fall all instructors will be required to mark academic presence for all students in week four of the semester. An email will be sent to all instructors to remind them. Exactly how instructors mark students as “present” is still being established, ut it will be within Flashline in the “Faculty and Advisor Tools” tab.
 - b. Dr. Linda Williams from Philosophy is the next Chair of the Faculty Senate
 3. Committee Report: Student Media Policy
 - a. Next semester’s student leaders were selected and KSU Independent Films is now a part of the student media conglomeration.
 - b. Next year the Student Media Policy Council and the Journalism and Mass Communications Core will be a single committee as the Student Media Board.
 4. Committee Reports from the Floor: Public Safety Advisor Committee

- a. They are preparing for the Summit Street Project Phase 1 from West Campus Loop Drive to 261 and only east bound traffic will be allowed through. A year August phase 2 will affect Lincoln to West Campus Loop Drive.
 - i. A press release will be sent out very soon.
 - ii. Pedestrians will have priority throughout the process.
 - b. There are currently negotiations between Kent State and PARTA. They both want to continue working with each other, but there may be a couple less-traveled lines closed.
5. Dean of Graduate Studies Search Committee
- a. Dr. Mary Ann Stephens is retiring, so there is currently an internal search committee for her position and will have a selection next May.
 - b. What are we looking for in these candidates? Please email Fritz with any feedback you might have.

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

1. If you are still having problems with fall reimbursements please contact Jeo Jung Yoon yyoon@kent.edu
2. Summer 2015 Domestic Travel Award opens at 12:00am on April 29th and closes June 8th at 11:59pm: <https://www.kent.edu/graduatestudies/gss-domestic-travel>.
3. Domestic Travel Award Vote on Option 1 and Option 2 (Options attached in minutes)
 - a. Location: For both options the areas eligible for the domestic travel award will be the lower 48 states and any adjacent Canadian Provinces. (A map will be attached to the minutes)
 - b. For both options there will be a separation between departments and GSS reimbursements by making the Domestic Travel Award be a flat rate, removing much of the work on the front end checking finances, and speed up processing on the back end by allowing the money to be directly deposited into the recipient's Bursar account.
 - c. For both options, if the number of applicants exceeds available funds for the semester, selection will be randomized.
 - d. Option 1 accommodates students wishing to attend a conference for any purpose, including simply attending. For this option in order to spread the money further, the flat rate will be \$200 and the only requirement will be official registration and attendance to the conference.
 - e. Option 2 will be very similar to the 2015 Spring and Summer Domestic Travel Award and only apply for students presenting at a conference and the requirement will be proof of presentation and attendance. The flat rate will be \$300.
 - f. The funding is based around the average cost about \$500 for the past year of conference travel, and the average payout from GSS has been about \$300. It is also keeping in mind the 6000 person graduate student body and being able to fund the largest number of people possibly while still providing real assistance.

- g. Something to keep in mind is that if there is any remaining balance in your Bursars account that amount will be subtracted from any GSS award.
- h. These changes will go into effect Fall 2015
- i. Questions from the floor:
 - Q. It's either \$200 for the first option or \$300 for the second option, no longer 50%?
 - A. Yes
 - Q. These options treat each conference as equal rather than a ranked conference system. Why can't we take the prestige of these conferences into account?
 - A. What we are trying to grapple with is the very diverse prestige levels across all disciplines, and GSS just isn't in a position to evaluate hundreds of applications each year. We are using the approach that every graduate student conference attendance and presentation is valid and while we understand that disciplines may put a value on different conferences, the Graduate Student Senate does not wish to do so.
- j. Vote for Option 1
 - i. Current Bylaw Verbiage: "Awards for travel shall NOT exceed 50% of the amount spent up to a maximum of \$350 of student eligible, incurred expenses."
 - ii. Suggest Bylaw Verbiage: "The Domestic Travel Award will be awarded at a flat rate of \$200 for each eligible awardee."
 - iii. For: 14
 - iv. Against: 15
- k. Vote for Option 2
 - i. Current Bylaw Verbiage: "Awards for travel shall NOT exceed 50% of the amount spent up to a maximum of \$350 of student eligible, incurred expenses."
 - ii. Suggest Bylaw Verbiage: "The Domestic Travel Award will be awarded at a flat rate of \$300 for each eligible awardee."
 - iii. For: 16
 - iv. Against: 14
- l. Option 2 Passes and will go into effect Fall 2015

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

1 Recreation Center Dissertation II Fees

a. Andrea met with Gretchen Julian the director of the Student Wellness and Recreation Center. She agreed that there is a lack of communication for how students can get dissertation and thesis II fees waved. There is a form that students can complete to potentially receive funding from their colleges and departments. We are drafting a letter to better inform departments and colleges of this option, however this will not guarantee that they will agree to fund the students.

- 2 Graduate Student Trustee Search Committee
 - a. It is a closed committee which selects applicants forward to the Governor's Office who will then choose the Graduate Student Trustee.
- 3 Miller Community House Goods Drive
 - a. Thank you all for the many donations that we were able to take to the House, who were very appreciative of our donations.

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

- 1 30th Annual Graduate Research Symposium
 - a. We had nearly 300 student presentations and nearly 100 faculty staff and administration serving as judges.
 - b. Thank you all for your support for getting the word out for both presenters and judges.
 - c. One of the new initiatives this year was seeking external funding for the symposium. This year Sherwin Williams was able to sponsor 10 student awards. This serves as a wonderful foundation for additional funding in the future.
 - d. The second new symposium initiative was our feedback form and we received 115 responses and established a great amount of feedback. Some of the broader trends in responses were:
 - i. The tight space for the Master's posters
 - ii. The amount of overlap amongst the different sessions
 - iii. The amount of fit amongst sessions. While there is room for improvement next year, it is very difficult to include over 300 presentations and we wanted to mix departmental presentations.
 - e. The 31st Annual Graduate Student Symposium will be Friday, April 22nd, 2016
 - f. University Communications and Marketing freely offered their services to put together a wonderfully produced video about the symposium. The video is currently on the Symposium page on the GSS website, in the future the video will remain embedded within our Past Symposium Archives of our website. The quick Youtube link is as follows: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cedJUJzVmVY>
- 2 Summer 2015 International Travel Award
 - a. Deadline was last night and we have 13 complete applications thus far, which will likely be down to about 10 after additional incomplete applications are removed.
 - b. If you are interested in sitting on the Summer 2015 International Travel Award committee, please contact Scout. This is a great experience to sit on the committee to not only put on your CV, but to get an inside view

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

- 1 Senator Updates
 - a. As we transition over the summer and into the fall, 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. Please encourage all of your constituents to like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter ([@ksugss](#)) for news!

V. New Business

- A. Due to the increase in growth and responsibility related to the Symposium, we would like to propose moving the International Travel Award as a responsibility of the Executive Vice Chair this upcoming fall.
- B. Current Bylaw Verbiage: "In addition, the Symposium Chair shall be charged with forming a committee, reviewing, and recognizing the International Travel award winners throughout the academic year in coordination with the Finance Chair of Graduate Student Senate"
- C. Suggested Bylaw Verbiage: "In addition, the Executive Vice Chair shall be charged with forming a committee, reviewing, and recognizing the International Travel award winners throughout the academic year in coordination with the Finance Chair of Graduate Student Senate"
- D. Vote
- 1 For: 26
 - 2 Against: 1
 - 3 Abstentions: 1
- E. The motion passes and will go into effect this upcoming fall semester.

VI. Announcements

A. Next GradFest: May 1st, 2015 from 6-8:00pm, at The Zephyr Pub with TWO Black squirrels. We will either be inside or out depending on weather, so come rain, snow, or shine.

B. Summer General Meeting (Optional) - TBD

VI. Transition of Executive Board

A. Thank you to the outgoing board who have done a phenomenal job this year!

VII. Adjournment 11:12am – Motion: Liquid Crystal Institute; Seconded: Sociology