

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Guest Speaker: Carol Crimi, Esq. from Student Legal Services (SLS)
  - A. Ms. Crimi is the managing attorney for SLS. Up until this year, they have always been given 10-minute slot at Graduate Student Orientation (GSO), but this didn't happen this year. As the year has progressed, the numbers of grad students being represented by SLS has dropped. Ms. Crimi hopes that SLS can be at 2018 Fall GSO.
  - B. Ms. Crimi has a strong institutional memory of SLS because of her longstanding affiliation with the firm, i.e. since they opened in 2005. She commended the Board of Trustees for making lawyer services affordable. Only five other universities in Ohio have this kind of arrangement.
  - C. Attorneys are bound by attorney-client privilege and therefore do not freely exchange information with KSU or university administrators. As of yesterday, 12,789 students have had services provided by SLS.
  - D. There is a five-minute film on [the SLS website](#) that explains services offered. Ms. Crimi shared literature and materials with the Senators explaining SLS. She also shared several anecdotes that demonstrated SLS's utility for students in years past. Graduate-student instructors and TAs should keep in mind that they can refer undergraduate students. If any such grad students are teaching classes are part of groups that they think would benefit from an SLS presentation, they should contact Ms. Crimi.
  - E. Question: Are you able to help students who have been denied public welfare assistance but do not know why?
    1. Answer: Yes, SLS has helped students in such circumstances and gotten them cleared for welfare assistance.
  - F. Question: If I have a problem with the university are you able to help?
    1. Answer: No, the SLS is precluded by the statute establishing its existence from representing students against KSU or the City of Kent.
  - G. Question: What about if I had a grievance against another university?
    1. Answer: Unsure. She would have to check the rule.
  - H. Question: What is the jurisdiction of the SLS?
    1. Answer: SLS cannot go to court outside of Portage County (and the City of Stow), but they can refer students to other offices. SLS has offices at Wright State University, Ohio University, University of Toledo, and Bowling Green State University.
  - I. Question: Off campus housing—does this include mediating landlord-tenant disputes?
    1. Answer: Yes, this is a large part of the usual workload of the SLS.
  - J. Question: Do you know if they'll let you present at GSO next year?
    1. Answer: Unsure. If you'd like this to happen, please contact the organizer of this event.

IV. Approval of minutes from April 3, 2018

V. Executive Board Reports

A. **Executive Chair** – Mark Rhodes – [mrhode21@kent.edu](mailto:mrhode21@kent.edu)

1. Update: Educational Policies Council (EPC) ad hoc Academic Policy Committee

- The EPC is looking at [all academic policies](#) and trying to see what needs to be changed. They can then propose changes to work way their way through EPC, Faculty Senate, and then the Board of Trustees. Mark read off policies that apply to grad students from the page linked above, and he solicited the Senate for feedback on these policies.
  - Concern: As an instructor, one Senator felt that they need to clarify language about excused versus unexcused absences.
  - Concern: There is a lot of confusion about tuition waivers extending over the summer or not. Departmental faculty/staff are not always clear on this.

2. Update: Admin Chair Search

- The committee for this search is composed of Mark, Yeo Jung Yoon, Suparna Navale, Xin Hong, and Tim Rose.
- In all, we have received 25 applications for this position. This has been narrowed down to five applicants who will interview next week. Mark will follow up with emails to these applicants today.

B. **Executive Vice Chair** – Kathryn Klonowski – [kklonows@kent.edu](mailto:kklonows@kent.edu)

1. Committee Reports

- Faculty Senate
  - They held their elections elections recently. Pamela Grimm is the new Chair. Robin Vande Zande is Vice Chair; Ed Dauterich is Secretary; and Tracy Lao is Member-at-Large.
  - Pres. Warren addressed the Faculty Senate and talked about the [Facilities Master Plan](#). A lot renovations will be happening in the near future. See the link above for more details.
  - Faculty Senate brought up money concerns, especially with enrollment being down. Warren is hoping to get more money through graduate enrollment. She is discussing barring faculty hires for a temporary period while they make these renovations. Concerns about current facilities being under-repaired were also brought up.
- Educational Policies Council (EPC)
  - EPC discussed Fall Break. The shortening of Spring semester may be breaking the Ohio Revised Code,

according to one EPC member. This is being looked into.

- Faculty promotion was discussed at length.
- University Diversity Action Council (UDAC), presented by Greta Babakhanova
  - The group Students First wants to promote diversity and equity. They are creating a “Game of Life” toolkit to simulate inequalities, privilege, discrimination, and they are trying to get this uploaded to Blackboard for students to use online.
  - A second group, Distinctive Kent State, is trying to broaden participation of underrepresented groups in research here. If any grad students want to mentor a high school student, they should [contact Greta](#).
- Student Diversity Action Council (SDAC), also presented by Greta Babakhanova
  - The purpose of SDAC is to engage students about multicultural matters. SDAC is open for applications for Fall 2018. Those interested should apply online on [SDAC’s webpage](#).
  - Their budget is \$5000 for annual multicultural events. If anyone has an idea, they should keep this in mind.
- Faculty Senate Budget Advisory Council (FaSBAC), presented by Mitch Powers
  - FaSBAC is currently debating the current RCM model vs. a “hybrid” model (see Appendix A). Most of the recent FaSBAC meeting was spent contrasting these two structures, but no decisions were made.

## 2. Committee Representation

- If anyone is interested in serving on a committee, many positions are open. Those interested should contact Kate or Tim.
- Question: What is the time commitment for being part of a committee?
  - Answer: This varies widely based on committee.

## 3. Parting words

- She will no longer be on the Executive Board after this meeting. Kate expressed her gratitude to GSS for her opportunity to serve for the last two years.

## C. Finance Chair – Suparna Navale– [snavale1@kent.edu](mailto:snavale1@kent.edu)

1. [Summer Domestic Travel Award](#) (DTA) deadline is June 4 at 11:59pm
  - This award will open on May 14. Suparna reminded students that they are eligible for more than one DTA per year now, although [first-time applicants have priority](#). There are \$22k

budgeted for the Summer DTA. Each award will be for \$415.

- Question: Is the DTA considered a scholarship?
  - Answer: It is.
- Question: Can taxes be withheld instead of making international students pay taxes on their DTA after the fact?
  - Answer: If you are resident alien, there are no taxes. Non-resident aliens must pay taxes. If anyone has additional questions, they should consult the [KSU Tax Office](#).

## 2. International Student tax forms

- Currently, there is a convoluted process for the taxing of award for international students. Suparna and Yeo Jung are streamlining this so that this will be much simplified.
  - Question: How is money transferred to awardees?
    - Answer: It is transferred to student accounts. This does allow the Bursar to deduct outstanding balances from the award amount, so awardees should be aware of this.
  - Question: Travel period for summer DTA?
    - Answer: May 21 through end of Summer semester. See the [DTA webpage](#) for more information.

## 3. Awards subcommittee

- This group will be more active during the summer, and they will work with Xin Hong, the Finance Chair-elect, to make te transition smooth. Anyone interested in joining this subcommittee should contact Suparna.

## 4. Parting words

- Suparna will no longer be on the Executive Board after this meeting. She expressed her gratitude to GSS for her opportunity to serve for the last three years.

## D. Advocacy Chair – Timothy Rose – [trose16@kent.edu](mailto:trose16@kent.edu)

1. Report: Research Award (RA) for Academic Year 2017-2018
  - This year, 24 awards were given out. \$45.5k were awarded. Large number of departments were given funding, such as Biological/-medical Sciences, Anthropology, Sociology, English, and Textiles. This shows that (hard) sciences are not being strictly preferred for the RA. It is open to all.
2. Philanthropy: Acknowledgments and Continuing Philanthropy
  - Kevin Wilson (Music) donated large amount of clothes, including professional clothes.
  - Tim is still collecting books for Books for Prisoners. Contact Tim if anyone would like to donate.
3. Announcement: ASIA initiative to increase voter turnout among Northeast Ohioan Asian-Americans

- There are two dates available to help get out the Asian-American vote in Northeast Ohio. This is not a partisan initiative; rather, it is about increasing voter participation in this community.
4. Graduate Appointee Advocacy Program (GAAP)
    - Since the election there has been a degree of coordination between Tim and Mitch Powers, the Advocacy Chair-elect. GAAP needs new members to continue its impact, and a variety of representation is essential. Anyone interested should contact Tim.

**E. Research Symposium Chair** – Elizabeth Melick – [emelick@kent.edu](mailto:emelick@kent.edu)

1. 2018 Graduate Research Symposium Overview
  - This year was the first year that the Symposium was a two-day event. This helped with logistics. It was also the first year with more than just oral and poster sessions. The event generally went well. Creative performances went well.
  - We awarded about 40 different presentations, including monetary sum.
2. Survey
  - Feedback survey has been sent out to participants, volunteers, and judges. Betsy urged people to take survey. Make sure people received email and did not go to spam. This data helps to improve future Symposia.
3. Parting words
  - Betsy will no longer be on the Executive Board after this meeting. She expressed her gratitude to GSS for her opportunity to serve.

**F. Info Services Chair** – Morgan Chaney – [gss.info@gmail.com](mailto:gss.info@gmail.com)

1. Update: Publication Blitz
  - Morgan has been sharing links to graduate student-authored publications on the GSS Facebook and Twitter. This is not trivial because, based on anecdotal experience with publishing companies, engagement statistics matter to these companies.
  - Please send Morgan any publications with a graduate student as first author (or equivalent thereof). He will be happy to share this work and increase the online engagement/impact of these publications.
2. Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter ([@KSUGSS](#))

**V. New Business**

**A. Organizational Request: Modern & Classical Language Studies**

1. The MCLS student organization wants to have an end-of-year picnic for graduating students. This will be held on May 11 at Plum Creek Park around noon. Money will be used for food and refreshments.

**B. PROSPER Act**

1. Changes to federal loan, public-service forgiveness of loans will be eliminated.

2. Question: Will Congress be voting soon on this act?
  - Answer: Unsure. The Republicans authoring this bill do not have enough votes to pass it. Some Republicans (such as Stivers) are coming out against the bill, so it may not make it out committee for a general vote.
  - The American Physical Society has [an automated website for writing to Congress](#) about issues like this.
3. If you are from a district outside of Tim Ryan's area, please contact US Representatives. This will matter because many are not discussing this issue. Primary elections are also coming up. May 8 is primary election day.

#### VI. Announcements

- A. Grad Fest will be May 4, 2018, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Zephyr Pub
- B. Summer and Fall Meetings
  1. Summer Meeting will be 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 10. Location is TBA.
  2. Fall Meetings will be on Fridays at 10:00 a.m. Brunch will be provided.
- C. Graduate Studies
  1. Dissertation Boot Camp (DBC) will be June 8-10. Graduate Studies plans to have 2-3 of these in the coming Fall and Spring. The full schedule should be out within the next month. For this event, they typically set up on the third floor of the KSU Library (in the SLIS area). This is ideal for quiet, focused work. DBC happens on Friday and Saturday from 9:00 am until 10:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 9:00 am until 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$40. Master's students are welcome to attend as well, and students are not compelled to work on dissertation; they are free to use the quiet work time for anything they see fit. Departments are indeed permitted to pay students' fares for DBC.
  2. DBC Dash is a shorter weekday program, offered at no cost. It is usually held in Cartwright Hall for a shorter time. Coffee and tea are provided. Perhaps GSS will be able to sponsor DBC Dash for next year, but this conversation is ongoing.
- D. Funding for intramural symposia on campus
  1. Idea from the BGSU GSS: our GSS could perhaps sponsor intramural symposia. Any interested people or organizations should contact the Finance Chair.

#### VII. Transition of Board

#### VIII. Adjournment at 1:19 p.m.

## Appendix A: KSU Budget Model Discussion Summary

The following describes two different budget models that the RCM 2.0 Committee is considering. They are as follows: 1) Revised RCM Model and 2) Hybrid Model.

### **Revised RCM Model**

In a Revised RCM Model, budgets would be determined in the same fashion that Kent E&G RCM budgets are today; that is, via a formula. The difference between the current model and a revised model is that changes within the formula would be modified to better align funding with the strategic goals of the university. Changes may include a modification to the 80/20 split, SSI allocation per state formula, an incentive for external research awards, an incentive for retaining students, and others. In addition, a review of the administrative fee would be undertaken.

Under a Revised RCM Model, budgets would be determined formulaically. Therefore, changes in enrollment, external research award, retention rates, and student success could change the funding available to each college. Similar to the current model, enrollment would largely drive revenues. However, opportunities for additional funding would exist in the event that a college achieved external research award targets, retention rate targets, or experienced improved student success—defined as the amount allocated per the state SSI model.

Pros – Allows university to align funding with mission; Funding is determined by formula; Provides incentives for colleges to increase revenues; Incentivizes entrepreneurship; More timely response to changes in enrollment; Major decisions made at college level as opposed to university level.

Cons – Does not appropriate resources in a fashion that allows for the university to determine the next best use of each dollar; Major decisions made at college level as opposed to university level; Can be volatile in periods of material enrollment shifts; Does not recognize differences in the cost of instruction; Potential to focus more on revenue than student need; Complexity of a formula that adequately incentivizes colleges.

### **Hybrid Model**

In a Hybrid Model, funding would be comprised of both base budget and incentive pool components. The base budget component would be determined in the same fashion that Kent E&G support budgets are today. That is, base budgets from the prior year would be adjusted for salary increases and all other permanent revisions to base budget that happened throughout the year. The incentive pool component

would provide the colleges with opportunities to achieve funding in excess of their base budgets. The following lists some of the ways in which a college could exceed its base budget: 1) Achieving an annual revenue target, 2) Achieving an annual base budget target, 3) Achieving an external research award target, 4) Achieving quality through student success; defined by the % share of SSI funding for each college, 5) Achieving retention targets, and 6) A strategic pool to be allocated at the Provost's discretion.

Under a Hybrid Model, the fixed portion of a college's annual expenses would be decided at the Provost's discretion. Therefore, changes in enrollment, external research award, retention rates, and student success could be adjusted in both the base and incentive portions of the hybrid model. In addition, because it is not strictly formulaic, there is an opportunity to address each college's specific needs. Further, the Hybrid Model would allow for each college to retain 100% of its annual surplus, just as the current RCM model does today.

Pros – Is not as volatile as the current RCM Model; Allows for all colleges to create real / attainable budgets, but also allows for incentives to get additional allocations beyond the base budget; Allows university to align funding with mission; Provides for flexibility by allowing the Provost to use a pool of funds to invest where appropriate; Creates an environment in which there is less competition between colleges; Reduces the silo effect that the current RCM model is said to create; More fluid allocation of monies between central administration and the colleges; Requires the Provost and team to fully understand the needs of each college.

Cons – Base budgets would need to be determined each year; More time consuming to create than a formulaic approach; Requires the Provost and team to fully understand the needs of each college; Less autonomy for deans; Less incentive based funding; Decrease in ability to directly impact revenues/funding.

*Note: Both models will incorporate accountability, transparency, and a regular review to determine effectiveness.*