

- I. Call to Order at 11:06am
- II. Roll Call
 - A. Absent Senators: College of Aeronautics and Engineering, Communication and Information, Computer Sciences, Digital Science, History, Modern and Classical Language Studies, Music, and Nursing.
- III. Approval of minutes from April 2, 2021
 - A. First from Psychological Sciences, second from Architecture. No discussion. Minutes were approved.
- IV. Jim Raber, Executive Director of Support, Infrastructure, and Research Technology (jaraber@kent.edu)
 - A. Mr. Raber discussed the university's transition to Canvas as a new learning management system. You can find the presentation attached to the minutes email.
 - B. Questions:
 1. *Claire*: As graduate students, we wear a lot of hats - we might be students and instructors at the same time. Will graduate students be able to have access to Canvas in the fall? Who should they contact and what should they say?
 - a) *Jim Raber*: Email canvaslaunch@kent.edu and we will make sure these requests get moved forward.
 2. *Claire*: I have not been told what class I am teaching in the fall. I am wondering when the information about choosing which LMS to use will come out?
 - a) *Jim Raber*: My guess would be early next week. We are meeting today (05/07) to discuss this.
 3. *Mathematics*: How can folks access their Blackboard courses?
 - a) *Jim Rader*: Instructors can use a declaration application where they can indicate which LMS they want to use. Additionally, there will also be a list of the courses an instructor has had on their Blackboard over the past 4 years and they will be able to select what should get moved over to Canvas. If you forget to bring a course over, there will be a ticket request form to get courses moved over to Canvas.
 4. *Mathematics*: Once we switch to Canvas, will I still be able to view my courses on Blackboard?
 - a) *Jim Raber*: We are working with Blackboard to see how much access is possible after the transition. The zip files will definitely still be accessible and can be moved.
 5. *Claire*: Will Kaltura work with Canvas?
 - a) *Jim Raber*: Yes.
 6. *Kyle*: With GSO we have a lot of new teaching assistants who sometimes do not know what course they are going to be teaching at the time of orientation. Do you know what support will look like for Blackboard over the fall semester?
 - a) *Jim Raber*: The same team that supports Blackboard also

supports Canvas so we will be able to provide ongoing support for students.

7. *Public Health*: Blackboard has Collaborate Ultra for virtual meetings. Does Canvas have anything native like that?

a) *Jim Raber*: Canvas has a partnership with MS Teams, which is the direction we will be heading in.

C. You can go to www.kent.edu/canvas for more information!

V. Manfred Van Dulmen, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Division of Graduate Studies (mvandul@kent.edu)

A. Dr. Van Dulmen provided updates about the Strategic Planning Efforts of the Division of Graduate Studies. Kyle Reynolds is out of office at the moment, but I will share the presentation as soon as I get it!

B. There are four major themes:

1. Holistic student support
2. Brand and identity
3. Support for graduate staff and faculty
4. Additional investments needed to support graduate education at Kent State

C. Additional important notes:

1. Diversity, Equity and INclusion should be infused in everything Graduate Studies does at Kent State.
2. Discussions about values are occurring.
3. GSS can really play a large role in advocating for changes in the division and resources for graduate students.

D. Questions:

1. *English*: I really appreciate the efforts that also go into supporting international students as employment hours are always a challenge for international students. Is the Division of Graduate Studies considering providing an extra year of funding for graduate students, considering the pandemic really disrupted research and other projects?

a) *Dr. Van Dulmen*: Let me first say that I was an international graduate student myself in the United States so I fully understand the challenges you face. Regarding your question, at this time, we do not have funding available to do this, but I am advocating for an emergency fund for graduate students so they can have access to additional resources.

VI. Executive Board Reports

A. **Executive Chair** – Claire Jackman – cjackma2@kent.edu

1. April Faculty Senate Meeting

a) President Diacon talked about expanding access to higher education as well as focusing on completion. The increase in tuition over the years has not been in line with family wages and the percentage that Pell Grants can cover has also decreased in recent years. Helping students financially will be crucial, including increasing student employment on campus (in dining for example).

b) Creating a sense of belonging is the responsibility of Kent State.

- c) A proposal to expand the Center for Pan-African studies was accepted, which will expand the curriculum topics covered and will allow for more speaker and travel opportunities.
2. University Libraries research carrels
- a) These rooms are individual study spaces that have been recently renovated with new dividers, furniture, and paint. Previously, these spaces were only able to be reserved by dissertation students and faculty members. The library wants to gauge the interest of comp and thesis students being able to reserve these spaces as well. The library is considering creating an application process where students could reserve spaces for a specific time each week throughout the semester.
 - b) There are about 14 carrels between floors 8 and 9 that are reserved for graduate students, in addition to carrels on floors 4, 5, and 6 that can be reserved by anyone.
 - c) The library will work to advertise this resource to graduate students. They will likely run a pilot of this new application process in the fall and will make adjustments depending on how the fall goes. Additionally, the library is considering adding lockers to make sure that graduate students have spaces to store their belongings.
 - d) Questions:
 - (1) *Biological Sciences*: What do these carrels look like? Are they just study tables or rooms?
 - (2) *Claire/Anna*: They are small individual rooms.
 - (3) *Mathematics*: How do you go about requesting to gain entry to the carrels?
 - (4) *Claire*: A signup program exists for other study spaces and the library will likely apply the same system to the research carrels, but it will likely not happen until the summer.
3. Administrative Position (Account Clerk I)
- a) Kyle and Claire have been in conversation about hiring someone to handle the award allocations for GSS. The hiring freeze significantly delayed conversations about hiring for this position. However, through conversations with Student Affairs it has been decided that GSS will pay for half of a full-time position and Student Affairs will pay for the other half. This will likely make the position more marketable and increase the chances of people staying in the role as well. We are hoping to have this position filled by the fall semester.
4. Gradfest at 7pm on 5/7
- B. **Executive Vice Chair** – Jordyn Stoll – jstoll7@kent.edu
1. Committee Reports
- a) **Accessibility Committee** (Caroline Toth; ctoth14@kent.edu)
 - (1) Introduced new members and their current initiatives related to accessibility
 - (2) Discussed and approved an initiative to add consistent signage to bathrooms indicating what population each bathroom serves on campus
 - (3) Discussed initiative to create maps of bathrooms on

campus, so members of the community can find the bathroom that suits their needs

- (4) Discussed and approved an initiative to inventory and replace inaccessible curtains in residence hall bathroom stalls.

b) **Public Safety Advisory Committee** (Sohini Bhattacharyya; sbhatta6@kent.edu)

- (1) Campus police are currently staffed at 28 (1 less than last meeting). Initiatives to recruit 2 more officers is ongoing. They plan on recruiting student members again from next fiscal year.
- (2) Only minor cases were reported on campus security. There has been a rise in cyber crimes as was reported in previous meetings too which mostly involves extortion and scamming.
- (3) Currently, training is still remote, however, they want to switch to face-to face training once vaccination is paced up. Once vaccination paces up officers are willing to provide more face-to face help to students in need which currently is mostly telephonic unless urgent cases.

c) **Transportation Advisory Committee** (Tierra James; tjames16@kent.edu)

- (1) Things have been pretty flexible on the part of parking services, so if you have a parking pass you can essentially park in any lot since there are very few people on campus due to covid. The fall permit sales will go live in July, and parking services would like for people to register their license plates in order to widely use their new license plate recognition software on a larger scale basis; but hanging window tags will still be in use in the upcoming semester. Parking services is also moving towards using the mobile (passport) payment app for meters, however there are still some spots on campus that accept change for parking. PARTA is running all of their routes except for the express route to Cleveland. If students need to go to Cleveland, they can take the express bus to Akron and take a bus to Cleveland from there. PARTA is consistently keeping their buses sanitized so that everyone can remain safe. PARTA is also looking to hire new drivers if anyone is interested. Lastly, the University is still in discussion and considering how/if scooters can be implemented on campus in a new bike share program.

2. ITA/Book/Support Awards

- a) Due to the ongoing travel restrictions, the ITA is still on pause. Once the university wide travel ban is lifted, the ITA will reopen for applications.
- b) Last spring, ITA's were granted before the COVID shutdown. All previous ITA recipients who had an extension to their award

had until May 1, 2021 to utilize their award (virtual conferences only).

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

1. Summer DTA

- a) The Summer DTA application is now available (from May 1, 2021 - May 31, 2021) for travel between May 20, 2021, and August 25, 2021.
- b) Students can apply for the DTA to attend multiple **virtual** conferences/workshops as long as the total amount is under \$300.
- c) A single application and post-award survey should be submitted.

2. SCA update

- a) In the month of April, the SCA committee approved two SCA applications, which means that a total of 4 SCA applications have been approved this spring (for a total of about \$5,000).
- b) Special thanks to the SCA review committee members FY 2020-21 for serving on this committee and helping our fellow graduate students.
- c) If you are interested in serving on the SCA review committee for the FY 2021-22, please contact Maneesh Shukla at mshukla@kent.edu.

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

1. Research Award

- a) *Updates on Department Transfers*: There have been some issues with this on the department end and we do not have any solid updates yet, as this has been a very slow process. We are working with partners across campus to resolve this and Anna has a list of folks who have reached out to her directly about their specific cases.
- b) We are still in the process of determining how funds will be transferred to departments so that supplies can be ordered for you. We are also still engaging in conversations about the scholarship process and how various tax laws impact how much money students receive. If you have specific questions about this process, please reach out to Anna or Kyle.

2. GA Review Committee Update

- a) A survey specifically for GAs will be sent out soon (likely around May 19). This survey will help the committee gauge concerns for GAs. Please fill it out if you are a GA!

3. Anti-Racism Task Force Update

- a) A list of recommendations has been created and the committee will work with the university to start implementing some of these plans. If you want to be involved in the committee moving forward, let Anna know!

4. Group on Pronouns

- a) A white paper has been created for pronouns. By fall of 2022, the university plans to roll out the use of pronouns across campus, including on Flashline, Blackboard, etc. A draft of the white paper has been sent to the listserv. If you have further

questions about this, please contact Anna.

E. **Programming Chair** – Payel Datta – pdata1@kent.edu

1. Thank you to everyone who was involved with the Symposium! We had around 150 students participating and 30 judges involved.
2. We have already declared the winners for each section and the tax forms have been sent out to everyone. The awards will go through Flashline and then Bankmobile. Before you get your prize money, make sure that you do not have anything due on your Flashline.
3. The date has been reserved for next year's Symposium.
4. Questions:
 - a) *Biological Sciences*: When can awardees expect to see their award money?
 - b) *Payel/Claire/Jordyn*: It should arrive within the next few weeks, but once GSS processes the award it has to go through several university channels, which is why it might take longer to get the funds to you.

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

1. If you have published/presented recently, let us know. We'd like to spotlight you on social media.
2. If you are reaching out to us, please make sure to use the gss.info@gmail.com email address.
3. Make sure to let me know about any senator changes in your department!
4. Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter ([@KSUGSS](#))

VII. Old Business

A. N/A

VIII. New Business

A. N/A

IX. Announcements

- A. Thank you to everyone in GSS for this past year!
- B. Welcome to AY 2021-2022 Executive Board Members!

X. Adjournment

- A. Motion to adjourn from Anthropology, second from Political Science. No discussion. Meeting was adjourned at 1:06pm.