

- I. Call to Order: 1:05pm
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of April 28, 2015 Minutes - Approved
- IV. Executive Board Reports

A. **Executive Chair** – Fritz Yarrison – fyarrison@kent.edu

1. Senator Responsibilities

a. All senators represent their academic unit in the senate and your main responsibility is divulging all relevant information to all graduate students in your academic unit. If you don't know what departments and programs are within your academic unit please email Mark Rhodes (gss.info@gmail.com)

b. There will also be occasions where the senators will vote on or help decide different issues. Please raise your name placard during the voting process in order to vote.

c. Every academic unit is required to have one representative at every meeting. Missing more than one meeting will cause your entire academic unit to be ineligible for funding for the year. This is why having an alternative senator is so important.

d. You can take as many notes as you like during the meetings, but we do send out meeting minutes after every meeting.

e. Please be sure to email Mark Rhodes (gss.info@gmail.com) with any senator changes you might have, or once you have found an alternative senator.

2. GSS Cartwright Office

a. We have two offices on the first floor of the Kent Student Center, 120L and 120M, however we are not in those offices very often.

b. Our primary business office is in Cartwright Hall and has moved this summer from the first floor to the second floor in room 215. We have more space than in the past, especially immediately outside of the office where there are workstations. This space will now be available for graduate students as a workspace; so if anyone is looking for a quiet place on that side of campus to get work done this space will be available.

B. **Executive Vice Chair** – Andrea Meluch – ameluch1@kent.edu

1. Committee Representations

a. If you were on a committee last year you will be getting an email soon asking if you still want to serve on that committee.

b. If you have any questions about the different committees or wish to serve on a committee please contact Andrea.

2. International Travel Award

a. August 17, 2015, 11:59pm

b. It is very important that all guidelines are strictly followed and any infraction to the guidelines will cause that application to be thrown out.

c. Be aware that the International Travel Award now applies to all areas outside of the continental United States and Canadian Provinces adjacent to the US.

d. If you are interested in sitting on the Fall 2015 International Travel Award Review Committee during the first week of classes please contact Andrea.

C. Finance Chair – Suparna Navale– snavale1@kent.edu

1. Summer 2015 Domestic Travel Award
 - a. We had 59 applications, 44 of which were complete, and we were able to fund all 44.
 - b. Please keep in mind that all award reimbursements take 6-8 weeks to process.
2. Domestic Travel Award Changes
 - a. There will be only a flat rate of \$300 to those who are presenting at conferences, however the award will not be guaranteed and upon availability of funds will be issued at a randomized basis.
 - b. The travel area is now only the lower 48 states and any adjacent Canadian Provinces.
3. Fall 2015 Domestic Travel Award
 - a. Deadline: September 14th 11:59pm
 - b. There will only be a two week application window prior to the deadline.

D. Advocacy Chair – Megan Hornyak – mhornya6@kent.edu

- 1 Fall 2015 Research Award
 - a. Deadline: October 12th 11:59pm
- 2 Philanthropy
 - a. One option is raising money for Together We Rise which puts together travel bags of materials for foster children.
 - b. The second option is working with Family and Community Services of Portage County in a clothing drive for families in need.
 - c. The Third option is another small center that aids low-income families and individuals with hot meals and would entail a food drive.
 - d. If you have any further ideas or want more information on these options please email Megan and these options will be further discussed at the first meeting.
- 3 Fitness Center Update
 - a. We will be attaching a list of alternative Fitness Centers to the minutes for those who are unable to have their fees waived because of dissertation and thesis II.

E. Research Symposium Chair – Morgan Chaney – mchaney1@kent.edu

- 1 The 31st Annual Graduate Student Symposium will be Earth Day, Friday, April 22nd, 2016

2 We will be sticking to this Earth Day theme, and while we are still figuring out the official title and graphics, they will revolve around either Earth or World. If you or your constituents are interested in participating in this discussion of formulating a theme, please email Morgan, and you will be included in our ongoing Google document where we are discussing different options.

3 We are still trying to decide on a keynote speaker for the symposium. If you or your constituents have any suggestions please email Morgan.

F. Info Services Chair – Mark Rhodes – gss.info@gmail.com/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. August 25th and 26th is the Graduate Student Orientation, and while it is required for all new graduate assistants, it is open to everyone, and GSS will be at the resource fair on the 25th.

VI. Announcements

A. Next GradFest will be Friday, September 4th, 2015 from 6-8:00pm, Location TBD

B. A number of students are planning to start a Cricket team/club and are looking for students who are interested in supporting this endeavor. If you are interesting in participating, or would like more information, please contact Madhu Reddy at menugu@kent.edu . Also attached you can find a PowerPoint Presentation with more information regarding the game of Cricket.

C. Kate McAnulty – Faculty Advisor for GSS.

1. A lot of change in the Grad Studies Office:

a. Dean Stephens has officially retired and Melody Tankersley has started as the interim Dean

b. Please keep in mind the advances that GSS has made. We have had great growth in the symposium over the years, have made sure to enhance the professional nature of GSS in general, from communication to meetings, and we want to continue with that momentum.

c. You are welcome to meet with Kate related to GSS or just as a student. Her office is in Cartwright hall, and she can be reached via email at kmcanult@kent.edu if you would like to schedule a meeting.

d. Please remember that you as a senator for your unit are really an extension of the Division of Graduate Studies and you should behave appropriately. Reach out to Kate if you have any issues.

D. Our Fall 2015 General Senate Meetings will be the following times, days, and locations:

1. Tuesday, Sept. 8th from 11am-1pm at the Kent State Hotel Downtown
2. Tuesday, Oct. 13th from 11am-1pm in 306 KSC
3. Tuesday, Nov 3rd from 11am-1pm in the 3rd Floor Ballroom Balcony of the Kent Student Center
4. Tuesday, Dec. 1st from 11am-1pm in the 3rd Floor Ballroom Balcony KSC

VII. Adjournment 1:52pm – Motion: Sociology ; Seconded: Chemistry & Biochemistry