

- I. Call to Order at 2:08pm
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of July 19, 2017 Minutes
- IV. Executive Board Reports

A. **Executive Chair** – Mark Rhodes – mrhode21@kent.edu

1. Senate Overview

- We are the governing body of graduate students at KSU. We have 33 senators representing every graduate degree-granting program across the university.
- Our goal is to improve graduate-student life and research at KSU.
 - We provide funding for travel and research, and we advocate for graduate student-focused issues, which may become increasingly important in the near future.
 - We provide opportunities for professional development (e.g., service committees, job-search committees)
 - Gradfest, our monthly social, is *usually* every Friday following GSS General Meetings, but we will not have a Gradfest this Friday because we held one on 8/25/17.
 - We organize the largest single annual research event on campus, the Graduate Research Symposium, which is being organized by Betsy Melick (see below).
 - Lastly, we are a conduit of information for graduate students. Each Senator is expected to disseminate the information we discuss in each meeting out to their constituents in one way or another.
- This year is our 40th anniversary.
 - Email Mark if you have suggestions for us to celebrate our *ruby anniversary!*

2. Senator Contracts

- Contracts were voted into the bylaws on 12/6/2016. They are designed to enforce the good-standing rules in the GSS bylaws.
 - Attendance is the main issue in the contracts. Make sure that someone from your academic unit is in attendance.
- Please bring signed contracts to the next General Meeting (10/3/2017) so that Dean Tankersly can sign her portion of the contract.

3. Senator introductions

- Starting with the Executive Board, each member of the Senate introduced himself/herself.

B. **Executive Vice Chair** – Kathryn Klonowski – kklonows@kent.edu

1. International Travel Award (ITA)

- The ITA committee conferred, and award letters were sent out on 9/4/2017. We offered one full award and two partial awards, in all totaling \$3,500. Congratulations to the following ITA recipients:
 - Lauren Baldarelli of Biological Sciences
 - Anne Neveu of Modern and Classical Languages
 - Ian Farnkopf of Biomedical Sciences
- The Spring/Summer ITA application is now open with a deadline of 10/16/17 at 11:59pm for travel dates between 1/16/17 and

8/27/18. Check [the GSS website](#) for more details.

2. National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS)
 - Kate is the newly-appointed Director of Outreach for the Midwest Region.
 - Kate is currently organizing the Spring NAGPS Midwest Region Conference which will take place on the KSU Kent Campus on 3/2/18-3/4/18. Please let Kate know if you are interested in being involved in that planning process. Also, this will be a good opportunity to be involved with NAGPS leadership and potentially take on a regional or national leadership role!
3. Committee Representation
 - University Diversity Action Council (UDAC): please consider applying for a graduate representative position and encourage other grads/undergrads to apply as well:
<http://www.tinyurl.com/SDACFall17>
 - Other committee rep/observer positions may be coming open in the next few weeks. Please let Kate know if you are interested in possibly representing GSS in this capacity.
 - We currently need to fill positions on the following committees:
 - Public Safety Advisory Committee
 - Student Health Advisory Committee
 - University Council on Technology
 - UDAC and/or SDAC
 - University Research Council (New)

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

1. The deadline for the [Fall Domestic Travel Award](#) (DTA) is 9/11/17 at 11:59pm!
 - Required is basic info that you were accepted to present at a conference
 - Questions about the DTA should be directed to Suparna by email.
2. Budget update
 - The university budget is not yet finalized, and so we do not know how much money will be allocated for the GSS.
 - As an ad-hoc solution to this problem, we conservatively expect to have funds for *144 Domestic Travel Awards*.
 - Reminder: you can receive only one of each award per academic year.
 - We do not yet know if we will be receiving supplemental funds from the Division of Research & Sponsored Programs (RASP) to increase the amount of money that each DTA is worth.
 - Therefore, each DTA will be worth \$300 unless supplemental RASP funding comes in.
3. Update: Special Contingency Award
 - Voted into effect at General Meeting on 7/19/217.
 - Designed as a catch-all award, but is also designed to be very competitive.
 - Amounts of funding are \$300 for domestic travel and \$1500 for international travel.
4. Awards in general
 - Please publicize the GSS awards, *especially the award winners*.
 - We imagine that such congratulations and publicity will increase the number of people applying for our awards.
5. Question: When will we know the budget?

- Answer: Probably mid-September, based on historical data

D. Advocacy Chair – Timothy Rose – trose16@kent.edu

1. Designing philanthropic activities and initiatives is the prerogative of the Advocacy Chair, and this year, Tim has designated the following as our philanthropic initiative:
 - [Books for Prisoners](#)
 - Please bring books you'd like to donate to the GSS office in Cartwright Hall or to Tim personally in Merrill Hall
 - If you have any other ideas for philanthropy, please notify Tim.
2. Graduate Appointee Advocacy Program (GAAP)
 - Designed to address a former risk where graduate students would have lost healthcare coverage. This issue has been addressed and is no longer a risk.
 - Now, however, we are focusing on understanding graduate students welfare and support across the KSU system.
 - The second draft of this survey is finished, but Tim wants to be cautious in implementing this survey.
 - If you would like to be a member of GAAP, please see Tim or notify him as soon as possible.
 - Tim now needs volunteers for GAAP.
3. [Fall 2017 Research Award](#)
 - You can receive up to \$2000 for your research project.
 - You can use this funding for your thesis, dissertation, practicum, etc.
 - Application period is still open, until 10/16/17.
 - You will not be able to be reimbursed for costs incurred before receiving the award.
 - Please make absolutely sure that your application is complete.
 - The caliber of recommendation-letters is imperative.
 - We need volunteers to sit on the review committee. Please contact Tim if you'd like to sit on this committee.
 - The evaluation rubric for this award is also posted on the GSS website (see link above).

E. Research Symposium Chair – Elizabeth Melick – emelick@kent.edu

1. Please inform your constituents that the 33rd Symposium will be on April 20, 2018!
 - Registration will not open until sometime next semester.
2. Symposium planning
 - Betsy is currently trying figure out what the future of the Symposium should be.
 - For example, growth has been the priority in the past, but this is not a sustainable goal.
 - She is setting alternative goals. For example, the Symposium could be more competitive or spread out over several days.
 - If anyone would like to help with planning the symposium, please contact Betsy at her email address above.

F. Info Services Chair – Morgan Chaney – gss.info@gmail.com

1. Fashion and Digital Science remain unrepresented at this time. This is a

problem because it could cause some students to lose funding opportunities.

2. Send Morgan news (e.g. thesis defenses) or content (e.g. blogs, pictures) from your department that you'd like him to share on GSS's social media
3. Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter ([@ksugss](#))

V. New Business

- A. Organization requests can be made by student organizations for \$50 to hold events.
 1. These requests must be made at least two weeks in advance via our website: <https://www.kent.edu/graduatestudies/gss-organization-funding>
- B. Organization Request: Modern & Classical Language Studies (MCLS)
 1. An ice-cream social will be held for new graduate students in MCLS on 9/15/17 at approximately 5:00pm
 2. Vote: passes unanimously with no abstentions

VI. Announcements

- A. Melody Tankersly: Grand re-opening of Cartwright Hall starts at 3:00pm today.
 1. Reason for celebration is an increase in graduate student-centered space. The building used to be mostly office space, but a recent innovation made space for grad students to socialize, study, and gather.
- B. Remaining Fall General Senate Meetings
 1. Tues., Oct. 3rd, 2:00pm, Moulton Hall Ballroom
 2. Tues., Oct 31st, 2:00pm, KSC 310AB
 3. Tues., Oct 5th, 2:00pm, KSC 310AB

VII. Adjournment at 3:02pm

- A. Motion by Sociology; seconded by Biological Sciences