

Meeting Minutes | October 6, 2021 | General Meeting of the Kent State University Graduate Student Senate

- I. Call to Order at 3:03 PM
- II. [Roll Call](#)
  - A. Absent senators: College of Aeronautics and Engineering, Architecture, Communication and Information, Emerging Media and Technology, Economics, History, Modern & Classical Language Studies, Nursing, Political Science
- III. Approval of minutes from September 8, 2021
  - A. First by Art; Seconded by psychological sciences.
    1. Amendment - Modern & Classical Languages was present for September 8th meeting. That has been updated.
  - B. Motion passes.
- IV. Dr. Lamar Hylton, Senior VP for Student Affairs ([lhylton@kent.edu](mailto:lhylton@kent.edu))
  - A. Reminder to take care of yourself
- V. Dr. Taléa Drummer-Ferrell, Dean of Students ([tdrumme1@kent.edu](mailto:tdrumme1@kent.edu))
  - A. Reminder of our resources - a lot of them have been enhanced recently
  - B. <https://www.kent.edu/stepupspeakout>
    1. Step out speak out - Download the KSU mobile app
      - Supporting someone in distress or disruptive
  - C. <https://www.kent.edu/caps/24-hour-resources>
    1. Enhanced services and expanded resources - more clinicians physically in CAPS, but also after hours services and virtual services.
- VI. Executive Board Reports
  - A. **Executive Chair** – Claire Jackman – [cjackma2@kent.edu](mailto:cjackma2@kent.edu)
    1. Faculty Senate Meeting
      - The danger of repeating misinformation and how we can address repeating misinformation
      - Call to action to for the faculty senate to write to the state legislature in opposition to House Bills 322 and 327
        - These concern censorship of instructors when discussing race, class, gender, in the classroom. The freedom to teach the material as the instructor wants to would be threatened.
        - These bills are still in committees in the Legislature, but keep this on your radar.
      - Strategic plans for fundraising.
    2. Student Leadership Advisory Meeting
      - This meeting ended up being cancelled, next meeting will be end of October
    3. Senator Contracts
      - Please turn in your senator contracts to Blair at [gss.info@gmail.com](mailto:gss.info@gmail.com)
      - Make sure your information is on the website.
    4. Postpone gradfest for the time being - low turnout and low participation

rates. Take a break from it for now.

**B. Executive Vice Chair** – Jordyn Stoll – [jstoll7@kent.edu](mailto:jstoll7@kent.edu)

1. International Travel Award apps are due October 18th
  - Review committee
  - Review application for blindness
  - Note summer award period overlap
2. Committee Reports
  - **University Libraries Committee** ([jstoll7@kent.edu](mailto:jstoll7@kent.edu))

COVID mask wearing has become challenging in the library. Tactics including positive reinforcement are going to be used more frequently to improve mask wearing. Library hours may change to include overnight access again in the future. The library is a site for at home test kit pick-up. Cambridge publications has made a deal with OhioLink Universities, which will include unlimited open access publication fee waivers- you should see information about this in the near future. The library has a DEI initiative that it is implementing. The grad student specific 'rental' rooms will be revisited in the spring.

- **EPC Subcommittee - Graduate Policies Council Personal Leave** ([jfoust2@kent.edu](mailto:jfoust2@kent.edu))

Divided into three separate subcommittees to focus on three policies: Leave of Absence, Grievances, and Leave of Absence due to Pregnancy and Parenting. I self-selected onto the Leave of Absence subgroup where we discussed how to define leave of absence, reasons to take a leave of absence, and future topics we will be discussing throughout the course of the semester.

- **EPC Subcommittees - Graduate Policies Council Parental Leave** ([mpower16@kent.edu](mailto:mpower16@kent.edu))

Currently looking at other universities' policies for paid parental leave. Currently, it seems like 6 weeks of paid parental leave with continued support and relaxed academic requirements while that leave is taken. It is very early stages. Looking for more people to serve on these subcommittees. Anyone who is interested, contact Mitch or contact Jordyn.

3. Still need reps for Educational Policy Subcommittees
  - Psychological sciences: Can nonsenators serve on review committees?
    - Yes, you do not have to be a senator to serve on any committee.

**C. Finance Chair** – Maneesh Shukla – [mshukla@kent.edu](mailto:mshukla@kent.edu)

1. DTA updates: Total 71 awards, \$21,000 award amount
  - Average amount was \$300
  - The deadline for the DTA for this semester has passed.
2. SCA updates
  - Deadline is the last day of every month
  - 1 application last month that was funded
  - So far in Fall 2021, 2 applications have been funded
3. FY22 Budget Proposal
  - New total budget: ~340,000 (including 70,000 from RASP. Thanks to Claire and RASP committee)

- Psychological Sciences: “how difficult will it be to transfer funds from the flex funds to a different fund?”
  - Claire: So anytime we have money rolling over from one academic year to another it all goes to awards. We would be able to do that without any issue. That could be handled until we have our first GSS meeting. IF we were to run out of money during the semester, all it takes is a motion to move money from one index to another.

**D. Advocacy Chair** – Anna Solberg – [asolberg@kent.edu](mailto:asolberg@kent.edu)

1. Research Award Updates

- Deadline: October 11, 2021; Spring semester deadline is March 14th, 2022.
- Review Committee
  - Need committee members for the research award review committee.
- Research Award Extensions
- Physics: “Does this mean the research award can be used for domestic travel?”
  - Anna: Yes and no. It can be used for domestic travel if it is related to your research. It cannot be used for conference travel.

2. Review of Graduate Assistantships

- Trying to get recommendations and a full write up to Manfred by the end of this semester.

3. Holiday Helping

- How do people feel about doing something for the holidays in terms of helping people?
  - Are we comfortable doing something in person or online?
- Biomedical sciences: We did a food drive last year, for the Akron/Canton foodbank. That would be something to think about. The CDC quietly released guidelines for thanksgiving and halloween - they are recommending virtual at this point. As we move forward, we should be considering things we can do from a distance. As of thanksgiving, we can think about virtual things.

**E. Research Symposium Chair** – Muhammad Farooq – [mfarooq2@kent.edu](mailto:mfarooq2@kent.edu)

1. Symposium - April 7th and 8th in the Kent State Student Center - hopefully in person

- Currently reaching out to different people for the keynote

2. In contact with CAPS for a workshop for graduate students to talk about their issues and how to navigate and survive graduate school during the pandemic.

3. International student week - cross cultural conversation.

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

1. If you have published/presented recently, let us know. We'd like to

spotlight you on social media.

2. Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter ([@KSUGSS](#))
3. Follow us on Instagram - [@kentstategraduatestudentsenate](#)

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

A. Committee to Evaluate Senator Elections - election vs selection, with that conversation was how do we deal with the election or selection of senators in different academic units.

1. Poll - evaluate where we are currently at. Each academic unit explained what their process is for being selected/elected as a senator currently.
  - Large variation in how senators are chosen across academic units.
2. Setting up a sub-committee within GSS to evaluate and make recommendations for how to move forward. Whether that be setting some general standard or having recommendations for academic units.
  - Physics: "Why do you think we have to do one method for selecting a GSS method?"
    - Claire: The point of GSS is to be the USG but for graduate students. We are currently not represented by a union, so GSS is how graduate students have a voice on campus. A grad coordinator or department chair should not be the one making the decision on who represents the graduate students, graduate students should be making that decision. Make sure that the power is in the hands of the students.
    - In terms of this committee - when is the best time to decide to vote who is their senator. So then it does not come down to a faculty member choosing.
  - Physics: "Does this mean through GSS that we will make a committee that runs the election for each academic unit?"
    - Anna: not necessarily, this is to open up a conversation about what we can do. This committee is to evaluate what we are doing right now, and any recommendations that come from it.
    - Claire: We don't as GSS have to host the elections for each academic unit. We do have the power to tell the academic units how the elections should be run.
  - Psychological sciences: "Does GSS have the power to implement this?"
    - Claire's previous response answered this question.
  - Art: "has there been any discussion about forming a union?"
    - Mitch: In the state of Ohio we are forbidden from collective bargaining as graduate students

- Anna: It has been brought up in the past, unfortunately, we are not able to act on that now.
- Motion to create a committee within GSS to evaluate senator elections
  - First from English; Second from Physics. No additional discussion. Motion passed.
- If you are interested in serving on this committee, email Anna.

B. Approve the Budget

1. Motion to approve the Budget.

- First by biological sciences; second by biomedical sciences. No discussion. Motion to approve the budget passed.

VII. Announcements

- A. Info/award/symposium cards are outside the GSS office. Please grab a handful of each of those cards and place them in your academic units building.
- B. IF you have not turned in your senator contract yet, please do so. And double check the senator list on the GSS website so we can make sure the GSS listserve is up to date.
- C. Three-minute thesis competition: 3 minutes and one powerpoint slide to communicate your research to an interdisciplinary audience.
- D. Affinity groups for first generation graduate students and graduate students who are parents. If you are interested in joining those groups or learning more about them, please contact Kyle: kreynol3@kent.edu

VIII. Adjournment

- A. First from mathematics; second from psychological sciences. No discussion. Meeting adjourned at 4:37pm.