

Minutes | December 8, 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, Chemistry & Biochemistry, Communication & Information, Digital Science, Economics, Geology, History, Nursing, Philosophy, Public Health

III. Approval of minutes from Nov 10, 2021

- A. First from Psychological Sciences. Second from English. No discussion. Minutes from November 10th approved.

IV. Dr. Taléa Drummer-Ferrell, Dean of Students-- tdrummel@kent.edu

A. Step up speak out

1. Step Up Speak Out is a system-wide initiative to promote resources for good mental health, foster a culture of care at Kent State and increase awareness of mental health concerns. Participants will learn risk factors for suicide, signs and symptoms of distressed and disruptive individuals, and strategies to appropriately respond in these situations. Campus and community mental health resources will be provided, so attendees may assist those in need, help keep our campus safe, and strengthen the Kent State community. This webinar is ideal for faculty and staff who are in direct contact with students.
2. <https://www.kent.edu/stepupspeakout>
3. <https://www.kent.edu/mobile>

B. Care Team

1. Cross-divisional crisis management committee that collaboratively assesses and coordinates response to student behavior identified as reasonably posing a potential threat to self, others, or the university community.

C. Provide feedback for strategic plan refresh

1. <https://www.kent.edu/strategicroadmap/introduction>

D. COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement

1. <https://www.kent.edu/coronavirus/vaccine-requirement-scheduling>

E. Q & A

1. Jordyn: Will the system be updated if I have submitted my proof of vaccination but still get the emails?
 - Dr. Drummer-Ferrell: If you are still getting the emails, recommend that you email them back and they may have to manually go back in to submit it. Doing nothing the assumption is that it is not reading it.
 - New system coming on board that is more user friendly. Instead of uploading a picture, you give

permission for us to pull that you are vaccinated from the state.

2. Jordyn: Dissertation two students do not have access to the 6 included sessions at CAPS. Can we talk about that?
 - If you do reach out to CAPS they are able to find and provide information about financing, community resources, insurance.
3. Biomedical sciences: MedPlus proctor is not populating the booster doses, is the new system going to include the booster doses? If you have received your doses in different states how do you go about that?
 - There is an option for a booster dose for the new system. Boosters are not required so it does not have to be updated.
 - Each one that you upload in the system, it should be seamless to determine and you click in what state you are in.
 - With the old system, email if you had the shot in different states.
4. Health Sciences: What are the consequences who do not get the vaccine and do not register it?
 - Working through the process for progressive discipline. Without an upload of your vaccine record or exemption there will be a hold on their Fall 2022 registration. The rest is TBD.

V. Executive Board Reports

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

1. Student Leader Advisory Group meeting updates
 - Vaccine requirement – December 20th – either proof of vaccination or exemption submitted. Need one or the other. Please do this. IF you don't, you'll face progressive punishment in the spring semester.
 - if you do not upload one of these two things, you are still subjected to testing.
 - If you got your vaccine at DeWeese, you still have to upload your vaccination status.
 - Boosters do not currently factor into the requirement, but could change in the future
 - Undergraduate trustee search will begin in January.
2. Student Affairs meetings updates
 - Share feedback on the strategic plan refresh (link is above)
 - Award funds for membership fees – we have been doing it on a case by case basis – especially if it brings down the conference registration
 - Hoping to have more clarity in the spring and if it is not allowed, we hope to change it.
 - CPM what they would have to pay student fee wise to be a part

of GSS.

3. Faculty Senate Budget Advisory Committee (FASBAC) updates
 - Kent State is in good financial status
4. Interest in running for GSS Exec Board positions
 - Please reach out to any of the exec board chairs.

B. Executive Vice Chair – Jordyn Stoll – jstoll7@kent.edu

1. Committee Reports

- Transportation Advisory Committee (Tierra James; tjames16@kent.edu) In the Spring campus will be getting three new dual charging port stations for electric cars. The parking deck is no longer going through with construction. There is a tentative timeline to start demolishing Terrace Hall in the Spring to start the construction on the new Business Building. Permit sales for the Spring will begin after Thanksgiving. Bikeshares and scooters will be coming back in the Spring. Additionally, the late-night shuttle for PARTA will be coming back.
- Strategic roadmap Advisory Committee (Jordyn Stoll; jstoll7@kent.edu) The University is working on a roadmap for our future and wants student involvement. There will be a survey coming out requesting student input. Does anyone have any ideas for ways to get more grad student input??

2. ITA

- Spring applications due March 14, 2022 by 11:59 p.m. for travel between May 12, 2022 and January 17, 2023

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

1. Budget

- Student fee allocation and carry over balance ~ \$404,000
 - Around \$78,000 in flex account

2. DTA updates

- Application for Spring 2022 will
 - Open on Monday, December 2021 and
 - Close on Monday, January 31, 2022
- For travel between January 18, 2022 and August 24, 2022
- DTA will be a flat rate (I am proposing \$500 as we have significant budget left in our Flex Fund) for in-person conference and will cover registration fee for virtual conference.

2. SCA updates

- Two applications in October, one approved with full amount of \$1,500
- No complete application in November
- Total amount funded so far: \$3,095. Remaining amount: \$11,905
- Applications in December will be reviewed in late January or early February.
- Thanks to the SCA review committee for their help and support to the GSS.

3. Geography: Can you re-clarify what kind of conference “participation” qualifies for a DTA? For example, attendance vs. poster presentation vs. paper session
 - DTA covers conference, workshop, poster presentation – anything that contributes to your graduate education and traveling within the continental united states.
4. LDES: What is the timeline for approving/denying the DTA application once submitted?
 - Two to three weeks after the deadline. Whether you application is approved or if we need additional information.

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

1. [Research Award](#) Updates
 - Spring Award Opens January 17, 2022
 - Spring Award Closes March 14, 2022
 - Takes about 3 weeks for notification
2. GA Review Committee Update
 - The report is done, and it has been given to Manfred. We are seeing progress in terms of the GA review committee.
3. Conversation Partners
 - International students are paired up with a domestic student to just practice English!
 - Talk about your culture, where you are from, education, etc.
 - Just a way for international students to practice their language skills.
 - Have a lot of international students, but do not have as many domestic students
 - <https://www.kent.edu/international/conversation-partners>
4. Thank you to all who participated in Hunger & Homelessness Week!

E. Research Symposium Chair – Muhammad Farooq – mfarooq2@kent.edu

1. Multicultural library
 - Proposal has been accepted and the university is working on identifying a space
2. Intercultural Graduate Student Dialogues
 - Once a month, international and domestic graduate students will meet
3. Graduate Students Mental Health Session: Feb 2022 (Date: TBD)
4. Symposium: Registration opens January 17, 2022
 - Debating between in-person or virtual symposium

F. Info Services Chair – Blair Braun – 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. Amend Spring 2022 DTA \$500 for in person awards and up to \$500 for virtual conferences

1. First from Biological Sciences. Second from Biomedical sciences. No discussion. Motion passes.

VII. Announcements

A. Claire: Exec board is meeting to determine dates and times of monthly senate meetings next semester. Monthly senate meetings remaining virtual but other events may be in person.

VIII. Adjournment

A. First from Fashion. Second from music. Meeting adjourned at 4:08PM.