

- I. Call to Order at 12:02 p.m.
- II. Roll Call
  - A. Absent: Art; Economics; Fashion; Lifespan Development & Educational Sciences; Theater & Dance
- III. Approval of minutes from December 5, 2017
- IV. Dr. Shay Little, VP for Student Affairs & Dr. Lamar Hylton, Dean of Students
  - A. Dr. Little welcomed us back for Spring 2018 semester. She expressed gratitude for our involvement in various initiatives, forums, and dialogs this year.
  - B. Reminders: KSU Facilities Master Plan
    1. The Board of Trustees (BOT) has discussed this thoroughly, and a proposal will be submitted at the March BOT meeting. Any interested people should visit [www.atransformedksu.com](http://www.atransformedksu.com) for more information and updates on the progress of this master plan.
  - C. This semester has started with much activity about our “KSU values”, such free speech, respectful dialogs.
    1. Kent talk sessions will be given by Dr. Hylton on these topics. Reach out to him if you’re interested.
  - D. Dr. Hylton then gave the following remarks: he started here in June 2017, is very invested in the community, and is enjoying his time here. He looks forward to working with us on various initiatives in the future.
    1. Along with Dr. Tankersly, Dr. Hylton co-chairs a work-group on graduate student engagement *outside of the classroom*. This is similar to a program for undergrads that led to recommendations on how the “co-curricular experience” could be enhanced. Hylton will keep us updated on progress/findings on how they can support graduate-student success outside the classroom, as well as any opportunities for interested graduate students to help with this endeavor.
  - E. Dr. Little added that she has worked on many campuses, and complimented the KSU GSS on our high level of engagement at KSU campus in particular.
  - F. Question: Which particular offices do you direct?
    1. Dr. Little: They direct the Center for Student Involvement (CSI), which encompasses many things: e.g., housing, residence halls, dining, health, recreation, accessibility, veteran services, Greek life, student organizations, student conduct, and the Kent Student Center.
  - G. Question: Regarding the KSU recreation center, what is the plan for helping more graduate students to gain access when they are enrolled in Dissertation II?
    1. Dr. Little: Recently, a decision was made to cut fees that were deemed nonessential, hence the lack of funding for Dissertation II students. No student is barred from the rec center, but Dissertation II students are being given the opportunity to decide for themselves if they would like to use the rec center, rather than being obligated to pay for it as part of their fees (e.g., as is the case for undergraduates). Some departments choose to pay for their students to have access to the rec center. There are currently 537 students enrolled in Dissertation II, but only about 70 students are using the special rate provided for these students. Dr. Little said that these data tell her, and other higher administrators at KSU, that the majority of students would not use the rec center, so she wants to leave off the fee so that many students don’t have to pay for something they won’t use.
    2. Follow-up: what’s the fee?
      - Answer: \$70/semester
    3. Follow-up: There is a potential psychological, or optical issue with grad students not being given access as do other full-time students. Aside from any differences in cost, this perception could induce some graduate students to feel like the administration doesn’t view them as the full-time

students they are.

- Dr. Little: This would be a false perception because the decision to revoke this fee, and therefore rec-center access, from Dissertation II students was made, in consultation with some of the statistics mentioned previously, in order not charge them for something they won't use. Dr. Little added that she wants students to use the rec center, but the administration is trying to make the situation appropriate for Dissertation II students. This is a continuing discussion, and the administration is open to future solutions.

H. Question: Many graduate students have to carry multiple key cards in addition to their Flash Cards. How difficult would it be to combine all of the key cards and Flash Cards into one?

1. Dr. Little: Currently, there's not a way to do this. She added that she relates to this problem personally because she has to carry many cards for the same reasons as graduate students. The University is currently addressing this problem, mostly for undergraduates, with an \$11.5M 3-year project for students to use Flash Cards to enter residence halls. There is a desire to combine cards, but the problem is more complicated than it would appear to be. Will bring this up in future administrative meetings.

V. Jennifer Abate, Project Coordinator for the Office of the Provost

A. Great Place Initiative (GPI)

1. Ms. Abate provided background on the GPI, which formed when the climate study was completed a couple years ago, and the task of the GPI is to respond to the concerns raised by the University-wide climate study. It is composed of several subcommittees. One of her GPI subcommittees is tasked with making a flow chart for resolving issues brought up by the climate study. There is currently no place for students to *anonymously* report or seek assistance, and they are trying to build something for the KSU homepage to do this without logging into Flashline. They have started to realize that this is difficult to capture, has started to subdivide the issues into six buckets to capture every climate scenario.
2. GSS touches on many of the climate issues the GPI wants to address. This makes us well suited to provide quality feedback to them, so Ms. Abate requested that Senators take the GPI survey and publicize it among their constituents and faculty.
  - Survey link:  
[https://kent.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6EUL5Qx2K0JqAaF](https://kent.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6EUL5Qx2K0JqAaF)

VI. Executive Board Reports

A. **Executive Chair** – Mark Rhodes – [mrhode21@kent.edu](mailto:mrhode21@kent.edu)

1. Reminder: GSS contracts
  - Mark reminded Senators to please submit their contracts, and he then outlined how General Meetings work for the new Senators for whom this was their first General Meeting.
2. Report: Faculty Senate on 12/5/2017
  - The Chair of Faculty Senate gave remarks on the [grad tax](#) in the early drafts of the Tax Cuts & Jobs Act. Prof. Kerns from Psychological Sciences suggested stipend increases need to happen anyway.
  - Faculty early-retirement program: about 97 tenure-track faculty should be able to be hired through this program.
    - Question: When will this program be over?
    - Answer: Unsure, but the program incentivizes professors to take this opportunity earlier rather than later.

3. Report: Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting on 12/13/2017
  - Several executive-board members had lunch with the BOT, and Mark gave a formal report on the GSS at their official meeting afterward. In this report, he also hinted that we would like them to address remedy the current lack of a policy for a minimum GA stipend. Mark says that the report went over well, but they did not commit in any official way to address the welfare-related issues he raised. He is extremely grateful they the GSS was given this opportunity, and he hopes that we will be invited to future BOT meetings.
4. Report: Strategic Opportunity for Academic Reach and Success (SOARS)
  - SOARS is the committee assembled to implement Pres. Warren strategic vision.
  - Dean David Dees' Rising Stars mentorship program was one focus of the SOARS meeting. This is a program that connects KSU faculty with students in grades 6-12 in the Salem, OH area. These undergraduate mentors act as mentors for the secondary-school students to help them get admitted to KSU *with funding*. This program, previously only available at KSU Salem, is now being expanded to all other KSU campuses.
    - Dean Dees would like to eventually integrate graduate students into this because we more closely resemble their target population (i.e., in age) than faculty.
  - Another part of the meeting focused on studies abroad, which Mark publicized as very valuable to many grad programs. Mark suggested they should look to grad students as they expand studies abroad.
5. Update: Recreation Center Access for students enrolled in Dissertation II
  - Question: If we'll be asked to pay the extra fee (\$70), will we afforded the extra services that non-student resident members are given (such as towel services and lockers)?
    - Answer: Unsure.
  - Comment: Many grad students probably don't know of the opportunity that they can elect to pay the extra fee to get access to the rec center. This casts doubt on the argument that grad students would be paying for a service that most do not use.
  - Mark: More data need to be gathered. We currently know that about 2% of general fees go to the rec center. This translates to a fee of about \$8 for most KSU students, but it is unclear why students enrolled in Dissertation II must pay *nearly tenfold that amount* simply because they are at a more advanced stage of their program.
  - Comment: It would be especially useful to know how many of the total Dissertation II students are being sponsored by their departments.
  - Question: Which departments are paying for their graduate students to have rec-center access?
    - Answer: We don't have a complete list, but we have been told that Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, and Liquid Crystal Institute are paying for most grad-student access to the rec center.
6. Announcement: Research Award Database
  - Out of approximately 250 RAs in the last 10 years, Mark has associated these with more than 200 separate publications!

- Question: Can you give us a list of graduate students from different Academic Units who have received a RA?
    - Answer: Mark will send the link for the Google Sheet to the whole Senate in the near future.
  - 7. Announcement: Executive Board Elections for 2018-2019
    - Nominations will open at next General Meeting, on 2/27/2018. Nominations will close two weeks prior to the 4/3/2018 meeting. Initiation will be during the 5/1/2018 General Meeting.
    - All positions are open for election, except for Administrative Services Chair. [Consult the Bylaws](#) or email current EB members for more info on positions.
- B. Executive Vice Chair – Kathryn Klonowski – [kklonows@kent.edu](mailto:kklonows@kent.edu)**
1. Committee Reports
    - University Diversity Action Council (UDAC)
      - At their meeting, UDAC discussed the book called Blind Spot, which focuses on inherent, subtle biases different people carry and how those biases affect their interactions with others. They recommend this book.
    - Educational Policies Council (EPC)
      - The Department of Political Science established a Nonprofit Management post-baccalaureate certificate to be offered online only through the Kent Campus. Minimum total credit hours to program completion are 12. It will be effective in Fall, 2018.
      - The School of Foundations, Leadership, & Administration (FLA) made the following name revisions, effective in Fall, 2018:
        - The Educational Administration–Higher Education major within the Educational Specialist degree will be Higher Education Administration and Student Affairs.
        - The Educational Administration–Higher Education major within the Doctor of Philosophy degree will be Higher Education Administration.
        - The Higher Education and Student Personnel major within the Master of Education degree will be Higher Education Administration and Student Affairs.
      - The School of Lifespan Development & Educational Sciences establish an Addictions Counseling post-baccalaureate certificate and made the following revisions, effective in Fall, 2018:
        - Revision of administrative structure, name, admission and course requirements; and inactivation of two concentrations for the Instructional Technology major within the Master of Education degree. Revised name is Educational Technology major.
        - Revision of administrative structure, name and course requirements for the Online Learning and Teaching post-master’s certificate. The program moves to the School of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Studies. Revised name Online and Blended Learning.
      - The School of Teaching, Learning, & Curriculum Studies inactivated the Reading Specialization major within the Master of Arts degree.

- Intercollegiate Athletic Committee (IAC)
  - Brianne Tierney, the coach of the future women's lacrosse team, outlined a plan to develop the program. Recruiting from high schools is going well: she had commitments from 21 seniors and 3 juniors.
  - The administration is currently searching for a new football coach.
- 2. Update: Aeronautics & Engineering Dean Search
  - [Four amazing candidates](#) are coming to KSU for job interviews. Decision will be made soon. Two graduate representatives will be part of the team vetting these prospective deans.
- 3. Update: National Association of Graduate & Professional Students (NAGPS)
  - Midwest Regional Conference on March 2-4, 2018
    - Lots of interest from universities in Michigan, Nebraska, Illinois, and other schools in Ohio. We expect the conference to be well attended.
    - This conference will coincide with the first March Grad Fest, on 3/3/18. This should make conference attendees feel welcome
    - Kate expects that many sessions will focus on advocacy for healthcare coverage and minimum stipend levels.
    - Question: When is early registration deadline?
      - Answer: February 12. The registration cost is \$25 per person. This covers registration in addition to three meals.
  - Legislation Action Day in March, 2018
    - If you are interested in going to Washington, DC as part of a KSU delegation of graduate students, please contact Kate. She and others will be going on March 10-14 to visit offices of members of Congress to share our concerns with them.
    - Kate is coordinating with Nick Gatozzi, Executive Director of KSU Government & Community Relations to make this an impactful program.
- 4. Update: Graduate-Undergraduate Mentoring (GUM) on March 6-8, 2018
  - Kate will keep all of us apprised of this program's progress. Contact her if you are interested in mentoring undergraduates.
- 5. Update: Summer/Fall 2018 International Travel Award (ITA)
  - Deadline for this award is 3/5/2018 at 11:59 p.m. Those interested should [apply on the GSS website](#).
- C. **Finance Chair** – Suparna Navale– [snavale1@kent.edu](mailto:snavale1@kent.edu)
  1. Update: Spring Domestic Travel Award (DTA)
    - The Spring DTA was due on 1/29/19 at 11:50 p.m. Application period for this award is now closed, and no exceptions will be made. Anyone still requiring travel funding for the Spring travel period should investigate the Special Contingency Award (see below).
    - This semester's budget included \$65,000 for 217 awards of \$415 apiece, and 180 eligible, complete applications were submitted. Twenty of these were applicants who received a DTA for Fall.
    - Suparna is proactively trying to avoid having award letters sent to spam inboxes, as happened last semester. Any applicants that are confused should just email Suparna.
  2. Update: [Special Contingency Award](#)
    - Next deadline: February 13 at 11:59 p.m.
    - See guidelines for the SCA on the website.
- D. **Advocacy Chair** – Tim Rose – [trose16@kent.edu](mailto:trose16@kent.edu)

1. Update: [Research Award \(RA\)](#)
  - Blinding RA applications (e.g., CVs and Flashline schedules) has been troublesome in the past. There are now very clear blinding guidelines on the RA webpage. This document could also be used for the ITA because of similar blinding requirements for this award.
  - Submission period is now open until 3/5/2018 at 11:59 p.m. There are now two links on the RA webpage: one for application itself and another for letter writers.
    - Applicants can now send their letter writers links to submit their letters automatically by the RA form. This will also notify you when the letter is finally submitted.
  - Submitting documents in the proper format should not be a problem anymore because the application form should now deny anyone submitting improper file formats
  - Rubrics have been expanded and updated, and they are viewable on the RA webpage.
  - Tim needs the greatest number of people possible to volunteer to judge RA applications. This is beneficial for volunteers because it gives them inside knowledge on how RA adjudication works, and it benefits RA applicants by giving them a larger group of reviewers.
2. Update: Graduate Appointee Advocacy Program (GAAP)
  - Tim has submitted all materials for the GAAP climate survey to the KSU IRB. They are now requesting that a faculty member be the titular lead of this survey for bureaucratic reasons. Tim has found an impartial faculty-member to do this.
    - Tim notified Senators, and Senators only, that they would be able to preview the survey if they contacted him before 2/2/2018.
  - An email announcing the GAAP survey will be distributed on 2/15/2018. The first request-to-participate will be sent on 2/22/2018, and the second request-to-participate will be sent on 2/27/2018.
  - Along with many other things, the following facts will be defined or estimated by the GAAP climate survey:
    - Availability of campus amenities (e.g., rec center, travel funding)
    - Stipend levels for GAs across the university
    - Whether stipends were a major part of the decision of current KSU graduate students to attend KSU
    - Whether teaching abilities hinder ability to move through the curricula of different programs
  - In order for this survey to be valid, a large population of respondents is necessary. As of 1/22/2018, 5,595 graduate students are enrolled at KSU, and Tim considers the threshold for this survey to be 60% of this population. This works out to about 3,400 respondents.
  - Tim is still deciding when the next GAAP meeting will happen, and he will notify the Senators when he decides the next meeting will happen.
3. Update: Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) program
  - KSU doesn't currently have a SANE nurse and recommends going to Akron General Hospital. The justification for this has to do with the Portage County Prosecutor, who does not accept sexual assault cases very readily, like many other county prosecutors. One big reason for denial is that the evidence collection is a lengthy process, and doubt can therefore be cast

upon the evidence. This leads to the case being thrown out of court.

- There is currently a room at Kent Town Hall II (on N. Water St.) equipped to collect evidence of sexual assault, but it is not being used because of the unwillingness of the Portage County Prosecutor to accept cases of sexual assault.
- Group of representatives will be meeting with Town Hall II and the Portage County Prosecutor to remedy this issue.

#### 4. Philanthropy

- Report: Books for Prisoners
  - This project was a resounding success! KSU made the largest set of donations of any other group last year. For example, History donated 10-12 boxes of books!
- Update: Habitat for Humanity
  - There has not always been a good turnout for this initiative. Therefore, Tim is considering alternatives for this semester's project. If you or any of your constituents have any ideas for this, let Tim know.

#### E. Research Symposium Chair – Elizabeth “Betsy” Melick – [emelick@kent.edu](mailto:emelick@kent.edu)

1. Announcement: Symposium registration is now open!  
<http://www.kent.edu/graduatestudies/research-symposium>
2. Update: Registration process
  - Betsy showed the registration page to the Senators and guided them through parts of the webpage she anticipates as being difficult for registrants.
  - Anyone who registers for the conference will be designated by Digital Commons as an “author”.
3. Please distribute the Symposium hotcards among GSS constituents!
4. Please inform your constituents that the 33<sup>rd</sup> Symposium will be held on April 19-20, 2018!

#### F. Info Services Chair – Morgan Chaney – [gss.info@gmail.com](mailto:gss.info@gmail.com)

1. Announcement: Graduate student-authored publication blitz
  - Morgan is posting links to any publications by KSU graduate students on Twitter and Facebook, and the first article was published on the day of the General Meeting, 1/30/2018.
  - If any graduate students would like Morgan to share their work on the GSS social media, they should send him an email with the link to their article's journal webpage.
    - In the absence of any articles provided directly by others, Morgan will be sharing articles from Mark's Research Award database (see §A-6).
    - This is a valuable opportunity for authors to increase the breadth of their papers' influence, at least in that social-media activity around articles is often tracked by [Altmetric](#), or directly by publishers, as one of the many estimates of an article's impact.
2. Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter ([@KSUGSS](#)).

#### V. New Business

#### VI. Announcements

- A. Grad Fest will be on February 2, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at Dominick's
- B. Graduate Professional & Academic Development (GPAD) workshops
- C. Job opening: Administrative Services Chair Position
  1. Because the GSS budget will now be shifted to the Center for Student Involvement, the hiring of this position may have some minor difficulties. Still, applicants should still consider applying.
- D. Spring 2018 General Senate Meetings

1. Tuesday, January 30 at 12:00 p.m. in KSC Ballroom Balcony
  2. Tuesday, February 27 at 12:00 p.m. in KSC 310
  3. Tuesday, April 3 at 12:00 p.m. in KSC 306
  4. Tuesday, May 1 at 12:00 p.m. in KSC 310
- E. [Dissertation Boot Camp](#) will take place on February 16-18 this month. The deadline to register for this is 2/9/18.
- F. Deadline for [Graduate Studies scholarships and fellowships](#) is 2/15/18!
- VII. Adjournment at 1:28 p.m.
- A. Motion by History, second by Political Science

Appendix A: Handout distributed by Jennifer Abate



**Kent State University**  
**Great Place Initiative**

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*Our voices **still** count*

The **G**reat **P**lace **I**nitiative has charged a small group with identifying, documenting, and mapping the process that all individuals, including



students, faculty, and staff would follow to report and/or seek support when a campus climate-related issue arises. We hope to translate this process-mapping into a useful tool that is prominent and of easy access, on Kent State's website.

This small group seeks to capture a wide diversity of voices and perspectives to ensure that the final product reflects a wide range of options and resources. Some work has already been done to conceptualize a few categories that will help us organize the information and resources, but we need your input to move this project forward.

To this end, we ask that you complete this survey to the best of your ability. Please note that there are no right or wrong answers, but--simply--responses that are reflective of your own experience. Your input will help us design a resource to help and support the Kent State Community (transfer, graduate, international, regional, undergraduate, and all students in general, as well as faculty and staff). Naturally, this resource will also be available to you and will equip you with a standardized process that you can refer to should you find yourself in the situation of having to advise a student or colleague.

Thanks in advance for your input!

Survey Link: [https://kent.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6EUL5Qx2K0JqAaF](https://kent.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6EUL5Qx2K0JqAaF)