

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
 - A. Absent: Art; Fashion; Modern & Classical Language Studies; Teaching, Learning & Curriculum
- III. Approval of minutes from January 30, 2018
- IV. Executive Board Reports
 - A. **Executive Chair** – Mark Rhodes – mrhode21@kent.edu
 1. Mark has been absent for about two weeks due to a family emergency, and Kate Klonowski was appointed Acting Executive Chair for this interim. He expressed gratitude to the Executive Board for his support.
 2. Announcement: Executive Board Elections for 2018-2019
 - The nominations period opened on the day of the meeting for anyone wanting to run for an Executive Board position. Any graduate student can run for any position; no previous position in the GSS is required. All positions are re-elected each year. The new positions will start on 5/1/2018, for the summer and the 2018-2019 academic year. A small stipend, for 5 hours per week, is included with each position.
 - Self-nominations are allowed. Any graduate student may self-nominate or nominate any other graduate student by emailing Kate Klonowski by March 20th, two weeks before the next GSS General Meeting. After she confirms each nomination, she will require a 1/2 page nomination statement and CV. At the April 2nd meeting, Senators will have received the election packet from Kate, and each candidate will give a speech and take questions. The Executive Board is not allowed to vote, but each AU is allowed one vote in the election.
 - Each of the executive-board members outlined the responsibilities and duties included in their positions. These can be found in the [Bylaws](#). You may also email any current board member with questions and for clarification.
 - Anyone wishing to run for a board position should send a one-half-page statement along with a current curriculum vitae to Kate Klonowski before 3/20/2018.
 3. Report: Faculty Senate
 - There will be a shift for any graduate students majoring in Instructional Technology. This has hitherto fallen under Lifespan Development & Educational Sciences, but this major will be moving to Teaching, Learning & Curriculum and undergoing a change of its name to “Educational Technology” pending final approval from the Board of Trustees.
 4. Update: Dissertation II Recreation Center Access

- Dean Tankersley has been working with Dean Hylton and Vice President Little, but there are no major updates. Mark mentioned this in his recent meeting with President Warren.
- Mark requested a tally of attendees at today's meeting who were enrolled in Dissertation II. Thirteen attendees were enrolled in Dissertation II.

5. Budget

- Currently, the GSS budget falls under the Division of Graduate Studies, but our budget will be switching instead to the Center of Student Involvement (CSI). Mark has had meetings with CSI. Mark solicited feedback from the GSS.
- Question: What's the reason for changing this?
 - Answer: One reason has to do with limiting the access of the Administrative Chair to other students' personal information.
- Comment: Based on the previous presentation from Dean Little, there seems to be some confusion about difference between grads and undergrads, specifically with regard to what is appropriate
- Comment: CSI has its own debacles, and there may be confusion. It would be a shame if monies were siphoned away from the GSS budget for things that we don't support.
- Question: Do we really have a say in whether this change will occur or not?
 - Answer: Not sure. We won't know unless we try to reject this monetary shift. We are a chartered organization and therefore derive our right to existence directly from the Board of Trustees. Therefore, we at least have the right to express our opinions on this, if not reject this change entirely.
- Concern: We should think about the ramifications of our rejecting them before even hearing anything from CSI.
- Question: After they speak, will we be able to respond, rebut, and question them?
 - Answer: Yes, Mark will ensure that there will be enough time for this.
- Question: Do we know anything about the budget of CSI compared to GSS and Grad Studies?
 - Answer: Nothing precise. Rather, we know that the CSI budget is much larger than GSS budget, as well as Grad Studies.
- Concern: Undergrads receive a lot more money than grad students. There are a lot of things that we should know before we vote to reject this shift.
- Mark proposed a vote to invite CSI to the next General Meeting

- Passed unanimously, no abstentions.

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

1. Committee Reports

- University Diversity Action Council (UDAC)
 - UDAC is subdivided into pillars based on the KSU Strategic Roadmap. UDAC is trying to generate a master list of all diversity initiatives happening at KSU. Kate solicited the GSS for such initiatives; people should email her if they know of any diversity initiatives happening in the KSU system.
- Educational Policies Council (EPC)
 - All items at this concerned undergraduates. Kate had nothing to report that was pertinent for graduate students.

2. Update: Aeronautics Dean

- [Christina Bloebaum](#) has been selected as the new dean for the College of Aeronautics & Engineering.

3. Update: National Association of Graduate & Professional Students (NAGPS)

- Midwest Regional Conference on March 2-4, 2018
 - Attendees are coming from all over the Midwest region. Cost is now \$35 for registration.
 - Grad Fest coincides with the first day of the conference, and the Ohio delegation will be in attendance.
- Legislation Action Days March 10-13, 2018
 - Letters of request to meet with our Members of Congress. Kate is still planning these meetings. Our delegation includes the following people: Robert Hakes, Shadi Canan, Carolyn Good
 - If anyone has specific legislative concerns, they should send them to Kate.

4. Update: Graduate-Undergraduate Mentoring (GUM)

- Workshop in Library March 7, 2018
 - Anyone interested in talking about their research to undergraduates at this meeting should email Kate.
- Matching is ongoing project - anyone interested in being matched with an undergraduate with similar interests should take the follow survey:

https://kent.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ehrS5pDxJnS7xgV.

5. Summer/Fall 2018 [International Travel Award](#) (ITA) Deadline was March 5, 2018.

- A good-quality selection committee is imperative for this. Anyone interested in participating in this should email Kate. A balanced composition of the committee is important for being able to accurately evaluate the diverse variety of applications we receive.

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

1. Update: Spring [Domestic Travel Award](#) (DTA)

- Despite Suparna’s efforts to avoid DTA award letters being sent to spam inboxes, the problem continues. [The list of awardees for this semester](#) can be found on the website. Anyone uncertain about their status for the Spring DTA should check this list and then, if questions remain, email Suparna.
- In both Fall and Spring semesters this year, fewer DTAs have been awarded than were allotted by the budget. Therefore, there are currently \$17.1K left over from the DTA budget. Last year, budget surplus was divided up among different budget items. Suparna suggested that the Senators should discuss how to redivide this surplus.
 - Question: What happened last year?
 - Answer: The whole surplus was divided between awards and the Symposium.
 - Question: Because we have several SCA applicants at the end of this meeting, we should wait to see how the SCA goes before redividing the surplus.
 - Question: Is there any way it can be an option to submit for additional funding than a single DTA can provide?
 - Answer: This would require revision of the DTA in the Bylaws or the creation of a new award. Because both of these options require Bylaws revisions, these changes would have to wait until next semester to take effect.
 - Comment: We should simply increase the DTA amount for next year.
 - Question: Total number of DTA applicants for this semester?
 - Answer: 207.
 - Question: Why don’t we just increase each DTA for this semester by \$80?
 - Answer: We can’t make immediate changes to the Bylaws.
 - Question: If this surplus is not used, does it simply roll over to next year’s budget?
 - Answer: Yes.
 - Question: When did we vote on this last year?
 - Answer: At a General Meeting at about this time during last year’s Spring semester.
 - Question: How much money has been allotted for the Summer DTA, if any?
 - Answer: \$22K
 - Motion by Public Health: Table until end of meeting.
 - Seconded by Political Science.

- Passes unanimously, no abstentions.
- 2. Update: [Special Contingency Award](#) (SCA)
 - The next deadline for this award is March 20 at 11:59 p.m.
 - If anyone has any feedback on the SCA, they should email Suparna. This feedback is important because this award is so new, and Suparna would be willing to back any well-justified suggestions for changes to the SCA.

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

1. Update: [Research Award](#) (RA)
 - Deadline is March 5 at 11:59 p.m. Currently there are three applications turned in, but Tim expected many more before the deadline closes. There are >\$30,000 for the budget.
 - Tim needs committee members. Any interested people should email him. There are many benefits for participation. Aside from a line for your CV, participation benefits your academic unit because you bring back cultural capital to your colleagues, which will likely increase the likelihood of you or your colleagues receiving RAs in the future.
 - Question: What is the time commitment?
 - Answer: Probably 3-6 hours. Tim will work to make this closer to 3 hours.
 - Question: Is there any way to help people who have had problems correctly blinding their applications?
 - Answer: The goal of blinding has never been to weed people out. Rather, it was implemented for reasons having to do with avoiding conflicts of interest. First, it is now *almost* impossible to submit incorrect formats for the RA. Second, there is now a [guideline for blinding](#) on the Research Award webpage. This is a step-by-step walkthrough. Getting denied one semester doesn't mean you will be denied in future semesters.
2. Update: Graduate Appointee Advocacy Program (GAAP)
 - Tim used time in the General Meeting to check that all Senators had received an email about the GAAP survey. If anyone has not received this email, they should notify Tim.
 - Some of the topics that the survey will be ascertaining or estimating: stipends, workload, personal financial situations (e.g., cost of living), amenities/support from different departments, workspace, mentorship, stress, satisfaction, etc.
 - If the response rate is low or biased, the results won't be usable for any kind of advocacy negotiations.
3. Philanthropy
 - Report: Books for Prisoners
 - Anyone can still donate books--they should just send Tim an email to plan a pick-up time.

- Second Chance Village Philanthropic drive:
<https://www.facebook.com/secondchancevillageakron/>
 - This organization is oriented toward enriching the quality of life for homeless people living in Akron. They are currently collecting “art supplies”, such as paint, pencil, and drawing supplies. However, this really translates to them taking *nearly anything* as a donation because . Send Tim an email if you are interested in donating supplies to Second Chance.
 - This is important because a vibrant homeless community is more difficult to quash for the City Akron.

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

1. Update: Registration process

- Deadline is extended until March 9 at 11:59 p.m. This was done mainly in order to accommodate last year’s RA and ITA awardees, who are required to present as part of the terms of their awards.
- Digital Commons allows for there to be more exposure for your research. However, if anyone would not want this publicity for their work, they should email Betsy and she can accommodate by registering these people unofficially so that their titles and abstracts won’t appear publicly.
- Question: Would it behoove anyone to have their work published on Digital Commons as a way of showing that they were the originator of a project or idea?
 - Answer: This is difficult to answer because, while items published on Digital Commons are publicly available, they are not actually published by a publishing company. This means that they are not yet under any kind of copyright.
- Question: If a recent alumnus received an ITA or RA last year, would they still be required to present?
 - Answer: Technically, they are required, but it would be difficult for us to enforce this for anyone who is no longer a graduate student at KSU.

2. Request for judges and volunteers

- Senators should encourage graduate students in their departments to volunteer for the symposium if they can. We need judges as well, so please talk to faculty members.
- Question: What sorts of tasks and responsibilities are required of volunteers?
 - Answer: They will be distributing materials, working the registration tables, floating, directing lost people, etc.. Faculty will be simply judging the presentations delegated to them.

3. Please inform your constituents that the 33rd Symposium will be held on

April 19-20, 2018!

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

1. Update: Publication blitz
 - Morgan has been sharing graduate student-authored publications on the GSS social media Facebook and Twitter pages. This is going well, but the variety of disciplines represented is somewhat narrow. If anyone has any new or forthcoming publications, they should send Morgan the journal links for those papers.
2. Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter ([@KSUGSS](#))

V. New Business

A. Organization Request: Philosophy

1. Philosophy will be holding a conference for graduate students on March 10. There are currently six presentations. The Senator from Philosophy made a request of \$50 is for food, name tags, and programs.
2. Vote: Passes unanimously, no abstentions.

B. Organization Request: Art

1. No request was made because the Senator for Art was absent.

C. Open floor for GSS executive-board nominations

1. Mark Rhodes self-nominated for Executive Chair
2. Timothy Rose self-nominated for Executive Vice Chair
3. Morgan Chaney self-nominated for Information Services Chair

D. Special Contingency Award (SCA)

1. Suparna outlined the procedure for voting on the SCA. See the [award guidelines](#) for these procedures. Suparna also distributed a rubric by which the Senators should evaluate the applicants (see Appendix A).
2. The following applicants made their oral requests for funding: Sierra Clark, Natalie Lucas, Benjamin Martinez, Emily Plyler, Heather Salvo, Lydia Snyder, Kevin Wilson.
 - It was decided that any Senators making SCA requests should abstain from adjudication of the award. Also, no general discussion took place about the applicants. Senators simply filled out their rubrics and turned them in to the Finance Chair.
 - Question: How much should the Excel sheet sent out ahead of time factor into Senators' decisions?
 - Answer: The oral presentation should supersede the Excel document for Senators' scoring of the candidates. The pre-distributed Excel sheet was primarily for the Executive Board to use in their preliminary evaluations of the candidates.
 - Question: How much money is currently in the budget for the SCA?
 - Answer: \$2.5K
 - Question: Is there a limit on how many applicants for which

Senators can give yes-votes?

- Answer: No.
- Decisions on the SCA were not decided during the General Meeting. Suparna will announce them at the next General Meeting on April 3.

E. Budget surplus

1. Question: Are these the only SCA applicants?
 - Answer: There are two more opportunities for the SCA this semester.
2. Question: How much does the Symposium need?
 - Answer: Food costs have risen slightly this year. At the most, \$1000 more would be helpful.
3. Motion by Political Science: \$1000 to Sympo, \$550 to each RA, \$15K to the SCA
 - Seconded by Geology
 - Psychological Sciences: There should be more money for the DTA because it funds more students in total.
 - Executive Chair: What we could do in order to shunt more funding to the DTA would be to let the surplus roll over to next year, but we can't make any changes to the DTA that would take place until next semester at the earliest.
 - Physics: Instead of increasing the DTA, which would take longer time to actually take effect, we could increase the RA budget. This would allow for more RAs to be awarded, and it could take immediate effect.
 - Advocacy Chair: We should remember that there will be another General Meeting, and it will occur after the deadlines for the ITA and RA. Therefore, we should expect more SCA applicants at that meeting than we saw today.
 - Public Health: This is not a bad thing. We should embrace having more applicants at the next General Meeting.
 - Finance Chair: Agreed. This is also in the spirit of the SCA, i.e. as a catch-all for projects that would be unable or ineligible for GSS funding by other means.
 - Amendment: \$1050 to the RA, \$15K to the SCA
 - Psychological Sciences: We should consider putting more money in the DTA budget.
 - Mathematics: We should really consider letting the money roll over to next year's budget so that it could be subsumed into next year's DTA budget.
 - Geography: More money should be put toward the ITA rather than giving more to the RA. This should be a roughly equal split between funding allocations to

the ITA and RA.

- Advocacy Chair: Given the number of applications I expect to receive for this semester, \$3.8K should fund roughly one third of those. This is generally the goal of each RA committee, i.e. to fund about one third of the applicants.
- Amendment by Political Science: \$3.8K to the SCA, \$5.3K to the ITA, and \$8K to the RA
 - At this point, the Executive Chair had to leave because he had a class to teach. The Vice Executive Chair presided over the remainder of the meeting.
 - Public Health: We should keep in mind that we currently have a very small sample size on which to base our estimations of future SCA rounds. Future SCA applicants need not resemble the quality or quantity of today's applicants for that award.
 - Geology: What are the rules for awarding money to SCA applicants in future meetings in the case that there is no more funding in the budget for that award?
 - Finance Chair: In that case, no funding would be awarded to those applicants. The SCA was designed to be awarded on a first-come-first-served basis.
 - Political Science: For this reason, we should increase the SCA budget. Additionally, the language on the SCA webpage is somewhat unclear about the first-come-first-served rule.
 - Psychological Science: If we were to move money into the SCA now, there would be no reason that we couldn't move the money back into another award's budget at the next General Meeting or at some other time in the near future.
 - Public Health: Again, we have a very limited basis on which to base our estimations of future SCA rounds. Routing a majority of funding to the SCA seems to be a safer approach so that we can fund many applicants in the case that we receive many deserving applications at the remaining General Meetings for this semester.

- Geography: In the case that we route a large amount of funding to the SCA, this could actually lead to an erosion of the rigor by which future SCA applicants are judged. This is compounded by the fact that SCA applicants present in person and can therefore more easily play to the emotions of the Senators (rather than the anonymous, printed format of the other awards).
- Amendment by Political Science: \$17.1K to the SCA. In the case that there is still a surplus at the end of the academic year, we can reroute this remainder toward the DTA.
 - Seconded by Psychological Sciences.
 - Vote: Other than one abstention from Geography, this motion passed unanimously.

F. Guest Speaker: Carolyn Good from the Office of [Sexual and Relationship Violence Support Services](#) (SRVSS)

1. Ms. Good read a prepared statement to the GSS. She made a request that the GSS support SRVSS with a statement of support.
2. Motion to authorize the Advocacy and Vice Executive Chairs to draft statement of support by Political Science
 - Second by Mathematics
 - Passes unanimously, no abstentions

VI. Announcements

- A. Grad Fest will be on March 2, 2018 between 6:00pm and 8:00 p.m. at Dominick's.
- B. Graduate Professional & Academic Development (GPAD) workshops are this week.
- C. Job opening: Administrative Services Chair Position
- D. Spring 2018 General Senate Meetings
 1. Tuesday, April 1 at 12:00 p.m. in KSC 306
 2. Tuesday, May 1 at 12:00 p.m. in KSC 310

VII. Adjournment at 2:13 p.m.

- A. Mathematics, Biological Sciences

Appendix A: **Special Contingency Award Rubric**

Department: _____

Please rate the following based on this scale: 1 for weak evidence and 5 for strong evidence

Name of applicant	Significanc e of travel to applicant	Significanc e of travel to the field	Need for funding	Reache d out to other funders	Comments	Final Vote: Yes / No
Sierra Clark ¹						
Natalie Lucas ¹						
Benjamin Martinez ¹						
Emily Plyler ²						
Heather Salvo ¹						
Lydia Snyder ¹						
Kevin Wilson ²						

¹ eligible for \$300; ² eligible for \$1,500