

- I. Call to Order: 10:03am
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of April 29, 2014 Minutes - Approved
- IV. Executive Board Reports
  - A. Executive Chair – Alexandria Lesak – [alesak@kent.edu](mailto:alesak@kent.edu)
    1. Faculty Senate – May Meeting
      - a. The leave of absence policy and reenrollment forms for graduate students were discussed, specifically the inconsistency between the policies. Dr. Mary Ann Stephens is working to align rules and regulations between the forms.
      - b. Dr. Mary Ann Stephens also discussed the difference between how graduate students change programs in and outside of their college. She is working to better outline these processes.
    2. The School of Journalism and Mass Communications presented a statement regarding the closed Presidential Search explaining how the search was handled is not in alignment with what they teach students in their college.
    3. Graduate Student Orientation (GSO) – August 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>
      - a. There will be GSS representation at the Resource Fair in the afternoon of the 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - B. Executive Vice Chair – Fritz Yarrison – [fyarriso@kent.edu](mailto:fyarriso@kent.edu)
    1. Committee Representation –
      - a. Any representatives from last year that would like to continue or resign please email Fritz. Any vacancies available will be announced at the next meeting.
  - C. Finance Chair - Gordon Cromley – [gcromle2@kent.edu](mailto:gcromle2@kent.edu)
    1. Domestic Travel Award
      - a. 2013-2014 Award Review –
        - i. \$135,000 in Domestic Travel Awards, given to 417 people and pending for 80 creates a fiscal total of 497 awards.
      - b. The Fall 2014 application will be up on August 1st
      - c. Alex – The Domestic Travel Award will be awarded with priority to graduate students who are presenting. This process has been in place about 4 years and is being reinstated due to the Executive Board's interest in bringing prestige to the Domestic Travel Award. This does not exclude attendees, it simply prioritizes presenters. Reminder that you must incur student expenses to be reimbursed.
    2. The 2014-2015 Budget is pending. A vote will take place at the first meeting.
  - D. Advocacy Chair – Andrea Meluch – [ameluch1@kent.edu](mailto:ameluch1@kent.edu)

1. Research Award –
    - a. Fall deadline Sep 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 –
    - b. All new applications guidelines and forms are open and accessible online. Any questions about any changes please e-mail Andrea.
    - c. This is a competitive award, for necessary research projects.
    - d. Committee Member Solicitation –
      - i. Anyone interesting in being on the Research Award Committee please e-mail Andrea.
      - ii. Add a line to your CV and get a back stage look.
  2. Philanthropy Ideas – Warm Coats Drives. Area Food Banks.
    - a. Question posed to the Floor for any additional ideas.
      - i. Answer- There will be a fundraising event this Fall to support Syrian Refugees. This will be led by the Muslim Students Association.
    - b. Any additional ideas please e-mail Andrea. Decisions will be made at the next meeting
- E. Research Symposium Chair – Scout McCully – [smccull5@kent.edu](mailto:smccull5@kent.edu)
1. Education Policies Council (EPC) Report - 19<sup>th</sup> June - Undergraduate and Graduate
    - a. Graduate Transfer Policy.
      - i. The maximum number of credit hours that graduate students will be able to transfer from Kent State programs, non-credit hours at Kent State, and other institutions will be 12. The point was made that this is generous, and that many other institutions are set at 6-9 credit hours.
      - ii. This limit does not include matriculations.
      - iii. This motion was passed.
  2. 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Research Symposium (April 3, 2015)
    - a. Please be aware that it is on Friday and it is on Good Friday.
    - b. The event has grown every year, and we hope that all members of GSS will help us get the word out to students to participate and faculty to volunteer.
  3. International Travel Award
    - a. Fall Award Deadline - Monday August 18<sup>th</sup> 11:59pm.
      - i. Be Advised! This is Pre-Fall Semester. Please email your constituents
    - b. All dates are available on the website and the new magnets.
    - c. This award is competitive. Let your constituents know that timing is key for letters and filling out applications. This is especially true because of recent changes to the application forms.
      - i. Please email Scout with any questions.
    - d. Committee Member Solicitation –

i. Anyone interesting in being on the International Travel Award Committee, please e-mail Scout.

F. Information Services Chair – Mark Rhodes – [mrhode21@kent.edu](mailto:mrhode21@kent.edu)

1. Senator Updates – Please email Mark with any senator or alternate senator updates.
2. Website Updates – The website is currently up-to-date for all forms and applications, but be advised that, due to the university-wide website overhaul, the GSS pages may be in a transition phase for the beginning of August.
3. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@ksugss) for news! Tweet your successful GSS funded travel and research @ksugss and we'll Retweet you.

V. New Business

A. Bylaw revision

1. It is proposed that the Bylaws are reworded so that food per diem rate is adjusted to remove exclusive language. Currently it states that food per diem will be reimbursed at a flat rate of \$41 per day. This originates from the minimum University per diem, which is based on Federal minimum per diem. Currently federal minimum per diem is \$46 per day, which is \$41 per day for food and \$5 per day for incidentals. I am proposing more inclusive language for the bylaws, as in the future this fixed number may change, as it already has, and we would like to be able to reimburse graduate students for food expenses at the appropriate rate.

a. Original Wording: “Food expenses are limited to a \$41/day per diem (\$7 breakfast, \$11 lunch, \$23 dinner as demarcated by travel times), the minimal per diem as established by Kent State University.”

b. Proposed Change: “Food expenses will be reimbursed according to Federal minimum per diem.”

c. Motion: Chemistry and Biochemistry; Seconded: Geography  
Motion passes. Bylaws will be changed and will go into effect Fall '14.

VI. Old Business – None

VII. Announcements

A. Dr. Kate McNulty – It is clear the amount of progress Graduate Studies as a whole and GSS as a body has made recently. We hope to continue to build this progress through constituents, senators, faculty, the symposium and the welcoming of our new President

Good luck to a successful year!

B. Chemistry and Biochemistry – They recently had a student travel to Canada. The question of excluding Canada and Mexican from the International Travel Award was raised with the argument that there are still incredible potential expenses.

1. Overall, there doesn't seem to be very sound reasoning to this very old by-law. GSS will add it to New Business to discuss at the first meeting where we'll open it up to the general senate for discussion.

- 2.

C. Deb Lam – GSS Administrative Chair. Can be reached at [GSS@kent.edu](mailto:GSS@kent.edu) or [dlam@kent.edu](mailto:dlam@kent.edu) for any issues with funding or general questions.

D. General Senate Meetings – Fall 2014

1. Wednesday, September 3rd from 11:00am – 1:00pm KSC Room 317
2. Wednesday, October 1st from 11:00am – 1:00pm KSC Room 307
3. Wednesday, November 5th from 11:00am – 1:00pm KSC Room 317
4. Wednesday, December 3rd from 11:00am – 1:00pm KSC Room 317

E. GradFest: Friday, August 22nd from 6:00pm-8:00pm – Location TBD

VIII. Adjournment 10:39am – Motion: Chemistry and Biochemistry; Second: Political Science