

- I. Call to Order AT 2:05pm
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of September 5, 2017 Minutes
 - A. There is an error in the Announcements section pertaining to the date of the General Meeting to be held on November 5, 2017.
- IV. Executive Board Reports

A. **Executive Chair** – Mark Rhodes – mrhode21@kent.edu

1. Research and Sponsored Programs (RASP)
 - Mark met with Dr. Ann Gosky from the Office of Student Research last Monday. We are very thankful for their supplement of \$50,000 to our budget!
 - Ann Gosky had many ideas about a mentorship program in which current graduate students would mentor undergraduates interested in research or graduate school.
 - Please see Kate Klonowski (GSS Executive Vice Chair) if you are interested in becoming such a mentor.
2. DACA Statement (see Appendix A)
 - Mark read a joint letter from several public Ohio universities petitions members of US Congress to enact policy that will protect DACA recipients.
 - Motion to endorse by Geology; second by Sociology
 - Discussion
 - Question: How many people at KSU will be affected by the DACA repeal?
 - Answer: We have only been notified by KSU administrators that KSU students will be affected by the repeal. It is in the interest of their safety that we neither know, nor disclose, this number.
 - Question: Does this pertain only to the GSS, or will other entities on campus also endorse this letter?
 - Answer: Our hope is that our endorsement of the letter will elicit similar resolutions from other governmental bodies on campus.
 - Question: Will this letter only be sent to Senator Portman?
 - Answer: This letter will be sent to all Members of US Congress for the State of Ohio.
 - Vote: all were in favor of endorsing. No abstentions.
3. Title IX Statement (see Appendix B)
 - Mark read a similar joint letter about recent actions Ohio University's graduate-student senate.
 - Motion to endorse by Biological Sciences; second by Political Science
 - Discussion: none.
 - Vote: all were in favor of endorsing. No abstentions.

4. Mark's recent meeting with President Warren
 - President Warren was essential in our receiving our budget information in time for this meeting. We are very grateful for her working on our behalf.
 - Q&A Panel for Undergraduates Interested in Grad School
 - Undergraduate Student Government is considering the need for such an event. Mark opened the floor for discussion on what the position of the GSS would be regarding this hypothetical event.
 - Dr. Warren sees it as a great opportunity to both better connect grads with undergrads and provided needed information to undergrads considering grad school. She has offered to provide whatever resources necessary for such an evening.
 - Political Science: If we assist with this, the event should happen soon because deadline to apply for graduate programs are approaching fast.
 - Psychological Science: Because all programs are different, we should consider assembling handbooks from each department to show undergrads
 - Question from Psychological Science: Could this be open to students outside of KSU?
 - Answer: This may be possible.
 - English: Timing of the event (i.e., during the day or evening) will be important to consider, so we should consider polling interested undergraduates.
 - Overall, the Senate was moderately supportive of this initiative, but no one volunteered to help lead.

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

1. Committee representation
 - The University Council on Technology needs a representative.
 - If you are interested in sitting on any committees, contact Kate.
2. University Diversity Action Council (UDAC) & Student Diversity Action Council (SDAC), represented by Alyx Weaver, Chair of SDAC
 - SDAC is in its second year as an organization. The mission is to represent the voices of the student body, but they need people to participate in order for this to happen effectively.
 - The following positions on the SDAC executive board are still open: Vice Chair, Secretary, Undergraduate Student Organization Ambassador
 - If you would like to join SDAC, please apply at this webpage: <https://www.kent.edu/diversity/sdac-application>
 - Next SDAC meeting: October 14, 2017 at 2:00pm in the

- Governance Chambers in the Kent Student Center
3. Spring/Summer International Travel Award (ITA)
 - Reminder: deadline is October 16, 2017 at 11:59pm!
 - Please make sure that faculty recommendation letters are in all applications.
 4. Undergraduate research mentorship program through the Office of Experiential Education and Civic Engagement
 - Please contact Kate if you are interested in becoming such a mentor or would like to be a part of the creation of the program
 5. National Association of Graduate & Professional Students (NAGPS)
 - Advocacy summit in Washington, DC
 - Kate and Elizabeth both just returned from Washington, DC, where they met with staffers from the following offices to advocate for graduate student-specific issues:
 - Senator Rob Portman
 - Senator Sherrod Brown
 - Congressman Tim Ryan
 - Congressman Jim Renacci
 - Issues we presented:
 - DACA
 - F-1 Visas (if you have not signed the letter, you can do so by clicking [here](#))
 - Campus Safety (Title IX)
 - Funding Research
 - We will likely be planning a trip to DC again in the Spring. Please contact Kate if you're interested in being part of the delegation!
 - Reminder: this year's Midwest regional NAGPS conference will be in Kent, OH on March 2-4, 2018. Anyone interested in helping on the host committee should let Kate know before the beginning of next semester.

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

1. Update: Fall Domestic Travel Award (DTA)
 - The DTA will be worth \$415 this year, thanks to the supplemental funding from RASP.
 - All applicants who submitted complete applications for the Fall DTA will be receiving award letters very soon.
 - Reimbursement packet must be submitted within 14 days of returning, unless you have not yet received your award letter. If this is the case, then you should turn in the reimbursement packet within 14 days of receiving your award letter.
 - Question: How long will the supplemental funding from RASP last?
 - Answer: This funding will be used for the Fall, Spring, and Summer DTAs for this academic year.
2. Budget for Academic Year 2017-2018
 - We received our funding allocations last Thursday from the University.
 - Suparna reviewed the proposed budget for Academic

Year 2017-2018 (see Appendix C).

- We saw a decrease in our general allocations, which is due to a decrease in enrollment as compared to last year.
- The Activity Fund is a static amount of money that is required to be in the account by the University.
- We are receiving \$50,000 from RASP. Of this sum, \$4000 will be moved to the Symposium budget, and the remainder will supplement the DTA budget.
- Motion to approve the proposed budget by Political Science; second by Biomedical Sciences
 - Discussion: none
 - Vote: unanimously approved. No abstentions.

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

1. Philanthropy: Books for Prisoners
 - Tim is available to personally pick up any large loads of books that anyone would like to donate.
2. Fall Research Award (RA)
 - As of noon today, no Research Award applications were turned in.
 - If you have completed an application, this means that Tim has not received it. Please see Tim if you believe that there has been an error.
 - The RA is not exclusive to thesis/dissertation research, although weight is given to such research.
3. Graduate Appointee Advocacy Program (GAAP)
 - Next meeting of GAAP: 10/13/17, 5:00-7:00 in Merrill Hall, room 224
 - Anyone is welcome to attend, but Tim would like some notice if you will be coming.
 - The final survey will be reviewed, and the yearly agenda will be set at this meeting.

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

1. Unfortunately, Elizabeth was very sick and could not attend this meeting. However, Mark read the following statement on her behalf:

For this year's Symposium, we will be adding a new option to registration changes: you can choose to opt out of having your presentation judged. The reason for this is that we are having a lot of difficulty fielding enough judges to judge each presentation as the Symposium continues to grow. Therefore, we hope that some presenters will choose not to have their presentation judged, which will ease the burden of finding so many judges.

We are also hoping to make the Symposium a 2-day event, and have the poster presentations, along with a fine arts showcase, on Thursday night. This plan is contingent upon finding an appropriate venue for Thursday night and feedback from the senate, so if you have strong feelings about adding

Thursday night to the Symposium, please share them!
Moving the posters to Thursday night would make it easier for us to process the evaluations of those presentations and have all of the posters in one room, rather than in a hallway and in the ballroom balcony. This would also give us a better forum for celebrating the work of our grad students in the fine arts, which is one of our goals for this year.

2. Mark solicited the Senate for feedback on changing the Symposium to a two-day event.
 - Feedback: This may lead to better attendance.
 - Question: Where would the venue for the Fine Arts Showcase be?
 - Answer: No venue has been secured yet, but Betsy is working very hard to find one.
3. Please inform your constituents that the 33rd Symposium will be held on April 20, 2018!

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

1. Morgan is beginning to receive some news on graduate student accomplishments, but he still would like to receive content or news to share on social media.
2. Send Morgan news about your accomplishments, or those of your colleagues, so that he can publicize these things!
 - Example: Recent books published by Molly Fuller in the English Department
3. Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter ([@KSUGSS](#))

V. New Business: none.

VI. Announcements

- A. Grad Fest will be on October 6, 2017 at Dominick's between 6:00 and 8:00.
 1. The following Grad Fest, which will be held on November 3, will include a professional trivia host: Cody Ruiz, a PhD student in Biomedical Sciences!
- B. There will be observers from external organizations sitting on General Meetings in the future. Currently Undergraduate Student Government, Faculty Senate, and KSU Scientista have provided representatives.
- C. 3 Minute Thesis (presented by Kyle Reynolds, Division of Graduate Studies)
 1. Kyle passed out fliers to the Senators.
 2. Deadline to apply for the competition: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 11:59pm
 - Week of October 16, 2017: preliminary rounds
 - Five contestants from each of the groups of preliminary contestants will be sent to compete in the final round, which will be held in the KIVA on October 27, 2017 at 12:00pm.
 3. Prizes will be awarded for 1st place (\$500), 2nd place (\$300), 3rd place (\$200), and for People's Choice (\$200)
 4. There are videos, and materials to help prepare, on the Graduate Studies website
- D. Dissertation Boot Camp (presented by Kyle Reynolds, Division of

Graduate Studies)

1. Opportunity for a supportive environment where you can focus on writing your dissertation.
 2. The cost for the October boot camp is \$30/person
 - Subsequent sessions will be \$40/person
 3. This is open to master's- and doctoral-level students.
- E. Organizational funding
1. This is meant to provide auxiliary funds for smaller graduate-student organizations
 2. Application form is on the GSS website: [LINK](#)
- F. Future General Senate Meetings
1. Tues., October 31st, 2:00pm, KSC 310AB
 2. Tues., November 5th, 2:00pm, KSC 310AB

VII. Adjournment at 3:04pm

- A. Motion by English; second by Music

VIII. Appendix A: DACA Statement endorsed by the Senate at this meeting

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Portman:

Graduate Students from the Public Universities of Ohio unequivocally stand in opposition to the Trump Administration's planned termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

The termination of DACA will impact many of our fellow peers – peers who make vast contributions to our communities, economies, and academic excellence. With the DACA program in place, many of the beneficiaries are able to attend college and hold jobs afterward. We profit from our peers' research, teachings, and inventions. The DACA program has enriched the lives of those in it. As a result, removing it will cause our campuses and society to suffer greatly.

Over 800,000 Dreamers' lives are at risk. They are at risk from being torn away from their university lives, their friends, and their families. The United States of America is their home. As graduate students representing our institutions, we vehemently oppose the Trump Administration's decision to end the DACA program.

We urgently request that Congress move to enact policy in order to prevent our peers from from being harmed by the Trump Administration's action. We will continue to support the DACA program and look forward to working with members of the U.S. Senate and policy makers to ensure that the program retains its viability status.

Sincerely,

Signature Page Attached

The Public Universities of Ohio

The University of Akron
Bowling Green State University
Central State University
University of Cincinnati
Cleveland State University

Kent State University
Miami University
Northeast Ohio Medical University
The Ohio State University
Ohio University

Shawnee State University
The University of Toledo
Wright State University
Youngstown State University

IX. Appendix B: Title IX Statement endorsed by the Senate at this meeting

We, Ohio's public university graduate students, stand united in opposition to Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos's recent changes to Title IX. We oppose the withdrawal of the *Dear Colleague Letter on Sexual Violence*, dated April 4, 2011, and the *Questions and Answers on Title IX Sexual Violence*, dated April 29, 2014.

The withdrawal from these documents affects many of our fellow peers who have experienced campus sexual assault. Prior to withdrawal, these documents augmented many survivor's voices by allowing for those voices to be heard in a timely manner, while simultaneously discouraging ineffective mediation resolution tactics.

Annually approximately 37,000 students experience rape and sexual assault victimization on campuses across the country, while only 20% of victims report instances of sexual assault **(citation)**. As graduate students, who represent potential or past victims, advocates, and mandatory reporters; we believe that Secretary DeVos's actions create a greater risk for increased instances of campus sexual assault, as well as decreased victim reporting. We are graduate students, who represent our institutions, and we vehemently oppose Secretary DeVos's decision to withdrawal these vital documents.

We urgently request that the Senate move to reverse this withdrawal that negatively impacts campuses and students across the State of Ohio and the U.S. We will continue to work with universities within Ohio, and throughout the U.S. and as well as, local, state, and federal officials and policy makers to ensure that students' voices are heard and that appropriate action is being taken in cases of campus sexual assault.

X. Appendix C: 2017-2018 Budget for the GSS, approved at this meeting

Revenue Streams

Balance Forward:	\$ 81,096.26
General Fund:	\$ 162,683.00
Leadership Fund:	\$ 45,144.00
Travel Fund:	\$ 20,000.00
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Total:	\$ 309,103.26

AY 2016 – 2017 Budget Breakdown

INDEX	BUDGET AY 16 – 17	EXPENSES AY 16 – 17	PROPOSED BUDGET AY 17 – 18
Research Award	\$ 48,000	\$ 46,183.64	\$ 45,000.00
Research Awards		\$ 9,153.00	
Outstanding Awards ¹		\$ 37,030.64	
General Fund	\$ 168,791.53	\$183,912.27	\$ 176,603.26
Domestic Travel Award	\$ 116,000.00	\$130,500.00 ⁵	\$ 130,000.00
Operating Expenses ¹	\$ 30,000.00	\$26,912.27	\$ 30,000.00
Outstanding Awards ²		\$26,500.00	
Flex Fund ³	\$ 22,791.53		\$ 16,603.26
Activity Fund	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00
Leadership Fund⁴	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 22,356.95	\$ 25,000.00
Research Symposium	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 23,732.20	\$ 25,000.00
International Travel Award	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 32,300.00	\$ 30,000.00
ITA Awards		\$10,500.00	
Outstanding Awards		\$21,800.00	
Special Contingency Award			\$ 2,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 307,791.53	\$ 308,485.06	\$ 309,103.26

¹ Operating expenses include cost of food at GSS general meetings and GradFests, GSO resource fair, GSS social events, organization funding, annual report, phone and internet, external labor (design/setup), fees and subscriptions, advertisement (magnets and flyers), salary and wages for Administrative Assistant, office supplies, and misc. supplies.

² Outstanding awards are those that are still pending reimbursement.

³ Flex Fund will be used as an emergency fund or for ad hoc expenses associated with GSS.

⁴ Leadership Fund is used to pay the stipends of the GSS Executive Board.

⁵ Amount includes funding from Research and Sponsored Programs.