

- I. Call to Order at 12:00 p.m.
- II. Roll Call
 - A. Absent: Anthropology; Applied Engineering, Sustainability & Technology; Architecture; Business Administration; Computer Science; Digital Science; Economics; English; Fashion; Foundations, Leadership & Administration; History; Mathematics; Modern & Classical Language Studies; Music; Nursing; Political Science; Theater & Dance
- III. Approval of minutes from May 1, 2018
- IV. Executive Board Reports
 - A. **Executive Chair** – Mark Rhodes – mrhode21@kent.edu
 1. Report: Faculty Senate Meeting
 - At the last Faculty Senate meeting, there was criticism of the administration for the continuation of administrative hires and campus expansion in the midst of the active slowdown in hiring faculty. The faculty feel very strongly that KSU should be able to hire more faculty because of the University Employee Separation Program (UESP). Provost Diacon spoke about the UESP: KSU has enough money to hire 10-12 faculty/year for the next 5 years, though the original rate was intended to be about double this. Among the critical voices was Sen. Tracy Laux (from Mathematics), who spoke strongly about the slowdown of faculty hires alongside hiring more administrators and building new facilities.
 2. Report: Meeting with Lamar Hylton, Dean of Students
 - One of Dean Hylton's new initiatives focuses on basic needs of students (regardless of rank) both on- and off-campus. Here, "basic needs" refers to necessities like food and shelter.
 - Mark pointed out that grants are offered by the Office of the Dean of Students, and we are looking into applying for following awards for this year's Graduate Research Symposium:
 - Blue & Gold grant funds traditions particular to KSU.
 - Social & Cultural grant is self-explanatory in its goal.
 - B. **Executive Vice Chair** – Timothy Rose – trose16@kent.edu
 1. Spring/Summer International Travel Award (ITA)
 - The ITA application will open on the day of the first GSS meeting this Fall until October 15 at 11:59 p.m. Tim's target for review to be finished is the end of the week of November 12, 2018.
 - Tim needs committee members to review the applications. This is beneficial to potential volunteers and their Academic Units because of the cultural capital acquired by participating.
 2. [Committee Representation](#)

- There are five places open for primary graduate-student representatives in the following committees:
 - Student Health Advisory Board; Student Media Policy; University Council on Technology; University Student Research Council; and University Accessibility Committee
- Secondary representatives and alternates are needed for many committees. There are also spaces open on the University Diversity Action Council and the Student Diversity Action Council. Anyone interested should contact Tim.
- A number of committees are currently inactive that Tim feels should be reactivated. He will look into this and report back at the next General Meeting.

C. Finance Chair – Xin Hong – xhong1@kent.edu

1. Xin was absent at this General Meeting because she was traveling. The Executive Chair read a report on her behalf.
2. 2018 Summer Domestic Award (DTA) report
 - There were 94 total applications, and 85 awards were offered.
 - Especially active academic units for this round of the DTA: Biological Sciences, Health Science, and Psychological Sciences
 - Academic units that are encouraged to have more DTA applications for future rounds: Architecture, Computer Sciences, Digital Science, Modern & Classical Language Studies, Philosophy, Theater & Dance.
 - All international student applicants are required to fill the new tax form by the same deadline for the DTA application. Refer to the following link for more information on the new tax form: <https://www.kent.edu/tax/non-us-citizen-scholarships-and-fellowships>
3. Deadlines for the 2018-19 DTA:
 - Fall 2018: 9/3/2018 (opens 8/13/2018)
 - Spring 2019: 1/28/2019 (opens 1/7/2019)
 - Summer 2019: 6/3/2019 (opens 5/13/2019)
4. Awards Subcommittee
 - We have six members so far, and more volunteers are welcome.
5. Special Contingency Award candidates presentation
 - Krista White presented her case to the Senate, and the Executive Chair read a prepared statement on behalf of Jason Fisher. Senators completed rubrics to evaluate the presenters.
6. The deadline for the next Special Contingency Award is 8/17/2018 (3 weeks prior to the next general meeting). The application window opens 7/27.

D. Advocacy Chair – Mitchell Powers – mpower16@kent.edu

1. Revision of [Research Award \(RA\) guidelines and policies](#)

- Mitch has clarified some languages in the RA guidelines about workshops, and he also added a broader definitions of “research” in the new RA guidelines. He wants to attract more humanities and arts students to apply for the RA.
 - Applications will open on the day of the first General Meeting in the Fall, and Mitch needs volunteers for the review committee. This is beneficial to potential volunteers and their Academic Units because of the cultural capital acquired by participating.
2. Important legislative issues for grad students
 - Mitch is preparing resources to facilitate grad students applying for Medicaid and SNAP, or Food Stamps.
 - [The PROSPER Act](#) is still in committee in the House of Representatives. [Congresswoman Marcia Fudge](#), who represents some parts of Cleveland, is a member of this committee.
 3. Call for volunteers for the Legislative Action Day (LAD) organized by National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS)
 - This will happen on between 9/29 and 10/2 this year, and GSS has defrayed the costs associated with this trip for a handful of students in the past two years.
 - Mitch suggested that someone move to allot \$2000 to help this year’s KSU delegation of graduate students to attend this year’s LAD.
 - Motion by Philosophy; second by Communication & Information
 - The Executive Chair clarified the purpose of the LAD, and mentioned that, pending approval of this budget, we may be able to request additional funds from [KSU’s Office of Government Communication & Relations](#)
 - Discussion
 - Last year’s LAD had a direct impact on issues affecting graduate students in earlier drafts of the Tax Cuts & Jobs Act.
 - Question: How to become part? Can international students join?
 - Interested students should speak to Mitch, and international students are allowed.
 - Question: If anyone were to self-fund their trip, could they accompany our delegation?
 - Yes, although you would have to arrange your own transportation.
 - Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.
 4. Philanthropy programs
 - Mitch is collecting books for Books for Prisoners, and he would like to start a textbook co-op in collaboration with the School of Library and Information Science. If anyone would like to help

organize and expand this co-op, they should talk to Mitch.

5. GAAP meeting

- Mitch will organize the first meeting to take place in August, and he needs volunteers.

E. **Research Symposium Chair** – Danielle French – dfrenc12@kent.edu

1. Theme Selection

- Danielle created a survey for the Executive Board to provide anonymous feedback on her ideas. From this data, she decided that this year's theme will focus on community of research in order to counteract the isolating nature of research.

2. In the Works: Potential Changes

- Danielle is considering giving students the option to register for panel discussions, in addition to the traditional oral or poster presentation formats. She would also like to introduce interdisciplinary roundtables this year.

3. Keynote Speaker

- The search for a keynote speaker is still in very preliminary phases, and Danielle is open to suggestions.
- Question: Would any visiting scholars featured at this year's symposium be allowed to be students visiting from other countries?
 - Those students are encouraged to apply for panel discussions.
- Suggestion: Assigned seating during the banquet in order to encourage multidisciplinary discussion.
- Suggestion: Anyone interested in community and diversity should consider joining the Student Diversity Action Council.
- Question: How large has the Symposium been in the past?
 - Between 300 and 350 presentations have been given per year in the last three years.
- Question: Will this year's event be spread over two days as the 2018 Symposium was?
 - Yes. This year's event will be held on April 4 and 5, 2019.
- Question: Have we notified the Faculty Senate about the date for this year's Symposium?
 - This has already been announced to Faculty Senate. We hope this will help to increase the number of attendees and judges for this year.
- Question: Is there some way to address the presence of advisors at poster presentations during judging?
 - We cannot prohibit advisors from attending the poster session, but there are perhaps some ways to emphasize the fact that the *student* is presenting.

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

1. Morgan distributed magnets to the Senators for them to give to their constituents and faculty.

2. Morgan asked that Senators or their constituents send him graduate student-authored publications or projects to share on social media.
3. Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter ([@KSUGSS](#))

V. Old Business

A. Report: Health and Wellness Committee (Chair: Carolyn Good, cjones95@kent.edu)

1. This committee is aiming to increase graduate-student mental health at KSU. There are resources around campus and Portage County to help with this and with physical health, such as providing healthy meals in response to pressures to eat unhealthy food.
2. Anyone wanting to be on this committee should contact Carolyn at the email address above. She especially would like volunteers with experience in graphic design or public relations.
3. Question: Why don't some graduate students get their gym membership during the summer?
 - Most students need to be enrolled in at least 5 credit-hours, but Dissertation II students are currently not provided with access to the Recreation Center.
4. Question: Would the Recreation Center be willing to provide classes to graduate students over the summer?
 - Carolyn and Mark are trying to work with Kim Ruffa (Director of [Recreational Services](#)) to make this situation better.
5. Feedback: A similar issue arose in the Liquid Crystal Institute (LCI), and the LCI agreed to pay for student access to the Recreation Center.
 - The Executive Chair emphasized that he is trying to get access for Dissertation II students across the university, regardless of department. He reminded the Senators that Dissertation II student do pay for Recreation Services despite not getting, so there is a significant amount of money that should go back to graduate students in some way should no other solution be found.

VI. New Business

A. Organizational Request: Physics

1. Social bowling event for July 13 at the Kent Lanes. The money will be used for food.
 - Passed unanimously with no abstentions.

VII. Announcements

- A. Lifespan Development & Educational Sciences has approved a new certificate in addictions counseling. The certificate entails passing five courses.
- B. Greta Babakhanova would like to welcome LCI students in a broader manner to counteract the insulation that seems to naturally occur within most departments across KSU. Anyone who would be willing to help welcome LCI students should contact Greta Babakhanova at gbabakha@kent.edu.
- C. Dissertation Boot Camp Dash is scheduled for August 1. [Registration is](#)

- [required](#), and these events are free.
- D. Full Dissertation Boot Camps are scheduled for the dates below, and [registration is also required](#). These events cost \$40 per attendee, and the cost covers all meals and a stainless steel travel mug.
 - 1. September 14-16, 2018
 - 2. October 5-7, 2018
 - 3. November 30-December 2, 2018
 - 4. February 15-17, 2019
 - 5. March 15-17, 2019
 - 6. April 26-28, 2019
 - E. [Graduate Student Orientation \(GSO\)](#) will be held on August 16 and 17 this year. Kyle Reynolds, Director of Student Services (Division of Graduate Studies), distributed materials to the Senators in attendance. If anyone has any information or resources they would like distributed at GSO, they should contact Kyle at kreynol3@kent.edu.
 - F. August Grad Fest will be held on Friday, August 17. We will likely be gathering at the Zephyr Pub in downtown Kent.
 - G. Jennifer Mani has now joined the Executive Board as the new Administrative Services Chair. The Senate extended a warm welcome to Jennifer.
 - H. Fall General Meetings will be on the following dates:
 - 1. Friday, September 7, 2018, 10:00am, KSC Ballroom Balcony
 - 2. Friday, October 5, 2018, 10:00am, KSC Ballroom Balcony
 - 3. Friday, November 2, 2018, 10:00am, KSC Ballroom Balcony
 - 4. Friday, December 7, 2018, 10:00am, KSC Ballroom Balcony
- VIII. Adjournment at 1:30 p.m.
- A. Motion by Geology, second by Biological Sciences