



Sarah Schmidt
Speaker

2094B Ohio Union
1739 N. High Street
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57th General Assembly
Spring 2024, Session 1
April 3rd, 2024

I. Opening

- a. Call to Order
- b. Land Acknowledgment
- c. Attendance

All present

II. Open Forum for the Public

III. Executive Update

McAlpine: I am very honored to be here and meet our new senators. I am the first incumbent student body president since the early 2000s. Matt Couch is our USG advisor, and he is the fixer of all problems if you ever need anything. I am very excited to be here again next year.

Robinson: My name is Justin, I am a 4th year business major specializing in real estate, and I took this position because I have a passion for representing the student body. I am part of Black Students of Real Estate, the subcommittee for Heritage Festival, and I am an ambassador for YSP. Listening to some of the students' concerns, there is a disconnect between them and USG, and they don't even know some of the things you guys do here. I look forward to building that bond and relationship. Madison gave me some big shoes to fill. I'm pleased to be here and I look forward to doing good work with you all.

Mason: Doing this has been an honor and a privilege to serve with you all here in the last GA. I am excited to see the advocacy work you'll do in this next one. I am looking forward to having some free time, but I will miss the people of USG. I will still be around, though, so if you ever need anything from me, like connections, resolution



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ideas, or just a second opinion, I've been doing this for what feels like forever and would be happy to give or share any expertise that I can. Congrats, being elected is not easy, I know it can be stressful, so I'm proud of you all. I hope that next year you take care of yourself and your mental health and all the other things that come along with being a student in addition to being a senator. Thank you for allowing me to serve you, good luck.

McAlpine: Thank you for your service, Madison, and for being alongside me this year, you have set the bar very high. Justin and I want to go over our agenda with GA and this year. Justin is always going to challenge the status quo and the norm of what we usually do. He asked me why we don't work more with crafting resolutions and helping people with that, and I realized we should. We want to try and encourage directors and CRs to come to GA beforehand and have some advocacy work sessions. We also want senators to come to our cabinet meetings and breakout sessions to see how exec can work with the legislative branch. We can make great change, like the AI resolution that Senator Price put through and worked with the executive branch together to integrate AI into the OSU administration. So many things start with a resolution, recently University Senate passed a resolution to make election day asynchronous, which USG has worked on since the 51st GA. USG holds a lot of power, so we are excited.

Robinson: I was talking to Sarah earlier and I'm big on collaborating/partnering with other organizations to spread the word. If you have any ideas to help me with that, please feel free to reach out.

Schmidt: I formally apologize for how last week's questioning went, that is not how it should go and I take full accountability.



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Price: For Justin, last week you mentioned wanting to collaborate with student organizations that have reached out to you with good ideas, do you have any specific avenues that you're thinking of having student orgs reach out to us or is that a work in progress?

Robinson: I do not have any specific outcomes, I'm looking to expand to all of them, partnerships have meaning.

McAlpine: We are also going to be pushing the collaboration form more this year. As we get our senior staff set, we'll be talking to them to make that happen and get people a way to reach out to us like how OUAB has.

Evans: CBRC update and explanation for those who don't know?

Mason: I will still be chair, we released the feedback form today and that will be reviewed in the next week. We changed our meeting time and will be voting on the second half of the election bylaws. After that, there are two more meetings and we will officially vote on changes to the organizational bylaws and constitution. The bylaws will come to GA for approval but the constitution must be voted on by the student body in the next election. Committee will conclude on the 19th.

Bernard: do the amendments come in the form of a resolution with appendices?

Mason: yes, it will be sponsored by McAlpine and/or Robinson and they will yield time to me since I am chairing it. It is amendable and comes in the form of a resolution, likely two separate ones for the . It must pass with a 2/3rds vote. CBRC is the Constitutional Bylaw Review Commission. It is essentially a group of people who re-evaluate our organization's constitution, organizational by-laws, and election by-laws on a five-year



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period to update it to make sure that it's advantageous to the student body, but also that it's updated to our actual systems and processes. We are two years behind so it's been seven years since it's happened. Technically it's written it's supposed to happen in years of two and seven. We actually are changing it to five and zero because it'll be passed in 2025. But essentially it is the way that we update our documents. Organizational bylaws can be updated technically by the General Assembly anytime, but the only way that the Constitution can be updated is if we form this commission. So it's really important that it gets done to clarify everything.

Roy: The resolution from last week, was that signed or pocket-vetoed?

McAlpine: Everything is signed, but I still have not sent it to the speaker. I will do that after this meeting.

Updates

a. Speaker Sarah Schmidt

So, just for our new senators, I want to just give a brief overview of our attendance policy as the General Assembly. How that works is if you miss more than three meetings a semester without sending an alternate, then you are excused of your duties as a senator and then if you miss more than five over the entire year, you're going to be excused from your duties as senator. This is important just to remember as like you do have this one and then the one over the summer to pass the budget, just keep that in mind that you can't miss more than five for the total year. That being said, you can send any member of the undergraduate student body as your alternate. They do not have to be in the constituency you represent. So as you move forward, and I'm sure your next speaker will give you all this in more detail, but just so you guys are aware. Next, I've asked that, I'm going to kind of go over a little bit of the elections process right now But can you just keep the questions to when we actually move into elections? It'll just be a little more clear Saying that The elections



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are super important I can speak from experience that the 56th General Assembly had extreme amounts of turnover in their leadership and their LCs and that is not ideal. Every time you have a change in leadership it comes with hardships and just that transition period can be a little awkward. So as you're making those decisions on who you want to be in leadership roles, make them with caution and it's not a popularity contest but really do think about who you're electing into these roles because they are super important for the governing and the like foundation of general the general assembly. And then with that I know a lot of you were in the 56 General Assembly, so elections are gonna look a little different because I read our bylaws. And the way the process is, I know before we had like discussion on the questions and then we kept those questions for the entirety of the election period. However, the way our bylaws actually explain this is that you get new set of questions for each seat. So it's not going to be like we don't set two questions for speaker and LC's. Every LC like nominees will get a different question, but the same if you're all for government relations, all government relations nominees will get the same question, but those questions can differ from the secretary to back-climate affairs. Just a little clarification there. And then those also will not be discussed prior to when we go into questioning. It's the first two senators to raise their hand and get called on, those are the ones who select the questions that we will ask. So it's not discussed prior. Just, that's what our by-law says. So I know we have not been following that the 56 General Assembly, so I really want to start off strong with following our bylaws for the 57th, so that is how that will be working. With that, I was supposed to give a speech yesterday at inauguration. I do think it has some importance to it and I give you, I'm just gonna give you like the abridged version. I want to thank President Bobby McAlpine and Vice President Madison Mason for their continued dedication to this organization and to the student body. Thank you for trusting me as speaker of being a guiding hand throughout the transition period. I can confidently say that while unfortunately Madison will not be in USE next year, our organization will continue to be under strong leadership with Bobby and Justin. To our next group of senators, which is all of you, as you prepare to be sworn in as the senator of your college or living area, I accept my heartfelt congratulations to each and every one of you. This moment has been marked by dedication and a deep seed of commitment to serve the interest of the students that you now represent.



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Today, as we take on the responsibility as given to you by your constituents, I want to remind you that you are required to always show up, have a listening mindset, and be open to new ideas. That is the role of your son and your ship. Take what you hear from your constituents and make legislation that can be used for advocacy at the highest level here at Ohio State. Advocacy lies at the heart of legislation. For it is through our legislation that we give voices to the student body, championing the causes that resonate with our constituents. Each bill, each amendment, each piece of legislation that crosses your chamber represents an opportunity, an opportunity to address a need for change here on campus. I congratulate each one of our new senators and look forward to seeing you continue to fight for advocacy in your time as a senator. Thank you.

b. *Parliamentarian Keyanah Peters*

No updates. Welcome to our new senators, I appreciate our old ones.

c. *Secretary Mykenna Roy*

I would just like to say that for the position that you will be elected into, they are very serious roles and they should not be taken lightly, just to echo what Speaker Schmidt said. I would also like to emphasize that if there is still a vacancy in these positions, it just goes right into the next meeting. So don't feel that you're obligated to fill this role if you don't feel like you're, I guess, capable enough to do it. I think all of you are more than capable to fill any of these roles, but just if you don't feel that there is a sufficient person to fill the roles, you can leave it open for the next meeting and then the next meeting and then the next meeting until you feel like somebody to be able to fulfill it. And then as for taking meeting minutes, that's something that has to happen in every single committee meeting. So I would recommend designating a secretary for your committee meetings so that the LC doesn't have to take those minutes. When you take minutes, they don't have to be word-for-word, they can just be little overviews of what people said. They're not as stressful as you might think, so you got it. Just don't forget to write everything down that you do, and good luck.



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Utkarsh Mahey: I'm the Chief Justice of the Judicial Panel, and I've had the pleasure of meeting a few of you so far. I just figured the JP has not been as involved, or involved at all in these meetings before, so I would like to make it a personal policy of mine to be present at these meetings because I feel that we are also a branch of the government and, yes, and we should be present here as well to address these matters. And with that said, I just wanted to say that I recognize that there have been multiple shortcomings on our side, and I take accountability for that. I am here to make a change. I believe that working together, we can accomplish great things. And I'm hoping after this, people will have more of a positive review of the JP than what I've heard in the past three weeks.

IV. New Business

a. Swearing in of Senators

18 new senators were sworn into the 57th General Assembly.

Hanniel Diaz-Elizarraga, Ethan Dobres, and Andrew Killgore were sworn in to represent the College of Business .

Kwanisha Broomfield was sworn in to represent the College of Education and Human Ecology.

Francesco Migliore was sworn in to represent the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.

Hayden Price was sworn in to represent the College of Medicine.

Rayvon Braziel was sworn in to represent the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Vaidehi More was sworn in to represent the John Glenn College of Public Affairs.



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Declan Alford, Abigail Cumming-Vukovic, Lily Evans, Josh Hickman, and Jineen Musa were sworn in to represent the Off-Campus Living Area.

George Bernard, Oliver Griffith, and Shyla Mudundi were sworn in to represent the On-Campus Living Area.

b. Swearing in of President and Vice President

Bobby McAlpine was sworn in as the President of the Undergraduate Student Government

Justin Robinson was sworn in as the Vice President of the Undergraduate Student Government

Peters: Motion to enter executive session

Motion passes unanimously

c. **Senate elections**

i. Speaker

George Bernard was elected as the Speaker of the 57th General Assembly

ii. Parliamentarian

Oliver Griffith was elected as the Parliamentarian of the 57th General Assembly

iii. Secretary

Lily Evans was elected as the Secretary of the 57th General Assembly

iv. Issue Committee LCs in alphabetical order

1. Academic Affairs



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Hayden Price was elected as the AA Committee's Legislative Coordinator

2. Black Caucus

Rayvon Braziel was elected as the BC Committee's Legislative Coordinator

3. Governmental Relations

Ethan Dobres was elected as the GR Committee's Legislative Coordinator

4. Health and Safety

Shyla Mudundi was elected as the H&S Committee's Legislative Coordinator

5. Justice and Equity

Jineen Musa was elected as the J&E Committee's Legislative Coordinator

6. Student Affairs

Josh Hickman was elected as the SA Committee's Legislative Coordinator

7. Sustainability

Declan Alford was elected as the Sustainability Committee's Legislative Coordinator

- v. Oversight

1. There will be 10 members + the parliamentarian

Hannel Diaz-Elizarraga, Rayvon Braziel, Declan Alford, Shyla Mudundi, and Vaidehi More were elected to the Oversight Committee

- vi. Allocations

1. There will be 6 members + the director of allocations

Moved to old business for next meeting

Peters: Motion to rise & report

Motion passes unanimously



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V. **Announcements**

VI. **Adjournment**

10:34pm