



## **George Bernard Speaker**

2094B Ohio Union  
1739 N. High Street  
Bernard.306@osu.edu

**57<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**  
Autumn 2024, Session 12  
October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

### **I. Opening**

- a. Call to Order
  - i. 6:38
- b. Land Acknowledgment
- c. Attendance
  - i. 29/32 Senators Present
- d. Swearing in of Alternates
  - i. Chomicki.2 for Senator Chaudhary
- e. Approval of Minutes
  - i. Minutes Approved

### **II. Open Forum for the Public**

- a. Matt Couch: I am an advisor for USG and thank you to those of you who have recently joined. Just FYI, I am a resource for you and have been involved for a good long time with USG and if you want to learn more, feel free to reach out. I am excited to introduce Anna, who is the new assistant director and she will now serve as an advisor for USG. I just wanted to welcome her.

### **III. Executive Report**

- a. *President Bobby McAlpine and Vice President Justin Robinson*
  - i. Robinson: Tomorrow at 7 pm is the dining services focus group as well as the 3-5 picnic tomorrow which will be fun please come out. Want to give a shoutout to J&E who is doing great things this week. Tomorrow they have community night and their queer excellence night on Friday. Please come out and support.



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- ii. McAlpine: Make sure you come to these fun events. One other thing is that we have a new provost. He sent me an email yesterday and is excited to start. He was previously a provost at Emory in Georgia. There is going to be a big event on mental health on Tuesday, November 12th. They are inviting us to the west ballroom with a taco bar. We met with libraries this week and are working on a live occupancy part on the Ohio State App. Comes with a high price tag, but we are working on funding. Another thing is that we have commissioned a campus safety survey, we want to give the new police chief as much of the student voice as we can. Also, make sure you go out and vote.

#### **IV. Updates**

##### *a. Speaker George Bernard*

- i. I included a link to a GA resource doc which has a big directory and is editable by everyone who has access to it. Add in your phone number if it's not in there already. It has a link to previous legislation in USG and a lot of other resources.

##### *b. Parliamentarian Oliver Griffith*

- i. We have the JP standing rules today and this is our last opportunity to have the GA to have a voice on these rules.

##### *c. Secretary Lily Evans*

- i. No updates other than if you still owe me a constituency report please get it to me in the next week at the latest.

#### **V. Committee Reports**



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### **a. Allocations Committee**

- i. We saw 2 applications, one for 500 dollars and another for 1500 dollars and that leaves us with 9.3 thousand dollars left.

### **b. Oversight Committee**

- i. We looked at autonomy in the standing rules and it was struck to include that there are superceding bodies in USG. There was an amendment to clear up conflicts of interest and recuse themselves. We added another amendment that was added to 72-hour notices for a meeting unless it was election season and in that case, it would be 24 hours. Other changes included that 4 justices would hear a case and would be picked at random. Hearings would be opened to the public.

### **c. Issue Committee Reports**

#### **i. Academic Affairs**

1. During our last meeting, we went over what everyone is working on. We are establishing a task force to tackle the new GE curriculum.

#### **ii. Black Caucus**

1. We had a light meeting and got our bylaws passed.

#### **iii. Health and Safety**

1. We met this past Sunday and are working on a meeting with the associate president of health and well-being.

#### **iv. Governmental Relations**



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1. GR is meeting this Sunday to look at a relationship about the asynchronous election day.
- v. Justice and Equity
  1. No updates, we have a meeting this Saturday
- vi. Student Affairs
  1. We are going to meet on Sunday, there is a dining resolution that is in the works. There has been some movement in the business office to get more passed because a new person has been hired and I might meet with them to figure everything out.
- vii. Sustainability
  1. No updates, but we are meeting this weekend and will pass our bylaws. I have a few resolution drafts from the exec.

### **VI. Old Business**

### **VII. New Business**

- a. 57-R-2: A Resolution to Approve the Judicial Panel Standing Rules for the 2024-2025 Academic Year
  - i. Mahey.2: I am the Chief Justice of the Judicial Panel and the standing rules serve as the basis for how we operate. As I mention last time there are many changes to the standing rules. Obviously, there were amendments made over the weekend and I want to discuss it.
  - ii. Bernard: Are there any questions?



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- iii. McAlpine: I know you said you hoped to discuss the changes. Is there anything you agreed with or disagreed with?
- iv. Mahey: I agree with most of everything, but I disagree with the chair of the black caucus being present in onboarding and the language used in the autonomy section
- v. Cade: Can you clarify?
- vi. Mahey: I find the former amendment to be perfectly fine
- vii. Braziel: Thank you for coming in. I have a question on why you do not want the black caucus chair in the onboarding. I think there should be a leader of the student body at the hearing
- viii. Mahey: I don't see the need for the speaker of GA to be present as well. What do you think the chair of the Black Caucus or the speaker would bring to the process?
- ix. McCann: Hello, I have a question to piggyback off my colleague. You started off by saying that it was not appropriate, what are your reasons with them not being present?
- x. Mahey: Historically, they have not been present. Also, we have not been having problems with the process prior so I do not see a need.
- xi. Braziel: Do you know that these standing rules have not been changed since before the creation of the black caucus?
- xii. Mahey: No I was not aware
- xiii. Migliore: Do you think this process would take away from the separation of the three branches?



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- xiv. Mahey: The only meeting they requested to be at was the onboarding of the justices so I do not think it would stop the separation of the branches
- xv. Liu: About the autonomy section, what does that look like in practice?
- xvi. Mahey: So your question is what a rejection of those opinions looks like?
- xvii. Liu: Yeah, I think I am missing the application
- xviii. Mahey: I have not encountered a situation in which another part of the government has resisted a ruling
- xix. Cade: The constitution says that the powers invested in the student government are through the board of trustees. By clarifying that part, can you speak to that meddling?
- xx. Mahey: Last year we had a lot of discourse and the JP made a decision which got up to the board of trustees and they overturned our decision. I added the word board of trustees to prevent any confusion from occurring.
- xxi. Liu: What do you aim by amending the autonomy section? How does our amendment hinder that?
- xxii. Mahey: So once the board makes a decision it cannot be overturned
- xxiii. Liu: Would you be okay with adding the board of trustees to the standing rules?
- xxiv. Mahey: Yes, I would be



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- xxv. Musa: Is there a metric to determine what is larger than 50 percent? It is in section 7
- xxvi. Mahey: Honestly, I am not sure it is more than 50 percent. That is something we could amend.
- xxvii. Griffith: If you were to make an amendment, would you have an alternative?
- xxviii. Mahey: At the top of my head, I do not. This is something that was in the previous standing rules.
- xxix. Dobres: Regarding the typical person standard, could you expand on that?
- xxx. Mahey: I think that it is in reference to keeping nonbias
- xxxi. Musa: Under the same section, for rights of parties for part E. Is there a certain time frame, I yield to the parliamentarian
- xxxii. Griffith: It will be 72 hours unless it is in the election period and then it will be 24 hours
- xxxiii. Bernard: We will move into discussion if there are no other questions
- xxxiv. Griffith: In the autonomy section, there was an amendment made that any bodies in the constitution would be included. This also includes the board of trustees. The language of the standing rules, JP's standing rules cannot force them to include the speaker and black caucus chair when it comes to those rules there.
- xxxv. McCann: I want to point everyone's attention to section 2 subsection 1b. The reason why I like this addition is that I think it is



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important to have people in the legislative branch in this process and it is input from everyone. It is important to make sure everyone's voices are heard. I do not think you had any malintent, but, I do not understand in good faith what your objection would be. This is a good amendment and I hope you can speak to that point. The chief justice said that we do not need to have every student leader in this interview. I hope you can clear this up.

- xxxvi. Kerner: Where does the black caucus sit in the organization?
- xxxvii. Bernard: In the executive branch
- xxxviii. Braziel: I want to give a shoutout to the oversight committee. I agree with everything we have put in the resolution so safe. I do disagree with the chief justice in not having the chair of the black caucus in the onboarding. We should have representation and a simple check and I believe having these two individuals would help with diversity. I think that these two individuals should be in attendance but should not determine who to appoint. Other than that, I am all for passing this resolution.
- xxxix. Cade: I wanted to point out that in oversight we looked at all of the amendments and did everything to ensure that the JP standing rules were good to go. On autonomy, aligns with the Constitution. Despite where the black caucus sits, historically they have not had a voice and it is important to include them.
- xl. Liu: I wanted to give more context. I wanted to get someone from the legislative branch in the process and to have someone there to





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represent us and to play off of when we appoint people. I think that both of these roles are observational and are not meant to be imposed. They would be a voice to speak for GA and direct our questions towards

- xli. Ahmed: I concur with what everyone has said. It makes sense to have them there as well. I do not understand why the chair of the black caucus needs to be there and be under the president and they are already represented.
- xlii. Migliore: I want us to think if the black caucus is a separate branch. I think we should ask if the other directors are less important.
- xliii. McAlpine: In general, I disagree with both of these positions being in the room because there is a reason why we have the documents set up where the GA has a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote to make sure we have those checks and balances. When there is already a check in place, the speaker should not be sitting there like a big brother. All appointments are through the executive branch as per our constitution and it would be against the governing documents. When it comes to the chair of the black caucus, we bring the voices of our entire senior staff and study body so it falls on the executive branch to do that. I think at the end of the day it sets a bit of a dangerous precedent. I think that that whole thing could be nixed. At the end of the day, we make the decisions for the executive branch. Now of course, if the speaker ever asked to be there, I think that that in general sets a bad precedent.



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- xliv. Bernard: I wanted to make a few brief points. Even if you guys approve of these rules, I would not attend these meetings. My biggest concern is that it would bring sway to who is and who is not approved. There is a situation where this creates a weird blurred line of separation of powers. To Senator Liu's point, you can ask questions when these people are nominated, to Bobby and ask your questions there. JP's standing rules cannot force the executive to do this either.
- xlv. Kerner: I wanted to clarify about the board of trustees meddling. I cannot recall taking a vote on the GA or JP. I hope there will be a little more accuracy in these points.
- xlvi. Liu: I appreciate the context you described. When I have seen the nomination process prior, we have trusted you. We are not trying to impose the legislative body's opinion on you guys. I would like to motion to amend section 15 to include "Such as the board of trustees."
1. Motion seconded
  2. Motion taken as friendly.
- xlvii. Braziel: I will be blunt. Although it might seem like a conflict of interest, I think that for our sake it would be great to have these people in the process. I very much do not agree with what the president and speaker stated. Black caucus moves as its own entity as well. No one said in oversight that they would be influential, it purely states that they will be present and may not have full



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speaking rights. I think it is okay to have them be in the meeting at a minimum. It is very simple.

xlvi. Cade: I also want to point out that in the standing rules, it says that is just an option. I agree that the separation of powers is important, but I believe that having someone there is important. In the future, we do not know if the speaker or president will be impartial. They do not have to come which is important. I motion to amend to nix the last sentence of section 1 subsection b.

1. Second Heard
2. Migliore: I think that as Senator Braizel said the black caucus acts as its own entity, which is inappropriate. I do think the last stance should be struck.
3. McCann: To clarify it essentially runs as his own entity. My passion is on full display. We can get into the separation argument, I think that for this point it was added for a reason. It says “may” not “must” let's make that clear. Number 2, let me say this, my reasoning for this being in here is that to your point President McAlpine, you include everyone. I just am a person who feels that for continuity of government, this is a great addition to have. This is here for a reason and I think it is just right for representation.
4. Liu: I think it might be helpful to hear. Either way, this goes through, this has no force. I think that in my mind would you like it to be there just in case.



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5. McAlpine: We have the power to kind of create anything we want when it comes to this. We will have multiple members of the senior staff as part of the interviews and sitting in. The Constitution does not say that it has to be me and Justin, just that it has to be the executive branch. We are going to come to you all very right. I agree with this change and put all your minds at ease. This will be a thorough and open process.
6. Hickman: I am getting confused. In general, I think we will be okay either way. I think having as many eyes on JP is good.
7. Bernard: We will move into voting
  - a. Motion passes
    - i. 9-8-8
- xlix. Bernard: We will move back into the discussion
  1. Griffith: I wanted to bring clarification on greater than 50 percent on section 7. It seems to be a low bar. Some violations in the election bylaws include disqualification, so we should take this seriously. I would like to motion to slash “is more likely than not (greater than 50%) that a violation has occurred” to “beyond a reasonable doubt that a violation has occurred.”
    1. Motion seconded
    2. Musa: I do not disagree but it does not address my initial question. I worry there is no metric in figuring that out.



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3. Liu: I think that this is a typical standard used in the law. This is up to the decision of the justices. Correct me if I am wrong.
4. Mahey: I wanted to clarify, there is no metric, and is on the determination of the justices and what they think
5. Griffith: I am open to adding anything to clarify. This language is changed to have a standard justices should vote by
6. Migliore: I think that removing this part because there needs to be ambiguity in the law to create some leeway. I think for the sake of consistency within OSU, I know that the conduct board goes by a preponderance of the evidence.
7. McAlpine: Wanted to let you all know that the standard used in the university is more likely than not. Do with that you all will.
  - a. Motion passes
    - i. 11-6-7
  - li. Bernard: We are back in discussion. We will move into voting
    1. Resolution passes
      - a. 22-0-3
- b. Review the formatting of a resolution
  - i. Bernard: We will be sticking around to talk about resolutions and creating them. If you want you can stay and talk to the CFO if you want to ask for some money in the budget



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**VIII. Announcements**

- a. Migliore: I think that by abstaining you are not doing your duty as a senator

**IX. Adjournment**

- a. 8:26