



**Alex Poling  
Speaker**

2094B Ohio Union  
1739 N. High Street  
poling.238@osu.edu

**56<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**  
Autumn 2023, Session 15  
November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**I. Opening**

- a. Call to Order: 6:33pm
- b. Land Acknowledgment
- c. Attendance
- d. Swearing in of Alternates
  - i. Rosenberg.1242 alternating for Senator Mathebula
- e. Approval of Minutes
  - i. Minutes of previous meeting will be sent out when Secretary Schmidt is better

**II. Open Forum for the Public**

- a. none

**III. Executive Report**

- a. *President Bobby McAlpine and Vice President Madison Mason*
  - i. *McAlpine: We have been hard at work lately, winding down the semester.*
  - ii. *Mason: One update on the scarlet button; we had a productive meeting with the CIO, the OSU technical team is stopping their other projects to work on a prototype for this. They are hoping to include generative AI. We may have to ask the Board of Trustees for funding. Hoping to be on the cutting edge of technology.*
  - iii. *McAlpine: Ohio State will be the first when it comes to making a prototype for a scarlet button type software. We will let you all know about a possible resolution to support this project.*
    1. *OSU already has a contract with the New York Times and we are working on one for the Wall Street Journal and The*



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*Economist. We are working on those contracts for the student body. Hopefully we will have this within the next two weeks, certainly before the end of the year.*

- iv. Mason: Bobby and Angad Dhillon have been working on getting student data for excused absences. I recommend filling out this survey. It's moving well, they are meeting Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> for this conversation.*
- v. McAlpine: In terms of United States politics, not much traction going on with this bill that is currently in the house. This is a win for Ohio students in the entire state.*

#### **IV. Updates**

##### *a. Speaker Alex Poling*

- i. We are not meeting next week. You are welcome to come since we have the room reserved at 6:00pm. Not meeting during winter break, will likely resume during second or third week of classes, mid-January. I recommend spending time on winter break writing resolutions. 3 weeks without other obligations equals lots of free time for your ideas!*

##### *b. Parliamentarian Keyanah Peters*

- i. I would like to set up a time to work on resolutions during winter break. Focused on accessibility but open to any other ideas. I will be in touch with zoom information.*

##### *c. Secretary Sarah Schmidt*





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**V. Old Business**

- a. none

**VI. New Business**

- a. 56-R-15: A Resolution to Call Upon The Ohio State University to Increase the Lyft Ride Smart Program Discount

- i. Senator Hickman: I would like to thank my co-sponsors for their help. The Lyft RideSmart program has gained popularity with students. Instead of expanding the program, OSU administration has decreased the discount of this program by 2 dollars. We must call upon the university to reallocate more funding to this program and increase the discount. The resolution has no specific amount requested for the discount, leaving the university room to
- ii. Mundundi: This resolution will benefit both on and off campus students, I highly recommend voting yes.
- iii. Questions:
  1. Bernard: What are other universities giving their students?
    - a. Hickman: UChicago offers 7 dollars off. California free rides for students and staff.
    - b. U Texas A&M, a public university like ours, has a comprehensive program similar to CABS on demand.
  2. Evans: what are you hopeful of in terms of university discount?
    - a. Hickman: I expect it to be between 4 and 6.50. This is a big financial ask, it will cost lots of money, but campus safety is important to everyone. Especially



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with inflation hurting students' ability to spend more money.

3. Davis: will there be a section to expand program in terms of times?
  - a. Hickman: Late night safety is the most important issue here. We could consider enhancing CABS on demand or getting rid of it altogether.
4. Bernard: how often do students use this? Why is \$4 not enough?
  - a. Hickman: I don't have that data but a lot of people use it. Maybe 4-5 times a month. This is a service that helps with campus safety. Inflation as well is hurting students. The cost of rides adds up quickly for one person.
5. Vaishampayan: Why did they cut costs initially?
  - a. Hickman: A lantern article discussed ride shortages and COVID. In my personal opinion, it seems as though the university has the funding for safety but is not putting it towards the things students actually want and use.
  - b. Mason: University spent 10k on initial Lyft program but it grew to cost 4 million. Fantastic for student usage, but the university cannot afford it. Similar to the reason they canceled digital flagship.



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- c. McAlpine: 600k rides in the previous academic year 22-23, university had to reevaluate spending because \$6.50 times 600k is a lot. They do not want to raise tuition for this program, so funding was cut.
  6. Price: is there a contract we are locked into for Lyft?
    - a. McAlpine: There is a contract, unaware of length
    - b. Poling: It's not as bad as the 50 year CampusParc contract.
    - c. Hickman: We are just trying to bring this conversation to the table.
- iv. Discussion:
  1. Davis: I take Lyfts a few times a week. Wait time is a large concern. Like is it worth waiting 30 minutes or can I walk and save money. Is it a bigger deal to have it cost more or wait less?
  2. Radford: I also use Lyfts a lot. Safety vs. Cost/affordability is a question.
  3. Evans: I think this is a great idea. Saving 5-10 dollars a month can mean the world to someone who may be below the poverty line. This could help someone not become a victim of a crime and that is incredible.
  4. Hawthorne: I appreciate how this resolution mentions other universities. I live off campus and pay for rent, gas, groceries. My car got broken into before thanksgiving break and Lyft helped me.



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5. Vaishampayan: The UChicago cost for students is different. It is a good model but these students are paying way more for tuition. This is not representative of our university. If OSU decides this is not sustainable, that is more important to consider.
6. Colish-Patrick: I like the mention of UChicago. I agree with possibly using a certain number of rides per month free.
7. Saini: That model does not work with variable amounts. This could cause them to nix the whole program.
8. Hickman: UChicago and California being private schools is a good point, but these were just used as examples. This is a lot more complicated with details but this is one of the best of OSU's slam dunk services. It will be an investment for the university since students use this already
9. Bernard: I like the program but it costs a lot of money The university is offering roughly 100 dollars per student. Maintaining financial stability is more important than spending money
10. Braziel: Thank you Josh and cosponsors for this resolution. I think the opposite, I think this enhances campus safety and coincides with COTA and CABS. Motion to co-sponsor.
11. Hickman: raise your hand if you'd like to co-sponsor
12. Mason: I'd like to make a comment. (no comment officially made)
13. Hickman: motion for a 5 minute recess.



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- b. Called back to order at 7:27pm
- i. Evans: motion to vote
    1. Radford: question about the comment Mason suggested
    2. Poling. No, we need to vote on the motion
  - ii. Evans: I rescind my motion to vote
  - iii. Ginsburg: motion to amend the resolution
    1. Questions:
      - a. Vaishampayan: What is the point of this amendment?
      - b. Hickman: It gives us an out. There is a lot of hidden costs with marketing from CABS or tripshot as well
    2. Discussion:
      - a. Radford: This gives us a valuable out to hold the conversation in the students' favor.
    3. Voting on amendment: 28 yes, 1 abstention. Officially passes
  - iv. Discussion:
  - v. Walkup: Lyft is one of the main ways indigenous students, who primarily live off campus, get to campus. I support this resolution.
  - vi. Vaishampayan: It's more important for us to demonstrate through this resolution that students want Lyft RideSmart program back. People are mad that it is gone.
  - vii. Price: I'd like to clarify Lyft program still exists.
  - viii. Ginsburg: The problem is that the amount has decreased. Student body cares about this, we'd like that discount back.
  - ix. Roy: The cost could come from our tuition, and let's change this part of the amendment language to make it more flexible.





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- x. Hickman: Don't change the language, we want it to be definite. I think our student-led committee would be against a tuition increase. The problem is that OSU has money that is not being put toward something students want it to be put toward.
  - xi. Evans: Motion to end discussion and end voting
    - 1. 26 yes, 2 no, 0 abstention
  - xii. Voting on resolution:
    - 1. 25 yes, 3 no, 0 abstention.
  - xiii. 56-R-15 passes
  - c. Peters: Motion to form committee as a whole
    - i. Motion passes, oversight committee formed.
  - d. Mason: presenting 56-R-16. Need this resolution to pass in order for official CBRC committee to form.
  - e. No questions
  - f. No discussions
    - i. 31 yes, unanimous. Resolution passes to the floor.
  - g. Peters: motion to exit oversight.
    - i. Motion passes
- VII. 56-R-16
- a. Mason: I am in charge of CBRC, it is overdue. The body that reevaluates and updates the USG constitution. I am not a voting member as the chair of this committee. This committee has been delayed quite a bit. Resolution to appoint the people to go through the CBRC process. I have mentioned this over social media, in USG, and here in order to make the application accessible to non-usg people. 2 weeks was not enough to get applicants, so



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we extended it by a week. 8 applicants, one withdrew, so there were 7 applicants total. Application questions were comprehensive on their experience reading lengthy formal documents. Applicants went through interview process with VP Mason personally so she could attest for them on their behalf in GA. They were notified that if appointed, they would no longer be allowed to be part of USG.

b. Questions:

- i. Ginsburg: What is the time commitment for each person and have they been notified
- ii. Mason: biweekly, 1-2 hours. They are all available for those periods at whatever time works best for all of us.
- iii. Bernard: If someone drops out what would happen?
- iv. Mason: I'd have to fill the vacancy and the committee could not meet without that seat filled.
- v. Radford: Would this appointment diminish the responsibilities of their current positions?
- vi. Mason: I will be sure to check in with these people to make sure they can oversee their other responsibilities.
- vii. Ginsburg: will Poling have to leave position as speaker?
- viii. Mason: Not until after the committee has finished its duties. There will be a full report that comes out after all these meetings, it has to be voted upon by the student body. I would not be the one getting signatures but will be doing front end work
- ix. Vaishampayan: Is this the only way to amend the constitution?
- x. Poling: Yes. Per our current rules



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- xi. Leedy: How many of the 7 are from the executive branch?
  - xii. Mason: 4 of 7.
  - xiii. Leedy: How many people are in the executive and judicial branches total?
  - xiv. Mason: There are over 200 executive branch members and 8 or 9 judicial branch members.
  - xv. Bernard: Can we change the way the constitution is amended?
  - xvi. Mason: CBRC has to be the one to do that.
  - xvii. Deerman: What are the applicants planning to do to the constitution?
  - xviii. Mason: a lot of interest was in clarity of positions and election bylaws. Making sure the USG constitution is in alignment with the student body's intent.
  - xix. Nischal: No one can amend the constitution and use it for their own personal gain, right?
  - xx. Mason: That will not happen due to the safeguard of no one being allowed to be in USG after being on the committee.
  - xxi. McAlpine: 15-20 years ago, they decided on this to prevent personal gain.
- c. Discussion:
- i. Brazil: I like these applications. We have a lot of experience in this organization. This feels like there is a lot of USG in power in this committee.
  - ii. Mason: I would have liked for there to be more non-USG people on this committee but no one else applied.



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- iii. Hickman: This is the work no one wants to do, so thank you for doing this.
- iv. Nischal: I think this committee should be opened up to more people.
- v. Hawthorne: Motion to move into voting:
  - 1. 27 yes. Motion passes.

d. Voting:

- i. 30 yes. 56-R-16 has passed

e. Entering executive session:

VIII. Vacancy Application Elections

- i. Presentation of Candidate
- ii. Discussion of Candidate
- iii. Appointment Vote on Candidate

b. Administration of Oath of Office

**IX. Announcements**

- a. none

X. **Adjournment** 8:27pm