



## **George Bernard Speaker**

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

**57<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**  
Spring 2025, Session 22  
February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### **I. Opening**

- a. Call to Order
  - i. 6:35 pm
- b. Land Acknowledgment
- c. Attendance
  - i. 26/27 Present
- d. Swearing in of Alternates
  - i. Mcdaniel.8172 for Ahmed
  - ii. Williams.8170 for McCann
  - iii. Diazelizarraga.1 for Hickman
- e. Approval of Minutes
  - i. Minutes Approved

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

- a. Huang.4520: I have not been here all year, but I wanted to discuss the bill you have on the table about the relationship between the executive and legislative. I would urge you to oppose this bill. This would limit the ability of my directors to do their job, and their job is to lead their committees. The language in this bill would severely hinder their ability to do that job. I have engaged in efforts to better connect GA members with issue committees, but I want to say that there are other ways to involve LCs with their issue committees. We are also having a social at Ethyl and Tank next Thursday
  - i. Cade: You said it limits the directors, can you elaborate
  - ii. Huang: There are points where issue directors have a range of tasks, managing a large group of people or events with large budgets, and



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throughout the semester, it is important that they can spend money in ways they can separate from any other forces.

- iii. Cade: I do not think there is anything in there that limits that. Nevermind
- iv. Migliore: Can you point to something specific and elaborate on how that will make a difference?
- v. Huang: From my understanding, you are looking to further involve LCs in the funding process of events. I think it is important that directors have the autonomy to create funding requests as they see fit. I just believe that, in this case, the branches do not need this type of check and balance.
- vi. Liu: Can you restate your objection?
- vii. Huang: I believe it is unnecessary, and it is needed to make things flow and have them function as their kind of entity
- viii. Liu: Is there a specific line that has you concerned?
- ix. Huang: The part where it says to take steps to overlook expenditures. This is already done at the beginning of the year.
- x. Migliore: I appreciate your passion, I am in a state of disbelief. Did you come unprepared with specific line items that you had issues with?
- xi. Huang: I'm sorry I had a busy day
- xii. Bernard: That is not a valid question
- xiii. Liu: Is there anything you would like to see specifically?
- xiv. Huang: I believe that the work of the directors is best when they have autonomy but with heavy guidance from advisors.
- xv. Dobres: Have you heard specific complaints from issue directors?
- xvi. Huang: Yes, all of them



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- xvii. Cade: Are you looking at the amendments or the resolution itself?
- xviii. Huang: Yes
- xix. Cade: I am a little confused because you are basing everything off the resolution and not the amendments as well
- xx. Bernard: Are there any other members of the public at this time?
- xxi. Archie.26: Hi, everyone, I am the chair of academic affairs. The executive board of the black caucus opposes this resolution. We trust in the solutions that Aryav has found for us. It is more than just brownies and cookies; there is a speed of efficiency that must happen to get everything done. All of these committees have several events at all times. This would only slow down our process rather than help us. There are more productive ways of improving relationships
- xxii. Schmidt.1318: I also stand in opposition. After talking to many of the directors, I can give more detail on how this will be limiting. When you look at the amendments, there is a part about consulting with LCs on any changes in the process. We see a lack of effort and open seats for LCs. The feasibility of this is not real, given that there are so many things that change on the fly, and having to coordinate with an LC is not feasible. It is not something an LC would be able to manage. The timeline is not feasible; we have to plan so many events at the same time. Getting the budget approved, it is approved far in advance and looked at by the general assembly
- xxiii. Shorter.35: I have been fighting for over two years that the most outrageous piece of legislation does not pass, SB 83, now SB 1. So many



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people showed up against this bill. SB 1 will destroy higher education, including DEI and programs for queer or veteran students. I was at the statehouse when they did not read the over 800 testimonies against the bill. While I was hearing the proponent's testimony, OSU was the most cited institution. We are the biggest institution, so the USG has a responsibility to the student body to oppose SB 1.

1. Hansen: Would DEI also affect first-generation students?
2. Shorter: Yes, it would, and also limit controversial topics.

xxiv. Bansal.157: I am the senior director of issues, and I have come to talk about the bill that changes the budgeting process for our committees. I am against this bill and urge you all to oppose it. I have testimonies from 5 or 6 directors out of 8 against the bill. It forces them to take extra time and manpower. They are students first, and they already pay 10 hours minimum every week. This will become an unsustainable job in the student government. Consulting with LCs concerning any matter of the budget. You all can review the budget, and forcing them to check in is a redundant process. It takes away time from the good work we already do.

### **III. Executive Report**

#### *a. President Bobby McAlpine and Vice President Justin Robinson*

- i. Robinson: I will tell you about two events we have coming up. The black history month gala is on the 28th at 6:30. We will have it posted. We have to Walk a Mile in Her Shoes to raise awareness of gender-based violence and sexual assault. We are working on getting athletes involved as well, that is, April 2nd, just so you know.



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- ii. McAlpine: I am here today because I wanted to update you on SB 1. We provided testimony yesterday at the statehouse. I am sitting here also as the grandson of a sharecropper. It hurts to see it pass so easily in the Senate today. No matter how much they legislated against my grandmother, she still helped to raise me and led me to who I am today. We got a lot of responses to the survey, and it passed despite it being clear that the bill does not represent us or our desires. I want to let every student know that we will not sit down, period. We are here, and we will remain. Ninety-four percent of students found that DEI programs were meaningful in some sort of way. It ensures that every student has access to the resources they need to thrive. It is an attack on the mission of higher education. Taking away the voting power of the student trustee undermines the student voice. A university exists to serve students. Our voices are not valued in the decisions that stake our education. I urge every member to stand united in this fight. I say this to every Ohio representative: invite every one of you to reach out to our offices and talk to us. Come talk to us and hear from students who live, breathe, work, and lead in these universities every single day. We have made our stance clear: we do not support this bill. All students, in some sort of way, do not support this bill. History has been shaped by those who refuse to be silent. Right, now we will not be silent.
- iii. Migliore: Thank you for going to the Senate. I have engaged with JP, serious infractions could be grounds for impeachment and are being



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overlooked. Who should be held responsible, and should there be reparations?

- iv. McAlpine: He was asked to leave, and it was a lot of the judicial panel going from the launching pad of the chief justice making it happen. The chief justice did not have them meet very much last semester.

#### **IV. Updates**

*a. Speaker George Bernard*

- i. Senator Wood resigned, but no other major updates. The cookies of the week are brownies, by the way.

*b. Parliamentarian Oliver Griffith*

- i. No updates

*c. Secretary Lily Evans*

- i. I have decided to extend the constituency report due date until next Wednesday, and there is an issue with the meeting minutes on the website that I am working on at the moment to get fixed.

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

**a. Allocations Committee**

- i. We met and approved five applications for 5,897 dollars and have a little over 24 thousand left.

**b. Oversight Committee**

- i. We passed the resolution we will see today

**c. Issue Committee Reports**

- i. Academic Affairs

- 1. No updates



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- ii. Black Caucus
  - 1. No updates
- iii. Health and Safety
  - 1. No updates, but we met this week
- iv. Governmental Relations
  - 1. No updates
- v. Justice and Equity
  - 1. No updates
- vi. Student Affairs
  - 1. No updates
- vii. Sustainability
  - 1. No updates, please respond to the message in the regrouped

### **Business**

## **VI. New Business**

- a. 57-R-26: A Resolution to Amend the Organizational Bylaws
  - i. Cade: I worked with Aryav about the timeline, and he did not have any objectives except with the summer semester. In our governing documents, there is nothing in them to clarify the roles of the LC. Regarding the controversial part about meeting with issue directors, my intention was not to do that, but concerning meeting before the budget, it comes to the floor so the LC can answer a question about their respective committee.
  - ii. Liu: It seems like there was a disconnect, did you meet with any LCs
  - iii. Cade: I did not, I spoke with Hickman but did not meet with anyone else



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- iv. Liu: Would you be okay with going back to the drawing board?
- v. Hickman: Who on the OSU finance team did you talk to?
- vi. Cade: I did not speak to any of them
- vii. Hickman: Do you propose that the black caucus LC meet with different black caucus committees?
- viii. Cade: That is not what I intended
- ix. Griffith: It would not require the LCs to approve every aspect of the line time, correct?
- x. Cade: Correct, it is solely about talking. They should be working with each other. My idea of this resolution is to encourage that. It would be before the vote on the budget.
- xi. Bernard: We will go into a discussion
- xii. Braziel: I want to lay out the differences between being an LC and being an executive and being a director. Over here, we are writing legislation and looking over the budget. Over in exec, they are making events and asking what kind of policies they would like to see come out of GA. We should only be looking at the budget, looking at the facts, and that is about it. We have our oversight committee. This resolution is not good, and I am not in favor of it. I just do not think it is necessary to constantly meet. I am not confident in it.





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- xiii. McAlpine: I know that Senator Cade said that our CFO was not against any of the parts. I want to yield to our CFO to speak on this.
- xiv. Yadapadithaya.1: I am against this resolution and almost all parts of this. In the end, I made it clear I do not endorse any part of this resolution. It makes changes to a lot of different processes. I wanted to make those points clear
- xv. McAlpine: I talked to several directors and they came to use concerned because it would make their job more difficult. Especially when senators are not required to come to the cabinet, and they have to plan for their breakout meeting, meet with their vice chairs, then have to have meetings with various departments, Matt Couc,h and have to make sure that they have a 15-30 person committee to keep happy. There is a lot that goes into being a director. There was a worry that it would be a lot more. I think that we can come together and discover solutions rather than add something to the bylaws. To create a norm within the organization.
- xvi. Liu: I think there is a disconnect between what different groups want to get done. There are problems and confusion between branches, but I think that the best course of action is to go back to the drawing board and make this process to make it amendable.
- xvii. Griffith: I move to divide the question from Article 4, Section D, part 2, and below
  - 1. Second Heard
  - 2. Motion passes 11-5-1
- xviii. Bernard: We are now discussing above the part



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- xix. Chaudhary: I believe that this resolution should be struck. I think it is important to connect the branches, but I want to make sure that we can get every voice heard.
- xx. Bernard: I do think adding the rules and responsibilities is a good idea. I see how the committees operate and provide clarification on how they should do their job, but I oppose LCs meeting with the ruse directors on budget matters. It is only going to cause problems.
- xxi. McAlpine: When it comes to being a former speaker, I wanted to also say that I am willing to work with anyone else to make this as mutually beneficial as possible. It was broken when I came, and I know that we are a lot better with the budgeting process
- xxii. Bansal: LCs very rarely go to cabinet, and a lot of the work is done in breakouts in cabinets. I can go through each of these testimonies. The co-director of student affairs said that this would be inefficient and would put a lot of unnecessary work on the directors. We do not have time, and adding another step would take time away from our events. I do not think it is fair. In my opinion, they need to be required to go to the breakout rooms. That is a sentiment that has been forwarded by every single director. They appreciate all of you; there needs to be more attendance. If that is not able to happen, this is a redundant resolution.
- xxiii. Cade: I motion to amend and strike the consulting portion
1. Motion seconded
  2. Migliore: This is what people are upset about, let's do it
  3. Swartly: Motion to move to the previous question



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- a. Motion passes 8-0-14
- xxiv. Chaudhary: Motion to move into the previous question
  1. Bernard: The very bottom of page 5 going into page 6 is what we are voting on
    - a. 5-12-3; amendment fails
    - b. Resoluition fails in all parts; 1-17-1
- b. An Emergency Resolution to Urge the Ohio House of Representatives to Vote NO on Senate Bill 1
  - i. Resoluition is on the agenda; 19-0-1
  - ii. Cade: SB 1 is an encroachment on higher education. The senates actions and not listening are outrageous, so we are urging the house to vote n.o
  - iii. Griffith: I could not read the full bill, are there any valuable parts
  - iv. Cade: Most of it is worthless. There are a few small things, but it is balled up in a thing of badness.
  - v. Dobres: Have you had any discussion with the admin about it?
  - vi. Cade: Not yet, but I have been asked by Bobby to write it
  - vii. Bernard: We will move into discussion
  - viii. Cade: Can we add a word that I didn't know was missing
  - ix. Liu: I want to add that over 200in-personn testimonies and over 800 written testimonies were not heard.



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1. Motion seconded
  2. Motion taken as friendly
  3. Motion passes unanimously
- x. Liu: Moving down to the left if the be resolved section. I want to add that USG advocates for the restricted funding to go back to students and educators.
1. Motion taken as friendly
  2. Motion passes unanimously
- xi. Braziel: I would like to be a cosponsor
- xii. McApline: Should this pass, all the money goes back to students. If we ask them to vote no, we are talking to the statehouse right now. It is the universities job to handle the money. I feel like that is out of its scope.
- xiii. Liu: I motion to strike that
1. Motion passes unanimously
- xiv. Dobres: I motion to add that the Office of Governmental Affairs should meet with legislators to discuss the bill
- xv. Griffith: Something that I think could be valuable to add, however, I am looking at the parts right now. I think we could acknowledge parts that we disagree with. The part about fighting against discrimination is valuable. I think it would be worth noting in the resolution.



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1. Resolution passes unanimously

**VII. Announcements**

**VIII. Adjournment**

- a. McAlpine: Now that this is passed, I would like all of you to look at which district you are in and send an email to your legislator.
- b. Hensley: Brownies and I need suggestions for a cookie of the week
- c. Migliore: Yesterday, I sent an email to Speaker Bernard, President McAlpine, VP Robinson, Director of Health and Safety Natalie Pigman, Co-Directors of Sustainability Cornelia Soltanirad and Annalise Khandelwal, and LC Declan Alford regarding an update on Resolution 57-R-16—a resolution aimed at increasing pedestrian visibility on the East Side of the Oval. This email was sent at 0924 hours, and it outlined key opportunities presented to me in a follow up meeting with FOD. Now, I understand that the President and VP were at the Statehouse and are, by nature of their positions, busy people. Declan Alford was also not present at Cabinet. I'll give them the benefit of the doubt. But for everyone else, I'd like to openly express my disappointment. That email was not acknowledged, nor was its content discussed in Executive Committee. That is a failure. Simply acknowledging the email would have stifled my disappointment, but I can remain silent no longer. Let me be clear about the emails content that was ignored: I recently met with Kimberly Moss and Andrew Neil from FOD regarding the crosswalk resolution we passed in the fall. They informed me that they are in the early planning stages of a rework of College Road and are actively seeking student input. Additionally, they are exploring ways to make High Street safer through a joint effort with the City of Columbus. This is a critical



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opportunity for students to shape the future of campus infrastructure. FOD also hosts a monthly campus road planning group meeting—typically on the second Monday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. They currently have 2-3 students involved but would welcome more participation. Furthermore, FOD’s sustainability branch organizes a Bike to Campus Day in the fall, and they asked if we wanted to partner with them in running it. This is a clear, tangible opportunity to engage with campus staff on sustainability initiatives. I sent this email to Health and Safety because the resolution was passed through that committee. I sent it to Sustainability because collaboration with campus staff on this initiative makes perfect sense. And yet, when presented with direct opportunities for action, no one spoke up. No one responded. No one even mentioned it during Exec. Time and time again, I hear grand speeches within GA and Exec about commitment, advocacy, and leadership. But when action is handed to us on a silver platter, it seems no one is willing to pick up the fork. I am disappointed in the members of USG who claim to care—because when the moment came to act, they chose silence instead. I am additionally disappointed in members who expect GA to be quick. We have real things we are dealing with here. Giving these resolutions any less than our full attention is disrespectful to those who write the resolution, and disrespectful to the people who we represent. Let’s be better. Let’s do better. Because if we aren’t willing to take action when it’s right in front of us, then what exactly are we here for?

- i. Griffith: Point of order, you are not allowed to air grievances with other members



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- ii. McApline: Thanks for the excuse, but I would ask that you give everyone a week to just like catch up on emails
- iii. Migliore: I am not opposed, but when I have important information. It does not take that long to give an acknowledgment
- iv. McAlpine: I think it would be fair to acknowledge that some people get busy and need time to catch up on emails
- v. Swartly: I move that we adjourn
  - 1. Motion seconded and passed
- d. Adjournment: 8:13 pm