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**48<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**  
Fall 2015, Session 10  
October 7, 2015

**I. Opening**

- a. Call to Order
- b. Attendance
- c. Swearing in of Alternates
- d. Approval of Minutes

**II. Open Forum for Public**

- a. No one from the public came to speak.

**III. Updates**

*a. Abby Waidelich*

- i. Lots of positive feedback was received after my speech at University Senate last week discussing mandated mental health statement on syllabi throughout the University.
- ii. The CBRC application is due tonight at midnight. If you're interested in being on the commission, please submit your application by tonight.
- iii. Please submit your constituency report to Danielle Di Scala by tonight.
- iv. Many of you attended the Dining Discussions with RHAC a few weeks ago. Dining is required to review meal plans by November 1<sup>st</sup> of each school year. Contact me if you're passionate about dining issues, and I can help you with how you can actually help your constituency on this front.

**IV. Executive Report**

*a. Abby Grossman*

- i. Tomorrow is CCS's Recess event on the South Oval from 11am to 3pm. Danielle is still looking for volunteers!
- ii. One of my current priorities is working with the Undergraduate International Student Fee. Back in 2012, the fee was introduced at \$500 per semester, and this past year, the fee was increased to \$970 per semester. This happened at the only Board of Trustees meeting that did not have a student trustee present. Two years ago, The Lantern reported that that fee was not being used to enhance international students' experiences, but rather to subsidize study abroad within the Office of International Affairs. The Council of Student Affairs will be assessing that fee in their committee. Danielle



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Di Scala and Mary Honaker are currently working on the issues committee.

- iii. Ohio Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency. Mariah Stepp is our liaison on Ohio State's Task Force, and will be working with the university's CFO. More information can be found [here](https://www.ohiohighered.org/sites/ohiohighered.org/files/uploads/affordability-efficiency/Action-Steps-to-Reduce-College-Costs_100115.pdf):  
[https://www.ohiohighered.org/sites/ohiohighered.org/files/uploads/affordability-efficiency/Action-Steps-to-Reduce-College-Costs\\_100115.pdf](https://www.ohiohighered.org/sites/ohiohighered.org/files/uploads/affordability-efficiency/Action-Steps-to-Reduce-College-Costs_100115.pdf). Please read. What issues do you guys want to see prioritized on this task force?

## V. **Committee Reports**

### a. Allocations – *Jenna Gravalis*

- i. Allocations met this past Sunday and gave out the following:
  - 1. Student Activity Fund
    - a. Ascend OSU \$400
    - b. International Student Community Service group \$400
    - c. Undergraduate Black Law Student Association \$501
    - d. Indian Students Association \$750
  - 2. Coke
    - a. Buckeyes Against Hunger \$1150
- ii. Remember deadlines for constituency events! It's okay to wait until next semester to host one, but it's also okay to distribute a survey or something of the sort this semester as well. If you still don't know what I'm talking about, see me and Danielle.

### b. Oversight – *Daniel Marchese*

- i. Please go through the bylaws and standing rules. We will be replacing these documents soon, but it is important that they serve their purpose while they are still valid.
- ii. We will be stricter with Robert's Rules today. There will be procedures that you are not familiar with, so follow along and you'll be fine.

## VI. **Old Business**

### a. 48-R-11 A Resolution to Approve the Election Bylaws

- i. *Chief Justice Marsilio*: I'll try my best to go through and review all the changes that have been made. The Judicial Panel took in many of your



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suggestions and made a more wholesome, perfect document in the eyes of the Judicial Panel. Article I.A.3.b, I.B.1.c both the circulator and candidate's signatures are required on the sheets; I.B.5.f,g. all initiatives/referenda must follow all guidelines defined in Article I.B.1 and final petition submission guidelines. Article II.A.2.e no candidate, candidate team, or slate shall break any federal, state, or local law; Article III.A.5 slate affiliations not published on ballot. Article III.C, IV.A, IV.B.3.a the Judicial Panel will promptly notify and provide all relevant parties with copies of all rulings upon receipt; IV.C.3 each member of the Judicial Panel may vote in the USG election; Articles V and VI.

- ii. *Belfiglio*: What happened to the weekend ban?
- iii. *Marsilio*: The Judicial Panel felt that we would like more time to navigate the complexity and language of the issue. We appreciate being able to test the waters and gain feedback, but the Judicial Panel wanted to make sure that any new changes are sound.
- iv. *Cramer*: Referring to the wording of Article I.B.1.c, would that affect referendum or ballot issue items?
- v. *Marsilio*: I will get back to you on that.
- vi. *Gonzalez*: In reference to the definition of polling stations, if I was walking around with an iPad and letting people vote, would that be defined as a voting station? And would I be allowed to do that?
- vii. *Marsilio*: No, specifically because it is not a space reserved for the voting periods. And no, you would not.
- viii. *Weisman*: Is there any way to amend the election bylaws and make recommendations now?
- ix. *Marchese*: We cannot force anything on the election bylaws.
- x. *Weisman*: Can we just have that dialogue here and not have a constant week-to-week back and forth?
- xi. *Abby Waidelich*: That's not possible through our organizational bylaws.
- xii. *Jackson*: What was the reasoning behind Article III.A.5?
- xiii. *Marsilio*: This was present in the Election Bylaws before, so we just reworded it.



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- xiv. *Honaker*: Are you guys considering any changes to prevent what happened last year with the election bylaws? A big problem last year is that no one knew what to do.
- xv. *Marsilio*: The Judicial Panel would prefer not to go back to what happened last year. I've taken an initiative to make sure to communicate to the student body where we're coming from with these guidelines and standing rules. With respect to your question, we cannot put something directly in that addresses that issue, but we're working hard as a whole to make sure it doesn't happen again.
- xvi. *Warnimont*: Is Article II.A.2.e saying that people on the campaign cannot break laws for the campaign or for USG activities, or that they cannot break laws in general and can be penalized for even simple misdemeanors?
- xvii. *Marsilio*: They can be penalized for misdemeanors, even if it doesn't apply to campaigning.
- xviii. *Michelson*: You referenced that there were too many issues with the weekend rule. What were those issues?
- xix. *Marsilio*: I don't feel that it is relevant right now, but I would be happy to correspond with you via email.
- xx. *Marchese*: If you would like to see the objections to the weekend rule, you can reference the minutes for that meeting.
- xxi. *Cramer*: In reference to Gonzalez's question earlier, is it still okay
- xxii. *Marsilio*: This is something that the Judicial Panel needs to discuss. I cannot give you a direct answer. If you feel that this is something that would not be accepted, then err on the side of caution.
- xxiii. *Weisman*: What is the reasoning for the 25% in Article I.B.5.g?
- xxiv. *Marsilio*: That's what the USG Constitution says.
- xxv. *Belfiglio*: Why doesn't this say while campaigning? If someone is caught drinking off campus, does that disqualify the whole campaign?
- xxvi. *Marsilio*: My understanding is pretty clear and concise. The Judicial Panel will be taking this on a case-by-case basis. If you feel that this may be an issue in the future, err on the side of caution.
- xxvii. *Belfiglio*: Why do you think that a misdemeanor justifies a type IV violation?



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- xxviii. *Marsilio*: It will be at the discretion of the Judicial Panel. We just feel that no candidate, candidate team, or slate should be breaking any sort of laws.
- xxix. *Drenkhan*: Article III.C.1. Do you mean students that pay tuition and other fees?
- xxx. *Marsilio*: Yes, students who pay their fees.
- xxxi. *Souders*: For Article I.B.1.c, if one invalid signature is discovered on a petition, does that invalidate all the other signatures on that petition or just that one?
- xxxii. *Marsilio*: Just that one.
- xxxiii. *Shaffer*: What does Article V.C mean? Why do these discovered errors have to be submitted for approval?
- xxxiv. *Marsilio*: If you're reading through this document and you discover a grammatical error and bring it to the Judicial Panel, we will make the necessary changes if they are necessary and actually incorrect, and will email the Vice President. We just want to make sure the process is expedited.
- xxxv. *Bock*: In reference to Article I.B.5.f, what is the rationale behind having valid signatures of 25% of the number of undergraduate students who voted in the last election.
- xxxvi. *Abby Waidelich*: 25% of the number of students who voted in the last year will be the number of signatures that presidential and vice presidential candidates will need for elections.
- xxxvii. *Marchese*: All those numbers are validated by the Office of Student Life.
- xxxviii. *Warnimont*: Article IV.A.1.d says that \$200 per instance of violation. Does that mean \$200 or disqualification?
- xxxix. *Marsilio*: That means a flat rate of \$200 per instance and a maximum penalty of disqualification.
  - xl. *Warnimont*: Does that mean the entire campaign could be disqualified if I am caught jaywalking?
  - xli. *Marsilio*: Potentially.
  - xlii. *Ferzacca*: Does that rule apply to all instances or only to those that affect campaigns?



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- xl.iii. *Abby Waidelich*: Previous campaign teams have broken federal laws. So stuffing mailboxes, for example, has happened previously, and the Judicial Panel has not been able to punish campaign teams for this. Punishments will be at the discretion of the Judicial Panel.
- xliv. *Ferzacca*: If one candidate is caught stuffing mailboxes, is that candidate responsible, or the entire slate?
  - xlv. *Marsilio*: The entire slate shares equal responsibility.
  - xlvi. *Marchese*: This is not a question.
- xlvii. *Honaker*: In reference to state and local law violations, have you thought about adding in a reporting system where campaigns can self-report and make sure that certain things are not held against the campaign if certain inappropriate actions are taken by individual members of a campaign?
- xlviii. *Marsilio*: We will consider it, thank you.
- xlix. *Weisman*: What is the motivation behind changing Article III.A.5?
  - l. *Abby Waidelich*: It was very biased each year based on the Chief Justice of the Judicial Panel.
    - li. *Marchese*: It is a grammatical fix.
  - lii. Motion to cap the question.**
  - liii. *Marchese*: Under the new bylaws, are candidates required to sign their name or just print their name on the signature petitions?
  - liv. *Marsilio*: Required that they sign, not just print.
  - lv. *Frank*: What's the background on this new addition to the bylaws?
  - lvi. *Marsilio*: They have always been a part of election bylaws.
  - lvii. *Rollins*: Federal law question. Would you be opposed to changing it to specify that the law cannot be broken to gain an edge in campaigns, and not just in other illegal activities like speeding, drinking, etc that are not related to campaigns?
  - lviii. *Marsilio*: Yes, but we will be keeping the election bylaws as is for now.
    - lix. *Kennedy*: Regarding what Senator Marchese was talking about, I get the idea behind it, but I don't know if I could potentially get in trouble with an OSU police officer or a federal corrections officer or with someone from another campaign. I think the distinction has to be made between these parties.



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- lx. *Honaker*: Two friendly amendments to Article V.C errors “do” not “does,” and these changes will be brought to the attention.
- lxi. *Abby Waidelich*: These will have to be brought back and cannot be changed at this time.
- lxii. *Cramer*: I think we’re close, but I think we need one more draft. For Article I.B.1.c, I suggest adding that this stipulates that it does not apply to ballot issues. Also, Article II.A.2.e, I suggest adding that this only applies to felonies, such as mailbox stuffing, rather than to misdemeanors, like underage drinking. Another question: in the past, it has been okay for someone to say “hey pull out your phone and vote now,” and it has *not* been okay for someone to say “hey here’s MY phone, please vote now.” To be honest, a lot of votes were solicited this way. I would suggest allowing someone to solicit votes using the potential voter’s device. Motion to table withdrawn.
- lxiii. *Bodey*: I would ask the Judicial Panel to consider some language in Article IV.B.3.a which says the Judicial Panel would “promptly notify” USG. In other areas of the document, the Judicial Panel specifies a 24-hour window. I would suggest specifying the time frame.
- lxiv. *Belfiglio*: Make specific felony like mailbox stuffing. Troubled me and other senators: response is that Judicial Panel handles case by case and with discretion. Leads to confusion, no precise answers to specific questions.
- lxv. *Warnimont*: Article I.B.5.g have to be at the top of the page?
- lxvi. *Abby Waidelich*: Yes.
- lxvii. Tabled.**
- lxviii. *Abby Waidelich*: Additions, suggestions, questions, improvements should all be directed to the Judicial Panel. It is your responsibility to reach out the Judicial Panel.

## VII. New Business

- a. Dentistry Vacancy Election
  - i. Move into Executive Session.**
  - ii. Sami Mubarak elected as the Dentistry Senator.**
- b. Nursing Vacancy Election
  - i. Nursing election tabled.**



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- c. 48-R-14 A Resolution to Enhance Organizational Outreach
- i. *Kennedy*: In the past, there have been requirements for each senator to hold a constituency event, but we feel that the Allocations committee has not been utilized very much by a huge variety of student organizations on campus. We're trying to achieve better connections with the people that we represent, because we cannot sit in here and say that we do not know the needs of our constituents. What better way to figure out those needs than by going to meetings where all of them are located?
  - ii. *Rollins*: We want to go out and tell our constituents to please try to take advantage of USG's resources.
  - iii. *Glass*: I appreciate the spirit of this resolution. I just have some questions, especially since I am the regional campus senator. This mentions the Student Activity Fee a lot and how it relates to the Allocations Committee. The regional campus students do not pay into the Student Activity Fee on the Columbus campus, so does this resolution consider Coke funds for the Allocations committee, and does this resolution mandate that I drive to a regional campus twice every semester, or face the fact that I could be removed from office if I don't?
  - iv. *Kennedy*: Regarding your question about the Coca Cola funds, it would be at the discretion of Jenna in the Allocations committee. As far as your role as Regional Campus Senator, what happened last year?
  - v. *Abby Waidelich*: You can reach out to your constituency or your committee.
  - vi. *Belfiglio*: Line 6 says that it was introduced to the Outreach Committee. Was it supposed to say Steering?
  - vii. *Marchese*: No.
  - viii. *Belfiglio*: Are lines 40 and 41 referring to impeachment?
  - ix. *Abby Waidelich*: No. That's already in the bylaws. Grounds for removal are attendance and interacting with your constituency. This document specifies what two of those constituency events would be.
  - x. *Belfiglio*: I don't think a piece of legislation can change impeachment.





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- xi. *Marchese*: We're not changing it. This would be grounds for removal. This falls under the constituency events category.
- xii. *Punugu*: Commuter students only have one organization relevant to commuter students.
- xiii. *Rollins*: Could be something that commuter students are interested in, not just commuter student-specific organizations.
- xiv. *Singh*: How do we get each organization approved?
- xv. *Kennedy*: To my knowledge, you don't need to get approval for the constituency or committee meetings that you have. You just have to fill out the Google form that will be emailed to you.
- xvi. *Rollins*: You need to get it approved one week prior to when you are planning to meet with that committee. The intent is so that you do not email us two hours beforehand letting us know and expecting it to get approved.
- xvii. *Singh*: What if a Director or Deputy Director does not get back to me in one week?
- xviii. *Rollins*: That would be on them, not you. It would be within their duties.
- xix. *Kaczmarek*: If this passes today, will we have to do two events this semester, or will it have to be one, or..?
- xx. *Abby Waidelich*: It will be two this semester.
- xxi. *Honaker*: Neither of the commuter senators is on a committee, so we can't go to events relevant to our committee. And many commuter students aren't necessarily heavily involved in anything. There is one commuter student organization, so I'm not sure where we should go if we can't do anything with committees and if there are no other relevant organizations.
- xxii. *Abby Waidelich*: You will be on a committee.
- xxiii. *Warnimont*: I'm curious if any Director has thoughts on what the structure should be. Do you have plans to give Senators talking points?
- xxiv. *Kennedy*: Along with the Google form, we will provide an updated Powerpoint presentation, which we are in the process of fixing. It



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varies based on the organization you go to, since size and type of organization matters, but it would be at your discretion.

- xxv. *Belfiglio*: So you're saying the whole impeachment mechanism is up to the discretion of the Vice President?
- xxvi. *Marchese*: It's not impeachment. These would count towards your constituency events, potentially, because constituency events are up to Danielle, Jenna, and Vice President Waidelich.
- xxvii. *Cramer*: Can senators go to the same meetings?
- xxviii. *Kennedy*: No. The whole point is to reach out to different organizations and make sure our constituents know that Allocations is a resource they can go to.
- xxix. *Ferzacca*: Why is this a GA requirement and not a Cabinet initiative?
- xxx. *Kennedy*: As members of the GA, we are voted on by the people we represent, so we need to take the initiative to do this.
- xxxi. *Jackson*: For the living area senators, would we be required to go to organizations like activity councils in each residence hall?
- xxxii. *Kennedy*: Yes, those would count.
- xxxiii. *Jackson*: You want us all to go to different things? Well, South Campus only has 9 or 10 activities councils. Two semesters would be 12 or more, so what do we do?
- xxxiv. *Kennedy*: In that case, you can go to your committees. Those would count. If you'd like to attend other meetings, just validate why it's appropriate for you to go to those meetings.
- xxxv. *Honaker*: It's important for both of the commuter senators to go to the commuter student organization, so is there any way that the Director or Deputy Director can approve us to go there together and go there twice and have it count, since it is very important for us to connect with our constituents there?
- xxxvi. *Rollins*: We are aware that there is only one organization for commuter students, but it can only count for one person. The purpose of this resolution is to set the bare minimum for each senator.
- xxxvii. *Post*: Have you considered that senators may just choose two organizations they are already part of to attend meetings for?



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- xxxviii. *Rollins*: It's fine if senators do that, but the idea is to spread the message of USG.
- xxxix. *Underation*: All the questions were great, but I will say that sometimes with USG, we can get a bit jaded. I think that this requirement may not be ideal for your constituency in some cases, but as senators representing 60,000 students, you need to do that. It should be a requirement, and since it's not, it's a concern for all of us. As senators, you need to be reaching out to different organizations.
- xl. *Reed*: Jake asked why this isn't a Cabinet initiative. The Cabinet Directors are meeting with at least 15 student organizations as it is, and when we do, we don't mention General Assembly. So the reality is that the more people understand how much funding there is, and what we're actually doing here, the better.
- xli. *Gonzalez*: I think that this is a great bill.
- xlii. *Singh*: I have a friendly amendment. I think there should be more accountability. "Therefore Let it Be Resolved...organization selections need to be submitted to the Director or Deputy Director of Outreach one week prior to each presentation."
- xl.iii. *Belfiglio*: I don't understand, because some student organizations may not get back to people for a few weeks, and I don't understand why they need to be approved.
- xliv. *Cramer*: I would like to go off of what Senator Belfiglio said, and I respectfully disagree with the approval from Outreach. I think that would benefit the commuter students to say that they only have one commuter student organization. I think that would be a good reason to let Directors have approval rights. I think that would ease a lot of concerns that some constituents have.
- xlv. *Priest*: I got clarification from Senator Wydman, and she said that if two people go together to one organization, that it does count for one organization. It sounds different from what Senator Rollins said before.
- xlvi. *Rollins*: I defer to Senator Wydman.
- xlvii. *Kennedy*: Stross said otherwise, so I can ask him now.



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- xlvi. *Bock*: I'd like to speak on Senator Belfiglio's point. Part of the reason that approval is needed is to ensure that senators are not going to the same student organizations.
- xlvii. *Bock*: I'm not sure that's the best way to go about it. I think that we should be able to have a resolution that says that we're going to have a meeting with the senator and we're going to have a meeting with the senator and we're going to have a meeting with the senator.
- xlviii. *Bock*: I'd like to speak on Senator Belfiglio's point. Part of the reason that approval is needed is to ensure that senators are not going to the same student organizations.
- xlix. *Punugu*: I like this. I have problems with specific details because of my constituency. I'm also concerned that we cannot repeat certain organizations, because we're always going back to the one commuter group. Unless we have our own constituency organizations, we will not be going back to the same organization.
  - l. *Rollins*: We were discussing the approval thing. We're saying that you have to submit it for approval. You can just say hey this is the organization I want to talk to. You don't have to specify the specific day or date.
  - li. *Kennedy*: Stross said that if two people go to one event, he will count it for one event for both of them.
  - lii. *Post*: I really like this resolution, but I think that if we really wanted to increase outreach, it should specify organizations that we aren't already a part of.
  - liii. *Honaker*: I'm definitely glad that we can both go and have it count. One of my concerns is the no repeat thing again. With the commuter constituency, there's not much to do event-wise. You can stand out on the West lot and hand out whatever we need to hand out. It's not all about the commuter constituency, but it's very limited for the commuter constituency.
  - liv. *Poe*: It is up to the Director's discretion, so I'm sure that the Director will be able to address these concerns.
  - lv. *Chang*: I second what Poe just said.
  - lvi. **Motion to call the question.**
  - lvii. PASSED with 3 opposed and 1 abstention.
- d. 48-R-15 A Resolution to Continue to Support the Inclusion of a Mental Health Statement on Course Syllabi
  - i. *Belfiglio*: Abby spoke at University Senate including a mental health statement on syllabi, so this is a bill saying that we propose that. It's the same bill that was passed last year, so this is just us passing it again. We just want to get the ball rolling on this soon.



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- ii. *Weisman*: Why does this have to be passed tonight?
- iii. *Abby Waidelich*: University Senate has a very strict procedure put in place, so we want this to happen next semester, so to do that we have to get the ball rolling pretty quickly. It has to hit the Council on Academic Affairs, and Steering, so it has to pass tonight if we want to make that deadline.
- iv. **Move into discussion.**
- v. **Motion to bring it to the floor.**
- vi. *Belfiglio*: Part of Abby's speech last week mentioned including a mental health statement on syllabi, and many faculty were very receptive to that. This is important because it's getting the information out to students, and it can help to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health on our campus.
- vii. **Two minute in-house recess.**
- viii. *Marchese*: Friendly amendment: "Therefore Let it Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government recommends that all Ohio State University encourage..."
- ix. *Glass*: Friendly amendment to strike the asterisks before the floor vote.
- x. *Souders*: Friendly amendment to add a footnote defining "diagnosable mental illness."
- xi. *Abby Waidelich*: To speak on the impact of this, my speech didn't mention this as a specific policy point. One question that a faculty member asked was "Have you thought of including a mental health statement on syllabi?" Following that, multiple departments reached out to ask me for sample statements to include on syllabi. This is a really cool and awesome response, and I want to capitalize on that.
- xii. *Warnimont*: Friendly amendment to make the line numbers follow and look how they're supposed to look.
- xiii. *Frank*: Friendly amendment to line 12 stating "The Ohio State University Counseling and Consultation Services."
- xiv. *Underation*: We would have to remove "at Ohio State."
- xv. *Belfiglio*: I appreciate everyone's scrutiny, because this is going to University Senate.



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**xvi. Motion to pass with unanimous consent.**

xvii. PASSED with unanimous consent.

**VIII. Announcements**

- a. *Jackson*: South Campus Senators will be having our constituency event this Friday starting at 12:30pm.
- b. *Luther*: I will be sending out an email to set up a meeting to address and collect our concerns about the Election Bylaws.
- c. *Drenkhan*: Natural and Mathematical Sciences Senators will be having our constituency event next Monday and Wednesday morning with Buckeye Donuts and coffee.
- d. *Marchese*: Oversight people please, please read the resolutions and make comments. I feel authoritarian making the only comments.
- e. *Abby Waidelich*: This week is National Mental Health Awareness Week, so just realize that we've had a few long meetings in here during midterms week, but be sure to take time for yourself this week. Enjoy your time during Fall Break and try to find happiness.

**IX. Adjournment**