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49th General Assembly
Autumn 2016, Session 7
September 21, 2016

I. Opening

- a. Call to Order
- b. Attendance
 - i. Polavarapu for Brobst
 - ii. Spanbauer for Brobst
 - iii. Kanen for Kachnowski
 - iv. Moqwad for Jambunath
 - v. Dennen for Lovejoy
 - vi. Quadri for Serfozo
 - vii. Barnett for Nitta
 - viii. LaPointe for Jagoe
 - ix. Mangalam for Prayner
- c. Swearing in of Alternates
- d. Approval of Minutes
 - i. Minutes APPROVED

II. Open Forum for Public

- a. No one

III. Updates

- a. *Danielle Di Scala*: The constituency reports are due tonight. I know we've had Google Drive problems so please just get them in by the end of the week. The Constitution and Bylaw Review Commission applications are due Saturday at 12 pm. Every five years a commission is formed to review the bylaws and the constitution. It must have one member from cabinet, one from GA and one person from the public, so please tell your friends to apply.
- b. *Warnimont*: Where is it on the website?
- c. *Di Scala*: It's currently only on the Facebook page, but we're working on getting it on the website.
- d. Frank: How many people will be on the board?
- e. Di Scala: The bylaws do not specify. We will decide that based on who applied. They also have to be approved by the General Assembly.
- f. Lui: When I clicked on the link the text wasn't visible to me.
- g. Di Scala: I noticed that when I was making it. I wanted people to be able to see what they are typing. I'll work on fixing that, but for right



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now you can work on it in a Word document and copy paste it to the form.

IV. Executive Report

- a. *Gerard Basalla*: Dr. J and I met this morning to talk about STEP. We're also working on getting student representatives for that. Having the syllabus online before registering for class has been an initiative for a long time and it's good to see it come to fruition. We believe many professors will use this new syllabus. Academic Affairs has been working on this for a while. We also had an extensive meeting with Campus Partners. In the area between 14th Street and off campus there's been discussion on what will be there. We are going to be taking student input.
- b. *Bidna*: Do they not have a solid idea of what to put there?
- c. *Basalla*: They have an idea for the structure but not who would be there in terms of restaurants, bars, and other businesses.
- d. *Shaffer*: How much input do we have?
- e. *Basalla*: They need student approval for business so they need student input.
- f. *Shaffer*: Will old businesses be invited back?
- g. *Basalla*: They are looking into bringing back student business. I'm not saying that Two's is coming back, but they could say "We have this area, do you want to come back?". That's just an example many people use. Thank you.

V. Committee Report

- a. Oversight—*Mario Belfiglio*
 - i. Oversight has a lot to consider, but we can't meet this week due to the retreat. We also want to clarify what an abstention is. It is a 'no' because a bill needs a majority to pass. It comes from a clause in the constitution, so this could be a thing reviewed by CBRC in the future. If there are forty-four votes and a bill needs 23 votes to pass, then an abstention would still count as part of the total votes. It's not a situation where votes will be taken out of a smaller number, it will still be the same. This hasn't been a problem yet, but just for future reference.



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- b. Allocations— *Derek Whiddon*
 - i. Allocations funded
 - 1. Baha Buckeyes- \$626.25
 - 2. Alpha Phi Alpha - \$1000
 - ii. We will be passing the budget Sunday on the retreat.
 - iii. *Bidna*: is there a time for the meeting on the retreat.
 - iv. *Whiddon*: Not yet.

VI. Old Business

- a. No old business.

VII. New Business

- a. College of Social Work Vacancy Seat Election
 - i. Motion to enter executive session.**
 - ii. Entered executive session.**
- b. College of Public Health Vacancy Seat Election
 - i. Exited Executive session.**
 - ii. Motion for five-minute recess.**
 - iii. Recess approved.**
- c. *49-R-13 A Resolution to Implement a Feedback Form for University Dining Services*
 - i. *Chang*: The history of this resolution is detailed in the beginning, but it is basically a better and more transparent feedback form. Dining services would get feedback and would have to get back to a student in a reasonable amount of time. Gianna D'Apolito worked hard on this and Michael Frank edited this. Let me know if you have any questions.
 - ii. *Frank*: If you look at the footnotes you will see what other universities are doing. We want students to feel like they are being heard or students won't submit comments.
 - iii. *Fecht*: I feel this is a straight-forward resolution. I'm in favor of making things more accessible and more transparent and I feel that this does that. This is especially important now with how many students are on campus with dining plans.
 - iv. *Lui*: Can other people see the reports as well?



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- v. *Chang*: There is an option to be anonymous and we have an idea of what we would like. If you would like a response, you would provide your email address and phone number and Dining will get back to you. Other students would not be able to see it. It is meant to be between Dining Services and the student.
- vi. *Buss*: This isn't a Google form, right? Is this a university mandated site?
- vii. *Chang*: I don't know if this would be its own site at this time because they have had problems with technology. We just want students to know that they will get a response from Dining Services.
- viii. *Abusway*: What currently exists submitting comments to Dining Services? Do they have an FAQ to make things easier?
- ix. *Chang*: The third and fourth clauses detail what is currently there. They just have an email address and have no FAQ.
- x. *Warnimont*: Have there been complaints that Dining hasn't gotten back from students?
- xi. *Chang*: I had a debacle last year with them with unresponsive emails. When I added my signature that said I was a South Campus senator, they got back from me in a day. This form is more feasible for most students because a lot of people would not receive responses if they just had the email.
- xii. *Vargo*: What is USG planning for students to know about this?
- xiii. *Chang*: The details for marketing will be discussed later, but this resolution is on the advocacy side right now.
- xiv. *Clark*: How would this guarantee that students would get responses from Dining?
- xv. *Chang*: This is mostly the advocacy side right now so when this is passed we can discuss implementation with Dining. It cannot be guaranteed right now, but we are pushing for this.
- xvi. *Dorony*: Does this form regard long lines or the quality of the food?
- xvii. *Chang*: It can be both. Someone can say "I think more staff should be there". Dining can respond how they will.
- xviii. **Motion to cap speaker's list.**



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- xix. Speakers list capped.**
- xx. *Vargo*: How do we know that what is expressed will be taken into consideration?
- xxi. *Chang*: If this is passed I can use this to work with Dining to make this happen.
- xxii. *Lui*: Can student employees also use this to voice concerns, in terms of discrimination or cleanliness?
- xxiii. *Chang*: They could, but I would recommend that they go to their advisors or their advisor's advisors.
- xxiv. **Moved to Discussion**
- xxv. *Lui*: I would like a form for student employees to report discrimination because I felt I was discriminated against. I have heard from him but nothing has happened since. I want to make sure something is done.
- xxvi. *Warnimont*: I think this resolution an effective way to be more transparent.
- xxvii. *Vargo*: I think this is a great way to get the students heard and I think that anything that can get students to administration can be approved.
- xxviii. *Depuy*: I think this is great because I've tried to contact them before. By having this form, they can put stuff into categories and they can affectively respond so I'm in favor of this.
- xxix. Speaker's list capped**
- xxx. *Buss*: I think this is awesome and something that we really can use and I think what exists currently is a not effective way and the email can get bogged down. In terms of dealing with workplace discrimination, BART reports can be used to deal with this. I don't know if your situation would fall under that. In terms of Dining we know that we have done something to help students.
- xxxi. *Shaffer*: As a business major it pains me to see the lines at Scott or hear that people don't want to work for Dining, so I support this resolution.
- xxxii. *Clark*: I am shocked this haven't happened yet. This should happen.



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xxxiii. *Chang*: Senator Lui, I'm sorry that happened. You can report discrimination at studentlife.osu.edu/bias. I would like to draw attention back to the intent of the resolution which is so students can have a better interaction with actually Dining.

xxxiv. *Frank*: I back director Chang.

xxxv. Called to question.

xxxvi. 49-R-13 A Resolution to Implement a Feedback Form for University Dining Services **PASSED.**

d. *49-R-14 A Resolution to Support the Passage of H.R. 3861 and S. 2457 The Employer Participation in Repayment Act of 2016*

i. *Bodey*: This comes out of Governmental Relations committee, where I am a deputy director. This resolution regards pieces of federal legislation that are sitting in committee. We don't expect these to pass this session, but we think these are marker bills that will be a priority in the next congress. Both of these bills are identical in the House. This is a bill sponsored by both parties. If you want more information you can go to the links below. This resolution would treat student loans like 401ks. The government doesn't collect taxes on 401ks to encourage saving for retirement. This would work in the same way but for OSU grads paying off student debt. This is an incentive. It doesn't require businesses to pay off loans and it is not a burden on small business. It is an asset to them. The average grad incurs \$26,000 in debt. I would highly encourage you to remember that all your constituents carry that debt and that many students don't graduate because of debt. We want to pass this to show that student loan debt is important. We feel that passing this would send a message that we want this to be a priority in the next Congress. For full disclosure and transparency, I am a Democrat and the other person who wrote it with me, Shawn Semmler, is a Republican. This resolution is bipartisan.

ii. *Moore*: I wanted to stress the bipartisan element. Both in the Senate and House there is bipartisan support. We should pass this with unanimous consent. This is a political issue and we



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should try to make this political in this body. All the sponsors are bipartisan.

- iii. *Vargo*: There is more hassle for businesses to pay off debt. We want people to have the best incentive to get more jobs and this would stimulate the economy.
- iv. *Bodey*: I would like to yield the rest of my time to Shawn Semmler.
- v. *Semmler*: I am deputy director in Governmental Relations. We reached out to companies and congressional offices when writing this resolution. In terms of numbers, there is real change for us in the room. It saves years of stress and thousands of dollars in the bank. It's frustrating because bills like this are put on the bottom tier. Our next step is tomorrow and we want to use this resolution passed by the General Assembly. We have identified universities and constituents and ask for their support so we can go to Capitol Hill. That won't start unless we pass this right now.
- vi. *Warnimont*: Will this new incentive for employers discourage companies from investing in retirement?
- vii. *Semmler*: We are taking 2-3 steps forward and only one step back for 401k. Only 2-3 percent of businesses do this now. We want to see 25% in the future. If every business paid the maximum, which they won't, we lose \$14.5 billion. If you look at the default number, my sister's graduating class of 1.7 million students took on \$4.5 billion in default. That money is never being paid back. There is a larger problem on the other side. It is a risk management problem.
- viii. **Speakers list capped.**
- ix. *Quadri*: Has this been taken into account for international students who have a really big loan? Will this disincentivize businesses from hiring international students?
- x. *Bodey*: No, the amount paid is the same for every student. The goal is not to pay off the entire loan, only to a point, which is the level at which the IRS would be extending the cut.
- xi. **Discussion**
- xii. **Motion to pass with unanimous consent.**



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xiii. *49-R-14 A Resolution to Support the Passage of H.R. 3861 and S. 2457 The Employer Participation in Repayment Act of 2016*
PASSED.

e. 49-R-15 A Resolution to Support the Inclusion of a Mental Health Statement on Course Syllabi

- i. *Frank:* This comes from the Health and Safety committee. It is about including a statement about mental health resources in the syllabi. We believe mental health should be added to this. We believe this is vital because a student cannot succeed if they are not healthy. Syllabi are there to help students succeed and this is one thing that can help them. There is a draft of the statement that would be included at the bottom of the resolution. This was introduced by Abby Waidelich and Danielle Di Scala last year. This would just inform students about the resources and where they are located. Counseling and Consultation Services does a great job when students get into them but if you can't get into them that a problem. If a student can't get help, then that's a problem.
- ii. *Chang:* This was passed last year as an advocacy resolution. We cannot require their enforcement, but this is a good first step. Reduce stigma. It is okay to ask for help.
- iii. *Fecht:* I have nothing to add.
- iv. *Adisum:* there is no limit to how much we can publicize this because every student gets a syllabi and this is a good way to start it off.
- v. Moved to Discussion**
- vi. *Chang:* Friendly amendment.
- vii. *Frank:* Friendly amendment.
- viii. *Buss:* I think this is awesome. I have struggled this semester with mental health more than I ever had. I am an informed student so I could go to CSS, but not every student is as informed with this. When you are crippled with anxiety or depression it may be hard to even find resources. If it is on multiple syllabi it makes it easier to find.



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- ix. Abusway: People don't realize how important it is to put statements on syllabi. They are crucial to success so people are looking at syllabi frequently. I saw this statement on a syllabus already and I thought it was the coolest thing because not everyone knows this exists. This is critical.
- x. *Warnimont*: Friendly amendments.
- xi. Motion to pass with unanimous consent.**
- xii. Motion failed.**
- xiii. Move to call the question.**
- xiv. Question called.**
- xv. *49-R-15 A Resolution to Support the Inclusion of a Mental Health Statement on Course Syllabi* **PASSED.**

VIII. Announcements

- a. Di Scala: Fill out constituency reports. If you're interested, please apply to CBRC. I'll see you at the retreat. Steering committee, please see me after.
- b. Chang: CCS is hosting Recess, a destressing and relaxation event, on Thursday October 6th. There is a volunteer form on the Facebook page and if you volunteer for four hours you can get a fanny pack or cozy.
- c. Lui: I would like to say that the Student Wellness Center offers wellness coaching, but I wasn't given the opportunity.
- d. Shaffer: I would like to say that my mom called to tell me that my beagle was given a professional bath for her vacation in South Carolina.
- e. Branum: Vote Body for homecoming!

IX. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned.