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49th General Assembly
Autumn 2016, Session 14
December 7, 2016

- I. Opening**
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Attendance
 - c. Swearing in of Alternates
 - d. Approval of Minutes
 - i. Minutes Approved.

- II. Open Forum for Public**
 - a. No one

- III. Executive Report**
 - a. *Mario Belfiglio*: Danielle and Gerard are not here because they are representing USG at President Drake's party. Their report is: have a good break.

- IV. Committee Report**
 - a. Oversight—*Mario Belfiglio*: Oversight met this week and we met a candidate. We lost Ryan Moore from the Oversight Committee so we need a new member. There will be an election tonight. The rules are still in oversight. There was a lot of discussion last year. Please read through them over break so we can have a good discussion when we get back.
 - b. *Allocations*—
 - i. *Whiddon*: We awarded four organizational development grants to organizations that are chartered. They are not event specific; they can be operation funds.
 - ii. There are two pending groups and once we pass Q3 we will be looking at those. Thank you, have a good break.

- V. Old Business**
 - a. No old business.

- VI. New Business**
 - a. *49-R-26 A Resolution to Appoint a Member to the Judicial Panel*
 - b. *Belfiglio*: I am introducing this on behalf of Danielle [Di Scala]. The candidate for the Judicial Panel is Benjamin Omar Allen. He went



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through Steering Committee on Sunday and we thought he showed a lot of legal experience. We think he will be good fit. If you have any questions you can ask him.

- i. *Alan*: My name is Benjamin Allen and I applied to be on the Judicial Panel over break.
- ii. *Frank*: What experiences did Ben present to the committee?
- iii. *Allen*: I was a law clerk so I had to draft things and run things back and forth in the court. I also did mock trial for four years and lawyers came in a coached us and judged our competition. I have extensive experience in legal things.
- iv. ***Moved to discussion.***
- v. ***Motion to pass with unanimous consent.***
- vi. ***49-R-26 A Resolution to Appoint a Member to the Judicial Panel PASSED.***

c. *49-R-27 A Resolution to Support the Inclusion of a Seal of Biliteracy on Collegiate Diplomas and Transcripts*

- i. *Clark*: I'm going to yield my time to Kate Greer.
- ii. *Greer*: My name is Kate Greer and I'm a first year committee representative for Academic Affairs. I've been working with the idea of Seals of Biliteracy since I was a senior in high school, so I brought my work here to Ohio State. If I may, I want to tell a few stories so that you may have a better understanding of why it is my belief that you should support this resolution. It was a crazy, amazing coincidence that my random roommate and I speak the same language. Of course, she and I both speak English, but in this context, I'm referring to German. I've been speaking German for five years and I'm also a German major. My roommate has been speaking since before she could walk and converses with her relatives in Germany on the phone all the time. I was surprised to hear that she shouldn't be taking up the language as a second major or a minor. She's an animal science major, which requires every bit of her attention, so there's no time for her to take up any other course of study. Yet she has a skill that not many other college freshmen have; she can proficiently converse in another form of communication.



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Then there's my other friend, Analee, who I met in the dining hall earlier this fall. As a result of spending the year abroad in Scandinavia, she can now speak fluent Finnish, a language that isn't offered for students to learn at Ohio State. Nonetheless, whether she acquired this ability in a classroom or through immersion in another culture, there is presently no way for the university, and in turn, future potential employers, to recognize her accomplishment. All across our incredibly diverse campus, there are multilingual Buckeyes, from students who grew up speaking two or three languages at home to students who have spent countless hours studying and perfecting another form of communication. Some of these people are international students, who are challenged every single day as they learn, interact, and function in a language that isn't their native speech. Some of these people are now practicing these languages as a major or minor, and some of them are not. But all of them deserve to be recognized for the ability they have – an ability that is incredibly valuable in our every-increasingly interconnected and globalized world. One week ago, the Ohio House of Representatives passed House Bill 487, more commonly referred to as the Seal of Biliteracy. This legislation, if made into law, will create a stamp for high school diplomas that indicates that a graduate is proficient in more than one language. Throughout high school, I was proponent of bilingualism, and because of this I was lucky enough to deliver testimony to the Ohio House last spring for this bill. This autumn, when I arrived at Ohio State, I realized that a Seal of Biliteracy would be even more impactful at the college level. What this Seal does is indicate to employers and graduate schools that applicants without a multilingual major or minor can converse and operate in more than one language. This seal serves as a university-sanctioned stamp of approval on a student's communication skills, a credible confirmation to back up a person's job application statement that they are proficient in a another language. In today's economy, workers who speak more than one language are highly valued, yet in America,



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where about 25 percent of the population is multilingual, these workers are very rare. This Seal of Biliteracy would inform universities and employers of a young person's ambition and marketability, their desire to improve our relations with the rest of the world. I believe very strongly in the Seal as a representation of hard work, a student's determination to go above and beyond. And of course, implementation of the Seal of Biliteracy will serve as a testament to Ohio State's commitment to diversity and strong, positive inter-group relations. In the long term, I hope that the Seal will encourage young Americans to view their language studies as an opportunity to open doors, rather than as a credit to be completed as quickly as possible – and then forgotten. The study of foreign languages has become more important than ever in the age of globalism, and while much of the country seems to have discounted it, by passing the Seal of Biliteracy, Undergraduate Student Government can show that Ohio has not. Thank you.

- iii. *Abusway*: This would be even better for college students to show that students can converse and communicate in another language. This is a credible statement that they can operation in another language. Only 25 of the population is bilingual in the us. This shows their ambition. This shows student's ability to go above and beyond and show the university's commitment to diversity. I want students to view this as as an opportunity to open doors, not just a requirement. By passing this USG can show that Ohio State is.
- iv. *Clark*: I want to commend Kate and if we pass this tonight, we will be the first college to pass this Seal of Biliteracy.
- v. *Nader*: Just to clarify, this is something that can be achieved through the three course level that students are required to take.
- vi. How would you test proficiency?
- vii. *Greer*: It does require an assessment, especially for languages that aren't spoken, like Latin. This would require the



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- development of an assessment that we would assess with the language department.
- viii. *Liu*: How would the university test languages that aren't offered?
- ix. *Greer*: I would think that they can find native speakers that speak these languages.
- x. *Bidna*: How would you seek this for international students that are learning to speak English?
- xi. *Greer*: I'm not sure how the process would work because it's not by expertise, but we could work on that.
- xii. *Bodey*: I know students that speak a different language at home. My best friend is half Cuban half Spanish and he spoke it at home in Ohio. Would he have to take a foreign language course?
- xiii. *Clark*: We are not sure, but we just want to make it so that this seal is brought of OSU. It would probably go to academic affairs.
- xiv. *Belfiglio*: I'm on AA and your friend could take the test to get credit for the language. I'm not sure if it would also require a proficiency thesis.
- xv. *Frank*: If this were to pass, what would Academic Affairs do?
- xvi. *Clark*: we would like to see a University Senate proposal or a highlight at the BTS conference and other universities can pursue it as well.
- xvii. *Bidna*: Have you spoken to administrators?
- xviii. *Greer*: That's our next step.
- xix. *Liu*: I would like to comment on your saying of young American students. OSU has 8 percent international students and I don't think it's professional to only say American students.
- xx. *Bidna*: This bothers me that this doesn't include students who have language outside of the university. Having a process that doesn't speak that language, I don't see a way to test this right now.
- xxi. *Kennedy*: I am just interested to see the further legislation coming from a gr perspective. Obviously that was just high school and we can see what we can do on the legislative side.



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- xxii. *Merchant*: I wanted to bring up the pint in the original speech. This is fulfilling the need to get recognized for languages that aren't offered. I thinking this is a great first step and a great way for international students but this sets the stage for the program to start and expand in the future.
- xxiii. *Abusway*; I don't want people to get hung up on the assessment part. We understand that languages aren't offered here and that is the pint. If that is using the resources established. I want people to focus on the idea of other students getting recognized through other things.
- xxiv. *Clark*: This seal doesn't just affect American born citizens. We want international students to have this as well. This is just saying that USG supports this and the rest is left to governance. If you have any questions about the future, talk to me after and I can include it in the University Senate resolution.
- xxv. Motion to call the question.**
- xxvi. Motion with drawn.**
- xxvii. Motion to cap the speakers list.**
- xxviii. Speakers list is capped.**
- xxix. *Polavarapu*: As an international student I think this is a good idea. When I got here I didn't want to take more language classes because I'm kind of done with that. There is a test from the center of languages and cultures. OSU can take care of the assessment so don't worry about that.
- xxx. *Liu*: I wasn't doubting the resolution, if fact I support it. I was just talking about the speech that was given and I clearly heard "American students", not that I don't hate resolution.
- xxxi. 49-R-27 A Resolution to Support the Inclusion of a Seal of Biliteracy on Collegiate Diplomas and Transcripts **PASSED**.**

- d. *49-R-28 A Resolution to To Encourage the Adoption of Affordable Practices Regarding Textbook Selection*



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- i. *Sullivan*: As you may remember a few weeks ago there was a resolution that Maria and I pushed through about textbooks. Samer [Abusway] and the AA committee was presented with the opportunity to present our recommendations on textbooks and we worked on making this report. This is the resolution version as that report. It covers all areas of textbook affordability in a compact format so we don't need many resolutions.
- ii. *Abusway*: When we presented the resolution a few weeks ago some said that the resolution doesn't have much bite. This has strong recommendations and tells how the administration can fix it. I want to thank Kimmy [Sullivan] and Maria [Vargo] for their work and I hope to see this pass.
- iii. *Vargo*: I want to reiterate that we've been working hard on having this pass and get the attention of the administration. We are acknowledging whether books are required so it says on the syllabus.
- iv. **Moved to questions.**
 - v. *Bodey*: Could Director Abusway elaborate on how he was sent to a conference and what was discussed. That's big expenditure so I hope something came from that.
 - vi. *Abusway*: I am not trying to dismiss that but the libraries payed for it. It was called OpenCon, and being on the education side I focused on that. We looked at what other universities across the world are doing. The Affordable Learning Exchange in ODE handles everything I learned at OpenCon. They are the ones that so kindly sent me to D.C. and we recommend that they be given more attention and expanded in the expansion of the organization. We want to work with the administration.
 - vii. *Bodey*: I know that some students who might be having a difficult time paying for textbooks can apply for additional need. Is that mentioned in the last clause?
 - viii. *Abusway*; It does not address that, no.
 - ix. *Frank*: The ALE, can we go into how we can expand it?
 - x. *Abusway*; What I wanted to touch on, the report might do a better job, but the program is a way professors can apply for



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- grants, but professors are not using the resources. When I talk to Wayne Carlson and others, we talk about how it isn't marketed very well and expanding marketing might help it.
- xi. *Bidna*: I have a question about the wording on the 6 resolve clause; these words are not concrete, except for the let it further be resolved to incentive professors. Of all the clauses, that should be the ones professors are doing. Why is it not more firm?
- xii. *Sullivan*: We know that this doesn't go into effect and these are just recommendations. I wrote it that way because I can't say that professors do this because I can't make them do anything. We can't make them do anything as a body and that's why it's worded that way.
- xiii. *Abusway*: I agree that professors should be doing this, but we can't mandate this, we just want to give them motivation.
- xiv. *Frank*: I am confused what you are getting at there. I can see where Senator Bidna is coming from; why should we incentivize professors for what they should be doing anyway?
- xv. *Abusway*: Book orders have to be submitted by April 15 and they are now being submitted August 1st by some professors. It is state law that they are submitted by this date. It was Jeff Chatis' idea to do this. Waiting that long to submit books costs student 2 million dollars. This investment will save students 2.5 million.
- xvi. *Frank*: Why is it that submitting this at a later date drives the cost up?
- xvii. *Abusway*: Barnes and Noble needs time and if professors don't submit it in time, it takes more work from Barnes and Noble. It is supply and demand if they don't know what is needed they can't order it. In terms of time and levels of grants, I encourage everyone to look at the grants. A lot of professors have the mentality that they have been teaching it the same way for ten years and it takes incentive to change this.
- xviii. *Bodey*: I believe one of my professors said that McGraw Hill textbook sales people wait outside his doors. Is there a way to limit textbook sales people coming in. I believe he said it



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happened five times. Can we do something about this, like go through an office?

- xix. *Abusway*: That is an agreement with Barnes and Noble and I don't think there's much we can do about it.
- xx. *Bodey*: Can we make this part of the criteria for faculty awards or tenure?
- xxi. *Abusway*: I tried to do this and I talked to Wayne Carleston about this. The provost is also for this, but touching tenure is difficult.
- xxii. *Bodey*: Once upon a time, USG was doing a textbook exchange.
- xxiii. *Abusway*: We learned that it was against the contract.
- xxiv. *Frank*: I'm sorry, but why are we incentivizing professors again?
- xxv. *Abusway*: We encourage and support incentivizing getting textbooks in on time and that is all I am saying.
- xxvi. *Quadri*: What companies does Ohio State have contracts with? I know Barnes and Noble is a really annoying one.
- xxvii. *Abusway*: It is pretty much Barnes and Noble.
- xxviii. *Quadri*: Are there specific companies that partner with academic departments?
- xxix. *Abusway*: The reason for that is textbooks are determined by the college. They are probably all going through one so that there is consistency.
- xxx. *Quadri*: Who is the person who approves of third party contracts? Who approved that Barnes and Noble would be the provider?
- xxxi. *Belfiglio*: It would have gone through University Senate at the time. There is also SBX but it is usually the same prices.
- xxxii. *Chang*: I believe that the contract is one of our affinity agreements and they are not transparent to the student body.
- xxxiii. *Quadri*: Do you see any University Senate proposal in the future for the incentive?
- xxxiv. *Bidna*: Is there any work with University Senate and the administration?
- xxxv. *Abusway*: I served on dlit and the members on it. What that committee talks about is that is a committee on Academic



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Affairs and it focuses on textbook affordability and I have a meeting next week with the director of libraries.

- xxxvi. *Liu*: What other schools have this?
- xxxvii. *Abusway*: The University of Minnesota has a great open source library and we want to model ours off of theirs.
- xxxviii. *Frank*: Is that library a substantial cost?
- xxxix. *Abusway*: On the site, it says that Ohio State is listed on the front page and I don't think it comes to much cost at all but the idea of open source is free.
 - xl. *Katcren*: In regard to the library, is there a way to search for journal libraries?
 - xli. *Abusway*: Our search is not great, but with classes like econ, it would be great to have that. Instead of buying a book, we would go to open source.
- xlii. ***Moved to discussion.***
- xliii. *Belfiglio*: On limiting how we can limit textbooks and the salesman, all you can do is say to go away. It is up to the lecturer, department head or professor to choose the textbook because the choice of textbook is academic freedom. This is a tricky subject and we can't change that. Changing tenure docs is the hardest thing and is not on the University Senate level and departments don't change them very often.
- xliv. *Frank*: On Senator Bodey's comments about barring lobbyists, it's saying not that they should not be there, but how they should be there so we have a process they can go through. This is a great resolution and I'm sick of paying hundreds of dollars and paying for stupid access codes that don't help. I commend Academic Affairs on this resolution.
- xlv. **49-R-28 A Resolution to To Encourage the Adoption of Affordable Practices Regarding Textbook Selection**
PASSED.



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- e. *Oversight Committee Election*
 - i. *Befliglio*: We meet once or twice a month at 2 o'clock to discuss changes on bylaws, etc. We are a rules and appointment type body. If more than one person wants to join we will have elections.
 - ii. *Frank*: If no one volunteers, we need to put someone on there.
 - iii. *Shaffer*: It's not a big commitment.
 - iv. *Befliglio*: I will let you know when the meetings are. The bylaws say that we need nine voting members.
 - v. *Shaffer*: Can alternates appoint themselves?
 - vi. *Befliglio*: We need someone appointed in name to that seat.
 - vii. *Lovejoy*: I'll volunteer, but do I have to give a speech?
 - viii. *Befliglio*: if no one else volunteers, we will vote.
 - ix. ***Lovejoy voted in as member.***

VII. Announcements

- a. *Liu*: This Sunday in the Great Hall meeting room is OUAB craft night. It's free.
- b. *Abusway*: I want to encourage all to fill out their SEIs.
- c. *Shaffer*: Get enough sleep. Dot was on the phone and she wishes you all a good finals week.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned.