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48th **General Assembly**
Fall 2015, Session 12
October 28, 2015

I. Opening

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

II. Guest Speaker

a. *Matt Couch, USG Advisor*

- i. I'm glad to be here in front of a fully assembled General Assembly, after only seeing you for your inauguration and last semester at a meeting in the spring. This is the first occasion I've had to be able to come to one of these meetings during this semester, since I'm the coach for my kids' soccer team on Tuesday and Wednesday nights.
- ii. I'm the Director of Student Activities and Orientation in the Office of Student Life. I oversee portions of orientation for undergraduates, graduates, and international students. I've been the advisor for USG for 13 years, and I've been with the University for 18 years now. I had a student government career of my own, and my first role was in W&M's equivalent of the General Assembly. I was elected to represent my residence hall. How quickly I forgot that I had been elected by a certain population, and how I entered into the chamber voting with my own conscience rather than in the mindset of a leader with a constituency. If you were ever in a mindset in that way, I'm sure you've all moved past that and are starting to work on your own agenda for a bit. For the record, I matured a lot as a student leader, and the beginning of my student leadership experience was definitely a very important part of my maturity process. My experience was not the same as yours in that W&M's was much more symbolic and ceremonial and nominal than Ohio State's current student government. How many of you are in University Senate?



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- iii. I can't express how rare of an opportunity you have in shared governance with University Senate. When you correspond with peers at other universities, I'd bet that the value and impact and access of your student government definitely "beat" that of your other university counterparts. I hope to support student government. If you're working on a piece of legislation, or you're just doing research for a piece of legislation, I would love to chat with you about what it is you're getting into, so that I can help to provide any context you need. I've learned quite about how the University functions. Although many things have changed at face value, a lot of the things and ways Ohio State does business remain the same. I'd encourage you to reach out to me and utilize me as a resource. I'd like to clarify that you're not accountable to me as USG's Advisor. I'm just a resource. I'd never want to unduly influence you with my agenda. I haven't wanted to always be present at all of your meetings, because I want you to understand how autonomous you are. If you want to set up a meeting, even if it's not about a specific topic and just about things going on around campus, I would relish that opportunity.
- iv. You all are fascinating. Ohio State has a culture of student involvement that's unlike any other place. I'm amazed at all that you do, all that you pack into your schedule while still doing well in school and connecting with your peers.
- v. What questions can I answer for you about how I might be helpful towards you?
- vi. *Abby Waidelich*: If a senator is working on something that may be contradictory to student life, what is your role in that?
- vii. *Matt Couch*: I should be clear that I am an employee of Student Life, even though USG may not always agree with things that Student Life does. STEP, the dining plan, the rec sports fee, etc...those are all things. I do drink the Student Life Kool-Aid, and it's delicious. I should say it's extraordinary. But, at the



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same time, especially since I have a SG career of my own, I understand the importance of administrators who understand Student Government. Hopefully I've never betrayed anyone's trust. If you're ever critical about things done in Student Life, I usually respond to questions with questions. I don't usually get on the phone with Student Life after a conversation. I do want to make sure to give you whatever context about whatever the issue is. If I know the answers to questions, I will let you know, but I do not want to misrepresent anyone else in our Office and will direct you to them to get your questions answered.

- viii. *Sai*: You mentioned that you study student involvement. What are some trends you see in students from their early years to their later years?
- ix. *Matt Couch*: Sometimes I get to follow the career of students from their first year to their last year. By the time they graduate, they are a lot more comfortable talking in professional settings and in transactional, one-on-one conversations. I get a more confident vibe from students who gain experience through student government than from students who are not involved in student government. More generally speaking, students who are involved are more likely to return for a second year and are more likely to perform better academically. They are also typically more successful at making connections with their peers and with the University. Student government students probably get even more of those benefits just because of the nature of the work they do. I will also say there are unique environmental things about student government that make it more challenging, as it attracts many high-achieving students with strong opinions. Sometimes the confrontation is healthy. I think it's a good thing, especially in a college environment where you can more safely work through conflicts without the ramifications and consequences you may get in the real workplace. I want you to think critically about



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the things that may not be healthy for you in your student government involvement, and think of ways to address that, rather than getting to a point where you aren't able to handle it anymore. My dissertation is on this phenomenon among students called overinvolvement. There's a prevailing theory in student life which says that the more involved a student is and the more activities that student is involved in, the more successful that student are in school. However, for a certain percentage of students, it may not be good, and may be negatively affecting diet, health, grades, et cetera. In my experience, I've seen students battle through time management issues and mental health issues. Another role I can serve as an advisor is an objective third party who can help you get organized and just listen to you talk through your issues. **Contact information:** Matt Couch.28@osu.edu. Located in the Admin suite on the second floor of the Union.

III. **Open Forum for Public**

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

IV. **Updates**

a. *Abby Waidelich*

- i. First, I want to speak on yesterday's campus-wide violent threat. We had a meeting on campus safety alerts. We had it with the Chief and with the Ohio State police department communications. You have Buckeye Alerts (texts, emails) and Public Safety Notices. Yesterday's event was neither of those (not a clearly reportable act) or a BuckeyeAlert weather alert or active shooter situation. Not an actual crime that occurred but not an actual situation either. We tried forming a new kind of alert. Something that we struggled through yesterday was obviously your concerns as students. One of the things we successfully advocated for was a follow-up email after the initial time frame of the threat passed, to clarify if the threat is neutralized, if it's ongoing, et cetera. That is currently not



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required on campus. Sunder, Jenna, Danielle, and I are currently clarifying what that means. The University said they had it under control communications-wise, but we advocated that they didn't. Administrations don't hear that at all. They don't see Facebook, Twitter, or the amount of students that didn't go to class yesterday. In future situations, advocate that students need clarifications and that students need to be notified. I think at the end of the day, we were successful in advocating, but not necessarily for communicating on the University's end. Has to be a clearly reportable crime, and has to be on University property.

- ii. *Glass*: There were a lot of different rumors going around yesterday, for example that someone got arrested on the Oval with a bag of guns. Another was that someone was going crazy in Starbucks. Exactly when will the BuckeyeAlert go out? Will it only go out if there's an active shooter on campus, or if someone goes crazy in Starbucks?
- iii. *Abby Waidelich*: There wasn't a BuckeyeAlert because the FBI was also involved. OSUPD didn't know about the Oval rumor. That's also when, in a student leader's perspective, you're really disappointed if you see your friends spreading false rumors or making a mockery of the situation. Something did happen at Starbucks yesterday, but we're unsure if it was related, and it wasn't very serious. OSUPD did clarify to the Lantern that nothing happened on the Oval. Stick with what the University actually communicates out. Ensure that you check the correct websites.
- iv. *Warnimont*: Is the OSUPD's police scanner available online like the Columbus PD's police scanner?
- v. *Abby Waidelich*: I'm not sure. We don't report that online because we are a University.
- vi. *Harper*: Was there anything brought up about student employees and protocols on campus? I am a tour guide, and I



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was giving a tour yesterday to a group of 15 students and their parents to the most popular places on campus. I was on the Oval, and people were asking us why we were taking people around. I have never been personally trained to handle any of these situations, beyond where to take people during a storm event. We wouldn't have known anything if something were to happen.

- vii. *Glass*: Not sure how that's communicated to visitors, prospective students and their parents.
- viii. *Dyer*: Woke up to 14 messages. Could only tell people that they were rumors. I would love to report those rumors up. As soon as the University sent out the messages and emails, I updated my residents via the group message.
- ix. *Abby Waidelich*: That's a good idea. Clear line of communication for student employees.
- x. *Bodey*: in an active shooter situation or in a shooter threat situations, at what point does the Columbus PD get involved along with OSUPD?
- xi. *Abby Waidelich*: OSUPD is in control. They bring in Columbus PD, state troopers. They brought in different enforcements yesterday, including state troopers and the FBI from the beginning.
- xii. *Touvelle*: They didn't know what the exact threat was. Why didn't they include the exact threat in the original email?
- xiii. *Abby Waidelich*: They finally sent it out. They didn't want to perpetuate fear, suspicion, and false rumors. Cutting off questions, but feel free to email me about it. I will get back to you all.
- xiv. University Senate Meeting tomorrow in Drinko Hall at 3:30pm.

V. Executive Report

a. *Abby Grossman*



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- i. You will be receiving a report on what would have happened in Cabinet yesterday. Any questions can be reported to Grossman or Waidelich.
- ii. Levi Cramer, the Senior Director of Government Relations, testified yesterday to the Ohio House Judiciary Committee on HB 201 (Good Samaritan Policy). He pushed them to get the state of Ohio to pass this law. Currently, Ohio State practices the Good Samaritan Law, but not the Columbus Police Department.
 1. *Cramer*: Moving forward, hopefully we can see the bill being passed.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Allocations – *Jenna Gravalis*
 - i. Allocations has met twice since last session and has given out the following:
 1. Student Activity Fund:
 - a. Vets 4 Vets \$447.72
 - b. Echo Studio \$959.00
 - ii. Deadlines are coming up for constituency events. We will not be that lenient. I just met with Bobby about logistics. Come to me and Danielle if you have questions. We can help with ideas.
 - b. Oversight – *Daniel Marchese*
 - i. Oversight will be meeting this Sunday at 2pm in the USG Office. We still have one vacant seat, so if you're interested in serving on Oversight, please come talk to me. We'll be talking about touching up the Bylaws. I'm assuming all of you read the bylaws. Please do so before we meet. We may have an appointment or two, but we'll be discussing that later on.

VII. Resolution Writing Workshop

- a. *Danielle Di Scala*: How many of you feel confident writing a resolution? You have to know your endgame and why you want to write this resolution. I gave you an example resolution of a resolution that was passed last year, written by Daniel Marchese.



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- b. *Marchese*: The reason for this resolution was for USG to show support of an organization's efforts to register students to vote in a nonpartisan way.
- c. *Danielle Di Scala*: The purpose of your whereas clauses are to explain why you're writing the resolution in the first place. I numbered them on this list. First step is giving background information and historical context. Then explain the problem. Part three is explaining your solution to that problem, and why it's necessary to have that solution. That's basically the outline of a resolution. You're providing background, identifying the problem, and giving solutions. Additional tips: make sure it's as detailed as possible. They don't have to be long, they just have to include details and facts and research (with citations). Feel free to partner up with people, you can split the work, and sometimes it can be more effective.
- d. *Marchese*: For engineers, think about the information funnel for whereas clauses. Start broad, and make your way to the point you want to make.
- e. *Warnimont*: So where do you go with the resolutions?
- f. *Di Scala*: Our resolutions have no legislative pull. If your resolution is something on a larger scale, you'll have to meet with University administrators, like for the meal plans.
- g. *Marchese*: The resolutions aren't the process, they just *drive* the process.
- h. *Mubarak*: Do we number the resolutions, or do you guys number it?
- i. *Abby Waidelich*: Steering gives the resolutions a number once you submit it.
- j. *Di Scala*: You write legislation, and you'll submit it to Steering the Sunday before by emailing Abby Waidelich. If it passes through Steering, it will be on the Agenda. You can also bring resolutions to the floor with a two-thirds vote.
- k. *Marchese*: We're trying to avoid bringing resolutions to the floor with a two-thirds vote unless it's a very pressing issue.
- l. *Mubarak*: How likely is it for a resolution to be rejected in Steering?



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- m. *Marchese*: It's basically for grammatical errors.
- n. *Abby Waidelich*: If we don't feel that it's seen enough eyes, we'll send it back to a committee to be worked on.
- o. *Di Scala*: Come to floor without them seeing it at all. Just make sure you're talking to the committee members. If you have questions but lack ideas, or don't know what to do, contact me and I can help you.

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

- i. *Abby Waidelich*: I'm moving to bring this resolution to the floor, as it is time-sensitive.
- ii. Gerard is here, as he is Deputy Chief of Staff.
- iii. *Deputy Chief of Staff Gerard Basalla*: We want to make sure this is voted on today, because it needs to be implemented in the next week.
- iv. Motion to bring 48-R-16 to the floor PASSED.
- v. **48-R-16 A Resolution to Approve Tony Buss as the Director of Diversity and Inclusion**
 - 1. *Marchese*: approval for oversight to see. Tony, if you'd like to give yourself a brief introduction. This is an approval to send it to the floor of Oversight.
 - 2. *Tony Buss*: The reason I applied for this position is that I see this University as home, and I want it to be home for everyone, regardless of who they are. Everyone has their gifts.
 - 3. *Warnimont*: You're currently in the Committee on D&I? what's your role?
 - 4. *Buss*: Yes, for two years. I'm a Deputy Director.
 - 5. *Warnimont*: Anything notable to share?
 - 6. *Buss*: We're looking into BART to see what's going on with it. Also, gender-inclusive housing. Meeting with Cheryl Lyons tomorrow. Also working. Student Life has cut funding on women's center, so we're working on that right now.



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7. *Shaffer*: Why are you more qualified for this position over everyone else?
8. *Buss*: Confident in the administration and I am very passionate.
9. *Warnimont*: Would Adrienne please comment on Tony?
10. *Michelson*: Tony is a critical part of our committee. His dedication, incorporating everyone, making sure they feel included. I'm excited to see what he does with the position. I endorse him.
11. *Luther*: What goals do you have for the University as whole, as opposed to just your committee?
12. *Buss*: Everything we do comes through the lens of diversity. Want this university to feel like home to everyone—gender-inclusive housing and women's initiatives.
13. *Warnimont*: Any organizations you're involved in that relate to this position?
14. *Buss*: I am employed by the MCC, but no other student organizations.
- 15. Motion to move into discussion.**
16. *Harper*: Friendly amendment line 5 to resolution instead of bill.
17. PASSED with 0 abstentions.
- 18. Motion to rise and report. Resolution brought to the floor. Voting on approval of Tony Buss.**
19. *Warnimont*: Friendly Amendment line 3 strike "the" before Tony Buss.
20. *Basalla*: I urge you to approve this with unanimous consent. The administration is going through a transition right now, and we really feel that Tony is right for the job.
21. *Marchese*: I move that we approve this with acclamation.



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22. Tony Buss approved as Director of Diversity and Inclusion with Acclimation.

X. Announcements

- a. Warnimont: The Ohio State vs. Michigan Blood Bath is coming up. We won last month, let's do it again.
- b. Jackson: I sent out an email about the next CABS committee. Let me know if you can't make it.
- c. Souders: AEGs are due on Friday! Let everyone know through social media and remind everyone to apply!
- d. Cramer: Alumni Council Room Republic Debate tonight free Cane's
- e. Dixon: Daylight Savings ends this week, remember to turn your clocks back!
- f. Stross: Make sure to email me before you go to speak to an organization!
 - i. Di Scala: Are you giving people the ppt or prezi presentation?
 - ii. Stross: Yes, as soon as someone emails me.
 - iii. Wydman: Make sure it's approved by someone in Outreach.
 - iv. Bratton: Can you send out the procedure?
 - v. Stross: Yeah, can I get the GA listserv?
 - vi. Waidelich: Send the presentations to Danielle.

XI. Adjournment