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49th General Assembly
Autumn 2016, Session 10
October 26, 2016

I. Opening

- a. Call to Order
- b. Attendance
 - i. Quadri.8 for Serfozo
 - ii. Lay.1466 for Yacoub
 - iii. Sy.31 for Kim
 - iv. Bowie.34 for Cooper
 - v. Martinez.609 for Nitta
 - vi. Jackson.2450 for Chang
 - vii. Polavarapu for Spain
 - viii. Spatz.14
- 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*: I know we have had problems of getting an alternate list from cabinet. We are working on getting the list so you guys can go straight to that list. The rest of my update will be in the report.

IV. Executive Report--Gerard Basalla

- a. *Annie Greer*: Gerard met with Danielle and Dr. J to discuss textbook affordability as we assemble this committee. They attended Buckeye Committee on Sexual Violence. He met with Ben Hancock to discuss the OSU mobile app and how it can better suit student needs. You can talk to Director Merchant and her committee for more information on that. In regard to the English department and the hashtag on twitter, Gerard is active with that and they will not be following through with the firings they had planned.



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V. Committee Report

- a. Allocations—*Derek Whiddon*
- b. *Bodey*: Hi my name is Derek and I wear Urban Meyer's dad clothes all the time. Allocations funded last week:
 - i. Men's Club Soccer for \$800.00
 - ii. Women's Club Soccer for \$1000.00
 - iii. Chinese American Student Association for \$138.00
 - iv. Risk Management Association for \$209.97
 - v. Genesis Dance Team for \$1365.71
 - vi. Indian Students Association for \$900.00
 - vii. *Clark*: What is your favorite Urban Meyer dad polo?
 - viii. *Bodey*: The white one so when I spill nacho cheese on it everyone can see it.

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

- a. *49-R-20 A Resolution to Advocate for Increased Accessibility to the Second-Year Transformational Experience Program (STEP)*
 - i. *Sullivan*: This is the second STEP resolution from last week. We want to increase marketing so that everyone is aware of the STEP program and has a good understanding of what it is. The second part is so that transfer students have more marketing so they can participate in the program, as well as extending the program to regional campuses as a long term goal. Please consider voting yes on it.
 - ii. *C.Dorony*: This is good so that more students know about STEP and this is a great way to include transfer students.
 - iii. *K.Dorony*: As like everyone said, this is a great way for more people to know about this program.
 - iv. *Merchant*: This is going to build upon the successes of the STEP program and put it in the right direction
 - v. *Shaffer*: No further comment.
 - vi. **Moved to Discussion**
 - vii. *Bidna*: Friendly amendment
 - viii. *Bidna*: I very much like this resolution.
 - ix. *Befiglio*: Why does this talk about regional campus students?



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- x. *Sullivan*: This is referring to the part of the resolution that talks about sophomores transferring.
 - xi. *Glass*: I'm glad to see that this issue is reflected in this resolution. I am supportive of this and I think it is great. I would like to make a friendly amendment. ATI is not considered a regional campus, but these students go through the same transition as regular students so I would like to amend it to add "and Ohio State Agricultural Technical Institute [ATI]" where it says "regional campus".
 - xii. *Glass*: Friendly amendments
 - xiii. *Clark*: I'm in full support of this resolution and I think STEP is a great program and with more support this would be great.
 - xiv. Motion to pass with unanimous consent.**
 - xv. Motion failed.**
 - xvi. *Frank*: Friendly amendments
 - xvii. *Spatz*: I definitely am in favor of this because as a transfer student I finally got into the STEP program after a lot of persuading. I was not allowed to live on campus and I wasn't given housing, but this doesn't address that.
 - xviii. Motion to pass with unanimous consent.**
 - xix. Passed with unanimous consent.**
- b. *49-R-21 A Resolution to Advocate for Affordable Textbook Solutions*
- i. *Sullivan*: This is the first in a series of resolutions about textbook solutions. We have a lot of solutions and there are many facets, so this is just an overview. This states the problems and gives steps that faculty can use to address the problem. I can elaborate on this is discussion.
 - ii. *Abusway*: This is a big initiative in our committee and this is a great resolution to introduce this. This resolution does a great job off highlighting issues and can be used to talk to administrators.
 - iii. *Kaufman*: It is hard to talk to my constituents, but when I do they tell me that affordability is a big issue. The solution is to know your solutions. If I were to look for a book for a class at Barnes and Noble, you are left high and dry and left with what



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the company wants you to have and when they get it. This gives students options to find the right textbook at the right time.

- iv. *Vargo*: One of the most shocking statistics we found while doing research is that students spend over \$1,000 on textbooks per year alone. There are a lot of numbers and when you are factoring in everything for school, this is not on the forefront of that discussion. Not all students can afford this. Director Abusway and I met with the Affordable Learning Exchange at OSU and the different ways that students' voices can be heard to get textbooks to be lower prices because professors don't know the impact on the students. This can place a high burden on students and this is a start. This is the first in a series of resolutions to get the administration to see that students feel passionately about this and that there are more affordable options. We need to do more to make things affordable at Ohio State.
- v. *Liu*: How about access codes?
- vi. *Kaufman*: More often than not you are looking at \$70 to \$80 out of pocket for an access code and there is no good way to find the code in open source libraries. However, students can save hundreds of dollars if rent it on Amazon. If you are spending double on access codes, it is not preferred. That is something we are looking into.
- vii. *Vargo*: We are looking in to getting professors to use access codes less and to use resources on Carmen more. Professors like this because it is easier for them, but often professors can enter quizzes on Camren themselves. We want them to use less of these because access codes are only used for one semester. We are looking into online resources.
- viii. *Merchant*: Do you know about the contract on professors with open source textbooks?
- ix. *Abusway*: The choice of textbook is left up to the discretion of the professor. When a professor goes to Pearson or McGraw Hill, there are obstacles to having them publish elsewhere and



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we want to look into this to find professors that are willing to do that.

- x. *Merchant*: I know in the engineering department there are resources that they have written themselves. Are you looking into this for other departments?
- xi. *Abusway*: The Office of Distance Education does have grants for professors that want to create material online and to encourage professors to do this. There are administration meetings to get professors to do this. This is not as much money from other companies and we are trying to get them to do this.
- xii. *Moore*: I know that a lot of access codes exist at the level of introductory course work that are taught by grad students, etc. A lot of the faculty have no say in the book they use. Can we put pressure on the departments to change this?
- xiii. *Sullivan*: We are going to address this in the next resolution, the faculty has a little more control than you think they do, but we can go on a case by case basis. We can use broader wording to make this happen in the next resolution.
- xiv. *Abusway*: Gerard and Danielle are also discussing with faculty for other options.
- xv. *Vargo*: There are different awards that professors can win in their fields so we want to look into making rewards for professors that have already done a lot of work to make textbooks more affordable.
- xvi. *Clark*: Besides the \$1,200 grant, does Ohio State offer any subsidy?
- xvii. *Abusway*: The Affordable Learning Exchange provides grants. The \$1,200 grant I mentioned is the most common, a \$7,600 is the next most common. The university, through the Office of Distance Education and others, is looking to give this money.
- xviii. *Clark*: Do you think we could add a “therefore let it be resolved clause” to add that we could have grants to offset this cost? Would that be pertinent?



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- xix. *Abusway*: The first thing to do is publicize the grants. In my University Senate work, I've found out that many professors don't know about this grant. So we need to increase marketing.
- xx. *Liu*: Some textbooks or workbooks require the most up to date versions, like my communications book, and they make changes every year. If you don't get the newest versions, you will lose a lot of points. How do you make sure the updates are there?
- xxi. *Abusway*: The standard of excellence may be sacrificed. Those books are often updated to make them better. The University of Minnesota has a program that updates the book online as well. The professors need to make sure that they are okay with the curriculum changing.
- xxii. *Belfiglio*: A lot of people have been talking about how to change this. From the University Senate perspective, professors are concerned with the words "academic freedom", which allows professors to teach a class how they want without interference. The most we can do is encourage professors to use last year's copy. We just have to remember that we are asking professors to change. Also, the course manager that runs all the section of the department is responsible for choosing the textbook.
- xxiii. *Bodey*: Friendly amendment
- xxiv. *Bodey*: I know this is part of a series, but I hope there is more teeth in the next one because this is a little fluffy. I know we have given very specific things. We have set dates in the past. Why can't we have a deadline by the year 2020, say we want an open library? This is helpful and drives the administration to actually do something about this.
- xxv. *Glass*: I think this is great that students this year have said affordability is an issue, and that students have taken this on right away. I'm also glad there is a series of resolutions to address this. I would go with Senator Bodey and say that this is appropriate for the introduction resolution, but I would like to see it have more teeth and I believe that the sponsors are well aware of that. I'm excited to see what we have to look forward to because this is an issue many students are excited about and



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something USG can do to make a real impact. I know this is something we forget about and you don't know how much it will cost until the first day, so thanks to the sponsors. This is good work to keep doing.

xxvi. *Clark*: I think this is a fantastic introduction. I can't wait to see where the resolution leads. I hope one will deal with incentives. I know academic freedom is an issue but I also think encouragements will help.

xxvii. *Bidna*: I would like to say to the sponsors that it would be great to have a student exchange, like having resources that students can use to sell erased workbooks that can't be sold elsewhere.

xxviii. *Frank*: Friendly amendments.

xxix. *Frank*: I think this is a great resolution and I agree that I would like more teeth to say what the students want and when they want it. This is important to all of us here.

xxx. Motion to pass with unanimous consent

xxxi. 49-R-21 A Resolution to Advocate for Affordable Textbook Solutions *PASSED.*

c. *49-R-22 A Resolution to Advocate for Multilingual Resources on Campus*

i. *Liu*: I have a presentation that I will give that will hopefully answer your questions. For a brief intro, there is 6,456 international students at Ohio State. Ohio State's president and provost say in their 2009 document that there should be more international students enrolled. So in 10 years you will see more international students. The only multilingual resource on campus is the CCS that offers counselling in eight languages, but this is not enough. The website also has Google translated website links that are terrible. I have talked with students that speak other languages fluently and they say this is terrible. I have asked the manager of the CCS and he has said that there are only so many students who speak other languages. There are about 4,000 international students, but only 2 counselors speak mandarin. Even if only 10% of international students use these services there is only 1 counselor to 100-200 students.



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How are you going to ask international students to react to medical terms they have not heard before? So many of my friends ask me what General Assembly is and I cannot find a word to describe it to them. Google also does not recognize OSU as Ohio State, only Oregon State. The focus is on medical terms in hospitals. It is easy for me to understand Chinese medical terms. Sometimes the dictionary does not know the right translation from English to Chinese. A lot of engineering and business students are in these colleges so we should add some advisors that can answer questions in different languages, including the terms on the syllabus. Here is a sample for how this would look.¹ This is short and easy to translate. My idea is to ask for help from the language schools for translations. We need Mandarin, Chinese and Arabic. I have asked other students from China and Japan. Korea has a strong focus on English education and on ASL and you can't see any students there.

- ii. *Branum*: I would like to add that [international students] are mandated to pay the health insurance. This is a resource that should be provided in their home language.
- iii. *Clark*: In one of the "whereas clauses", you said the average test score is a 78. Can I have more information on this?
- iv. *Liu*: This is a test for foreign languages that is used for applications for English speaking schools. It is broken down into listening, reading, speaking, and writing. The highest score is 120 and the score per each section is 12. The average score is 78-79 is for the worldwide students who have taken the test, it is documented. In China, a lot of students take the test 7 times until they get a good score, but their skills are still questionable. I know some students who get a score of 110 who do not have very good English skills.
- v. *Jackson*: One of the clauses has a link that says the test is not required, but they don't link to an Ohio State page. Why don't

¹ Secretary's note: This sample is included on the last page of the resolution.



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you have a link to an Ohio State page if the test is not required for them to attend Ohio State?

- vi. *Liu*: The page on OSU doesn't have the info so I didn't include it; I included the other pages as examples from other schools in the big ten.
- vii. *Belfiglio*: I have a question about the supplemental insurance. I know students are required to have insurance, but could international students use a third party company?
- viii. *Liu*: It is hard to waive the requirement. I know other schools have given resources. My friend at another university used car insurance to waive her health insurance. There is a website that says that international students have to have this.
- ix. *Polavarapu*: You have to buy the insurance through Ohio State or you have a hold on your Buckeylink account. They are the only provider.
- x. *Frank*: You included info about CCS. Did they mention to you if they are meeting the needs for the students?
- xi. *Liu*: I haven't heard that this isn't enough, but in the survey I asked, we don't utilize the services that much.
- xii. *Frank*: Have you heard from other students that CCS is not meeting their needs?
- xiii. *Liu*: Some students have complained that the waiting period is too long and that they have to wait a long time.
- xiv. *Abusway*: I have a question on your 3rd clause. Do you imagine this to be a department level?
- xv. *Liu*: I've asked and they have said that it is possible for them to do it so it will be handled by the department or by those who can offer help.
- xvi. *Bidna*: You chose Spanish, Mandarin, and Arabic? Why these three? And why Spanish and Arabic, because it seems these have been incorporated.
- xvii. *Liu*: I wanted to use the five official languages of the United Nations, but the Russian and French communities are not very big here.
- xviii. *Clark*: Correct me if I'm wrong, but I think the library and writing centers on campus have resources on campus to help



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international students. It says that CCS is the only part on campus that offers these resources, but I thought there were more resources than just CCS.

xix. *Liu:* I know the library does offer some books. I know they have many novels in Chinese and Japanese anime comics, but not much for academics. The writing center still questions this in English, so they need more resources.

xx. *Frank:* When you are saying that we should create resources and syllabi, should they all be translated all at once, or as needed?

xxi. *Liu:* As needed.

xxii. *Belfiglio:* I am wondering about the resources both monetarily and personal wise, like having several thousand syllabi translated. I can only think of professional translation services. Do you have any recommendations about handling the cost?

xxiii. *Liu:* I know there are speakers who would like to offer help and that will offer their services.

xxiv. *Belfiglio:* My only issue is having anyone translate this is that there are tricky rules in terms of misconduct cases, like would the student be at fault if it is improperly translated? How would you translate this?

xxv. *Liu:* I would say that something is better than nothing. If we can have professionals, I think mistakes would not happen.

xxvi. *Merchant:* First, I would like to thank Senator Liu for bringing attention to this. Second, I feel like there are a lot of resources offered to international students that aren't marketed. Would you be open to adding something like this to the resolution?

xxvii. *Liu:* Yes, I would be open to that.

xxviii. Motion to cap the speakers list.

xxix. Speakers list capped.

xxx. *Jambunath:* About the points you brought up, I think it is bad that they only have 2 counselors and that only 10 percent of students use this. What do you think is the best way to solve this problem? I know we can hire more, but I feel like this would be costly. Who can we talk to about this?



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- xxx. *Liu*: I would like to make some corrections. The figure of only ten percent of international students using CCS is an assumption. There are more specialists that speak languages, a total of 12. Hiring specialists is expensive and the hiring process is expensive, but peer counselors can be added at the Student Wellness Center, called wellness ambassadors. The program I worked for, the Tobacco-free Student Ambassadors, helped students quit smoking. This would provide leadership opportunities that can help solve issue through everyday life. Also, more group sessions can be added.
- xxxii. *Bodey*: What would you plan to do with this resolution in the future?
- xxxiii. *Liu*: I would bring this to offices like Student Life, etc, and to other colleges like Engineering and Business to see if they'll add this. We will also use this to add marketing.
- xxxiv. *Bodey*: Are you working in committee with this?
- xxxv. *Liu*: Yes, in Diversity and Inclusion. We are doing a mixture of translating and marketing.
- xxxvi. *Frank*: In one of your clauses it says that services should be provided by offices, departments and the like, does the Office of International Affairs currently have these resources available?
- xxxvii. *Liu*: No.
- xxxviii. *Frank*: How would you go about solving this?
- xxxix. *Liu*: With student workers and leaders; this helps students with the ability to have more experience.
- xl. *Abusway*: Do you believe that an English language test should be provided or would the PSAT and SAT be enough?
- xli. *Liu*: The SAT is only for American schools and is only about reading and writing and subjects that are related. The other tests have listening and speaking. I couldn't find information about Ohio State requiring English language tests. I would like to add these back because this is now cancelled.
- xlii. *Sullivan*: You said that translating would be a case by case basis. What would you like to do in terms on online resources,



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and how would you pick the webpages should be translated because translating every page would be a lot.

- xliii. *Liu*: The main page can be translated to other languages. The parents have to go to this website and they see that there are multilingual resources, it would help. Things that appear everywhere like the policies on the syllabi should be translated into multiple languages. In other pages, the specializations in engineering in business and engineering and who can apply.
- xliv. *Belfiglio*: I'm on the admissions website and it says that students have to submit something that says that they speak English. It is required. So the university requires one of the four to be submitted, so they have to show proof. Am I mistaken?
 - xlv. *Liu*: I did not know that.
- xlvi. Moved to discussion**
- xlvii. *Belfiglio*: Friendly amendments
- xlviii. *Belfiglio*: I like the ideas in this resolution and I support the idea of increasing multilingual counseling, but I'm not sure if we are legally allowed to have student peers do this because of privacy laws. I feel like the resources should be translated. Our concern is that this is a tremendous amount to translate and one mistake can ruin someone graduating on time and I see a lot of problems in terms of funding. I think it is great that this increases accessibility, but the course itself is not translated. Many international students here pass tests and do well in classes taught in English; I don't see the rationale of translating the syllabus. This would be incredibly long and expensive.
- xlix. *Abusway*: As it pertains to advising, I believe this is an issue, but I believe it should be done tactfully. Seventy-five percent of the time counselors are not utilized due to having peak times, but this is just expensive.
 - l. *Clark*: Friendly amendment.
 - li. *Bodey*: There are graduate and professional students who would benefit from this. There are also international students who do research on the other campuses.



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- lii. *Frank*: In response to comments made by Senator Belfiglio: there are legal issues with this, but at the Student Wellness Center students can be trained in the language of choice for these students. The issues of implementation can be hashed out at a later date. We need these resources on campus and the implementation can be found with the best route later, it is good in merit. As a member of the Committee on Academic Misconduct, I believe that if the translation was done by the university, it would be more reliable and it can come down to single word issue. If a student needs a syllabus translated, then, by golly, we should do it.
- liii. *Glass*: The syllabi should be translated by the university. If the translation is done by the university, the responsibility falls on the university and not the students.
- liv. *Glass*: Friendly amendment.
- lv. *Sullivan*: I pulled up the 2016 enrollment report. The biggest issue I have with this resolution is that students from the top 13 countries here at Ohio State do not speak Arabic or Spanish. I would like to make a friendly amendment to change the languages to the top three spoken at Ohio State.
- lvi. *Liu*: I think India has English as an official language. I will take Korean.
- lvii. *Sullivan*: I feel like Spanish isn't necessary. I don't know how to end this. I move to strike the languages from this clause.
- lviii. *Abusway*: I think this resolution is good in that there should be more resources for students who don't have English as a first language, but my problem is that translating syllabi is helpful, but my concern is the rest of the course is taught in English and the textbook is English. I like it being on a case by case basis and this relies on a per department thing. If there is a way to centralize a case by case resource, this would be on the departments and that is a little bit more difficult.
- lix. *Bodey*: I am in support of the resolution and I share the same concern about syllabi. I would like to thank Senator Liu for bringing this forward because they are left out of the body. I would like to remind the senators on the CBRC that this is a



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reason of why an International Emissary is important as a lot of us in the room don't have that privilege.

- lx. *Liu*: Correct me if I'm wrong, but I think Fisher has a peer advisor program that trains upperclassmen and this doesn't exploit students, it is an opportunity for leadership. This is an American university and you should not expect other professors to speak in other languages for students. I would like that but it is not possible. In the English department there are rooms for peer mentorship, letting students mentor students if they do not understand that part.
- lxi. *Clark*: I would like to applaud Senator Liu. This is a great resolution.
- lxii. *Clark*: Friendly amendment.
- lxiii. *Frank*: In response to what director Abusway has said, I'm pretty sure that the syllabi in my French class was in English and that made it much easier and I believe that this should be in a native language. If it were done by the university office, the issue that may come up in COAM would be faulted on the university and not a peer. This is a great resolution that should be passed to help other students.
- lxiv. *Quadri*: I'm in full support of this resolution. I know international students are being charged \$498 for enrollment that says that it provides resources for example, language proficiency, that provides for this investment. One way to get funding for this is to take the money from this fee and apply it to this. Part of the international fee says that planning and delivery of new programs have low turnouts that are not advertised and in the Diversity and Inclusion committee, those committees could be invested if they are a waste of money.
- lxv. *Branum*: English is an official language of India and that is why it is not included in the syllabus.
- lxvi. *49-R-22 A Resolution to Advocate for Multilingual Resources on Campus PASSED.*



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VIII. Announcements

- a. Di Scala: Come to the Halloween Soiree at Gerard's house!
- b. *Bodey*: I want to brag about the Glenn College because that is my job. Thanks to a USG survey a few years ago, we knew that students felt they weren't represented. Tonight was the first meeting of the Public Affairs multicultural organization. Many say these surveys don't work, but many students in the Glenn College have this program now. Look into it for your college. Go Bucks. Go Glenn.
- c. *Clark*: If you would like to pet some puppies before the soirée, my fraternity is partnering with Zeta and we will have puppies in the yard of our house.
- d. *Liu*: If you guys want a free TV, tablet, or candy, go to the Housetober fest.
- e. Shaffer: I love my dog, she got to experience the tradition of running around leaves and I have a pic.

IX. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned.