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48th **General Assembly**
Spring 2016, Session 17
January 20, 2016

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. Executive Report

- a. *Abby Grossman*: Tomorrow is the Teaching and Learning Institute and that's on an invitation-only basis. There are currently still open seats, even with the 25 invitations each organization sent out. I can invite more people, so some of you should have an email invitation in your mailbox from me. There will be an opportunity to engage with faculty members and people from the Vice Provost's Office. Tomorrow's focus will be best practices, and how to pass down those best practices to different offices at Ohio State. We'll focus on where those best practices lie and how to get them to faculty. Demographic Report. It stemmed from something that arose last semester, and it's also something that we realized USG should have already been doing, and something that we ought to do. It's to give us actual data to make statements about what voices are missing in USG. Where do we need areas filled to be better representative of our student body here? Currently, we're looking at what we think we'll see and thinking of what to do with the data once it's obtained. We want to make sure this organization is open to all students. It's not going to be an easy discussion and there's not going to be an easy solution. We want to make this as transparent as possible. We're doing it not just to please people, but to improve us as an organization.

IV. Committee Reports

- a. Allocations – *Jenna Gravalis*
 - i. Allocations met this past week without me, as I was at ABTS, but Derek led the meeting.
 - 1. Student Activity Fund:
 - a. Undergraduate Theater Organization \$600
 - b. Namaste Bollywood \$1,500
 - c. Club Cricket \$585
 - d. Kappa Phi Lambda \$1,500



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- e. Project Educate XX \$730.25
- ii. Talk to Danielle for constituency events and contact me directly if you need funding.
- b. Oversight – *Daniel Marchese*
 - i. You will get an email at the end of this meeting from me with the bylaws that I drafted over winter break. Please read them through thoroughly. It's a lot of rearranging, not so much changing, but I don't want to have a discussion where I'm informing you of the changes without you having previous knowledge of them. We'll be meeting this Sunday at 2pm in the USG Office, so if you need to find an alternate, I suggest you start on that now.

V. Old Business

- a. 48-R-22 *A Resolution to Appoint Members to the Constitution and Bylaws Review Commission*
 - i. *Abby Waidelich*: You can see the original appointments on the USG website, but we have added some names and stricken others. Stricken: Carly Hooker and Nick Prayner. Added: Merritt Ogle, Cameron Priest, Sara Trenor, and Hannah Diewald.
 - ii. *Marchese*: If this is approved, we are going to be writing the Constitution that will be used for the next five years of USG, after next year. I would appreciate the general body asking questions of the members.
 - iii. *Sara Trenor*: I'm a second-year international studies major and I'm interning at the Statehouse. I'm also part of Tri-Delta and I just joined the Collegiate Council on World Affairs.
 - iv. *Cameron Priest*: I'm a fourth-year Data Analytics major, Resident Manager at Archer-Torres, and am in the Big Data Analytics Association. I'm also co-oping with IBM.
 - v. *Ben Schulman*: I'm a fifth-year Hospitality Management major, and I work at the Marriott.
 - vi. *Max Cross*: I have been in USG for three years. AA and DD Sustainability for two years. TA for the FEH Program.
 - vii. *Hannah Diewald*: 3rd year PA major, JGCLC, Development Services Agency.
 - viii. *Marchese*: Fifth year CS major, been in USG a while.



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- ix. *Cramer*: Director of Government Relations, have rewritten two other constitutions for two other student organizations.
- x. *Marchese*: The reason we have allocations now and don't see it come down to the floor every time is because of the CBRC.
- xi. *Warnimont*: So no CBRC will be convened in 2017?
- xii. *Marchese*: Well, I'm expecting that the current CBRC will write a provision that ensures we won't have to rewrite the Constitution again in 2017. Although the CBRC is in charge of all these changes, we are definitely open to suggestions. Email us and we'll get back to you.
- xiii. *Warnimont*: Was there already a sort of vetting process of all the candidates for this?
- xiv. *Abby Waidelich*: We've sent out many emails asking for members, and we in general wanted members who were passionate about rewriting the Constitution. Members are either from USG with the correct mindset or outside of USG with no experience.
- xv. *Shaffer*: What's the reasoning for including members with no USG experience?
- xvi. *Marchese*: It's required by the Constitution.
- xvii. Motion to approve with acclamation.**
- xviii. PASSED with acclamation.**
- b. *48-R-XX A Resolution to Approve University Senate and University Governance Committee Appointments*
 - i. *Whipple*: While we're still in committee on the whole, we wanted to push through a few new University Senate appointments while we were in committee on the whole. There were some previous University Senate appointees who could not make their meetings this semester, so we wanted to replace them with others so that they wouldn't permanently be cast as alternates. I ask that you approve the three University Senate appointments this semester.
 - ii. *Marchese*: The people approved for University Senate need to have a 2/3 vote.
 - iii. Motion to approve with acclamation.**
 - iv. APPROVED with acclamation.**
- c. *48-R-XX A Resolution to Approve University Senate Appointments*



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- i. *Whipple*: They had a better attendance rate than some of our senators. They stood out in their service to University Senate in the past semester. Abby and I both felt that they were the right appointments, which is why we did it without holding another round of interviews.
- ii. *Waidelich*: We've been strong in our representation this year, and these three people have been showing tremendous work ethic this year. We wanted to promote them up to full voting rights. We have another University Senate meeting tomorrow, so we'd like to get them on the list and
- iii. *Shaffer*: Under which one does it list Deputy Delegate?
- iv. *Whipple*: It's up there for the sake of transparency, but it doesn't have to go through the General Assembly.
- v. *Abby Waidelich*: Sunder's starting up the shadowing program. He's been doing a lot of work for Sam Whipple and helping hold meetings when Sam can't make it. That's why we promoted him to Deputy Delegate, but it didn't have to go through General Assembly.
- vi. *Warnimont*: Can each new appointment speak on why they want to be appointed?
- vii. *Whipple*: Laura stood out as an applicant because she stepped up to fill as an alternate. She was very willing to go and become an active member. She attended caucuses. I can't say for certain what she hopes to accomplish, but she shows initiative and makes the most of it as a senator.
- viii. *Gonzalez*: Besides attending two University Senate and two caucuses, this past week I've been working on the Dining proposal with Sunder and Mario. We hope to bring it forward as a resolution.
- ix. *Frank*: Over the semester, I shadowed a lot of senate things and I've really enjoyed my time there. I felt that I could bring more to it. One thing that the Abbys mentioned last semester was mental health, and that's something that I really care about. With our Mental Health Task Force we hope to discuss the mental health issues on campus and hopefully we can come up with solutions to better our lives here.
- x. **Motion to approve with acclamation.**



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xi. APPROVED with acclimation.

VI. New Business

- a. 48-R-27 *A Resolution to Support Transparency in Course Fees*
 - i. *Abby Waidelich:*
 - ii. *Belfiglio:* It's fairly straightforward. You're going to see in the next two weeks, there will be three bills coming out of Academic Affairs. Things we want to see changed regarding Buckeyelink and the Student Center. This is the first part of that and is dealing with course fees. This is particularly applicable to science and engineering majors. They can be up to \$300. What I find alarming about them is when you go to enrollment in Buckeyelink, there is nothing in Buckeyelink that tells you that there is a course fee. First issue is that there are very few things that do this, and the second (lines 22-24) is that it would be beneficial for students to know if a course has or does not have a course fee. Two issues it would help solve: transparency and helping students save money. I think this is somewhat timely in that there will be a review this year in Senate Fiscal of all the course fees, so this semester is a good time to get our foot in the door while University Senate is already looking at them.
 - iii. *Souders:* Well-said.
 - iv. *Kaczmarek:* Well-said.
 - v. *Bock:* Ok so line 14 has a little footnote but I was wondering if there was supposed to maybe have a citation?
 - vi. *Belfiglio:* It will be there. Next question.
 - vii. **Motion to move into discussion.**
 - viii. *Kaczmarek:* Friendly amendment to add URL I sent you as a citation and into the footnotes. I yield to Belfiglio.
 - ix. *Belfiglio:* This is a list from the University Registrar that lists all the course fees for each class.
 - x. *Cramer:* It's interesting that the branch campuses already have a streamlined process. I'm looking at the list right now. They have it listed by the course fee, not by the course. That's strange, so I support this. I like the way the Mansfield campus does it.



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- xi. *Marchese*: Friendly amendment to shove all the signature stuff to the bottom of the page.
- xii. *Warnimont*: I love the sentiment of lines 22-24, but I think it could be worded better. Friendly amendment to change it to “If students were more aware of the various course fees, they may choose to fulfill their General Education Requirements differently: e.g. taking an Earth Sciences course over a physics course.”
- xiii. *Belfiglio*: I’d like to talk about the course fee table. If they say no, they can’t do that, we’d ask how they could make the course fees more available and streamlined. I will ask for the most effective implementation and then figure out the best possible scenario.
- xiv. **Motion to call the question.**
- xv. **48-R-27 PASSED.**
- b. 48-R-28 *A Resolution to Approve University Senate and University Governance Committee Appointments*
 - i. **Motion to move into discussion.**
 - ii. **Motion to call the question.**
 - iii. **Motion to bring 48-R-28 to the floor PASSED with at least 2/3.**
 - iv. **Motion to pass with acclimation.**
 - v. **48-R-28 PASSED with acclimation.**
- c. 48-R-29 *A Resolution to Approve University Senate Appointments*
 - i. **Motion to move into discussion.**
 - ii. **Motion to call the question.**
 - iii. **Motion to bring 48-R-29 to the floor PASSED with at least 2/3.**
 - iv. **Motion to pass with acclimation.**
 - v. **48-R-29 PASSED with acclimation.**
- d. 48-R-30
 - i. *Belfiglio*: This went through Steering over the weekend and they had a lot of edits for us, so we pulled it back so it wouldn’t have to be edited on the floor. We’re only 54 minutes into the meeting and I don’t anticipate it being very contentious. It clears us up for later senate sessions so we don’t have to have a 3-hour one next week.



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- ii. *Cramer*: I would like to see a copy of the resolution. I think we should all get copies of the resolution before we vote on this.
- iii. *Marchese*: As a point of clarification, you're not supposed to see it until it's been brought to the floor.
- iv. **Motion to bring 48-R-30 to the floor.**
- v. **48-R-30 brought to the floor.**
- vi. *Belfiglio*: I've talked to a lot of administrators about this over autumn semester, and I finally wrote the bill over winter break. The basic idea behind this is that a lot of students want to see course syllabi before signing up for it. The course descriptions on Buckeyelink don't really tell you anything about the course you're signing up for. There's also an affordability aspect. If you get your syllabi before winter break, you can get your textbook ahead of time and for cheaper off eBay or Amazon. Lastly, it was a policy point for both presidential campaigns last year, but it shows that there's student support for it. I think I'll be able to say more stuff about it once we bring it to the floor.
- vii. *Belfiglio*: University of OK already does this, and I've cited a few departments at Ohio State that already do this. It's not the majority of department. From my conversations with the VP of Academic Affairs, it's up to the departments. I hope we can centralize it more. SEIs were standardized years ago, and I think this is something that students will really support. I've noticed on the Department of Geography website that you can see course syllabi from four years ago. In regards to posting them ahead of time, a lot of them can't be posted ahead of time because they're GE courses. Some of those aren't known until a few weeks ahead of the semester. Those General Education classes could have a lot of different professors. However, this would really be beneficial in your major courses. We could encourage the department to post the textbook ahead of time so the students know.
- viii. *Souders*: This is something that AA worked on last year as well. We've had many conversations with administration and the libraries.



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- ix. *Honaker*: I know last year I took a class without a syllabus or a Carmen page. I hope we can standardize it and make a syllabus required to be presented ahead of time.
- x. *Belfiglio*: Posting a textbook before scheduling is more affordable and open-source. If ahead of time you're looking for a General Education course, if you knew ahead of time when you were scheduling, it would encourage professors to go along in that affordability aspect.
- xi. *Kaczmarek*: This is a great resolution and it should be passed. If you look up a Political Science course, there's one sentence, whereas if you look up Geography or Computer Science, there's an entire syllabus posted there. That's how it should be.
- xii. *Marchese*: I have a couple questions. The Whereas on line 13 is that in reference to the platform points? That's why there's not a site there?
- xiii. *Belfiglio*: Yeah, I thought it would be inappropriate.
- xiv. *Marchese*: Citation on line 19?
- xv. *Belfiglio*: We communicated with other schools and they shared Best Practices with us. I wasn't sure how to cite emails, but you can ask Emmy about that.
- xvi. *Wydman*: You can cite the Google Doc, but I'm not sure if it's allowed to be public.
- xvii. *Warnimont*: Anything we need to be aware of and are faculty receptive to this idea?
- xviii. *Belfiglio*: They are receptive. We never actually know how this will be implemented in the long run, so if we don't get it in Buckeyelink, could we get it at least on every department's website?
- xix. *Shaffer*: any known reasons why it isn't already done?
- xx. *Honaker*: We were thinking that it would go on the Course Search Catalog, not Buckeyelink. It's an easier system to implement.
- xxi. *Belfiglio*: It's a conversation we can't have with them yet, so we have to make sure they want to do it first. In one way or another, we want to make it more accessible to students.
- xxii. *Marchese*: Oracle was built to manage employees in a large company. We are a school, not a company. Changes are slow,



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- but doable. I'm on the computer science page with all the course syllabi listed. Should they post the syllabi for all the classes, or for classes in general?
- xxiii. *Belfiglio*: We would like them to post syllabi ahead of time. The Office of Academic Affairs can only suggest the departments do these things. What OAA would help us is to help us get the departments on board. This will not be possible for all courses or all departments.
- xxiv. *Kennedy*: In lines 42 and 43, you say that obviously you're in favor of making them available to students prior to scheduling. In lines 23 to 25, you're using the University of Oklahoma as an example. I was wondering if there's a reason for an omittance of a certain time like ten weeks.
- xxv. *Belfiglio*: Before scheduling opens. We can't do a hard deadline because we can't. we're trying to encourage posting before scheduling begins. Some Honors scheduling begins in October.
- xxvi. *Wydman*: Timeline? Are some available before classes begin?
- xxvii. *Belfiglio*: I should friendly amend "of," but I'm not sure.
- xxviii. *Marchese*: The website that is referenced for CSE is up all year round. Even some that don't have the same syllabi have links to the professors' websites.
- xxix. *Belfiglio*: They've had the old syllabi online for a while. We're asking for either old and/or the brand new syllabus available online.
- xxx. *Wydman*: So what we're asking for is prior to scheduling in line 43. Is that the first scheduling window that opens?
- xxxi. *Belfiglio*: Ideally, yeah. Third week of October.
- xxxii. *Buss*: In reference to line 19, can you comment or guess on how many out of the conference? I'm curious if we're behind the curve or if we're in the middle.
- xxxiii. *Wydman*: We're on the cusp on getting it implemented, but at least half the schools are working on getting it implemented. The issue is actually getting it done.
- xxxiv. *Cramer*: Friendly amendment "Whereas slower shipping times make it very difficult to order textbooks on the first day of class, when most syllabi are given, and have them arrive before



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the end of the second week, and.” Friendly amendment strike “of” in line 28.

- xxxv. *Souders*: The Department of English has transitioned to semesters and they offer brief descriptions for spring and fall. They include the ISBN numbers for textbooks, so I think a lot of departments already do this, so it’s not a huge ask.
- xxxvi. *Belfiglio*: We can’t control the departments, but we’re asking them to do what they can do best. I would like to add Wydman as a co-sponsor.
- xxxvii. *Wydman*: Friendly amendment in line 43 “making course syllabi available to students prior to the first scheduling window.”
- xxxviii. *Marchese*: I think this is a wonderful idea. This is the best execution I’ve seen, as it lays out the policy and what I’d like to see done. I want to commend everyone on the work they’ve done on this.
- xxxix. *Warnimont*: Friendly amendment line 27 after “geography,” add “comma and.”
 - xl. *Cramer*: Friendly amendment move the commas before the footnote citations.
 - xli. *Frank*: Friendly amendment to line 27 the “The” before “department of accounting” should be lowercase.
 - xlii. *Punugu*: Friendly amendment to change to “Department of Accounting and MIS,” since that’s the actual name of the department.
 - xliii. *Belfiglio*: Sorry about all the typos. We were doing a lot of editing last minute, so that’s why we forgot a lot of things.
- xliv. Motion to call the question.**
 - xlv. 48-R-30 PASSED with 0 abstentions.**

VII. Announcements

- a. *Abby Waidelich*: Everyone please check your emails and take the USG Demographic Survey.
- b. *Wydman*: The Association of Big Ten Schools is having a conference soon. Let me know about general things you want me to discuss there, and let me know about specifics later.
- c. *Marchese*: Raise your hand if you’re on Oversight. We have a spot open, so if you want to be on Oversight and you’re not on Steering,



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contact me. When I send the Bylaws out, type up some quick notes and I'll let the rest of the committee know.

- d. *Cramer*: The application for the USG Washington, D.C. trip is now live. I have set up meetings with Senator Portman, Senator Brown, and we're close to confirming one with the Department of Education. Be sure to apply before next week. Thanks.

VIII. Adjournment