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49<sup>th</sup> **General Assembly** Spring 2017, Session 19 February 8, 2017

# I. Opening

- a. Call to Order
  - i. Ben Sack.24 for Merchant
  - ii. Megan Ferguson.762 for Chime
  - iii. Alex Leeder.4 for Chang
  - iv. Maria Human for Spain
  - v. Shawn Knecht for Kim
  - vi. Kanton Michaels for Shaffer
  - vii. Erin Donnelly for K. Dorony
- b. Swearing in of Alternates
- c. Approval of Minutes.

## II. Open Forum for Public

a. No one

## III. Updates

a. Danielle Di Scala: You should have read the vacancy seats. They will be speaking and we will be voting on that tonight. We are hosting the elections for west campus and north campus next week because we can only send 3 people to the floor. Look out for that.

### IV. Executive Report

- a. *Gerard Basalla*: We released the results of the High Street survey under Zawwar [Kahn]. We released the demographics report. Let me or Tony know your concerns. I 'm going to yield my time to Emmy Wydman, the chair of ABTS.
- b. Wydman: I'm the CFO. WE had 82 people at the ABTS conference last week. We pass legislation and this is what we say the Big Ten conference stands for. We want to change the blood policy on ASMN donors and we passed the resolution on title nine guidelines. We passed the Campus Accountability and Safety Act. We deferred to research about the Common App and that is put off until April. We passed a textbook affordability resolution with Samer [Abusway] as the sponsor. Aramark was controversial and based on Roberts's Rules, it passed with only 4 yeses. The resolution passes k12 consent. I will send that out so you have full access to this to use in GA and it's good to use because the Big Ten already supports this.
- c. *Basalla*: To explain briefly, we abstained because we don't have Aramark. We felt uncomfortable voting for it.
- d. Bodey: What are their issues?



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- e. *Basalla*: They talked about food practices with Minnesota. It seems specific to the school and the Big Ten schools abstained. We want to be in solidary with them but we don't want to vote on it because we don't know their practices across the country.
- f. *Frank*: The actually raw data was not present in the survey. Would it be feasible to include that data?
- g. Basalla: Time yielded to Buss.
- h. *Buss*: We didn't include that so we don't have to see it as only 3 people, etc. the decision we came to was to list the identities people gave. I found that invasive and I didn't want it to seem that we are outing everyone, just that these are our identities.
- i. *Liu*: Why is Arts and Sciences one instead of how it is divided in GA?
- j. Basalla: We want to go with how the university measures it to be like them.
- k. *Frank*: Given the responses, can the president give his level of satisfaction or how we can move forward to correct imbalances?
- l. *Basalla*: I am pleased with the response rate because it only took 1 week to get 99 percent. We have made small incremental improvements. I want to further recruitment across campus and we have an active outreach for the first time. We've had it this year and I think there has been a constant effort to increase diversity. We are by no means perfect, but I am proud of our improvements.
- m. *Clark*: There was no official comparative data, how can we improve that?
- n. Basalla: Most of the data is in the committees I sit in. With first gen college students, when we take grad students and professional students who are first gen college students and when we take in first years in Columbus, it is different. When we combine the data it gets confusing; we wanted to contain this into categories. I know this is tough and I don't know if it will happen in our time, but in this cases it is hard to extrapolate this to undergrads.
- o. *Bodey*: The registrar has said no to the number of change students, they will never identify.
- p. Liu: On page 6, how did you find 6.11% international?
- q. Buss: The report from Aug 16 had the data.
- r. *Bidna*: For future demographics reports, what is the advantage to having them self-report instead of getting the data off of Buckeyelink?
- s. *Buss*: We wanted to do this because we want it to be a culture thing to show who we are. Even with age, I still want it to be self-selective. Future administrations can do it differently, but that's what we do.
- t. Basalla: Other organizations do this as well.



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- u. *Belfiglio*: This is a FERPA issue; we can't do that. Only Matt Couch can look that up and he can't publish that for everyone else.
- v. Liu: About the international percentage, I don't find it on any form.
- w. Buss: I can get that to you, I'll check again.
- x. Basalla: I don't think we did the math wrong and I'll have Tony send that to you.
- y. *Clark*: what is one take away from ABTS and what we can take away?
- z. Basalla: What we came away with is working with administrations matter and you have to fight to get it. You can see USG archives from the 80s to get meeting times with officials; I can get meetings today with important people. We have these meetings every day and a lot of students were appalled that we have that access. What we took away is seeing that they deal with the same issues. Textbooks is my issue that I really care about. We can use Minnesota's resources; I can go down the list. If you can collaborate with other schools, they can give you resolutions as well.

# V. Committee Report

- a. Allocations—Derek Whiddon
  - i. Business Builders Club, \$1,000
  - ii. *Project HEAL*, \$1,000
  - iii. Pre-Dental Club, \$1,000
  - iv. Buckeye Bhangra, \$ 985
  - v. Buckeye Bhangra, \$1,050
  - vi. OSU Dhadkan, \$1,000
- b. *Bodey:* How many senators have requested funding for constituency events?
- c. Whiddon: Just one.
- d. Di Scala: I encourage you to use that money for events.

## VI. Old Business

a. No old business.

#### VII. New Business

- a. Exploration Vacancy Seat Elections
  - i. Moved to executive session.
  - ii. Existed executive session.
- b. 49-R-42 A Resolution to A Resolution to Defend the Rights of International Students at The Ohio State University



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- i. *Glass:* Thanks everyone. I just want to everyone to see it is in response to the Executive Order brought out last week. I worked hard to make this straightforward and it doesn't make a political statement; it is our duty to defend the rights of students. To be clear in the fifth clause, at any point any additional nations may be affected and I feel that can affect everyone. It is our duty to defend students regardless of nationality and it is what we are called to do as GA and undergraduate representatives.
- ii. *Buss:* I'll just say David hit the nail on the head and I said yes immediately when asked to cosponsor and pending quick amendments, I suggest we pass this with unanimous consent.
- iii. Liu: There are 52 Iran studnts,2 Iraqi students at OSU.
- iv. Clark: Do the statistics involve international or grad students?
- v. Liu: Yes.
- vi. *Belfiglio:* The one thing that stuck out in Steering Committee is that there is no 'therefore let it be resolved' step to make the administration act. Why did you choose to write it this way?
- vii. *Glass:* I think based on the nature, it is an executive order and there is nothing the administration can do about it. I took it that we are a representative body and this is in solidarity with students who are affected by this. It is not so much a call to action but to say that we stand with you and oppose what this does to you.
- viii. Moved to discussion.
- ix. Liu: All of the stats of the seven countries are growing with a slight stagnant growth and keeping in mind plans for the future, I move to pass with unanimous consent.
- x. Motion to pass with unanimous consent.
- xi. 49-R-42 A Resolution to A Resolution to Defend the Rights of International Students at The Ohio State University PASSED with unanimous consent.
- c. 49-R-43 A Resolution to Encourage the Expansion of Gender Inclusive Housing Options on the Columbus Campus
  - i. *Buss:* Hi guys. Let me start by saying this is an issue very near and dear to my heart and my cousin started the group Transition. It is a student organization that is a support group (that is slowly transitioning to an activist group) back in 2012-13. They looked at the housing. For students who identify with the trans community or gender non-conforming, there are no many options and the gateway apartments are the only options right now. That includes the rooms and bathrooms. You must choose a



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gendered wing and bathroom or you must live with your assigned gender. Especially with Park-Stradley and Smith-Steeb, where the bathroom is a pod style that aren't assigned, but housing doesn't have that. I wrote this in conjunction with Transmission and this is what they wanted. The first one is accommodating all students' needs. You can go through housing, but there is no official documentation for that and this is asking to commit to that fully in the future. Secondly, we are asking for gender inclusive housing for all areas of campus. For students who fit in the gender binary, they don't need to think about this, myself included. A lot of students do have to worry about this on north, south and west campus to find housing no matter where you want to live. The only option is the most expensive option so students who want a gender inclusive environment, this is an impediment. It is basically off-campus and it is across high street and it robs students of the traditional experience with an RA and roommate.

- ii. *Leederf:* I am the treasurer of Transmission. We've talked about this extensively and this is an issue for many students. It causes financial stress and stress in general in affirming their gender but I'd like to say that speaking on behalf of Transmission, we fully support this resolution and would love to work with USG.
- iii. *Sullivan:* I think this is awesome and I fully support this. Is there a reason you didn't include a clause about the affordability component?
- iv. *Buss:* In the fourth whereas clause I mentioned it and in the last clause we asked for housing of all prices.
- v. *Vargo:* I am curious, with the second year live on requirement, do you foresee any issues in providing those spaces with the demand?
- vi. *Buss:* That is a concern and when I met with the co-presidents they are worried about that, too. That is why we are doing this right now to get into housing and to think about this especially with the demand.
- vii. *Bodey:* One of my biggest concerns is that the counselors don't know how to have this discussion. What training do they have with gender pronouns and this issue?
- viii. Buss: I'm not an RA so I don't know the training.
- ix. Leeder: I am an RA and we do go through training with pronouns, etc, but we do have that training.
- x. *Buss:* That is something we have looked into especially when going deeper in to LGBT issues. In terms of dealing with housing and their understanding, I'm not 100 percent sure and we want to ask them how well versed they are and I have the same concern.
- xi. Moved to discussion.



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- xii. Frank: Friendly amendments.
- xiii. *Frank:* This is a great resolution and I'm thrilled to have this in front of us and to make a positive change at Ohio state and to become more diverse.
- xiv. *Belfiglio:* I think this is a great resolution. I want to share a story. I lived in Bradley Hall freshmen year and the person I roomed with was transitioning from male to female and she lived on the male side. They put her in a single room so she had to pay more and she was put in the room based on her birth sex. She didn't leave the door open and she felt stigmatized and not at home. It wasn't until the second semseter that she put her name on the door and this is something OSU is so far behind on and I don't understand how we force students to go through this. On the floor down, there was a transgender male that could have been flipped easily. It was wrong for them to do this.
- xv. *Clark*: I commend both parties and Transmission is a tremendous name.
- xvi. Question is called.
- xvii. 49-R-43 A Resolution to Encourage the Expansion of Gender Inclusive Housing Options on the Columbus Campus PASSED.
- d. 49-R-44 A Resolution to Support the Implementation of Dialogue Spaces in Framework 2.0
  - i. *Bidna*: Hello everyone. This resolution has been awhile in the making. After the presidential election in November, I was in the union and the day after, there was a group of MSA students praying and talking about the issues in the Union and it was the only room available at the time. That irked me. Why are there no rooms where students can talk about stuff like this? It's great that we have the MCC, but in terms of safe diverse dialogue, there is nowhere to have these discussions and there is only one room. I have been talking with sustained dialogue, MSA allies for diversity and they all think that as we are building new buildings we should have a space for safe dialogue.
  - ii. Moved to questions.
  - iii. *Gracia*: Is this different than a free speech zone? A lot of campuses have spaces that are set aside by the university to have political conversations and these are spaces where you can't be offended, you can't be punished for speaking in those terms.
  - iv. *Bidna*: I tried to stay away from 'safe space' or 'sanctuary area' because that is not what it is. It is just a space where students can rent it out to talk about diverse dialogue.



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- v. *Frank*: How would this differ from any other space available? The rooms on the third floor of the Union can be closed off; would that not be a space?
- vi. *Bidna*: There is a lack of meeting space and as we are building--there is talk of having open space, STEP rooms, etc. but there is no room specifically for audio visual capabilities that can promote more of an environment. There are rooms, but they are difficult to rent out and when things like a surprise Trump presidency happens, there has to be a constant room for that.
- vii. *Frank:* Do you believe this adequately defines what a dialogue space is? Would the administration know what this means?
- viii. *Bidna*: I do not believe it adequately defines it and I've talked with Danielle about this but I feel like the definition doesn't adequately define how I would like this room to be. The idea of having a room set aside for safe dialogue—I didn't find this it be 100 percent purposeful to this.
  - ix. *Clark*: I want to clarify- these dialogue spaces are set aside, not just delegating a room?
  - x. Bidna: Yes.
- xi. *Belfiglio*: So, you identify physical attributes, but I know of rooms with this. Is the idea that this is a room that is always open and available?
- xii. *Bidna:* If you look at the last let it further be resolved clause, but what Senator Frank was talking about is the tangible aspects of this.
- xiii. *Gracia*: Do you feel that if we do this, students will feel this is the only place to have these discussions?
- xiv. *Bidna:* I hope students know there is a space for this dialogue. If the end goal is that students think there are too many dialogue spaces, that is better than having a random room.
- xv. *Bodey*: I notice there is nothing here about costs, but some students have to pay for rooms and we clearly shouldn't charge students for praying. What is your plan for this?
- xvi. *Bidn*a: If you look at the Union policy, originations don't have to pay for room rentals and other non-union rooms as well. That is- it's more of an applied clause.
- xvii. Bodey: Why should you be part of an organization to pray on campus?
- xviii. Bidna: I don't think I defined that it had to be a group.
- xix. *Bodey*: Either you are implying that it has to be an organization or I'll introduce an amendment to fix this.
- xx. *Bidna*: You have to be an organization to reserve a room, you just have to be a group of students.



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- xxi. *Basalla*: To my knowledge, the practice is-- you don't have to be an organization, but you'd have to pay.
- xxii. *Belfiglio*: Library study rooms are the only rooms you can reserve as an individual.
- xxiii. Moved to discussion.
- xxiv. *Glass:* So I think this does a great job of recognizing need and regardless of the reason, it recognizes the need for areas with productive conversations. It has been mentioned that this doesn't lay out a clear plan, but it does have the first step. Regardless of whether this resolution is the key, it is an issue that needs to be addressed. This is the first time realizing that in order to get a space you have to be affiliated with an organization? That is not a healthy policy and we should have access to areas throughout the day that following an election or campus tragedy, there is a huge need to stand together and the university should take steps to recognize that. I'll leave it up to the room but the senator does a good job of recognizing the need for these spaces.
- xxv. *Belfiglio*: I really like this term. "Free speech zones" implies that this is prohibited elsewhere on campus. All of campus is a free speech zone just like most areas on campus. The word safe space has become politicized and mocked, so I like this. I do see an issue in not having the general characteristics is that I wouldn't know what it is that we want. Saying we'll figure it out with the administrator may be a problem. We want an accessible, dedicated, non-reservable room is what we want. It doesn't have to in a new building. Can we take an old room and do that? What can our current buildings do to accommodate this? If we can work this out tonight or later, that would be good.
- xxvi. *Audrey*: in Diversity and Inclusion we worked on this and when we were planning the discussion, we found it difficult to define what we wanted. What Noah means is more programming spaces. We have a lot in the union but they are always booked and it would be nice to have a space you can go to instantly. I know that if this were to pass Noah would take this to whoever is in charge of Framework 2.0 and that's why it's more fluid and less detailed. I don't think any administrator would say "do this now", we just want to say this is general consensus and we can work with them to fit everyone's need.
- xxvii. *Bodey*: I think there are spaces created with this intention and they have come to be in other things. I think it's weird that we hold USG meetings in the Prayer Room. I think that is inappropriate and the MCC is designed for this but because of the control of student life some groups are discouraged



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or they are not available. I'm not sure I like the resolution, I think there are other opportunities, but I think it would be better to work with sustained dialogue and they share the concern about this, so talk to Stephen Post. I would like to propose an amendment.

- xxviii. Amendment proposed
  - xxix. Moved to discussion.
  - xxx. Ouestion has been called.
  - xxxi. Amendment has been added.
- xxxii. *Sullivan*: a lot of people have brought up my concerns but asking administration to include more space is not necessarily a solution. We have discussed that a space is not necessary. I would like to see something with the way rooms are scheduled where some spaces are less—where things don't have to be booked a moth in advance.
- xxxiii. Frank: I still think—I don't want my questions to dismiss these claims, but I feel this doesn't give a fully encompassing view and I would like the sponsor to fully elaborate and if students see this but can't define it like myself- whether it can be resolved, and I feel that the administration would help this. I feel like a week's worth of review would help with the comment from the senators today and bring it back next week with an excellent resolution that we all like this. I don't want to say no, but I would like to send it back.
- xxxiv. Motion to table this.
- xxxv. Resolution tabled.
- e. 49-R-45 A Resolution to Support Dining Inclusion at The Ohio State University
  - i. *Buss:* I'm glad this fits with the theme we are discussing tonight in including students with issues they face. This was written with Student Affairs. Cannon Michaels is the one that spearheaded this, but I'm proud to bring this to the floor. It provides dining options for students from various backgrounds. Inclusivity is great.
  - ii. Frank: Let's pass this one as well.
  - iii. *Frank*: This is weird that I'm a cosponsor, but are there any other dietary restrictions that haven't been addressed with this?
  - iv. *Glass:* I'm sure there are. There is a spectrum of continual improvement and this is an issue that was brought forward with a lot of student traction and there probably is need but this takes the first whack at solving these issues.
  - v. *Bidna*: Can you explain the rhetoric in publishing dinner options. Is it to advocate for more options or to make them known.



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- vi. *Glass:* I think it does both. That reflects the whereas clause, but it is difficult to find the options because it is not listed anywhere. It is provided not by the university but other student advocacy groups. If you go to the last footnote, the link has different dietary restrictions, but these don't fit with that. This is saying that this should be a bigger priority by the university.
- vii. *Michaels:* I would say so. Looking at Maryland, Rutgers, Illinois, they publish the options and where they can go. They also may offer a dining plan. As the largest university not having this, but praising our diversity, it is counterintuitive and we don't cater to these groups as well as we say we do. We see we are adhering to other cultures and we'll make a change.
- viii. *Bidna:* Why did you chose to tile this to support dining inclusion and not adding kosher or halal? I feel you are leaving out other restrictions, and it's great that you are hitting this and there are more students who are halal over celiac, but why?
  - ix. *Glass:* I addressed this before, and there are other restrictions, but I honestly did not consider the messaging and what to take from the tile. It is not specific but the resolution says that. To address celiac disease, much of that is already addressed. There are gluten free option that are presented. While there are varying degrees, this does focus on halel and kosher, but this recognizes the greater purpose of that. I don't think this resolution clams to solve all dining inclusion.

## x. Moved to discussion.

- xi. *Buss*: I think this is really great and I appreciate the effort but into this by Glass. Addressing listing specific restrictions, I think it is better to be more specific because then we have clear-cut asks, but this resolution is focusing on just this and it's more direct when meeting with administrators. And that approach works better. When addressing issues of diversity, you have to be specific and I'm in full support.
- xii. *Liu*: If the jail allows prisoners have kosher meals, they should have that here as well.
- xiii. *Belfiglio*: You can filter by vegan/vegetarian and allergies, but you can't filter it by that and you can't find that info online. When we discussed this last year in GA, the only halal options were a burger, chicken sandwich, and hot dog from the Union. This may have changed, but the fact that only two options from one place are allowed is bizarre.
- xiv. *Quadri:* I think this is a fantastic resolution and those are the only options still there. If you have a meal plan you are spending all this money and you can't eat meat.



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xv. Motion to amend the title.

xvi. Motion failed.

xvii. Motion to pass with unanimous consent.

xviii. PASSED.

- f. 49-R-46 A Resolution to Support Installing Comfortable Flooring and Reasonable Religious Accommodations into the Interfaith Prayer and Reflection Room in the Ohio Union
  - i. *Quadri:* I don't know if you guys noticed, but there is hardwood in the prayer room. They took it out over the summer and I know that I use this every Friday for religious purpose and other groups do this. This is praying, sitting on the floor, and I met with the manager and she said it was torn up too much and she said it wasn't a priority to put in carpet. They said seven years was when they would put it in. I emailed a lot of religious groups, but it is not totally inclusive because a lot of groups have not gotten back to me This is about proper accommodations and from talking with other groups, they need floor pillows and low rise table and other accommodations. I wasn't specific because we can decide that later on, and if this was to pass, I can bring this to the administration with leaders from groups so hopefully I can change their mind to not do this in 7 long years.
  - ii. *Buss*: Fahrad did a lot of leg work on this and we've talked about every week. I'm going to use Gerard's words and say absurd that they took the carpet out of the room. I know we have to have cabinet in there sometimes but we really shouldn't. The fact that they feel this is okay is asinine.
  - iii. *Basalla:* All I'll say, I'll never use this to say my opinion, but your information is correct. To speak to the scheduling issues, we always request the Great Hall and that is given to us. This is an issue that needed to come to the body and I'm glad it did.
  - iv. *Quadri*: For more background, I guess from their perspective, their priority is for meetings and if someone spills food they would have to replace the carpet, it is called that for a reason. In my last TLIBRC, I have said that they should give priority to religious groups or not reserve it out to other groups in general.
  - v. *Liu*: I wrote similar resolutions to this, but I cosponsored this instead. I have said that there are other universities across the country designed for this including Columbus State, NC at Chapel Hill, UC Berkeley. Top notch, community colleges, other schools with the same ranking have this, but OSU does not have this.



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- vi. Moved to questions.
- vii. *Clark*: Does the Union provide anything?
- viii. *Quadri*: Yes, they said they would give floor mats, but they are almost like bed sheets. MSA had mats donated by a mosque. It's like garbage.
- ix. *Buss*: I want to reiterate how thin they are. They are not something I personally use, but I was appalled. I would not want to do anything on that. Not acceptable.
- x. Moved to discussion.
- xi. Glass: This was brought up during questions, but it brings up an important point. This is a great step to make this more accommodating and I'm in full support of this resolution. To all the other senators, there are plenty of opportunities to make this even better, we hit on this with Bidna's resolution. The fact that it is used for meetings and not proper use for prayer is a problem. We have come to a consensus without a resolution. We need to look at how this is organized to see another resolution come to the floor that has the problem and the opportunity to make an impact. I'm in full support.
- xii. Bodey: I would like to propose an amendment.
- xiii. Moved to questions.
- xiv. Moved to discussion.
- xv. Moved to call the question on the amendment.
- xvi. Amendment passes.
- xvii. *Belfiglio*: If I were to define a theme for this evening, for being called student life, I think they fail on getting input. This is called the student union; it is for students. When it is called the prayer room, it fis for prayer. Ripping out the floor without talking to anyone is a problem. Student housing is for students, but students can't reserve them. WE are students but we get charged for using equipment and companies get the room before us.
- xviii. *Clark*: On one of the cabinet meetings I had to sit on the floor and it was uncomfortable and not a good time. It's terrible and I thank Farhan for this and I commend Bodey for the amendment I think that's awesome
  - xix. Liu: friendly amendment.
  - xx. *Frank*: friendly amendments.
  - xxi. Motion to pass with unanimous consent.
- xxii. PASSED with unanimous consent.

#### VIII. Announcements

a. *Di Scala*: I appreciate your attention tonight and I want to see more of this.



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- b. *Clark*: I'm in desperate need for alternates on Sunday in allocations.
- c. *Glass*: I'm regretful that Senator Shaffer isn't here because I want to hear about his dog. It seems that this body likes an oxford comma and it might save time for Senator Frank to include one in resolutions.
- d. *Michaels*: His dog is doing fantastic and she just celebrated her birthday. Crab cakes are great.

# IX. Adjournment

a. Adjourned.