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48th General Assembly
Spring 2016, Session 19
February 3, 2016

I. Opening

- a. Call to Order
- b. Attendance
- c. Swearing in of Alternates
 - i. Jake Dretzka.3 for Chris Waidelich
 - ii. Lauren Fechtel.1 for Christine Touvelle
 - iii. Michael Frank.457 for Jake Ferzacca
 - iv. Jacob Goodman.390 for Emily Martin
 - v. Carla Gracia.8 for Samuel Reed
 - vi. Vincent Liu.3439 for Manasa Punugu
 - vii. Chad Strahine.4 for Emmy Wydman (after Committee on the Whole)
 - viii. Rachel Williams for Varsha Challapally
- d. Approval of Minutes

II. Open Forum for Public

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

III. Executive Report

- a. *Abby Grossman*: The biggest thing is please come to Cabinet next week. Instead of a regular meeting, we will have a State of the University address about all the work USG has done thus far and what we plan to do in the rest of our administration. We encourage you to dress nicely; if you can't, that's okay. We will have administrators there. Please invite people who have either complained about USG to you over this past year or have expressed concerns or interests or anything towards USG. Any person would be an ideal audience member there. We are going to articulate very well all the work that you and this organization has done. It's really a celebration of all the work that has been done.
- b. *Halie Vilagi*: I'm here to listen to what you're doing. I'd like to commend all of you for excellent *Lantern* coverage. This administration has excellent coverage of its accomplishments. Most of the things I've seen have been so positive. Personally, this job is not easy and some nights are long, but sometimes it's important to remind yourself of that lesson that legislation and government is not supposed to be easy. You're supposed to fight it out and get frustrated and leave unhappy on Wednesday nights, and that's what's supposed to happen. Take heart, I'm proud of you. The Board has been reading



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up on what you're doing. Email me vilagi.4@osu.edu if you have any questions about what I do.

IV. Committee Reports

a. Allocations – *Jenna Gravalis*

i. Allocations met this week and gave out the following:

1. Student Activity Fund:

- a. Bangladesh Student Association \$600
- b. Pre-Dental Club \$500
- c. \$Alpha Epsilon Delta \$350
- d. Model African Union \$400
- e. CFAES Student Council \$400

b. Oversight – *Daniel Marchese*

- i. Oversight did not meet this week, but what we discussed will be reflected in today's Old Business.

V. Vice President Update

- a. *Abby Waidelich*: Today I wanted to take time to talk about my role as Vice President. I wanted to say something to you tonight and I've been thinking about what to say to you guys and what you want to hear. I try to be transparent with you guys, but first and foremost this is an ever-changing role and there's a learning curve that always plateaus and goes up and up. We're still changing and adapting to this role. I know it may be perceived differently sometimes, but I still have the 24 hours you guys are also given in a full day. I consider this a full-time job, but I sometimes decide to spend those 24 hours on my role as a student, sister, family member, etc so I can graduate on time. I also understand that many of you have been frustrated this year. I could have been more diligent in doing some of my jobs. That's a very daunting task that's almost impossible because I have tried to please each of you this year. I do admit that in this last week many of you left this room very frustrated, and from my own position as overseer I apologize that I put many people into that position. I didn't create the time frame, but I did create the appointment process. I relayed this to a few people at the beginning of the semester, but my first priority this semester was appointing the vacancies for Senator seats. After that, I had the CBRC application go out. That process was difficult because there were many passionate people within this organization that wanted to do it, but not many people passionate outside of USG.



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Then I focused on appointing two new members to the Judicial Panel so that we have a fully staffed Judicial Panel for next year. You are elected members and you fight very hard and I'm very proud of you all and I want to please all of you all. Knowing your frustrations, I want you guys to be up front with me about that. I hold office hours for that reason, and I'm happy to meet outside. A line of communication is what makes it better for us. Every time I have a conversation with a senator about an improvement that can be made within USG, I try to implement that in the next week. Most of the time I would love to raise my hand and give in my opinion, but at the end of the day I am the deciding tie vote in the room. I would like to know how to make your experiences better. With the next two months, I know the State of the University address next week there are so many highlights with you guys. I am so proud of you, no matter the opinions in the room. I wanted to give that talk tonight, but I want to end with this: I would like to have one-on-ones with you all, but I would like it to be a dialogue between us. I wanted to say this: I've heard your frustrations and I understand, because I was in your seats as well. Use me to help you guys out. That's all I wanted to say tonight, but going into Old Business...

VI. Old Business

- a. *48-R-36 A Resolution to Place the Proposed Constitution, and Election Bylaws on the Annual Ballot*
 - i. *Cramer*: We passed the deadline to put this on the annual ballot, so I will be speaking on that later.
 - ii. *Marchese*: The CBRC voted over the last week. We have produced recommendations. As per the resolution informed us, we have to describe why we decided to make the decisions we did, so this is a product of the committee. I will be reading this aloud: "Resolution 47-R-31, which convened the current CBRC, stated that the committee will either present its changes to the Undergraduate Student Government, or present a letter describing why an action of "no change" is recommended. Following the most recent general meeting of the Undergraduate Student Government General Assembly, it was brought to our attention that an emergency meeting of the General Assembly on Monday February 1st would not be able



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to convene in time to meet the filing deadline for ballot initiatives. Although it was not the committee's original intention to take no action on the current Constitution and Bylaws, the combination of a five-month late start and a failure to obtain an extension has brought us to our current circumstances. We have decided that re-writing the current constitution by committee in four days would not be a responsible decision for the next five years of our organization. We recommend that the Undergraduate Student Government takes no action to change the current Constitution and Election Bylaws under the current CBRC." I will be more than happy to answer questions as long as the question is pertinent.

- iii. *Cramer*: If I move to table indefinitely, does it cut off the speaker's list, or do we still finish the speaker's list?
 - iv. *Abby Waidelich*: It will cut off the speaker's list.
 - v. *Luther*: What are your plans for this for the future?
 - vi. *Marchese*: A subset of the CBRC has decided to continue meeting. We will be suggesting those changes to the next CBRC, which is required by the Constitution.
 - vii. *Kaczmarek*: Why didn't we get an emergency meeting?
 - viii. *Marchese*: I was the one who motioned for an emergency meeting in Steering, and I withdrew that motion because I realized we would not have quorum on Sunday, and by Monday at noon the deadline would have already passed.
 - ix. *Shaffer*: Why didn't the JP give you an extension?
 - x. *Marchese*: There is no mechanism for the Judicial Panel to provide an extension. I assumed that it would be unfair to other people who are trying to get initiatives on the ballot.
 - xi. Motion to table 48-R-36 indefinitely.**
- b. 48-R-31 *A Resolution to Approve New Organizational Bylaws*
- i. *Marchese*: We put a skeleton cabinet structure in place. That part of the changes isn't changing anything, as much as defining the way we already do things so that they are codified somewhere. I'm going to introduce some of these changes. Some of these are ones that I intend to withdraw from the whole process, and at that point we'll have to go into Committee on the Whole.



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- ii. *Shaffer*: Do we have bylaws?
- iii. *Abby Waidelich*: Yes they were in the emails sent out this week and last week.
- iv. *Marchese*: I'll walk down the document. Composition of the current General Assembly. The College of Public Health and Medicine is not a thing. Since this is a seating change, we'll go into committee on the whole so that we're fair to the people who are running for senate seats and for the President and VP so they're not trying to find new people to fill senate seats during petitioning. This next one is not debatable, because of a previous resolution. Same with the section on the Regional Campus Liaisons. Throughout this document there's a lot of mention of the University General Assembly, so I changed it to University Senate. On the third page, the description of the standing assembly committees was under the Executive section of the document, so I moved it to the Legislative section. The first major changes are the GA Issue Committees. The practice is as of late to have them in a limited manner, so I defined them. I tried to codify what we already do. I said that each committee in the Executive Committee will have an analogous committee in the General Assembly. A lot of these are language updates to reflect the changes that I made. I defined committee membership. You were appointed by Abby to the committee. I put in an appeal process for people who are not happy with their placement. The next major change is in Subsection G of the General Assembly article. Essentially, we used to list in order of preference and required that certain people get seats. That is impractical and hasn't been done in a while, so I removed it. I placed in that you must be in good standing with the University to hold this seat. As far as University governance goes, it didn't used to say how members were approved by the General Assembly, so I went in and put majority vote. Subsection J under impeachment says that no member may chair his or her own impeachment or censure proceedings. This brings it up to date with the Constitution as well. Subsection L I added that members of Senior Staff may not alternate in the General Assembly. We're going to avoid



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crossover in the Legislative and Executive branches. Committee alternates must be voting members of the General Assembly, so if you're in Oversight or Steering your alternate must be in the General Assembly with voting rights. Also, the Executive Cabinet serves at the pleasure of the President, and the President has the sole authority to dictate policy. The President dictates the policy of Cabinet, unless the General Assembly passes a resolution dictating something. The big change that I've made—which came into question a few years ago—says that the President may not dismiss a Director of a committee once s/he has been approved by the General Assembly. The Deputy Director section has been very heavily edited, so since you all had two weeks to read over this, I'm assuming you noticed all the changes. The rest of this document is mostly incidental and grammar changes. I clarified some ways for the appealing of an Allocations committee decision, but yeah the rest of this is grammar and formatting edits. That's all I have, thanks.

- v. *Cramer*: I understand the logic behind disallowing members of Senior Staff to serve as alternates, but could Senators speak a little bit to how any of these Directors could sit here and vote and walk into a Senior Staff meeting and be privy to confidential information?
- vi. *Marchese*: For example, Ben Schulman would not be able to come in and alternate for somebody. Separation of powers as much as possible.
- vii. *Luther*: Article 2 Section A seems to conflict with Article 2 Section D.2.c.i. Could you speak on whether those conflict, if you see what I'm talking about?
- viii. *Marchese*: The reasoning behind part A is that the purpose of the Cabinet is to serve as an extension of the Executive's authority. The other one that was super nested and detailed is a check on that. Because I added that "at the pleasure of the President," I added that the President can't just rip votes out of our chamber.
- ix. *Wydman*: Article 2 Section E.1.c I notice it references the elected Deputy Director of the General Assembly.



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- x. *Marchese*: General Assembly Standing rules define the procedure.
- xi. *Bodey*: Article 2 Section 2.f I've seen it as quite an issue not in govt affairs reaching out to government entities and it says here that that section of Cabinet controls government relations. Is there any process to request outreach to government entities?
- xii. *Marchese*: I'll yield to Levi on this one.
- xiii. *Cramer*: I thought it was interesting that we weren't hosting a Town Hall and inviting City Council until it was presented to Steering. I think that this is something that is important to keep on the books here, because I think these need to flow through my committee, even something as little as remembering to add the prefix Hon. before we add it to the legislation is something we could have caught. We have expertise on how to persuade them to come here, their ideologies, et cetera.
- xiv. *Marchese*: I left this intentionally vague so that government relations people can coordinate this and can oversee this process, however that process may be carried out.
- xv. *Cramer*: It could be something as simple as keeping me in the loop, like hey I'm reaching out to this person.
- xvi. *Hottinger*: Separating College of Public Health and Medicine. Would it be added this year or taken out and added as a vacancy seat later?
- xvii. *Marchese*: That is something that I want to change later. Composition shall begin with the election of the 50th General Assembly. It won't take effect until everybody has enough time to know that it is taking effect.
- xviii. *Abby Waidelich*: Edits you want to make to the document can only be made on Committee on the Whole, so that's why we might go into that later.
- xix. *Cramer*: Do we have the right to break those seats up without a referendum?
- xx. *Marchese*: We need to be able to regulate the shifts in our demographics to be . There's nothing in the rules that says this is against the rules.



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- xxi. *Souders*: Article 4 Subsection B.4.c.i overturn a decision of the Allocations committee less than the amount being appealed. I find that language vague.
- xxii. *Marchese*: First part is yes or no, and second part is if yes, then how much? They can appeal a no, or the amount attached to a yes. The decision of the committee is to fund xyz at \$100. Changing it to \$300 would be a overturning of the decision.
- xxiii. *Bock*: In Article 2 Section D.2.c. where it says the Director terminates with the end of the General Assembly session, doesn't that already take place? There's only a few weeks or months left in the year, and it kind of takes a while for the new President and Vice President to appoint new ones.
- xxiv. *Marchese*: This language is carried across from the old Bylaws, but I see what you're saying. We can talk about that later.
- xxv. *Gonzalez*: Article 1 Section A.2 I was wondering why the North Campus seat didn't get more senators even with the expansion.
- xxvi. *Marchese*: I would be willing to add this seat, because of the humongous shift in the amount of students on North Campus.
- xxvii. *Gonzalez*: Would you consider taking a seat from the Off-Campus Living Area and giving it to the North Campus Living Area?
- xxviii. *Marchese*: Not in the middle of the election, but yes if the General Assembly is willing to vote on it.
- xxix. *Wydman*: Would you be willing to follow same procedure as College of Public Health and Medicine?
- xxx. *Marchese*: I'm not strongly opinionated in any way, but I think the humongous shift in the campus demographic could warrant a North Campus seat addition.
- xxxi. *Warnimont*: Does every seat here have a college?
- xxxii. *Marchese*: I would assume yes.
- xxxiii. Entered Committee on the Whole.**
- xxxiv. *Marchese*: I do like the idea of adding a North Campus seat, because of the amount of students living on North Campus next year. I want to hear discussion on the splitting of Public Health and Medicine. I see why it could be necessary to split it now because right now we're putting the College of Medicine under the same umbrella as the College of Public Health. There's also



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the issue that if there's a campaign running somebody for the College of Public Health and Medicine, then what are they going to do.

- xxxv. *Belfiglio*: I want to comment on the seats, because I'm on Oversight. We could choose whether to have the seats take effect next GA or the GA after that. The ideological issue is that people are currently petitioning for those seats. The issue with adding that is . I think it'd be bad to take away a seat. The College of Medicine comprises 3.4% of the majors on campus, which is more than the College of Public Affairs and many others, so it would be fair to add that seat. My suggestion would be to add those seats, but not take away any.
- xxxvi. *Hardin*: I am the current College of Public Health and Medicine Senator. I get why they're lumped together, but they're very different students. It's a lot to cover, so I support making them two seats. I would support doing it sooner rather than later, but I understand the time crunch.
- xxxvii. *Shaffer*: because they're forcing sophomores to live on campus, that means that half the students will still be off campus or commuter. I would be more comfortable with adding more seats to the 50th and taking away from the off campus.
- xxxviii. *Luther*: I'd like to clarify the language in Article 2 Section A. I think serving at the pleasure of the President could cause confusion and could cause confrontations down the line. Maybe the Executive Cabinet is recommended for appointment at the pleasure of the President? I don't think serving at the pleasure of the President is the right term.
- xxxix. *Marchese*: I'm amenable to changing it, but I don't see it causing too many problems. The Cabinet serves to further the President and Vice President's agenda, so I think it's fair to say that the President and Vice President will get some reasonable regulation of the membership of the Cabinet.
- xl. *Harper*: Going back to the seats, I think there's a reason we couldn't get other things on the ballot. I think we should take that timing into account for the 49th. Being someone not involved with campaigns at all, I feel like that would put a lot of



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pressure on the different slates, so I think we should add them to the 50th instead of the 49th.

- xli. *Marchese*: I'm coming forward and changing it to the 50th, so that the Composition Shell will begin with the 50th General Assembly.
- xlii. *Drenkhan*: So will these Bylaws go into effect after we pass this? What about the seats?
- xliii. *Marchese*: The Bylaws will go into effect after we pass it, but the seats will go into effect later with the 50th General Assembly.
- xliv. *Cramer*: No start times with organizational procedures. We could do it later on in the two to three weeks after the new Senators are elected.
- xlvi. *Marchese*: I disagree with that. I think we have a history of not doing things when we say we're going to do them. The last two meetings of the General Assembly are always a little crazy.
- xlvii. *Frank*: I'm concerned about the numbers. Is there any way we could delay not the passage of it, but when the Resolution comes into effect? I think taking vacancies is better than not allowing certain students to be represented in the next year.
- xlviii. *Marchese*: We're going to put to a vote whether we want this to go into effect with the 49th or the 50th General Assembly.
- xlviii. *Belfiglio*: I think we should pass these next Wednesday so that it doesn't interfere with petitioning.
- xlix. *Marchese*: Does anyone have questions on what we're about to do? We'll be voting on whether or not we want to do the 49th or the 50th. I'm going to tell you one mechanism so that this can be delayed and sent back to the General Assembly or sent to Oversight. We can vote to send it back to the General Assembly and then vote to send it back to Oversight. A yes vote will be saying you want these changes to take effect with the 49th General Assembly. A no vote will be saying you want these changes to take effect with the 50th General Assembly.
- i. *Honaker*: I'm worried that it's easier for set campaigns to get the signatures than it is for people outside of USG who are not part of campaigns. If we pass this and people are scrambling to get these signatures by Friday, then it's a lot easier for people



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on campaigns to get these signatures than it is for people outside of USG.

- li. *Wydman*: So what are we voting on? Adding a North Campus seat, splitting the College of Public Health and Medicine seat, or eliminating an Off-Campus seat?
- lii. *Cramer*: I fear that if we do this before elections end, and someone wants to run for one of these seats, then there may be problems with a case being brought before the Judicial Panel. I think we should do this later on so that the Vice President can deal with it through the vacancy process.
- liii. *Abby Waidelich*: If you have any issues with the document, right now is the time to voice your opinion (during Committee on the Whole). Some wording does have to change unless we mandate that petitions are still due on Friday.
- liv. *Marchese*: We can address the seats in a different resolution so we can dedicate more time to talking about it. Returning seat section to the state they are in the current bylaws and just considering the rest of the documents. We're leaving the seats the way they are and myself and possibly Mario will come in with a resolution specifically about the seats. A yes vote returns those two sections of the document to what they are now, and a no vote will let us keep having this discussion.
- lv. *Bock*: If they're addressed later, will they still be able to go into effect in the 49th?
- lvi. *Souders*: If that's addressed later, does that mean later this evening?
- lvii. *Marchese*: No, in a later session.
- lviii. *Souders*: By taking care of it later, that means that the new seats will automatically be vacancies?
- lix. *Marchese*: Whatever seats we choose to add will become vacancies in the next or the next next General Assembly.
- lx. *Honaker*: This isn't messing with the Regional Campus Liaisons or anything like that?
- lxi. *Marchese*: This is just talking about the allocation of seats.
- lxii. **Unanimous vote to leave the seats the way they are currently.**



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- lxiii. Warnimont:* Did you guys read my email? Article 1 Section B.2.e I think should be that the Vice President advise the President on University Senate and University Senate committee appointments. Article 1 Section B.h add General. Article 1 Section B.3 General Assembly. Article 1 Section B.4.a meeting should be lowercased. Article 1 Section B.1.c.1.e. Article 2 Section D.1.d needs to be a comma after deciding. Article 6 Section B.1.b and c they are saying the same thing. Stricken. Article 1 Section D.11 Deputy Director elected by the General Assembly.
- lxiv. Waidelich:* There are numerous committees and appointments outside of the actual structure and I'm inclined to not put a strict rule on that because they have different appointment processes. I understand where you're coming from because we've appointed non-University Senate committees this year.
- lxv. Marchese:* We've been approving the University Senate members because we're nice, we're not required to approve them. I would say that's a structural thing that needs to be addressed later. I don't think this is something that warrants a change.
- lxvi. Liu:* Can you define "good standing" in Article 1 Section G.1.a.1?
- lxvii. Marchese:* academic probation, etc.
- lxviii. Chang:* I have a formatting edit. Can we keep it consistent with either "ad-hoc" or "ad hoc"?
- lxix. Marchese:* I'd prefer "ad-hoc" with a hyphen, so I'll change them now.
- lxx. Souders:* 4.B.4.c could we change "with" to "award"? That doesn't change the nature. It implies both decisions, but makes it less vague.
- lxxi. Marchese:* I'm going to cut off the edits now.
- lxxii. Bock:* It's kind of hard when the new people haven't been like chosen or appointed by the President and Vice President yet. I don't have ideas on how that could be avoided but like do people have opinions on that?
- lxxiii. Marchese:* That's how USG currently works as well.
- lxxiv. Bock:* I know that that's how it currently is, but I feel like we should change it.



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- lxxv. Marchese:* Director terms shall end with the appointment of new Directors by the next administration?
- lxxvi. Belfiglio:* I would say the best way to fix it is during the two-week period they can still do work.
- lxxvii. Abby Waidelich:* Directors under Article 2 of the Executive Branch. Shall end with current General Assembly session. This body ends, but Cabinet continues in an informal fashion. The next administration takes place once they take oath of office, so every single appointment is null and void once the new administration takes place. It's a lot of weirdness if they're not chosen to be a Director again. We still operate in an informal way. Cabinet Directors are still Cabinet Directors, and we try to make sure the transitions are smooth. They end with the inauguration of new senators.
- lxxviii. Cramer:* The second the new administration comes in, the old is null and void. I sat down with former director and I don't think we really need to discuss this.
- lxxix. Marchese:* Resolutions only last until the end of the General Assembly term, so if we make Director appointments last past the end of General Assembly, then that's in direct conflict with the Constitution.
- lxxx. Khan:* As a Director, if I'm developing a budget for the fourth quarter, is that something I work on with the next Director?
- lxxx. Marchese:* I will say congratulations, everyone, we've discovered a fundamental flaw with the way we do things. Historically, the way we've dealt with them is letting them go and hoping the next change in documents addresses them. I think these are all things we should discuss after this session and see if they merit change.
- lxxxii. Abby Waidelich:* This administration budgets for the next quarter of the administration.
- lxxxiii. Liu:* I still don't understand the "good standing" part. Can you change it to "positive background check" or something like that?
- lxxxiv. Marchese:* It's the way that the University defines "in good standing," so we're deferring to the University's definition.



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lxxxv. Chang: I can send it to you. It's on the University Registrar's website.

lxxxvi. Departed Committee on the Whole.

lxxxvii. Motion to move into discussion.

lxxxviii. Moved into discussion.

lxxxix. Marchese: I thank you guys all for your patience. I know this is grueling, but we have to do it every year to make sure we're running nicely.

xc. Bock: Why are we not changing seats again?

xc. Marchese: We're going to do it later. We'll have a separate resolution to discuss the seats.

xcii. Motion to approve with unanimous consent.

xciii. PASSED with unanimous consent.

VII. New Business

a. No new business.

VIII. Announcements

a. *Cramer:* Due to the large developments in the case of House Bill 201, I do not have time to write the Afroduck resolution. If anyone would like to write it, I will gladly co-sponsor, but I do not have the time to write it.

b. *Abby Waidelich:* If anyone would like to speak with administrators, many of them will be at the State of the University address next week. There will also be food next week, possibly cake.

IX. Adjournment