



**Amraha Nadeem**  
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**50<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**  
Spring 2017, Session 3  
April 19, 2017

## **I. Opening**

- a. Call to Order
- b. Attendance
  - i. Maryan Liban.8 for Shukri Ahmed
  - ii. Reagan Brooks.945 for Nick David
  - iii. Danielle Wehrle.31 for Abby Greene
- c. Swearing in of Alternates
- d. Approval of Minutes
  - i. Minutes approved

## **II. Open Forum for Public**

- a. No one

## **III. Updates**

- a. No updates

## **IV. IV. Executive Report**

- a. *Andrew Jackson*: For the past two weeks, Sophie and I have been doing a lot of administrator meetings — meeting them, keeping them updated on what we have been doing. I have my meeting with the President of the Provost Council of Sustainability tomorrow, and that's going to be running through the summer as well. Sophie and I have been tasked to figure out what we should really be doing with the money that is coming in through the SNP, and its going to be signed by the board of trustees. So that is what Sophie and I have been working on a lot recently, and what we will be continuing to work on over the summer. If you guys have any questions about that please come up, feel free to ask! Also, if you just want to grab coffee sometime to talk about what we have been doing more in depth, I'd love to do that!

## **V. Committee Report**

- a. Allocations
  - i. *Averi Townshend — Chief Financial Officer, about Allocations meeting on Sunday*: If you sit on allocations, please be at the USG office on Sunday at 4 pm. We are going to repass the Quarter 4



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budget that the old allocations already passed — so possibly some money that wasn't used has been reallocated. We will also be doing plenty of other things. I will kind of explain what allocations is, and how it works on Sunday. So, if you sit on allocations, please be there! I am going to put you all in a GroupMe soon so we can communicate easily.

- b. Oversight
- c. Steering

## **VI. Old Business**

- a. None

## **VII. New Business**

- a. USG Office Access Forms

- i. *Chang*: These are going to be USG office access forms. Does everyone know where the office is? If anyone doesn't know just raise your hand. Okay, its on this floor in the CSLS. It is right past the resource rooms so if you don't currently have access, just make sure you sign your name and bring them up to the front at the end of GA so that we can get you access to the USG office. The USG office is pretty much a space where you can do homework, have meetings, or whatever. It's a space to hangout if you'd like to!

- b. Role of a Resolution

- i. *Samer Abusway - Chief of Staff and former Director of Academic Affairs*: Hi everybody! My name is Samer Abusway and I am the Chief of Staff for all of USG. I also served last year as the director of Academic Affairs. Today, I want to talk to you about the role of a resolution. First of all, I want to say that a resolution, once it has passed out of General Assembly, carries a lot of weight. As you guys are probably very well aware, as we pass resolutions through the General Assembly, it carries the weight of 52,349 undergrads. This basically says 'we the people in this room are speaking on the behalf of the student body and we want to advocate for various things'. Just using my personal experience as an example, when I



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wanted to push for textbook affordability initiatives, merit scholarships for older students, and advising changes and reforms, we would use our legislation as a way to really show that the student body supports this. Once the legislations has passed, you, working with your committees and your directors, can work show the administrators the legislation that you have passed. It is saying what it is we want as a student body, why it is beneficial, why we think it is important. You will be working with them to see how we can implement specific changes. I know that just this past year, the interfaith and prayer area had a lot of legislation passed about it, and we were able to work with the Ohio Union. A meeting with legislation with administrators versus a meeting without legislation with administrators is very different. This is because with legislation, you have a lot of statistics and reasons outlined for you right there in the legislation. Really, the role of the resolution, in part, after it leaves here is to help actually get the things we advocate here in this body done! After a resolution passes, I always say that you need to follow up on it, especially if you are a sponsor or a co-sponsor — work to get that thing done! I know that you are all assigned to committees; be leaders in that committee. Work with your directors to get stuff done! Make sure that when you are meeting with administrators, you have your research done. That is why your resolution is so important. I just want to emphasize the importance of what you guys are all doing, and the legislations that come through here carry a lot of weight, and they really help in administrator meetings, and they really help us in accomplishing our goals. That's all I have, but if anyone have any questions please let me know — you know where to reach me. Thanks for letting me talk!

- ii. *Chang*: I'll give a short example of a resolution that we passed through GA this year that went through the whole policy pipeline of USG and also went to shared governance, and then I will explain what we will be doing for the rest of GA. I will try to get you out by 7:15 tonight because I know everyone has finals and many different things to do tonight. So, I'll give my example. Last



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year, Micheal Frank, he used to be a senator, and he was my deputy director when I was the was the deputy director for Health and Safety last year. He passed a resolution to have a mental health statement on every course syllabi. If any of you don't know, the only thing that is mandated to be on all course syllabi right now is the statement about the Office of Disability Services for any students who potentially need those services. The cool thing about syllabi is that it is the only thing that reaches all undergraduate students in whatever stage they are in. That resolution was passed through General Assembly two years ago, and then it was passed again last year. It served as a good vehicle for me to go into administrative meetings as a director, especially with CCS and people with the Office of Student Life to discuss how 52,349 students support a mental health statement on course syllabi. And then there was Sam Whipple, who was the Chair of the Undergraduate Student Caucus and chaired the undergraduate side of Shared Governance — which is the university system for how they govern things — he was able to get that through the University Senate Steering, then it was heard on the floor, and then it was passed by the general body which is the faculty counsel, and the undergraduate student body as well. Now, we are in the implementation stages. Now, we have to work with the Office of Academic Affairs to make sure that professors are actually putting that statement on course syllabi. That's a way to increase awareness and accessibility of CCS because even though wait times are still a bit long, this is just a way to increase awareness of Counseling and Consultation Services for student who don't know about it. That's just an example of how a resolution can make its way from an idea, to a cabinet committee, to General Assembly, and go back out again to be an actual policy point that is passed by the university. Right now, I want you all to go into your Google Drives, if you have them. Go into 'General Assembly', and then to 'Helpful Information'. The second folder is 'How to Write Legislation'. All of these are resources for you to learn how to write resolutions, because I know most of you are



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very new in this chamber. Over the next week, just look over some of it if you have time, and definitely use the summer to look over it as well. If you have any ideas, I know all of your directors will be more than happy to help you with that. If you have any questions, during the next session, we will go over question on how to write legislation, and if you have any policy point ideas that you think would come through General Assembly, we can discuss those on the floor as well. Next, I am going to have committee breakout with you guys. They will be led by your directors this time. This is just to get to know one another, and get to know who in GA is going to be in your cabinet committee. After you get into your groups, I will adjourn GA. I'd like for you all to stay for at least 10 minutes, and talk to your directors about policy idea that you have. At least stay until 7 please! Cool? Okay, so please get into your committees. Directors, you can direct where everyone goes!

*c. Committee Breakouts*

**VIII. 5-Minute Recess for Prayer**

**IX. Announcements**

a. None

**X. Adjournment**

a. Meeting is adjourned at 7:00pm