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48th General Assembly
Spring 2016, Session 1
April 6, 2016

I. Opening

- a. Call to Order
- b. Attendance
 - i. Kristen Bratton.60 for Jordyn Brobst
 - ii. Chris Delbridge.8 for Cody McClain
- c. Seating of Members
- d. Swearing in of Alternates

II. Open Forum for Public

- a. *Sunder Sai*: I'm a Deputy Director in the Health and Safety Committee. Next Tuesday, the University will be hosting its first ever Town Hall Safety Forum. This is a great way to meet constituents. I hope you'll all attend. We'll be discussing public safety notifications, off-campus lighting, etc. At the event, we will have many guests present—panelists from all over campus, such as the OSU Police Department, Columbus Police Department, Columbus City Council, and representatives from about 20 student organizations on campus. I will send an email to Danielle with the link for how to RSVP—filling out that form will reserve a seat to ensure your attendance. Please come out next Tuesday from 6:30-8 pm. We'd really love to have you guys.

III. Updates

- a. GA Deputy Director Overview—*Joe Warnimont*
 - i. *Joe Warnimont*: I am an Engineering Senator and last year, I was a Deputy Director in the Student Affairs Committee. I'm going to give a quick presentation on what it means to be a Deputy Director and what your role will be. There are six issue committees within USG. You can go to the USG website under the Administration tab to learn what each committee does. Committees are headed by a Director and up to 4 Deputy Directors from Cabinet. The executive branch appoints those Deputy Directors. Deputy Directors work with the Directors in defining the role of the committee and moving the committee forward as a whole. This chamber will also elect senators to be Deputy Directors in those committees. My role as Deputy Director of Student Affairs was more limited in Cabinet—the other Cabinet Deputy Directors headed committees and were in charge of CRs. Mainly, GA Deputy Directors are in charge of writing resolutions based on projects. Braden Poe, the former



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Health & Safety Deputy Director, introduced three resolutions that came to the floor based on work done in Cabinet. Directors are way too busy to do this (write resolutions for all the projects or policies they're working on in committee), so that's how you'll assist the Directors. Each Deputy Director will also sit on the Allocations Committee, which disburses money to student organizations to fund them. If any of you are in a student organization, USG is a vital funding source. In Allocations, you also approve the USG budget every quarter, or every three months. Your role as Deputy Director means your job is to defend the things requested by your Director in the budget. As a Deputy Director in Student Affairs, I had to justify why we needed \$250 to run this event. The time commitment varies week-to-week. It can range from about 20 minutes to 3.5 hours on Sundays, depending on how many student organizations apply for funding that week. At least 3 GA Deputy Directors are also in Steering. Steering writes the agenda and approves resolutions to be placed on that agenda. Steering has a lower time commitment, but it's a vital role nonetheless. Anyone on Steering gets a sneak peak on GA legislation coming to the floor before everyone else in GA. It's a great way to get your foot in the door in leadership and USG is most effective when all its parts work together. Last point: be sure to apply for a position that you're interested in and excited and passionate about.

- ii. *Di Scala*: Please reach out to current GA Deputy Directors if you have any questions.
 - iii. *Vargo*: Is there only one GA Deputy Director per committee?
 - iv. *Di Scala*: Yes.
 - v. *Marchese*: There are several non-GA Deputy Directors as well.
- b. Roberts Rules Presentation—*Dan Marchese*
- i. *Marchese*: Who here has heard of Roberts Rules? Who here has never heard of Roberts Rules? It's totally acceptable. It is a little bureaucratic, but there is a purpose behind all of this. Stick with it, because it's pretty easy to figure out. Roberts Rules is a set of rules provided by a man whose last name was Robert. It is used to maintain order in this chamber and to



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make sure discussion is productive. If you feel so inclined, you can read all 300 pages of them. They're not that interesting, but it's important to know the way to use them in this chamber. Why do we use them? To maintain order in the chamber, to make sure there are no problems with talking over each other, and to make sure meetings run efficiently and effectively. It also protects the rights of the majority to have opinions be enacted for the body, protects the rights of the minority to have their voices heard and to not be silenced by the majority, and protects individual rights of each person in this chamber. More specifically, why is there a Parliamentarian? It's the Parliamentarian's job to ensure that a) Roberts Rules are followed (protected and enforced correctly), and b) to make sure governing documents are followed. Please read the governing documents of USG The Standing Rules are a long read, but avoids confusion in the long run. Also, side note: the Parliamentarian is tasked with keeping current rules up to date, and changes rules as necessary if something is inaccurate or unnecessary. The Parliamentarian also runs the Oversight Committee. Now I'll go over general rules for talking in this chamber. Personally, the most important thing is that every member in this chamber—including whoever you select to sit in these chairs—is equal. Nobody's voice matters more than anyone else's. Please be civil. Sometimes that's hard to remember after yelling at each other for 3.5 hours. Use Ms/Mr/Senator and use last names with them. Look respectable. No one's expecting you to wear a suit everyday, but please look respectable. Next, be respectful. Don't interrupt people. Listen to the people who are speaking. Put your phones away, close your laptops, etc, when people are speaking if you're not looking at anything pressing. Finally, don't be hostile. We're here to discuss the merits of legislation—personal attacks and vote shaming are NEVER acceptable. Vote shaming is threatening action on someone based on their vote. Overall, don't interrupt (one person at a time), be productive (avoid echoing sentiments), and direct all comments to the Chair (Danielle Di Scala). Know your rights (if you don't, you



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won't know if they're being taken away by accident). If in doubt, ask. If you're unsure why we're doing things, ask why we're doing those things. That's why we have the point of parliamentary inquiry, which we'll talk about a little more later. When a resolution gets introduced, there's the main motion, questions, discussion, and voting. The main sponsor makes a speech and introduces legislation. In that speech, the main sponsor describes the purpose and speaks as to why a yes vote is important for the resolution. Co-sponsors are then given time to provide comments on the resolution. Again, don't interrupt people. Generally, there are no motions allowed on the floor. Next you move on to questions. The chamber is allowed to ask questions of the sponsors and co-sponsors. Everything will be directed to Danielle, the chair, not the person you're asking the question of. Make sure there is no hostility. Next you move on to questions, which is when you ask questions on the resolution and research regarding the resolution. Keep in mind that this is not cross-examination of the sponsor, or the time to voice your opinions or to ask irrelevant questions. If you do any of those things, someone will notify you and ask you to stop. Questions end with no more people having questions or a motion by anyone in the chamber to continue into discussion. Discussion is when each of you discusses your stance and opinions on the issue. Again, all comments will be directed to the chair. This is time to express opinions on legislation, time to make any necessary amendments to the legislation, and time for healthy and productive debate—productive being the functional word. It's not a time to be hostile towards others in the chamber, and it's not a time to threaten people over their voting choice. Discussion ends when the question is called (motion to call the question). Finally, voting. This is why you're all here. This is why the student body elected you. Voting starts off with Danielle announcing that a vote has been called and telling the chamber exactly what vote has been called. She'll mention the requirements for passage if necessary. She'll explain the meaning of a yes and no vote if necessary. Everyone has to vote



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yea, nay, or abstain. Please vote or we'll have to start over. Danielle will then be prescribing a voting method—we'll go in order of how stringent each is. The simplest voting method is a call for objections, which is generally not used on resolutions unless Danielle can see that most people in the chamber support the resolution and that a more stringent voting method is not needed. The next is a voice vote, which is when we say "all those in favor please say ay, all those opposed please say nay." A role call vote is where the Secretary goes down the list and asks for a vote one person at a time. The last and most stringent voting method is a secret ballot vote, which is when post-it notes are passed out and counted up front. The voting method is decided by the Chair (Danielle). Any of you can ask for a stricter method—and that will be prescribed. If Danielle says "it's the speaker's opinion that the vote is not carried," that means that too many people probably disagree with what you're voting on. A motion for division of the chamber means that the Chair will have to count the vote after speaking on not carrying the vote. You do not "motion," you "move." You "move to..." It generally requires two people to "second" your motion. There will be discussion afterwards, except in special cases, then a vote is called on the motion itself. There's a couple ways to find out information in this chamber. "Point of parliamentary inquiry": can be used whenever you want (question about procedure we're following, e.g. how we are voting, why are we doing 2/3?) It's okay to have more of these at the beginning while everyone in the chamber is still trying to figure things out. The "point of information" is a request for information. You can interrupt, but please don't unless you have to. An example of a "point of information" is asking how many people are on the speaker's list. Next one is "point of order," which is an appeal to the Chair when we're breaking the rules. The people at the front of the room are not perfect. If you notice that rules are being broken, you can call a Point of Order. Points of Order are always interrupting, so if there are hostile or personal attacks, you can say "point of order: personal attacks" and the Chair will



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address that as necessary. A point of personal privilege is a special request that can't wait or is used when you feel uncomfortable in the chamber. A motion to continue into discussion caps the speaker's list. A motion to call the previous question caps the speaker's list and calls for a vote. There's also motion to call a recess, which is self-explanatory. There are motions to amend things, generally on resolutions. There's a motion to table a resolution. You can motion for a speaking limit. If someone stands up and speaks for 15 minutes during discussion, you can ask for a speaking limit. General rules of thumb: limiting rights in this chamber requires 2/3 vote. Abstention is consent. This is important. If you abstain from a vote, this is you saying I agree with the majority. Everything requires quorum so at least half of you have to be here if we want to do anything. Nifty trick: you can do anything with unanimous consent. Are there any questions?

IV. Executive Report

- a. *Gerard Basalla*: Welcome to the 49th General Assembly. My role here is to give an executive report every week. I will be here or my Chief of Staff will be here if I have another meeting. I will be here, basically, for information you need to request from me during the session. Hopefully I can answer any of your questions. On to my report—we've changed the structure of cabinet. We have different positions now. For the liaison positions, their job is to go to student organizations every week and make sure we're listening to every group of people on this campus. USG has had a major issue with diversity and inclusion, and listening to students. We need to listen to every group of people, and Danielle and I understand that, and things are going to change with our administration. That's not only with USG—that trickles down to all of you. You all have to reach out to the people you represent and the people who honestly never get heard. We're trying to consolidate roles that don't make sense, such as the people whose only job is to track points and take attendance—into Coordinators to have the roles make sense. Being a Deputy Director of Cabinet involves projects and policy-based things, and they lead groups of Committee Representatives in Cabinet. Policy—I don't want to bore you here. If you haven't seen our policy from our campaign, we're going to do it



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and I think we're going to have one of the most successful years in the history of USG. Matt Couch, our USG Advisor, who has been here forever, will be able to hold me accountable to those promises, and so will Danielle and other members of our administration.

- b. *Frank*: This question is about the structure of cabinet—will there no longer be a governmental relations committee?
- c. *Di Scala*: I just want to comment on today's agenda. It's set up like this because these are the committees outlined in the Standing Rules. The agenda is written this way to remain consistent with the Standing Rules—so basically, there is still a committee on governmental affairs. It's just not in the Standing Rules. Refer to the committees I included in the email I sent earlier.
- d. *Basalla*: We will get called out in the *Dispatch* when we do not follow procedure. It's happened before.

V. Committee Reports

a. Allocations—*Derek Whiddon*

- i. Hi guys. I will be the Deputy CFO for next year and my main role is to head the Allocations Committee, which handles the money of the organization. We pass the USG budget of each quarter, and a certain portion of the budget is allocated to the student organizations that apply for them. We also give out Organizational Development Grants once a year. Now I will go into my normal report that I will give every week in this chamber: Last Sunday, the Allocations Committee met at 4 pm in the Coasters and Carnivals Room in the Center for Student Leadership and Service and funded the following organizations:

1. Global Health Initiative \$1,500 airfare and travel for a trip they are taking;
2. Baja Buckeyes didn't show up and we haven't heard back from them;
3. Ascend Pan Asian Leadership Club \$584.96 hotel costs for a trip they are taking;
4. Buckeye Bhangra \$1,500 hotel costs for a trip they are taking; and
5. Landscape and Floriculture Forum \$800 for a trip they are taking.



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- ii. *Warnimont*: Earlier, I painted Allocations in a rather negative light, but I just want to say that Allocations is fun and it's a very informative job. Without it, I wouldn't have known about most of the events on campus, or about the cool student organizations on campus.
- iii. *Whiddon*: If you have questions, my email is whiddon.1@osu.edu. Please email me.

VI. Elections

- a. Parliamentarian of the General Assembly
 - i. Nominations: *Mikayla Bodey, Mario Belfiglio, David Glass, Joe Warnimont, Michael Frank* (declined)
 - ii. ***Entered Executive Session.*** (*Marchese*: Everybody in this room who does not have voting privileges and who is not Gerard is asked to leave. We generally will make exceptions for special guests who have to stay for certain reasons. Everything that happens in Executive Session stay in this room. You do not discuss things that happened, how you voted, etc, in Executive Session. Technically, in the federal government, if you break this rule it's an extremely serious offense. The reason we do this is because in Executive Session sometimes contentious things are said and we want to make sure those things stay private and within this chamber to ensure that they don't permeate the politics outside of the chamber.)
 - iii. **Mario Belfiglio elected as Parliamentarian of the General Assembly.**
- b. Secretary of the General Assembly
 - i. *Chang*: As previous Secretary of the General Assembly, I can say that sometimes it got very frustrating within the chamber—especially when people kept echoing each others' concerns and statements and I'd have to type them all out. However, it's a good way to review what happened in GA. Being a GA Officer also means that you're automatically on the Steering Committee, which generally meets on Sundays for an hour (sometimes 1.5 hours) to set the agenda and approve, edit, or send back legislation submitted by senators. Being Secretary takes responsibility because you're required to upload the minutes at least 24 hours before the next GA



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Session. As Secretary, you'll also get to know parliamentary procedure very well. Besides people in the executive branch, you will be the person that outside media also contacts, because you're the person who recorded the proceedings at sessions with contentious legislation. For example, in the 5.5 hour meeting we had about the divestment legislation a few weeks ago, it was a lot of work to edit the minutes, but it was also my job to make sure that people who read the minutes understood what happened and why things happened the way they did. It sounds like a lot, and it can be sometimes too, but it's also rewarding. It's a vital role within GA.

ii. Lauren Fachtel elected as Secretary of the General Assembly.

c. Motion to table all below.

- d. Deputy Director of the Committee on Academic Affairs
- e. Deputy Director of the Committee on Budget and Finance
- f. Deputy Director of the Committee on Student Life
- g. Deputy Director of the Committee on Health and Safety
- h. Deputy Director of the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion
- i. Deputy Director of the Committee on Sustainability and Environmental Affairs
- j. Allocations
- k. Steering Elections
- l. Oversight Elections

m. Motion to table all further elections PASSED.

VII. Old Business

- a. No old business.

VIII. New Business

- a. No new business.

IX. Announcements

- a. No announcements.

X. Adjournment