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48th General Assembly
Fall 2015, Session 8
September 23, 2015

I. Opening

- a. Call to Order
- b. Attendance
- c. Swearing in of Alternates
- d. Approval of Minutes

II. Open Forum for Public

III. Updates

a. Abby Waidelich

- i. We need members of the student body to join the Constitutional Bylaws Review Commission (CBRC). Please refer anyone who would like to join, who is not part of USG, to me.
- ii. Type up something you've been working on, such as legislation or your constituency event, and send it to Danielle DiScala. You can also fill out the Google form. These are required from each of you three times during your term. Please take note of next week's deadline.

IV. Executive Report

a. Abby Grossman

- i. We have amazing new members. Reach out to them and involve yourself with them as much as you can! They look up to you.
- ii. You should've gotten an email a few days ago about the Buckeyes ACT Program. You'll soon receive one about your login information, so make sure that not only do you complete the training program, but that you're also encouraging other members of our campus to get more educated as well! Please advocate to your constituency and friends about this.
- iii. Lifeline Response Safety App is ready, and we're just waiting for some administrators to sign. It'll be rolled out in the next few weeks.
- iv. We're getting a new VP/Director of University Libraries. Open forums, open to the campus community, will be held with each of the three finalists for the position on Oct 1, 5, and 8. If you want more information on those dates, you can come up here afterwards and I'll get you all the information.



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1. Thursday, October 1, 2015 with Damon Jaggars: 2:45-3:45pm in Room 165 of Thompson Library.
2. Monday, October 5, 2015 with Lisa Carter: 4:00-5:00pm in Room 165 of Thompson Library.
3. Thursday, October 8, 2015 with Faye Chadwell: 4:00-5:00pm in Room 150 A/B of Thompson Library.

V. Committee Reports

a. Allocations – *Jenna Gravalis*

- i. Allocations met this Sunday, and we gave out
 1. \$500 to Global Health Initiative, and
 2. \$1000 to Chinese Students and Scholars Society.
- ii. Remember to market the Allocations funding applications.
- iii. Remember to talk to me, email Danielle DiScala, and email Erin Henry about marketing once you have ideas for your constituency events. Off Campus Senators, please see me after to talk about your upcoming constituency event.

b. Oversight – *Daniel Marchese*

- i. I met up with Jenna and we hashed out changes to Deputy CFO and CFO positions. If you haven't read the Bylaws yet, please do so and make note of any grammatical errors or numbering problems. Oversight will be meeting about it this week.

VI. Old Business

a. 48-R-11 A Resolution to Approve the Election Bylaws

- i. *Chief Justice Marsilio*: (Explanation of the grammatical changes in the election bylaws.) This is one of the major changes in the election bylaws. We as the Judicial Panel felt that student health was at risk during campaigns. During weekends 11:59am on Friday to 12:01am on Monday, students will not be allowed to "campaign." We wanted to emphasize that academics come first. On pages 12 and 13, new Article V: Amendment Procedures we felt that this should be separate from Article IV. Previous Article V is now Article VI. We also added a term in the glossary, which we encourage you to read through, that a weekend is defined by 11:59am on Friday to 12:01am on Monday. These are the changes from last year. If you have any questions or comments, let me know.



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- ii. *Kramer*: The rationale behind the weekend rule was that people could sleep and get. Why specifically on campus? Couldn't someone still campaign off campus and on social media?
- iii. *Marsilio*: We decided that enforcing off-campus activity is more of a gray area. This is our initiative, and we understand that you can abuse the system and do what you want off campus, but this is our initiative to make sure that students can take the time to advocate for their own wellness.
- iv. *Warnimont*: Does this rule apply to social media or anything that's not in person?
 - v. *Marsilio*: I'll read through the new rule for clarity's sake. Restrictions on social media do not apply.
 - vi. *Belfiglio*: Someone could be using social media on campus, so that's not included on this?
 - vii. *Marsilio*: It would be difficult to track where each social media post is coming from, so this is just the Judicial Panel's way to pushing students towards their own wellness.
- viii. *Wydman*: What if a student of the campus community comes up to ask about campaigns during the weekend?
 - ix. *Marsilio*: Just know that you cannot actively speak or give them information on the campaign on campus during the weekend defined. Tell them that you need to concentrate on academics.
 - x. *Cramer*: Can the Chief Justice tell me how that would affect the First Amendment?
 - xi. *Marsilio*: I can see this as being restrictive to the First Amendment, and that's definitely not the meaning we intend, but this is solely to aid students in their academic success, not to infringe upon their constitutional rights.
 - xii. *Ferzacca*: Would that include wearing campaign T-shirts or posting flyers on the weekends?
 - xiii. *Marsilio*: I want to clarify as much as I can, but I cannot run through every single example. As per your comment on T-shirts and putting out campaign materials, that would definitely be included in the restricted activities.



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- xiv. *Glass*: How is the word campus defined? Does that include the Columbus campus, regional campuses, University housing, or is it just referring to academic buildings on campus?
- xv. *Marsilio*: We're talking about Ohio State main campus and all that it encompasses.
- xvi. *Glass*: So if I was running for Regional Campus Emissary, I wouldn't have to abide by these rules if I was on a regional campus?
- xvii. *Belfiglio*: So off-campus isn't included? Why not? The Judicial Panel already restricts certain things in the off-campus area for campaigning, so why not include off-campus?
- xviii. *Marsilio*: The Judicial Panel understands all that happens off campus during the campaign season. We've just decided to enforce the on-campus atmosphere.
- xix. *Warnimont*: We understand that there were restrictions on wearing T-shirts in the Union and in the CSLS. Are there more changes?
- xx. *Marchese*: It's not technically written anywhere, it's just that the Judicial Panel reserves the right to restrict certain areas of campus with notice.
- xxi. *Abby Waidelich*: No campaigning is allowed in the CSLS, and no USG resources are to be used for campaigns.
- xxii. *Bock*: You could easily just go in all the residence halls and post things about the campaign at 11:58pm on Friday?
- xxiii. *Marsilio*: I'll reread the rule. So yes.
- xxiv. *Touvelle*: If people don't abide by this, how would you address it if people break the rules?
- xxv. *Marsilio*: We'll take it on a case by case basis, so we'll establish a precedent and move from there.
- xxvi. *Cramer*: Would the Judicial Panel be open to changing the document in light of the issues we have with it?
- xxvii. *Marchese*: Let's save that for discussion.
- xxviii. *Cramer*: Withdrawn.
- xxix. *Souders*: Are the necessary amount of valid signatures enumerated anywhere in this document?



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- xxx. *Marchese*: It says right there that it's 750 for President and Vice President, and 50 for Senators.
- xxxvi. *Wydman*: Back to the bylaw change we were just talking about, I was wondering if there's a demarcation between persuading someone to vote and providing someone with campaign information? Can our intent be to inform them about elections and campaigns in a nonpartisan way?
- xxxvii. *Marsilio*: No.
- xxxviii. *Warnimont*: I talked to you about instant runoff voting the other day. What is your reasoning for not including it?
- xxxix. *Marsilio*: The Judicial Panel was brought a suggestion by Senator Warnimont the other day. We love to get input from students to understand how we can improve our organization. As far as the election procedures go, the Judicial Panel decided that there may not be enough time and resources to implement that voting system for this election season. We may consider changing it for the next election season.
- xl. *Abby Waidelich*: Just so everyone knows, the Judicial Panel may change these. They just have to present once a year.
- xli. *Belfiglio*: In terms of the General Assembly, I think we should include off campus, or not include the new rule at all.
- xlii. *Cramer*: I'm okay with the majority of the changes being proposed here, but just a clerical thing: it never states which punishments have clear violations. Could we table this until we get it fixed?
- xliiii. *Michelson*: I agree with Senator Cramer on that. It's supposed to give students a work-life balance, but I think that unless it deters students from also campaigning off campus, I think that we should either include off campus or not include the rule at all.
- xliiiii. *Marchese*: This won't be the first time you're hearing about this, but I'll be as quick as I can. Can we go through the list of grammatical things, if you don't mind? Please strike II.2.i.i. Article V: GA can propose, but not actively modify the bylaws. We should set a deadline for GA approval, and the GA should be able to suggest things. "Late Membership" is misspelled in



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Article II, Section b, Subsection 3. For I.B.3, required “in writing” is a little absurd here. The formatting is off on Article III, Subsection C. And I think the same before A. Article IV, Section B, Subsection 3a. Article IV, Subsection B, Subsection 3. Article II, Section B, Subsection 3.

- xl. *Ferzacca*: Looking back from my experience last year, I found that lots of students were busy during the week and finally had time to talk about campaigns during the weekend. I’m worried that they won’t have this opportunity if this rule gets put in place.
- xli. *Marchese*: The Judicial Panel missed deadlines on petitions last year. I think we should have some type of recourse for the Judicial Panel if it misses a deadline on petition due dates. The Judicial Panel Responsibilities should also state something about forms being created early, and be of satisfactory content to some kind of authority.
- xlii. *Souders*: Article II, Section B, Subsection 1. The spacing is off at the beginning.
- xliii. *Abby Waidelich*: Speaking as someone with experience, and as we’ve not discussed things besides the weekend rule, there’s not much campaigning done on the weekends. I think that this helps to not have as much competition during the weekends, especially for people part of Ground Game. I do speak to Senator Gonzalez’s concerns, but people can work around that. Speaking from my experience in the past three years, I don’t know how many of you will be affected by this new rule.
- xliv. *Ferzacca*: If they’re approved, can they be changed later on?
- xlv. *Marchese*: Yes, but if they change it later on, then we as the General Assembly will have to vote yes.
- xlvi. *Abby Waidelich*: You can add your suggestions in the coming weeks and months. This is not the only time that suggestions can be made.
- xlvii. *Ferzacca*: I’d much prefer that the bylaws say “actively engaging in campaigning activities” or something of the sort.
- xlviii. *Gravalis*: Permission to talk about how campaigns work? I ran Ground Game last year, and I think that this is something that



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really needs to pass. Campaigning doesn't really happen on the weekends, but it does happen. We have tents on the Oval, giving out information. Off-campus people generally don't want you to be campaigning on the weekends. I think that if anything does change about the current change made to the bylaws, I think that off campus should be included in the restricted areas.

- xlix. *Warnimont*: The current electoral system is "First Past the Post." Abby & Abby won about 46% of the vote, and they were elected to the system. This is a fairly unrepresentative system, as 54% of the student population did not vote for them. In 36 out of 49 elections, this has happened. I strongly abhor this system, and I think that more systems should be considered. I know it's a time and resource issue for this election cycle, but I think we should change it in the future to ensure that our elections are as representative as possible.
1. *Ferzacca*: Can the Judicial Panel come back next week with changes and present again? Why are we still doling out suggestions if they can just make changes and come back again?
 - li. *Marchese*: I think that it's good to have everything out in the open, and if the Judicial Panel comes back next week, that they come back with changes that we have discussed in this chamber.
 - lii. *Belfiglio*: I think the Judicial Panel should go back, change things that we're concerned about, and come back next week.
 - liiii. *Marchese*: Since we promised that the vacancy elections would begin at 7:30pm, I'm going to go back to the grammatical changes. Article V, Section A "to and correct" any spelling. I'll read down my list and I apologize to everyone, but there were lots of problems with this last year. I think we should be able to propose edits to the documents. I think it's strange that we have to table it, wait for change, table it again, wait for change, and table until we're happy with the documents. I think we should also have a rule that says that we shouldn't be able to change the election bylaws during an election, because that



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happened last year and it wasn't good. We had some problems last year with unsatisfactory forms—as in, without the circulator signature—on forms that didn't have circulator signatures. Maybe we could have someone like Matt Couch be the deciding factor on that? Something that came up during the CBRC last year...I think it would be really nice for the Senators to sign on their own petition forms to acknowledge and validate that they know they are running for a Senate seat. I know it sounds ridiculous, but there have been instances where people who were supposedly running had no idea that they were running. II.A.2.c or covertly as well? II.A.2.e isn't type IV a little harsh for some things? Technically, jaywalking is a violation of local law. There should be some form of oversight for II.A.2.f—it was abused like crazy last year. In II.A.3.b, I think we need to define what a polling site is. I also think it would be nice if the Judicial Panel set up a certain number of polling sites around campus or in the Union, since the number of polling sites directly correlates with the amount/percentage of students that vote. III.A.5 grammar, III.C formatting, III.C.2 needs a special clause for international students and the international emissary, IV.A formatting, IV.B.3.a grammar, IV.B.C.3 typo. Also, what bylaw type is the weekend campaigning rule under?

- liv. *Glass*: First of all, way to be diligent. Secondly, I encourage Senators and members of the General Assembly to speak to the Judicial Panel later off the record if they have more changes they'd like to see. I move to table this.
- lv. *Abby Waidelich*: I'm going to object to that. All of your suggestions are in the Minutes now. The Judicial Panel is bound to all of these suggestions now. I don't know if you want to receive one gigantic document with all the changes to the document, but tabling this resolution would do that.
- lvi. *Glass*: Motion to table.
- lvii. *Vilagi*: In years past, we've had issues with complacent Judicial Panels who have not been very responsive to the General Assembly, especially during elections. I think it's a good idea to



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table this until the General Assembly is completely happy with it.

- lviii. *Belfiglio*: I think we should table this, because there's no guarantee that the Judicial Panel will come back after we approve this. Not to be rude.
- lix. Motion to table. PASSED with 5 abstentions.**
- lx. *Bock*: How can I provide the Judicial Panel with suggestions?
- lxi. *Abby Waidelich*: You can contact the Justices, and the Chief Justice's information is on the website. You can contact him via email if you have suggestions.
- lxii. *Marsilio*: In years past, there has been a negative stigma associated with the Judicial Panel and the lack of an open line of communication with the rest of USG. This year, I want to make sure that I'm getting to know you and you all are getting to know me, and that we can all have an open line of communication with each other. Ultimately, I want to make sure that we are all representing students of the University. Our goal is to ensure the integrity of USG, but we do that to improve student life as a whole.

VII. New Business

- a. Off Campus Vacancy Election
 - i. Enter into Executive Session.**
 - ii. Kurt Shaffer elected as Off Campus Senator.**
- b. Public Affairs Vacancy Election
 - i. Mikayla Bodey elected as Public Affairs Senator.**
- c. Swearing in of New Senators

VIII. Announcements

- a. *Jackson*: CABS Committee, please come meet with me for five minutes after this meeting.
- b. *Drenkhan*: Stop by the Frenzy stand in the Union tomorrow.
- c. *Marchese*: Oversight will be having a meeting at 2pm on Sunday. We will also be talking about an appointment. If you can't make it, please let me know
- d. *Abby Waidelich*: If you want to be part of the CBRC, please email me.
- e. *Souders*: Off Campus Senators, don't forget our meeting.

IX. Adjournment