From the Desk of Ian Schwarber, President of GSG  
11.7.14

To My Fellow Graduate Students,

Hoping that all of you moving confidently through the very challenging pursuits we have chosen, I am writing you today to share news of an inevitable occurrence.

**GSG MUST FREEZE PEG REQUESTS FOR THE REST OF FALL 2014 SEMESTER**

Graduate Student Government will NO LONGER be able to provide funding for PEG applications to be SUBMITTED THIS SEMESTER, Fall 2014. (This PEG FREEZE is ONLY for the FALL 2014 SEMESTER) In other words, if you are planning on requesting funding via the PEG application, and your conference/event is scheduled for this semester, we will not be able to accommodate such requests.

For this I both apologize, and boast, as we have allocated a significant amount of money for our GSG PEG program, and it has been exhausted, due to so many impressive students desiring to take advantage of the grant. Though it is unfortunate to run out of money for the semester, the goal was to see it completely used, and the energy shown by our applicants this semester, and in the summer, has been truly inspiring.

On behalf of Stewart Blessing and Tony Stratis, GSG VP and Treasurer, respectively, we do sincerely apologize to the students that were planning to submit a PEG for December, for example, whom would be well within the timetable to get funded for their submission. Due to so many students taking advantage of the program, some asking for their funding 3-8 months before they needed to, we have simply run out of money. We are NOT given a budget that would come anywhere close to awarding a PEG to every graduate student, and thus, it seems the “early bird” does indeed “get the worm.”

In order for the PEG program to be effective, we need to assist (in the small way that we do) so students can actually plan, travel and present themselves as UA graduate students...that is why we do give in the $100-$300 range. Making the grants smaller gets very close to defeating the purpose, and we respect the difference of opinion that holds that we could assist more students if we were to award less funding.

I respect that position, but I do have a different approach that will keep the funding as is, and in the Spring, we will once again maintain the $150-$300 rubric. Thus, in order to protect the interests of all graduate students at The University of Akron that are interested in applying for a PEG for an event in the Spring, please know that this may very well happen again. Therefore, I HIGHLY ENCOURAGE anyone interested in utilizing the PEG to do so as early as possible for the Spring.
"FROM .edu TO .com" – A WAY TO MEET THE LEADERS, ON YOUR TERMS

The VERY LAST THING that Stewart, Tony and I want to do is deny anybody, anything that we have at our disposal to help students ascend to the places they want to go. IN FACT, knowing that we have such limited resources, we have created the GSG Speaker Series, “FROM .edu TO .com,” which is having it’s inaugural speaker, Mr. William Considine, President of Akron Children’s Hospital, on Monday, November 17th, at the TAYLOR INSTITUTE (Polsky, 5th floor) at 5 PM.

These speaking engagement events are designed to be a perfect opportunity for students to “jump the hurdles” that so many of us face, and meet the CEO, or CFO, or President in this case, and introduce yourself, on your own turf...on your own terms.

What better way is there to meet people it would take months to schedule a meeting with (if at all possible!), that are local leaders of Fortune 500 companies? Our thought is that, since we have very little money to pass out to the many students who might request it, we had to come up with other ways to push our “professional development” agenda forward.

We hope you will consider joining us at the TAYLOR INSTITUTE on Monday, November 17th, at 5 PM. We will start with a brief speech and then a Q&A session, and then move to Barley House, directly across the street, for a social hour that will allow everyone to relax a bit, and get to know each other in a more casual setting.

There will be food and soft drinks, both at the TAYLOR INSTITUTE, and Barley House, so please, do join us, looking professional. Mr. Considine will be speaking on the cross-disciplinary nature of leading a successful business, such as Akron Children’s, as well as engaging in a discussion about preparing a children’s hospital for an Ebola outbreak, or any other major outbreak. It is sure to be an intense and interesting session, and the social hour is sure to be the perfect opportunity to network with many different people. (I live by the adage, “Network, or Not Work.”)

As far as the freeze on PEG’s for the Fall, the reason is basic and simple, and well beyond our control: The well runs dry because the well is very shallow to begin with...and the idea of “First Come, First Served,” has never been more appropriate.

Thank you very much for your understanding, and I encourage you to look at this drought as a motivating event to plan your Spring adventures early. Our budget, which is just a small fraction of your fees, could never award every student a PEG...not by a long shot. Thus, to the “sprinter” go the spoils!
Sincerely,
Ian

PS...Stewart Blessing, GSG VP, and Tony Stratis, GSG Treasurer, are equally committed to this *mission*, if you will, because that is what it is; a 12 month opportunity to help, engage and assist as many graduate students as possible – in any way we can. Luckily for us, we may lack some things, but creativity and imagination are not chief among them;)

Ian Schwarber
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Cracking the Midterm Code