

The University of Akron  
Minutes of the Graduate Faculty  
April 15, 2009

Dr. George Newkome called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Present: Dr. Diana Biordi, Heather Blake, Dr. Ron Gelleny, Dr. Hendrik Heinz, Dr. Teena Jennings-Rentenaar, Cheryl Kern-Simirenko, Will Miller, Dr. Francisco Moore, Dr. Tim O'Neil, Dr. Kathy Ross-Alaolmolki, Dr. John Senko, Dr. Harvey Sterns, Dr. John Szabo, and Dr. Mark Tausig.

Absent with Notice: Dr. Lonnie Lowery, Dr. Michael Mosebach, and Dr. James Rogers

1. Dr. Francisco Moore moved to approve the minutes of the 2008 Graduate Faculty meeting. The minutes were approved.
2. Reports

Dr. Francisco Moore, Vice Chair of Graduate Council, shared his report from the Graduate Council. A copy of the report is attached.

Ms. Cheryl Kern-Simirenko, Dean of University Libraries, provided a report to those graduate faculty members present. An outline of her report is attached.

Mr. Michael Giannone, Communications Office, Vice President for Information Technology Services, provided a report from ITS. A copy of that report is attached.

Will Miller, President of Graduate Student Government, updated those present on the current activities of GSG. A copy of his report is attached.

Dr. Mark Tausig, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, provided a report to the graduate faculty.

- Graduate student headcount and credit hour production is up.
- Graduate School has started to support efforts made by departments to recruit students from diverse backgrounds by providing funding for attendance at select graduate and professional fairs and research conferences that are predominantly focused on minority and under-represented populations.
- Graduate School offered ten new graduate assistantships if departments successfully recruited a diverse student body.
- Working with Lee Gill in an effort to develop training sessions for departments to assist in the recruitment of a diverse graduate student body.
- Completed attrition study, and the results seem to show that UA is losing master's students around the first and third semesters, and

losing doctoral students in the even semesters. This may be related to comprehensive examinations or development of a dissertation topic.

- As the adviser to Graduate Student Government, Dr. Tausig is pleased with how this student organization has come into its own and developed over the past two to three years.
- Conference on Undergraduate and Graduate Student Research (CUGSR) was held on March 26. This is the fifth year, and the conference gets larger each year. This year an additional poster session was added. Very well received across campus.

### 3. Action Items Referred from Graduate Council

#### Amendment to 3359-24-01 *Bylaws of the Graduate Faculty*

A copy of the proposed amendment is attached. Changes related to the composition of Graduate Council to call for one representative from the College of Creative and Professional Arts and one representative from the College of Health Science and Human Services, eliminating reference to the College of Fine and Applied Arts.

Dr. John Szabo made a motion to approve the proposed amendment.

Dr. Francisco Moore seconded this motion.

Amendment to the *Bylaws of the Graduate Faculty* was unanimously approved.

### 4. Old Business

There was no old business for discussion.

### 5. New Business

There was no old business for discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather A. Blake  
Graduate School

## Report of the Vice Chair

2009 Graduate Faculty Meeting  
Wednesday, April 15, 2009

Since the beginning of the academic year, the Graduate Council has had seven meetings.

- The Curriculum Committee, chaired by Dr. Francisco Moore, has reviewed, approved, and recommended 110 curriculum proposals to Graduate Council so far this year. To date, Graduate Council has approved 93 of these proposals as recommended by the committee. Seventeen proposals just recommended by the committee on April 13 are currently under review Graduate Council.

The committee has been discussing the curriculum review of 400/500 courses. Often a class is taught at both the 400- and 500-level. While the committee does not find anything inherently problematic with this arrangement, there are potential issues when attempting to assess the appropriateness of the graduate-level course if it is not clear when the course is predominately an undergraduate course and when the course is predominantly a graduate course. This makes it difficult for the committee to determine if the course meets a graduate standard. This issue will be presented to the Graduate Council at the next meeting on April 27.

- The Graduate Faculty Membership Committee, chaired by Dr. Mary Triece, has reviewed, approved, and recommended 93 applications for graduate faculty membership to Graduate Council so far this year. Graduate Council approved all 93 applications as recommended by the Committee.

The Graduate School sent memos to those departments that have not revised their graduate faculty membership criteria within the last ten years, asking that they revisit their membership criteria, making appropriate revisions, and submit that to the Graduate School for review by the Graduate Faculty Membership Committee. To date, three departments have submitted revised criteria for review and approval.

- The Student Policy Committee, chaired by Dr. John Queener, reviewed the Bologna Process, a plan developed by the European Union wherein the undergraduate degree awarded in Europe is earned in only three years, de-emphasizing broad, general education. Some applicants to Graduate School at The University of Akron have such degrees; however, a policy should be formalized to evaluate these three-year degrees. Currently, all students admitted to graduate programs must hold a bachelor's degree, and this assumed to be a four-year (or greater) degree. The committee approved the following policy for implementation. This policy was approved by the Graduate Council.

At the graduate level all Bologna bachelor's degrees should be handled in the same manner in which three-year Indian degrees are processed (i.e. on a case-by-case basis). This process is as follows:

Three-year degrees will be reviewed by the academic units. If the department/school determines that the student has 1) an appropriate background to perform well at the graduate level, 2) acceptable test scores, and 3) would most likely perform adequately in the classroom at the graduate level, the department, via the Graduate School, would recognize the three-year degree and admit the student on this basis. However, if the student does not meet these criteria, the student would have no other alternative but to apply through the Office of International Programs as an undergraduate student with transfer credit.

- Graduate Council approved a revision to the *Bylaws of the Graduate Faculty* related to the composition of Graduate Council to call for one representative from the College of Creative and Professional Arts and one from the College of Health Sciences and Human Services, eliminating reference to the College of Fine and Applied Arts.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Francisco Moore, Associate Professor  
Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences  
Vice Chair, Graduate Council

Graduate Faculty Meeting, April 15, 2009

University Libraries  
Dean Cheryl Kern-Simirenko

- I. New research collections
- II. Technology disruptions
  - A) OhioLINK access
  - B) New website
  - C) Streaming resources
- III. Learning Commons in Bierce



Information Technology Services

Report to the Graduate School  
April 2009



**Prepared by:**  
Mike Giannone  
Communications Officer, ITS Division  
The University of Akron  
330-972-2468  
[mag7@uakron.edu](mailto:mag7@uakron.edu)

April 15, 2009

This is a brief look into the activities initiated or completed by Information Technology Services over the past year and a few current/planned initiatives.

#### **Architecture Migration & PeopleSoft v9 Upgrade**

In 2008, ITS migrated from the University's old IBM mainframe architecture running DB2 database software to a new, more flexible and more affordable processor-based architecture running Oracle database software. The upgrade to version 9 of PeopleSoft (PS) was completed in early December 2008. The project team included people from Business and Finance, Student Affairs and Information Technology. Combined, these two projects were incredibly complex, but because of the skilled and dedicated people on the teams in IT, Finance and Administration, and Student Affairs, we stayed ahead of schedule and brought the project to completion on time.

#### **Legacy Application Elimination**

In concert with the migration and the upgrade, the University is looking closely at many of the older, non-PeopleSoft programs that reside on the IBM mainframe. These older programs, known as Legacy Applications, must be moved from the mainframe before it is completely shut down in June 2009.

#### **Shared Service**

UA is working with Lorain County Community College to create a technology, shared services model that could be replicated throughout the state. The project includes implementing PeopleSoft student administration, human capital management, and financials at LCCC using outside consulting. UA will run the application on its hardware with the support of ITS. This project is unprecedented for Ohio. UA and LCCC have validated that business process can be standardized and applications can be made to support multiple institutions from a central location. The project is being used as a pilot and if successful, will lead to a phase two where business units will be combined for supporting both institutions.

#### **Network Refresh**

Starting with the core and distribution (the main switches), Network Services began a 12-month project to update the University's wireless network. The project, which began last summer, is scheduled to minimize any disruptions. That is the major reason for the extended time frame. ITS plans to accelerate this timetable whenever possible.

### **Business Analysts**

Progress is continuing on creating a pool of business analysts to support the University's enterprise application environment. Business Analysts are responsible for analyzing the business needs of clients to help identify business problems and develop solutions. The business analyst typically performs a liaison function between the business side of an enterprise and the providers of services to the enterprise – like the University community and IT. The move will provide greater consistency between business units, increase accountability, implement long awaited functionality enhancements, and improve customer service.

### **Multi-use Football Stadium**

The high-level design of the technology infrastructure to be placed in the new football stadium has been completed. ITS plans to use the latest technology to deliver voice, data, security and cable TV on one converged fiber-optic network. Using emerging technologies, Telecommunications has identified several potential applications, which can be made available on-demand, including cable TV, internet and email capability, viewer-driven replay, online food service, and UA information. Merging four networks into one will offset the cost and enable ITS to deliver state-of-the-art services in the stadium and adjoining residence halls.

### **Akron Community Wireless Initiative**

UA is working closely with the Akron to launch the city's wireless system, which will provide free wireless access to a 12-square-mile area of Akron. The mission of the initiative is to connect citizens, enable economic development, and transform the well-being of the community by using technology. As a member of the Advisory Board, UA's ITS is providing counsel for the development, deployment, and adoption of the Akron's wireless infrastructure. Through this project, the board will work to create continuous community value, enhance the quality of life of residents, support the local business environment, enrich education, and promote public safety.

### **Workforce Outsource Services (WOS)**

WOS is a pioneering, educational program that trains underrepresented students and veterans in technology and business skills. Students are placed with sponsoring companies to work in various IT areas. Active in the New York City area since 2005, WOS is now expanding nationwide. To begin this pioneering effort, the program will be replicated in Northeast Ohio with UA serving as the host institution. In the program, students attend an intensive 16-month program at Akron (Summit College) where they receive the skills necessary to work in a corporate environment. The program covers technical as well as cognitive skills. The program is funded by the private sector (employers) and Foundations.

### **OHECC Conference**

The University of Akron will host the 2010 Ohio Higher Education Computing Conference (OHECC) next May. This conference brings together IT personnel from colleges and universities throughout the state. It is a good opportunity to explore technology innovation, discuss best practices, and show off our campus. ITS is currently in the planning stages for next year's event.



### **The University's Public-facing Web Site – UAKRON.edu**

Work is underway to port internal departments (i.e., Provost's Office, etc.) and Colleges into the new format. It is projected to take several months to port all our content, which consists of several thousand web pages, into the new format. Rollout of the new pages to colleges and departments will continue throughout the summer and on into the fall.

### **Strategic Planning Discussion**

In support of the President's Strategic Planning, Information Technology Services created a collaboration web site using the SharePoint platform. The Strategic Planning Discussion Board site, <https://sharepoint.uanet.edu/SPDev/stratplan2/default.aspx>, allows members of the University community to join a discussion.

### **Portals**

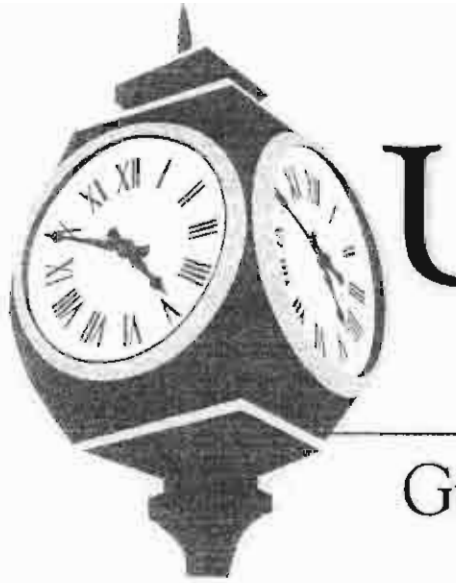
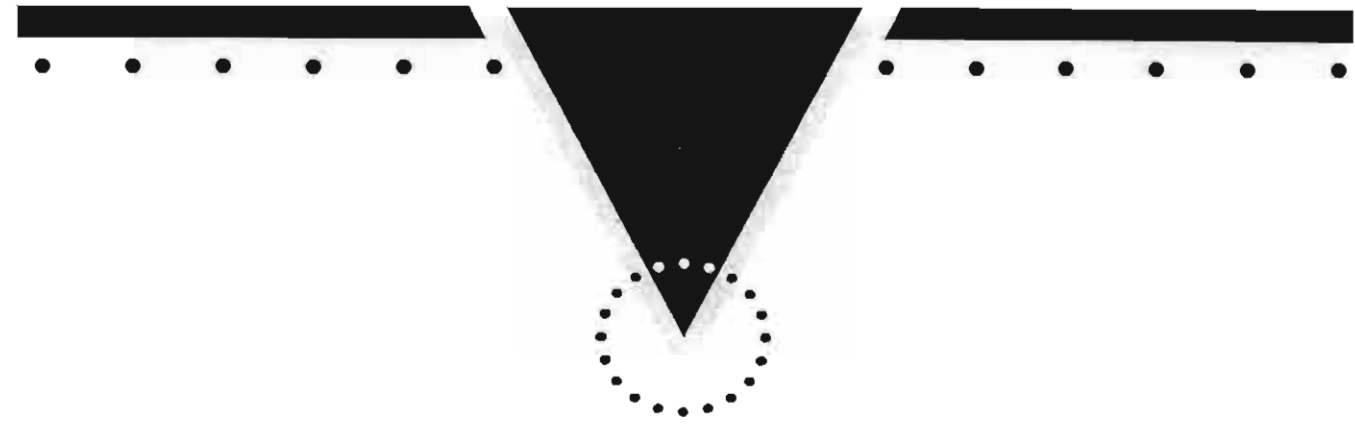
An initiative is underway to better match the University's portals (internal facing web sites) with user expectations. This initiative is designed to treat students and employees separately. It will produce a detailed plan to update ZipLine, the student portal, and create a University intranet – the employee portal. The initiative will produce a findings document to outline what our users need, an optimal implementation plan and a high level project plan with recommended resources to realize the suggested solutions.

### **Grants**

When UA implemented PS Financials, the University did not implement Grants, although the University owns the software and has kept maintenance current. A recent assessment concluded the PeopleSoft Grants provides the functionality required by the University. Once funding can be found to implement Grants, tentative plans are to implement the software in two phases. ITS proposes to implement pre-award processing and effort reporting in phase one. Post-award processing, billing and receivables will be implemented when a funding source can be identified.

### **Department of Instructional Services**

The Department of Instructional Services, formerly known as the Department of Learning Technologies and Scholar/Learner Services, changed its name to more accurately reflect the department's variety of services that support UA's instructional mission. The department includes Audio Visual Services, Computer Based Assessment and Evaluation, Design and Development Services, and Distance Learning Services



# UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

Graduate Student Government

Annual Report of The Graduate Student Government of  
The University of Akron



<http://www.uakron.edu/groups/gsg>

## **Overview of Graduate Student Government at The University of Akron**

Graduate Student Government has existed at The University of Akron for many years, but has been relatively dormant in recent memory. Last year, under the guidance of Dr. Mark Tausig, President Alyson Leigh and Vice-President Nichole Bunner began to make in-roads in helping to reenergize GSG as an organization.

### **The New Graduate Student Government**

Upon being elected as the new President and Vice-President of the organization, Will Miller and Derek Feuerstein decided to meet with Dr. Tausig along with Dr. Charlie Fey and dedicate academic year 2009-2010 to restructuring the entire Graduate Student Government to allow for continuity and more seamless transitions. Further, Miller and Feuerstein decided that GSG needed to reassert itself as a governing institution on this campus—equal in abilities and power to Associated Student Government and the Student Bar Association.

### **The Mission of Graduate Student Government**

The purpose of GSG is to govern the affairs of graduate students in a manner specified by its constitution and bylaws; to determine the sentiment of all levels of graduate students and the representation of sentiment at all levels of the University administration; to encourage social contacts between graduate students of all disciplines.

Graduate students are elected or appointed to many university bodies, including Graduate Council, Faculty Senate, and the Student Policy Committee of the Graduate Council.

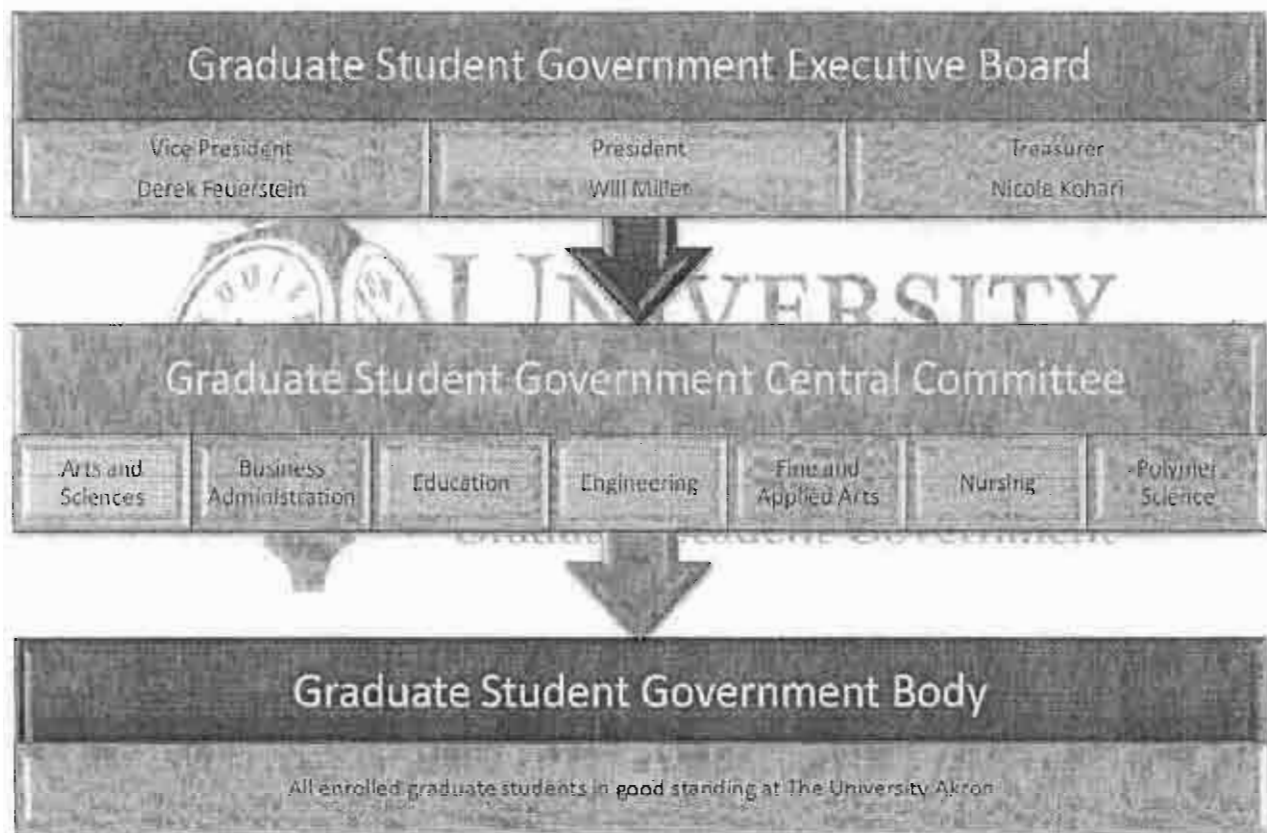
#### Mission Statement

- To work with both graduate students and faculty to obtain an optimum educational and social atmosphere
  - Open lines of inter-departmental communication to both graduate faculty and students
- Present developments within the Graduate School in an informative, timely manner
  - Express the concerns of the graduate student body through proper legislation
- Maintain the highest level of responsibility and integrity to both the graduate faculty and student public

## The New Structural Model

To begin the restructuring, Miller and Feuerstein decided to attempt to execute a true town hall government with graduate students at The University of Akron. The advantages they found in such an approach were the increased capability of meaningful participation, the sharing of responsibility for all graduate student funds, and the ability to have open, honest debate within the institution. Recognizing the importance of a smaller working group of experts, GSG decided to add a layer between the executive staff and the graduate student population: college senators. Every graduate degree granting college has a seat at the GSG Central Committee.

### ORGANIZATIONAL CHART GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON



## A New Constitution

Given the new structure of GSG, the former constitution was largely viewed as null and void. As a consequence, a new constitution was drafted and accepted at the inaugural town hall meeting of GSG in October. The entire draft of the constitution is enclosed herein.

THE CONSTITUTION  
OF  
THE GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT  
OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

[DRAFTED: 10.12.2008]

### Preamble

We, the graduate student body of The University of Akron, hereby set forth to structure an effective representative Graduate Student Government in the interests of all substantive matters pertaining to the general welfare of The University of Akron graduate students, with the intention of providing advocacy in the formulation and application of university and community policies, and with the ambition of enhancing the quality of life for all graduate students, hereby institute Graduate Student Government at The University of Akron.

### Article I: Name

The governing body of graduate students at The University of Akron shall be known as Graduate Student Government.

### Article II: Purpose

#### 1. General

- 1.1 Act as the official representative body for the graduate student body enrolled at The University of Akron in compliance with its constitution and bylaws.
- 1.2 Exercise the right for open communication with the university populations and provide advice to the university administration, as appropriate, on decisions and concerns that effect the welfare of the graduate student body.
- 1.3 Responsibly provide information to the graduate student body on issues relevant to its welfare.
- 1.4 Allocate funds received from the Department of Student Affairs in compliance with the funding policies of the university and the Graduate Student Government as set forth.
- 1.5 To encourage networking at the social, academic, and professional levels among graduate students in all disciplines served by The University of Akron Graduate School.

## 2. Duties of the Graduate Student Government

- 2.1 Establish working relationships with academic colleges and departments among the university graduate population.
- 2.2 Gather graduate student opinion concerning matters of interest to the graduate student body.
- 2.3 Be an available representative body in matters pertaining directly to graduate degree granting colleges and to the Graduate School.
- 2.4 Conduct Graduate Student Government elections in the spring term of each year.
- 2.5 Appoint graduate student government representatives to Faculty Senate, Graduate Council, and other appropriate university committees requiring a graduate student representative to ensure graduate student input on matters concerning the university, as well as the graduate student body.
- 2.6 Create special commission when deemed necessary and determine the structure and rules of said committees.
- 2.7 Establish bylaws and addendums to the constitution consistent with university policy.
- 2.8 Annually examine and reaffirm the Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies and Procedures of Graduate Student Government.

### Article III: Membership

#### 1. Eligibility

- 1.1 All full and part-time graduate students from The University of Akron currently enrolled in graduate degree granting programs and in good academic standing, as determined by the standards of the Graduate School, shall be eligible to serve on Graduate Student Government.

### Article IV: Organization of Membership

#### 1. Executive Positions

- 1.1 The elected Executive Board of Graduate Student Government to be determined by general election and voted upon by eligible graduate students from the graduate student body will be the President, Vice President, and Treasurer.
- 1.2 Any remaining executive positions will be appointed by the president.
- 1.3 President can issue an executive order establishing new executive positions, if deemed necessary. Orders should contain term of office, election/appointment procedures, name of office, and the duties of said office. Such appointments need be confirmed by the members of Graduate Student Government at the following town hall meeting.

1.4 President, Vice President, and Treasurer are given three seats on the Graduate Student Government Central Committee.

## 2. General Representatives

2.1 There shall be one representative from each degree granting college within the Graduate School to represent the interests of the graduate population within the colleges served. The current edition of the Graduate School Bulletin shall serve as a complete listing of eligible colleges.

2.2 Representatives will be determined by general election and voted upon within their respective colleges.

2.3 The President of Graduate Student Government has the authority to fill representative Vacancies, to be confirmed at the following town hall meeting by majority vote.

2.4 All representatives have a seat on the Graduate Student Government Central Committee.

## 3. Graduate Student Body

3.1 Any student that meets the eligibility requirements set forth in Article III is able to attend—and to vote on resolutions or bills at—town hall meetings. These members also reserve the right to be appointed by the President of Graduate Student Government to sit on commissions and committees within Graduate Student Government and university-wide.

## 4. Graduate Student Government Central Committee

4.1 Chaired by the President of Graduate Student Government.

4.2 Other seats to be filled by the Vice President, Treasurer, and College Representatives.

4.3 The Central Committee is responsible for reviewing all funding requests, as well as other day-to-day business of Graduate Student Government. All actions of the Graduate Student Government Central Committee become effective immediately upon being passed, but will be confirmed at the following town hall meeting.

4.4 The President only votes in case of a tie.

## 5. Departmental Liaisons

5.1 All departments will have the opportunity to appoint a departmental liaison between the Graduate Student Government Central Committee and their departments.

5.2 Liaisons will be able to meet together with or without their College Representatives as they deem necessary.

5.3 Liaisons can offer recommendations to the Central Committee for their consideration.

## 6. Finances

- 6.1 There shall be no membership dues for membership in Graduate Student Government.
- 6.2 Graduate Student Government will manage its own finances, primarily by the Treasurer, in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by The University of Akron.
- 6.3 The main source of funding will be the Department of Student Affairs.
- 6.4 All funding procedures for research, group and/or individual travel, operating budgets, and programming shall be executed by the Graduate Student Government Central Committee in compliance with the procedures set forth by the Department of Student Affairs and Graduate Student Government.
- 6.5 Appeals of all funding decisions not fully funded upon initial review for graduate student organizations and graduate students must be filed in writing within five calendar days with the Office of Student Affairs. Appeals must clearly explain why full funding should be reconsidered and will be handled at the next Town Hall meeting. At said meeting, representatives from the appealing group and representatives of Graduate Student Government will be able to explain their rationale and the Town Hall Meeting will determine whether to grant the appeal by a simple majority vote. Only one appeal per individual/group per Town Hall Meeting will be granted.

## Article V: Commissions

### 1. Commissions, General

- 1.1 The Graduate Student Government shall establish standing commissions to represent the interests of specific constituencies within the graduate student population, and to address the specific areas of concern to the graduate student population and to aid in the internal operation and administration of Graduate Student Government.
- 1.2 All Commissions will be under the direction of the Vice President.

### 2. Composition

- 2.1 Minimum eligibility for all members of Graduate Student Government Commissions and The University of Akron Standing Commissions shall be determined by Article III of this Constitution.
- 2.2 Special Graduate Student Government Commissions established to address specific areas of concern to the graduate student population shall be chaired by any member of the Graduate Student Government.
- 2.3 Standing Graduate Student Government Commissions established to represent the interests of specific constituencies within the graduate student population shall be chaired only by appointed or elected College Representatives.
- 2.4 Special and Standing Graduate Student Government Commissions established to aid in internal operations of the Graduate Student Government shall be chaired by any member of



the Graduate Student Government.

### 3. Formation of Standing Graduate Student Government Committees

3.1 A Standing Commission shall be proposed via resolution following the demonstrated and continued need of that Commission. Resolution must include the purpose, responsibilities, and eligible membership of the Standing Commission.

3.2 Members of the Standing Commission shall be outlined in the resolution, appointed by the President upon consultation with the Central Committee, and confirmed by the following town hall meeting.

3.3 A Standing Commission shall be dissolved upon concurrence of a majority of the total seated voting membership of the Graduate Student Government.

## Article VI: Advisor

### 1. General

1.1 The Graduate Student Government shall be advised by a full-time member of The University of Akron Graduate faculty or administration in accordance with the guidelines established by The University of Akron Office of Student Development.

1.2 The Faculty Advisor shall assist in overseeing the elections of the executive committee. The President of Graduate Student Government shall appoint all vacancies and the Central Committee shall select a new President if a vacancy arises; all appointments are subject to confirmation at the next town hall meeting.

1.3 The Faculty Advisor shall have a one-year term.

1.4 At the first Executive Committee meeting of the year, a vote of confidence will be taken. A majority vote from the total seated executive membership shall be needed to continue the Faculty Advisor in office.

1.5 If a new advisor is needed, the President will appoint a Faculty Advisor pro-tempore, until the executive committee nominates and votes on a new advisor.

## Article VII: Meetings

### 1: Frequency of Central Committee Meetings

1.1 There shall be at least one meeting per month of the Central Committee separate from the Graduate Student Government.

1.2 A special meeting of the Central Committee may be called to order on the agreement and ratification of two Central Committee Members. The designation of open or closed sessions shall be determined during the request of the special session.

### 2. Frequency of Town Hall Meetings

2.1 There shall be at least two town hall meetings per fall and spring semester.

### 3. Purpose of Central Committee Meetings

3.1 Central Committee Meetings will be conducted to perform the day-to-day operations of the Graduate Student Government, including making all financial decisions for the group.

### 4. Purposes of Town Hall Meetings

4.1 Town Hall Meetings will be conducted to inform and educate the Graduate Student Body on issues of interest, while further allowing graduate students the opportunity to suggest and contribute to the discourse on major policies impacting the Graduate Student Body at The University of Akron.

## Article VIII: Amendments

### 1. Review and Amendments

1.1 Graduate Student Government shall examine and reaffirm this Constitution every year.

1.2 Amendments to this Constitution shall be initiated by the Graduate Student Government Central Committee or by petition of at least 25 graduate students on The University of Akron campus.

1.3 Proposed amendments shall be presented via resolution and disseminated to the graduate student body for review at least five days prior to the Town Hall Meeting in which they are to be considered.

1.4 Proposed amendments shall be adopted by a concurrence of a majority of the voting membership of Graduate Student Government present at the particular Town Hall Meeting.

## Article IX: Ratification

### 1. General

1.1 This Constitution will be ratified by a majority of those eligible Graduate Student Government members at the first Town Hall Meeting of the school year.

1.2 Upon being ratified, this Constitution will be effective. It will be sent to the Dean of the Graduate School and the Vice President of Student Affairs for their records.

## Article X: Non-Discrimination Clause

### 1. Policy on Non-Discrimination

1.1 Graduate Student Government shall not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, age, handicap, veteran status, or sexual orientation in the selection of its members or in its programs unless federal or state law allows for such an exception.

## Article XI: Student Development Clause

## 1. Official Notification and Registration

- 1.1 Graduate Student Government shall maintain a current registration form, including a list of officers, addresses, the name of the Faculty Advisor, and the most recent amended constitution, with the Office of Student Development.

### The Goals of Graduate Student Government

With a new constitution and strategy in hand, GSG set foot to reclaim its stand as a governing institution. In order to truly assist graduate students with their needs, the new GSG opted to focus its efforts on three main tenets that are important to graduate students: Travel, Research, and Networking/Development. Understanding that graduate students have vastly different needs and expectations than undergrads, GSG utilized these three precepts to benefit graduate students in the areas where demand was greatest.

### Travel Funding

GSG has been able to allocate travel funding from two different sources. First, GSG has the sole power of authorizing travel funds through the large pot held within Student Affairs for all organized student travel. Second, GSG this year decided to open up its own budget to fund travel for individual students that are not affiliated with a registered graduate student organization who are presenting original research at a professional conference. By doing so, departments that lack graduate student organizations are still able to see their students receive the opportunity to find assistance for their travels. In total, GSG has been able to fund \$18,547.86 worth of travel so far this academic year. Most excitingly, however, is that fact that GSG has allocated \$6,116.92 of its own budget to funding 14 individuals to travel for graduate students to present at conferences. Prior to this year, such funding was not available from Graduate Student Government.

Name	Amount
Nasser Razek	600.00
Frank Merendino	315.00
Chris Marks	600.00
Andrew Michelson	600.00
Michelle Matozel	600.00
Fateme Emami	300.00
Will Miller and Derek Feuerstein	739.40
Amir Vahid	228.00
Frank Merendino	291.20
Brittani Lenz	175.70
Ewan Chen	481.76
Brittani Lenz	252.33
Greg McCoy	252.33
Jiliang Li	350.00
Will Miller	331.20

## Research Funding

Recognizing the important of research projects to graduate education, GSG created an original work grant program this year and were able to allocate \$750 to Nichole Bunner, a doctoral student in Public Administration and Urban Studies, to alleviate the costs of administering a survey for her dissertation. While only one student applied for this program, GSG—thanks to the graduate school—was able to offer \$10,000 in research assistance to graduate students working on their theses or dissertations. Overall, there were 23 applicants seeking \$60,987.39. We were able to fund ten projects.

Name	Department	Advisor	Project	Amount Funded
Angela Triplett	Mechanical Engineering	D. Dane Quinn	Strongly Nonlinear Energy Harvesting	500
John Reho	Integrated Biosciences	Rolando Ramirez	Over-expression of Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Receptor 2 in the Uterine Arterial System as a Therapeutic Approach to Chronic Reductions in Uterine Perfusion Pressure in the Pregnant Rat	500
Andrew Michelson	Integrated Biosciences	Lisa Park	Creation and Testing of an Ostracode-based Transfer Function for Past Climate Reconstruction	685
Kenton Trubee	Integrated Biosciences	Lisa Park	Evolutionary Development of Osmoregulation in the Ostracoda	750
Steven Kawczak	History	Michael Craham	Reforming Death: Death and Dying in Late Reformation England	866
Ryan Bixby	History	Lesley Gordon	Tears of Frustration and Zeal: The Environmental and Socioeconomic Changes in Jefferson County, West Virginia Wrought by the American Civil War	1000
Jojo Joseph	Chemistry	David Modarelli	Photoinduced Electron Transfer in Fullerene Dyads-Tetrads	1000
Alyssa Stark	Integrated Biosciences	Peter Niewiarowski	Comparison of Whole Animal Adhesion in Gecko and Skink Species Under Environmentally Significant Conditions	1300
Jie Wen	Mechanical Engineering	Fred Choy	In-situ Damage Detection in Composite Structures	1399
Matthew Appleby	Mechanical Engineering	Fred Choy	Oil Debris Monitoring System	2000

## Networking and Development Funding

In 2009, GSG was given the opportunity to administer all EAF requests on behalf of graduate students—removing this power from ASG which used to allocate for graduate students as well. As such, GSG allocated \$15,162.17 to registered graduate student organizations. Further, GSG co-sponsored with student life two graduate student mixers—allocating \$441 to this cause. GSG provided snacks at each of their town hall meetings as well for all graduate students attending. GSG chose to sponsor industrial-organizational psychology's networking event in Chicago with approximately 150 alumni and current students in attendance. Lastly, GSG will be sponsoring an Earth Day tent with Environmental Akron where individuals will be able to test samples of water that are bottled, purified, and tap.

## Website

GSG has entirely redesigned its website this year and is now available at [www.uakron.edu/groups/gsg](http://www.uakron.edu/groups/gsg). The new site provides all necessary information for individual graduate students seeking assistance along with graduate student organizations.

## Colloquium

The Second Annual Graduate Student Government Colloquium will be held on Wednesday, April 29 from 9 to 1 in the Student Union Ballrooms. The theme of this year's conference is "The Importance of Graduate Education for the 21st Century." We will have three panels. We will begin with a discussion of the process of becoming a professor and maintaining an academic life. Following this panel, Debb Thorne, an associate professor of sociology at Ohio University, will speak on financial literacy and today's graduate student. She will discuss managing college loans and making wise financial decisions in the current economy. And our lunchtime keynote speaker will be Bahman Taheri, CEO of AlphaMicron and adjunct professor of chemistry at the Kent State Liquid Crystal Institute. He will talk about entrepreneurship and the nexus between academics and industry. All three panels are extremely relevant to the current graduate student and will allow time for group discussion of issues important to students in attendance.

Bahman Taheri is the President and CEO of AlphaMicron Inc. Taheri received his BS in Physics from Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo and his MS and PhD in Laser Physics from Oklahoma State in 1994. He joined the Liquid Crystal Institute at Kent State University in 1995 and along with two colleagues established AlphaMicron to explore the use of liquid crystals for novel shutter applications. In 1997 he left LCI and became AlphaMicron's CEO while remaining an Adjunct Professor of Chemical Physics. He continues his collaboration with other LCI faculty and embarks in research in negative refraction and lasing in liquid crystals. As CEO of AlphaMicron, he oversees the business and the technical aspects of the company. Taheri has received a number of awards for his entrepreneurial work including being a finalist in Ernst and Young's "Entrepreneur of the Year Program" and was recognized as one the Crain Business' "40

Under 40” award in 2004. AlphaMicron has over 30 employees with over 1/2 having higher education degrees.

Deborah Thorne is associate professor of sociology at Ohio University and a principle investigator on the Consumer Bankruptcy Project. For the past decade, economic inequality generally, and debt (negative wealth) and consumer bankruptcy specifically, has been at the core of her research agenda. As such, she has authored articles on various issues associated with debt and consumer bankruptcy such as social mobility, financial health following bankruptcy, stigma, gender, and medical debt. She is currently working on a book entitled *Damaged of Debt: Consequences of Financial Distress*, which examines the ways in which extreme financial distress affects individuals, couples’ relationships, and parents’ relationships with their children.

Dr. Megan Moore Gardner is finishing her fourth year as Assistant Professor of Higher Education Administration at the University of Akron. She received her masters in Higher Education and Student Affairs and her Ph.D. in Higher Education from Indiana University. Her current research interestes span various facets of higher education with specific focus on assessment of learning in student affairs, graduate student socialization and academic experiences, graduate program development, and institutional governance and accountability. Prior to her work as a faculty member, Dr. Moore Gardner served as the Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs at John Carroll University.

Joelle D. Elicker, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Introductory Psychology in the Department of Psychology at The University of Akron. Her research interests include learning, motivation and goal-striving, performance appraisal, coaching and development, and organizational justice. She has published in journals such as *Human Performance*, *Journal of Management*, *Applied Psychology: An International Review*, *Teaching of Psychology*, *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*, and *Journal of Vocational Behavior*. Dr. Elicker has worked as an organizational consultant specializing in competency-based systems such as employee selection and development programs. In addition, she provides group and individual level interpretation and coaching based on multi-source feedback. Dr. Elicker is a member of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP) and the American Psychological Association (APA). She earned her doctorate in Industrial and Organizational Psychology at The University of Akron.

Ronald Gelleny is Assistant Professor of Political Science and a Research Associate of the Center for Policy Studies at the University of Akron. He specializes in the areas of comparative politics, international relations, human rights, and cross-national political behavior. His research has been published in the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, *European Union Politics*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Peace Research*, and *Political Research Quarterly*.



## 2009-2010 EAF Process

Starting next Fall, GSG will begin auditing the accounts and expenses of all registered graduate student groups to assure that EAF funds are being spent on requested projects. All unutilized funding will begin being returned to GSG, rather than remaining with the student groups. There will be no rainy day funds.

- 1) All graduate groups will owe GSG a tentative, proposed budget for the next academic year by April 17, 2009. If proposed budgets are NOT turned in by May 1, this can be factored into funding decisions for the next academic year. Please use the proposed budget spreadsheet for this task. You will not be held to this budget or given money for activities listed on it prior to the fall or spring allocation periods.
- 2) At the conclusion of spring semester 2009, all organizational EAF accounts balances will be swept to a \$0 balance. Please turn in all reimbursements and expenditures by May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- 3) All graduate student groups will need to register as registered graduate student organizations with GSG by August 28, 2009. Groups can begin registering as soon as officers are in place for the next academic year. Please use the registration documents for this task. Upon registering, all graduate student groups will receive \$250 for operating expenses for the next academic year. No more will be given for standard operating expenses. These funds will ONLY be able to be used for office supplies, photocopying, telephone, postage, and group dues to regional/national groups.
- 4) All graduate groups will need to have a representative present for the graduate student organization EAF workshop on August 22, 2009 or August 26, 2009. Not having representation will be factored into funding decisions for the next academic year.
- 5) Fall semester allocation requests will be due September 4, 2009. This allocation period will ONLY cover events being held in the fall semester. NO funds will be allocated for any events occurring in the Spring. Spring semester allocation requests will be due January 15, 2010. Please use the fall allocation worksheets for the fall allocation period and the spring allocation worksheets for the spring allocation period.
- 6) At the end of Fall semester, ALL graduate student organization accounts will be audited. At the conclusion of an event, all receipts must be submitted to GSG. Upon making allocations, GSG will clearly note what aspects of events that GSG will agree to fund. If money is misspent on aspects of an event that GSG has not clearly agreed to fund, future allocations could be withheld. Any funds not spent will be recollected by GSG for future dispersal.
- 7) The EAF guidelines for graduate student organizations for the 2009-2010 academic year will be available May 1, 2009.



(F) Committees. The graduate council shall be the executive committee of the graduate faculty and shall represent the graduate faculty in proposing matters of academic policy and procedure of the graduate school, and in counseling and advising with the vice president for research and dean of the graduate school in matters of administering the graduate school.

(1) The graduate council shall consist of fourteen elected graduate faculty members, one elected graduate student, and the vice president for research and dean of the graduate school.

(a) The faculty members shall be elected from the colleges and divisions as follows:

College or division	Number of elected members
Buchtel college of arts and sciences	
Humanities division	1
Natural sciences division	1
Social sciences division	1
At-large	1
College of education	2
College of business administration	2
College of engineering	2
<del>College of fine and applied arts</del>	<del>2</del>
College of creative and professional arts	1
College of health sciences and human services	1
College of nursing	1
College of polymer science and polymer engineering	1

(b) The student member shall be elected yearly by the graduate student government.