

1. Approval of minutes from January 2016 GSU Council Meeting
 - a. Bryant Vande Kolk, GSU President, (*Physics*): Do I have a move to approve?
 - b. Enma Pardilla Delgado (*Psychology*): moves to approve minutes
 - i. Cesar Lopes Gemelli (*Literature*): seconds this move
2. Guest Speaker
 - a. Breyan Tornifolio - Student Philanthropy Associate Director
 - i. Notre Dame Day Presentation
 1. giving away \$1 million to student clubs, residence halls, colleges, athletic teams, etc.
 2. all members of the Notre Dame family can participate
 3. 30+ hours of live broadcasting
 4. way to leave your legacy for those who come after you
 - ii. How it works
 1. anyone can make a \$10 (or more) gift directed to what they chose
 2. you receive 5 votes when you make your gift
 3. at the conclusion, each area of interest receives the % of the \$1 million challenge fund equal to their % of total votes
 4. last year, each vote was worth \$14.83
 - b. Notre Dame Day is April 24 18:42 EST - April 25 at Midnight
 - i. Includes
 1. Society of Automotive Engineers
 2. Institute for Church Life
 3. Muslim Student Association
 4. Biological Studies
 5. Kroc Institute for International Peace
 6. Mathematics
 7. The Graduate School
 8. Graduate Student Union
 9. AND 800 other areas of interest
 - c. Bryant: Maybe the funds can go to the CPG
 - i. email Bryant or Laurie with ideas
3. No New Business
4. Academic Affairs
 - a. Michael Altenburger, Academic Affairs Chair (*Theology*)
 - i. Academic Council
 1. Discussion of PhD proposal on Anthropology of Irish Music
 2. The following changes were proposed on the language of grad student advisors/co-advisors in the Graduate Bulletin:
 - a. Original:
 - i. Advisors and dissertation directors are normally chosen from the teaching and research faculty of the student's program. There also may be one co-director chosen from the faculty outside (or within) the student's program. In exceptional cases, a

student may choose a dissertation director from the Notre Dame teaching and research faculty outside the program or department. Arrangements for extra-departmental directors or co-directors must be consistent with program policies and must be approved by the program.

b. Updated:

i. Advisors and dissertation directors are chosen from the tenured and tenure-track regular faculty of the student's program. There also may be a co-director who can be either 1) tenured or tenure-track faculty at Notre Dame, 2) tenured or tenure-track faculty at another institution, 3) a member of the research or special professional faculty at Notre Dame or 4) an emeritus/a member of the Notre Dame faculty. The co-director may not serve as the sole director; there must also be a director from Notre Dame's tenured and tenure-track faculty from the student's program or in exceptional cases from outside the program or department. Arrangements for co-directors and extra-departmental directors must be consistent with program policies and must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies in the student's program. Exception to any part of this policy can be made jointly by the Director of Graduate Studies and department chair with due consideration for the best interests of the graduate student.

ii. University Committee on Libraries

1. Hesburgh continues to shift materials to the annex and presented some statistics on retrieval requests broken out by discipline (I would be happy to share, if anyone would like to see it). UCAT continues to be interested in addressing the need for study spaces and a Graduate Student Advisory Panel will meet to discuss the issue on March 31st.

5. Health Care

a. Natalie Sargent, Health Care Chair (*History*)

i. On January 21, 2016, the Executive Board appointed Natalie Sargent (PhD student, History) as the Healthcare Committee's new chair. At that evening's GSU meeting, she met with her fellow Healthcare Committee members and brainstormed about possible goals for the semester, including organizing a GSU Blood Drive and a GSU Healthcare Twitter account. That Twitter account has been created and is now active (@ND_GSUhealth) and soliciting tweet suggestions from students and from GSU representatives. On February 11, Natalie also met with Katie

Gilbert, Blood Donor Recruitment Specialist from the South Bend Medical Foundation to discuss planning a GSU Blood Drive, tentatively scheduled for mid-March or early April. Katie laid out a variety of potential options (from having a Bloodmobile bus located in Library Circle to holding a drive in Rolfs or LaFortune) as well as ways to incentivize graduate student attendance. The committee plans to take further planning steps at the February GSU meeting.

6. Professional Development

a. Josh Mason & Katie Button-Simons, Professional Development Chairs
(*Biological Sciences*)

i. 3MT

1. Since the orientation sessions on January 19 and 20, the Graduate School Professional Development team has been putting on different workshops that have been open to the entire graduate community. Attendance in these events has been high. The 3MT application has also been open since the orientations, and application numbers are now over 35 (majority in the College of Science and Engineering). The next 3MT events will be the run-off competitions from February 22-24 (Engineering Feb. 22 at 6pm, Arts & Letters Feb. 23 at 4pm, and Science Feb. 24 at 4pm). The top 3 place winners in each College will advance to the final 3MT competition on March 16, 2016 in Jordan Auditorium, Mendoza College of Business. The first place winner of the final competition will attend the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools regional competition in Chicago on April 6-8.

ii. Graduate Research Symposium

1. We have reserved McKenna Hall for Tuesday April 19th. We are considering renaming this event to something like "Graduate Research and Portfolio Showcase" to encourage participation from Arts and Letters students. We also want to encourage participation of early stage students and professional MS students. We are considering having separate prizes within each division for early stage and professional MS students who are presenting their research plans or other graduate work.

7. Quality of Life

a. Angel Matos, (*English*), Kristen Drahos (*Theology*), Sayanty Roy (*Biological Sciences*), Quality of Life Chairs

- i. The Quality of Life cooking class (Feb. 27) was a big success! Fifteen participants joined together for two and a half hours to enjoy Latin food and social connections. Everyone said they had a great time and would love to see the event repeated. We are looking into planning another adventure soon. We are also meeting with RecSports to discuss the results of our survey. We will keep you informed about the results of the meeting.

- ii. In terms of our collaboration with GlassND, we are still waiting to hear from the Student Activities office to see if we can co-sponsor Christopher Soto's visit to Notre Dame, where they will discuss issues such as intersectionality in academia. As of now, we planning to host our 3rd Queer in Academia luncheon series on March 25th, where out faculty at Notre Dame will share their experiences with graduate students, and give advice on how to navigate the closet in academia. We are currently in talks with Legends to see if we can host the Open Mic night there. GlassND is also hosting a meeting during the upcoming weeks, to talk about plans for the fall semester.
- iii. The GSU-QoL committee is co-sponsoring a luncheon titled "Two Body Problem" partnering with Association of Women in Science (AWIS), Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and GSSN. The event is scheduled for April 21st, 12:30-1:30 at Carey Auditorium, Hesburgh Library.
- iv. The University Committee on Women Faculty and Students led by Dean Laura Carlson met on February 3rd. Morgan Bullock, Project Manager-Strategic Content announced that Notre Dame is celebrating International Women's Day on March 8th by launching a website WomenLead.ND.edu highlighting Notre Dame's female faculty researchers. Mary Kearney, Director-Gender Studies proposed several celebrations through Spring 2016 to honor 50th Anniversary of Notre Dame's first tenured women faculty member Josephine Ford.

8. Social

a. Kristen Johnson and Gabe LaBonia, Social Chairs (*Chemistry & Biochemistry*)

i. Upcoming Events:

1. GSU Kalamazoo Brewery Tour
When: February 28th, 10AM-6PM
Where: Kalamazoo, MI
Tickets on sale on Feb 15th.
Transportation and lunch are provided! We will visit One Well, Bells, and Boat Yard Breweries in Kalamazoo!
2. GSU Ski Trip:
When: Saturday, March 5th, 8AM-6:30PM
Where: Swiss Valley, Michigan
\$15 Tickets at LaFortune Box Office
3. Game Watch:
When: TBD
Where: South Bend/Mishawaka
4. Easter Brunch
When: March 27th
Where: Notre Dame, North Dining Hall
5. GSU Charity Gala
When: Saturday, April 16th, 6:00 to 11:30 PM

Where: Riverside Terrace, Mishawaka IN
The charity will be announced soon!

6. GSU Winery Tour

When: April, TBD

Where: Lake Michigan Shore Wine Trail

Movie Premier: Captain America: Civil War

When: Thursday, May 5

Where: Cinemark Movies 14 on Edison

9. Executive Committee Report

a. Unique Health Care Situation

Bryant has had some in-depth conversations with concerned graduate students regarding unique health care situations. One particular area of discussion was around the \$6000 out-of-pocket maximum. Bryant, Natalie (Health Care Chair), and Lindsey Turnbull (GSU Rep on Student Health Insurance Advisory Committee) are working together to tackle many of the health care problems affecting graduate students. Lindsey will be presenting more on this at the meeting tonight.

b. Talk Money to Me

Financial Literacy Workshop Series

The series, put together by GSU E-Board and Brian Flaherty from the Grad School has taken flight. The first is Negotiating Salaries, which occurred tonight. More to come on this! Next topic: Budgeting.

c. Orientation Committee Chair

The GSU has gone the year without an Orientation Chair, and while that did not hinder Orientation this past year, Mimi Beck from Grad Life has emphasized a need for a grad leader in this project. Thus, the GSU is searching for a Chair whose term will begin in March and run through the fall semester. If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please let Laurie know (lhesch@nd.edu).

d. GSU T-shirt Design Contest

The Executive Board is putting together a contest to find new designs for the 2016/17 GSU T-shirt to be given out at Grad Student Orientation. We are currently deciding on prizes but look to roll that out by the end of the month.

e. Luncheon: Mental Health in Graduate School

After launching a short survey to determine the desire to hold a luncheon dealing with the status of mental health in the graduate program, we have decided on Friday, April 1st. In the process of looking through the survey results, we also got a lot of feedback from graduate students on what they think is important with regard to the status of mental health in the graduate programs at ND.

f. Advisory Committee for Student Climate Related to LGBTQ Students

Friday was the first meeting of the semester for this University committee. Topic of discussion, and focus of the year, is "allies" and how the campus conversation around LGBTQ topics and ally involvement have waned since Obergefell v. Hodges. Bryant is the GSU Rep on this committee and would like more input

from graduate students on how to shape the conversation in the context of the graduate student perspective(s).

- g. February Faculty Senate Meeting
 - i. Review & Discussion of Consolidated Appeals Process (re: tenure decisions) is ongoing.
 - ii. Teaching Effectiveness Committee debating effectiveness of CIFs
 - iii. Student Affairs subcommittee discussed need for alternative CIF analyses & need for alternative evaluation methods
 - iv. Academic Affairs subcommittee reported on resolution in College of A & L asking for more faculty input into decisions re: ND international
 - v. Discussion on state of Faculty governance at ND
 - 1. ad-hoc university committee presented their two-year charge to review faculty governance, benchmark with other institutions, and make recommendations to the Provost
 - 2. discussion on what issues should lie within the purview of faculty governance, and differences of opinion on this topic between faculty and administrators
 - 3. discussed most effective ways to collect faculty opinions on topic of governance
10. Open Discussion and Announcements
- a. Fair Use Week - February 22 - 26
 - i. Examples of Fair Use as part of copyright law
 - 1. have you: quoted a book
 - 2. scanned an article
 - 3. requested something through interlibrary loan or document delivery
 - 4. used an image in a conference presentation
 - ii. Tim Flanagan, Associate General Counsel
 - 1. will speak Wednesday, February 24, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
 - a. Andrews Auditorium, Geddes Hall
 - b. Hackathon - March 18 & 19
 - i. looking for creative student users
 - ii. look for more information in next week's newsletter
 - c. Sean Vilanova, GSU Co-Vice President (*Chemistry & Biochemistry*)
 - i. GSU t-shirt design contest
 - 1. design t-shirt for 2016-2017 academic year
 - 2. to be given out at orientation
 - 3. open to grad students
 - 4. prizes, gift cards
 - ii. Mental Health Luncheon
 - 1. Friday, April 1
 - 2. looking at feedback from survey results
 - a. lots of grad student feedback

- i. what they think is important regarding status of mental health in grad programs at ND
 - b. look for more information regarding luncheon
 - iii. Parking issues
 - 1. email Sean with any issues regarding parking or snow removal
 - d. Bryant Vande Kolk, GSU President (*Physics*)
 - i. We're looking for a paid Orientation Committee Chair
 - 1. looking to give Mimi some help
 - 2. March through Fall semester
 - 3. let us know if interested
 - ii. *Talk Money to Me*
 - 1. 4-part Financial Literacy Series
 - 2. part 2 is on Budgeting
 - 3. March 15, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.
 - 4. location TBD
 - iii. Executive Board for 2016-2017
 - 1. looking for interested students
 - 2. let us know if interested
 - iv. Advisory Committee
 - 1. for Student Climate Related to LGBTQ students
 - a. met on February 12
 - b. topic of discussion and focus of the year is "allies"
 - c. how campus conversation around LGBTQ topics and ally involvement have waned since Obergefell v. Hodges
 - d. Bryant is the GSU rep on this committee and would like more input from grad students on how to shape the conversation in the context of the graduate student perspective(s)
 - e. perception vs reality climate at ND
 - f. how to get allies more involved
 - g. discussed Safe Space cards
 - h. discussed how to get cards
 - i. definition of what it means to be an ally
 - v. Angel Matos, Quality of Life Chair (*English*)
 - 1. Would it be possible to offer ally training that is secular in nature?
 - 2. What it means to be an ally more broadly speaking?
 - vi. Bryant:
 - 1. If nothing else, we could try to encourage other grad students to go elsewhere for training
 - vii. Natalie Sargent, Health Care Chair (*History*)
 - 1. Did the committee address how students (unrecorded comment) with different departments?
 - viii. Bryant:

1. lots of discussion goes on in residence halls rather than in departments
2. trying to transcend residence halls
- ix. Aryanne de Silva, (*Psychology*)
 1. What is a Safe Space Card?
- x. Bryant:
 1. A card that you bring with you that says that the space that you're in is safe to discuss questions of different topics
 2. like a judgement-free zone
- xi. Angie Lederach, (*International Peace Studies*)
 1. Is there grad student training for this? How to facilitate micro-aggressions in classrooms, etc.
- xii. Bryant:
 1. GRC (Gender Relations Center) generates lots of training and advertisements
- xiii. Sayanty Roy, Quality of Life Chair (*Biological Sciences*)
 1. How are we training faculty with this? Grad students talk to faculty maybe more than others. How is faculty being made aware so that they can help?
- xiv. (unrecorded answer)
- xv. Bryant:
 1. Health Care issue
 - a. there is a fellow grad student with a deep concern for the out of pocket maximum.
 - i. couple of years ago, was \$2500
 - ii. now it's \$6000
 - b. student shared his concerns with both Bryant & Natalie and met with Connie Morrow also
 2. The Shirt Fund
 - a. your application will be approved or denied
 - b. many have been approved in past
 - c. not guaranteed
 - d. people don't apply very often
 3. Trade-Offs to reducing out of pocket maximum
 - a. higher deductible
 - b. higher premiums
 4. Feedback from grad students
 - a. low input
 - b. if ND is going to be family oriented, we want to know how
 - c. we need to address this issue
- xvi. Lindsey Turnbull, Representative for Student Health Insurance Advisory Committee (*Biological Sciences*)
 1. plan has to cover mandated requirements
 2. starting in 2017, you may go outside the 'bands' for flexibility

3. goal is to have low deductibles
 4. we don't have a lot of money to pay upfront with our stipends
 5. we want a large network of doctors (most of us aren't from around here)
 6. we have access to the health clinic on campus
 - a. can get in fairly quick
 7. Aetna
 - a. grad students make up about 60% of total enrolled in plan
 8. starting in 2014, there was rate equity for dependants
 - a. one premium for students
 - b. premium for dependants was 3 or 4 times that amount
 - c. was outlawed
 - d. now premium is equal
 9. Grad School has subsidy
 - a. for grad students
 - b. not for dependants
 - c. can't subsidize everybody
 10. benefit of having a student plan
 - a. premium is \$2313
 - b. staff/faculty plan, much higher
 - c. grad students not in employee plan because of this cost difference
 11. ND plan cheaper than getting on exchange plan
 - a. can opt-out of ND plan
 - b. ND plan comparable to what you will go out and find
 - c. average student pays \$270 less out of pocket on ND SHIP than on exchange plan
- xvii. Angie:
1. Who is our aspirational peer network?
- xviii. Lindsey:
1. Stanford, Yale, Harvard, University of Chicago
- xix. 62% of students pay less than \$500 out of pocket per year
- xx. Mimi Beck, Grad Student Life Program Director
1. If services aren't covered by insurance, this won't go into your out of pocket maximum, such as an experimental drug. Rare occurrence.
- xxi. Lindsey:
1. we want to lower out of pocket maximum as long as it doesn't negatively impact us with higher deductibles, etc.
 2. I will send Bryant a report when I get more information
- xxii. Angie:
1. What plan are post-docs on?
- xxiii. Bryant:
1. I think they fall into a faculty-type plan

- xxiv. Lindsey:
 - 1. likely upcoming changes to the plan
 - a. we've been talking about \$4000 out of pocket maximum
 - b. The Shirt Fund
 - i. I'm trying to get a meeting with Brian Fremeau
 - ii. they paid out as little as \$50
 - iii. you can apply for any amount
 - iv. only two times when they said, "no" in past 5 years
 - v. 5-part application to fill out, based on medical need
 - 2. it's more affordable for ND to pay your medical claim than to lower your out of pocket amount
- xxv. Peggy Hnatusko, Director of Programming - Student Activities, Advisor to GSU:
 - 1. Financial Management Board
 - a. branch of undergrad Student Government
 - b. about \$100,000 per year income flow from The Shirt Fund
 - i. can't be used for spouses or dependant children
 - ii. can only be used for ND students
- xxvi. Natalie:
 - 1. Is it dependent on emergencies or not?
- xxvii. Lindsey:
 - 1. I don't know specifically. It's up to the committee. Based on financial need
- xxviii. Mimi:
 - 1. Can be dental as well
- xxix. Peggy:
 - 1. It's anonymous
- xxx. Eve Granatosky (*Chemistry & Biochemistry*)
 - 1. Is information available about The Shirt Fund?
- xxxi. Mimi:
 - 1. It's on the Grad Life website
- xxxii. Lindsey:
 - 1. The Shirt Fund has it's own website as well
- xxxiii. Prasanna Siddireddy (*Fischer O'Hara Grace Residence Representative*)
 - 1. Can you explain the 'bands'?
- xxxiv. Lindsey:
 - 1. The Affordable Care Act went into effect 2014-2015 school year.
 - a. We went with the Gold Plan
 - i. lower premiums
 - ii. out of pocket maximums had to go up
 - b. thinking of incentives
 - i. to take Health Care info class
 - ii. or to withhold subsidy if don't take class
- xxxv. Eve Granatosky:

1. Most students don't take the class because they are still on their parents' plan
- xxxvi. Eve Bjerre:
1. There aren't a lot of details. Can benefit information be updated and more detailed?
- xxxvii. Angie:
1. I have five colleagues who are expecting. It's been an isolating experience. Is there a point person to go to, to get questions answered? It may make the experience not so bad. A point person or a resource for these people, especially for people who haven't been in the states very long. It's overwhelming.
- xxxviii. Mimi:
1. There are two pregnancy support advocates. This is an opportunity for us to ask them to provide these services.
- xxxix. Jill Plummer (*History*)
1. Why is the university interested in our knowledge of our health care plan?
- xl. Lindsey:
1. The university actually does care about us graduate students. You being better informed will help you to have better overall health.
 2. Also, the Grad School pays for a good portion of student health insurance
 - a. they have a financial stake in you using what they're paying for
- xli. Fazole Faisal (*University Village Representative*)
1. Are spouses allowed to apply to The Shirt Fund?
- xlii. Lindsey:
1. No, only ND students
 2. There is a parenting and pregnancy fund where you can submit claims
- xliii. Mimi:
1. There is not as much money in this fund
- xliv. Lindsey:
1. The Grad School wants to make attending the Health Care class optional but highly incentive-based
- xlv. Keith Feldman (*Computer Science & Engineering*)
1. I like the 'roll-call' idea
- xlvi. Bryant:
1. Thank you very much Lindsey. Are there any other announcements or discussions?
- xlvii. Mimi:
1. Half the student body got an invitation to participate in the ND Health & Wellness survey. Please take the survey!

2. Also, before the end of the semester, you'll get the Grad Student Experience survey
 - a. every grad student will get this
 - b. please fill this out!
- xlvi. Bryant:
 1. Do I have a move to adjourn?
- xlvii. Cesar Lopes Gemelli (*Literature*)
 1. I move to adjourn
- xlviii. Enma Pardilla Delgado (*Psychology*) & Natalie Sargent (*History*)
 1. Second this motion
- xlix. Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.