



The Official Agenda of the Undergraduate Student Government
On This Day, Monday, February 17th, 2025
BTSU 308 at 7:30pm

- I. Call to Order 7:
- II. Roll Call
- III. Open Forum- Derek van der Merwe
 - a. Bowling Green Athletics Director
 - b. Been here for just over 2 years.
 - c. The one thing that is the cornerstone of their strategic plan is student experience
 - i. Student athletes are students first. Thus, they are committed to elevating students' experiences
 - ii. When you're done with graduation, you'll be proud of being a graduate from Bowling Green
 - d. They understand the pride that comes from being the representatives of Bowling Green. Such as playing on national stages.
 - e. Everything that we do in life should be done passionately and purposefully.
 - i. This follows the Athletics Department
 - f. He was a musician by family trade and grew up around music his entire life. Senior of high school he wanted to play football. In college, earned a full scholarship.
 - i. He finally decided that he wanted to work in college sports because he loves the value of it.
 - ii. He loves the arts and the band, because he loves the experience it gives the band students along with the students who get to hear the band.
 - g. The different parts of student experience, put together, build the best experience for all students. He values doing the right thing for student athletes, such as investing back into our campus community.

- h. He speaks with alumni around the country, many of whom were not student athletes. However, they all adore the community that comes from the athletics, such as the rivalry between us and Toledo.
- i. There are 363 Division 1 universities. There are 134 FPS D1 universities, one of which is us. We are recognized as one of the top athletic schools in the country. There are only 107 R1 public universities (top research universities). Only 80 of those are also D1 FPS universities too.
 - i. It's an interesting way to divide universities because most countries do not grow their universities with athletics too.
 - ii. Our student experience is the band, athletics, the community, etc. Our experience comes from the entirety of our campus community.
- j. Meeting with donors, many of them who are alumni say that the most significant thing that has happened over the past 20 years is television. If we are a brand, then our best way to be seen is to be seen on TV.
 - i. For example, the Big Ten cares about TV audiences. You go where people are going. You are driven by the football experience.
 - ii. There needs to be a relief of the driving force, since it is currently football, which is breaking down through lawsuits.
 - iii. There are tons of changes that are about to take place, and its time to see what grows from it.
- k. Q: Baseball- given the recent success of the program, do you have any planning about renewing the facilities?
 - i. A: There is a massive fundraising project (~\$3 million, being raised by alumni through private donations) that will start directly after the baseball season ends. They are going to enhance the facility soon.
- l. Q: Tennis- there's not a proper facility for them. They currently go to Toledo to play and/or train. There is also an issue regarding transportation. Do you have any plans to tackle that issue.
 - i. A: There are donors who have brought up the facility issue. He will investigate the transportation issue because he is unaware of it.

- ii. Our budget is one of the lowest for D1 (typically in the bottom 5), so we have to be careful with how we use it. “Less is more” is the plan; they try to distinguish ourselves through our athletes, and he is aware of the issues with facilities.
- m. Q: How does the money work for NCAA?
 - i. A: There are two different funds.
 - ii. External revenues: such as TV revenues and TV contracts. Our conference collects those and then distributes it to us.
 - 1. If it’s a non-conference game, it gets distributed eventually back to us as well.
 - 2. The NFL collectively strategize their TV revenue, and then distribute it through that
 - 3. All the colleges are beginning to cannibalize each other because they independently create their contracts. Right now, it’s minimizing our value because the networks control us.
 - 4. There is a battle between football and the NCAA sports.
 - iii. The NCAA basketball tournament is also a major revenue.
- n. Q: What initiatives / strategies to motivate support for women’s sports?
 - i. A: At Bowling Green, there is already an appeal towards going to those games. For volleyball and women’s basketball, you’re already seeing those sold-out stadiums.
 - 1. Bowling Green has historically always valued women’s sports. The donors are also very supportive of those sports. Our women sports programs are better financed than most D1 universities.
 - ii. The conference is trying to capitalize on that to support the women athletes too.
 - iii. Across the country, we’re seeing the growth as well.
- o. Q: We don’t have a men’s track program, but we do have a women’s. Are you considering reimplementing that since we do have men’s cross country but not track?
 - i. A: It’s a complicated answer. If it was just a budget, it was be easy to fix.

ii. Title IX says it must be proportionate athletes to general students. Right now we're about 56% female to 46% male, so that ratio needs to be accounted for. To achieve that ratio, they removed the men's athletics.

1. It's difficult to bring it back because our budget is already strained, so adding in more male sports will be difficult to do healthy for the university.

IV. Swearing in of New Officers

- a. Elizabeth Lorenz- At-Large Senator
- b. Austin Wolfe- College of Health and Human Services Senator

V. Lobby Time

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

- a. Appointment
 - i. Sydney Gourley for Chief of Staff

VIII. Senator Reports

- a. Kathryn Dean-
- b. Name??? The Health Service Advisor Meeting. There are changes to the counseling office. To schedule an appointment, they can be online but they prefer in person. There is an increase in student insurance too. The Falcon Health Center recommends that students establish connections with the primary care providers, and they understand that
- c. Chloe- Implementing an excused absence explanation for athletes.
- d. Name? MAC week is this week

IX. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Affairs – Madeline Freyhof
 - i. Senators are required to go to one of the internal committees.
 - ii. They are working on an initiative with Body Doubling.
- b. Internal Affairs – Abby Burger
 - i. February 26th from 6:30 – 8 the blanket tying service hour is happening.
You can get utility hours before and/or after the event
- c. Student Affairs – Will Hattery

- i. There are currently four projects:
 1. Sustainable Transportation
 2. Affordable Groceries Route with the shuttles
 3. Pedestrian Safety
 4. Accessible Housing

X. Speaker's Reports

- a. Speaker of the Senate – Gyllien Anderson

XI. Executive Branch Reports

- a. President – Elyse Adrian

- i. Advocacy Day will be on Tuesday March 11th
 1. Leave around 6:45 am, come around by 4 pm
 2. If you want to go but haven't signed the form, email Elyse
 3. There will be a workshop on how to talk to legislators. It will be on February 28th, and is open to anyone in USG
- ii. S.B. 1.0 got passed, and Exec worked on a letter to Dean Zilmer and Chief Wellbeing Officer Batey about the weather conditions and how it affected campus last week. They will be meeting soon.

- b. Vice President – Madison Jefferies

- i. Fill out the Banquet RSVP
- ii. Thank you to everyone who was involved in Trustee Committee
- iii. Will get into contact with Khulin Center Student Linked-In / Professional Development project
- iv. Nominating people for the Applauding Excellence Awards.
 1. There are three student organization type awards. If you think someone in USG deserves one of those, please fill it out.

- c. Cabinet Reports

- i. Jacob Ireland
 1. Instagram is getting updated right now. So is the website.
- ii. Rudrashis Mandal
 1. Green Fund applications are open right now. If you have a project that you want in it, please let him or Elyse know.
- iii. Brandon Walker

1. Met with the Alcohol Committee to talk about semester trends.
 2. On March 17th, in front of Insomnia Cookies, there will be people who are handing out water.
 3. We need more people to table during the Big Playground event.
- iv. Agatha Hickerson
1. Talked about the monthly budget report.
- v. Sydney Gourley
1. If you have any projects/initiatives, please put them in the spreadsheet.
 2. If you want your accomplishments to be shown, put your projects/initiatives in there too
- vi. Tiago Gobetti Gaboardi
1. He is planning on doing lobby time to explain the history of USG. If you would like to help research it, email him.

XII. Advisor's Remarks

- a. Sarah Jurden sjurden@bgsu.edu
- i. Reminder: reporting back to your constituents and receiving information is always something to think about.
 - ii. We are finishing up Student Trustee interviews this week.
 - iii. Starting to set up elections for next school year. Elections happen in March and swearing in the officers happen in April.
 - iv. Midterm grades will start to be posted within the next two weeks.
 1. The course schedule for next year comes out on Friday.

XIII. Closing Remarks

XIV. Adjournment