

# Election Information 2006/07



OHIO UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

# The Graduate Link

The election for the 2006-2007 Graduate Student Senate election will be held May 18, 2006. Applications to run for office are due May 8 2006.

An Open House to discuss election rules and to talk to current Senators will be held after a GSS general body meeting on Monday, May 1, 2006 from 8:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. in the Walter Hall Governance Room.

All documents with specific rules, regulations, and information about the election, including candidate applications, deadlines, and frequently asked questions are available in Word format on the GSS Web site, [www.ohio.edu/~gss](http://www.ohio.edu/~gss).

Being a part of Gradu-



Lindley Hall, the location of GSS's executive office, room 218.

ate Student Senate is an excellent opportunity to improve the lives of your fellow graduate students and graduate education as well.

The elected President of GSS receives a tuition waiver and stipend. No other position receives financial assistance. The GSS office is currently in Lindley 218. Next year, the GSS office will be in

the new Baker University Center.

If you have any questions about the election, please email the chair of the GSS Election Committee, Katie Nutter at [kn325901@ohio.edu](mailto:kn325901@ohio.edu). If you have any questions about the functions of Graduate Student Senate, please visit our website at [www.ohio.edu/~gss](http://www.ohio.edu/~gss) or email Mark Mecum at [gss@ohio.edu](mailto:gss@ohio.edu).

## Free Grant Writing Workshop

A free lunch and a free grant writing workshop are a great combination. Join Graduate Student Senate as it hosts a Grant Writing Workshop.

Chris Iacofano, senator to GSS and former senator Ryan Botts will present

alongside Roxane Male' Brune, Projects Coordinator for the Vice President for Research.

The workshop's focus is not GSS grants, but grant writing in general.

The date is set for May 6, 2006, from 11:00 a.m

until 2:00 p.m. in the 1804 Lounge in the Baker Center. No registration is needed and lunch will be provided.

This event is no-cost.

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### Keep your eyes peeled!

- GSS will soon announce the winners of the Outstanding Graduate Faculty Award, 2005/06 and 2006/07. The recipients will speak at the respective commencement ceremonies on behalf of grad students.
- GSS President Mark Morris Mecum will be addressing graduate students at the 2006 commencement ceremony.

## A Year of Grad Senate

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This has been an amazing year for Graduate Student Senate (GSS). More than 50 graduate students joined our organization and we have been active in every major issue affecting graduate education and graduate students. If GSS continues at this pace for the next few years, the life and quality of graduate students and graduate education will improve immensely.

So far this year, GSS has worked to ensure that a fair and transparent investigation was initiated involving graduate student plagiarism. We felt that the integrity and value of our degrees and university were at stake.

Second, we aimed at revamping the GSS Travel and Original Work grant program by increasing the number of applicants and the overall total funds (from \$24,000 to \$27,000).

Next year, through Vision Ohio, we are hoping for a significant increase in total funds for the grant program. Until OU invests more in graduate student research

and travel, it is essential that the GSS grant program attempts to satisfy the needs of graduate students.

The third main area of accomplishment this year involves Vision Ohio. Through the Graduate Priorities Implementation Team of Vision Ohio, GSS has ensured that it honestly reflects the priorities of graduate education and graduate students. Some of the goals we have discussed involve lowering the General Fee, subsidizing graduate student health insurance, increasing the number and amount of stipends, and expanding graduate student housing.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, GSS has improved its communication to the graduate student body. Through the GSS *Graduate Link* newsletter, monthly emails to the graduate student body, an updated Web site, and the “Student Speakout” section of our general body meetings, we have really enhanced our presence on

campus.

Although our organization has grown a lot this year, graduate students at OU must remain committed to sustaining GSS. Ways to do this include 1) running for office this spring, 2) applying for a vacant position at the beginning of fall quarter, or 3) letting GSS know your views and opinions about graduate issues often. Essentially, without graduate student support, GSS cannot do its job. Good luck to the GSS of 2006-2007!

Sincerely,

Mark M. Mecum  
President,  
Graduate Student Senate

To contact Mark, send an email to [mm303901@ohio.edu](mailto:mm303901@ohio.edu)

*“Until OU invests more in graduate student research and travel, it is essential that the GSS grant program attempts to satisfy the needs of graduate students.”*

*Mark M. Mecum*

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## Graduate Student Senate Meetings and Events Calendar

### SPRING QUARTER

**4/3/06** - General Body Mtg  
**4/17/06** - General Body Mtg  
**4/29/06** - Travel Grants Due  
**5/1/06** - General Body Mtg  
**5/1/06** - Original Work Grants Due

**5/6/06** - Free Grant Writing Workshop  
**5/8/06** - GSS Apps Due  
**5/15/06** - General Body Mtg  
**5/18/06** - GSS Election  
**6/19/06** - Graduate Commencement Ceremony



(photo credit ohio.edu)

Margaret M. Walter Hall, the site where Graduate Student Senate holds its General Body meetings.

Meetings are held bi-weekly, Mondays at 7:10 p.m. in the Walter Hall Governance Room on Ohio University’s campus in Athens, Ohio.

# 260-Hour Rule Becomes the 18-Quarter Rule.

The 260-Hour Rule limited subsidy support to graduate students after being enrolled for 260 hours of graduate classes. However, Graduate Council has recently changed rule. For the details of the old rule, visit <http://www.ohio.edu/graduate/hrrule.cfm>.

As an example of what the old rule entailed, if a student took 45 credit hours a year, *which is 3 quarters x 15 credit hours*, then the 260-hour rule came into effect after being enrolled for 18 5-credit hour courses, which spans six years.

At a recent Graduate Council meeting, a resolution was introduced from a subcommittee that had two alternative proposals to change the 260 hour rule. Alternative 'A' was chosen.

Graduate Council voted to change the 260-hour rule because many students, faculty, and administrators agreed that more flexibility was needed.

Three members of Graduate Student Senate (Jason Hartz, Animesh Rathore, and Mark Mecum) are all members of Graduate Council and voted in support of the change.

The new 18-Quarter Rule involves the following: Ohio University will no longer use the number of subsidy hours to determine eligibility for a graduate

tuition scholarship. Instead, eligibility for a tuition scholarship will be based on the number of quarters in which a student has received such a scholarship from OU. The rules set the maximum number of quarters in which a student could receive support.

No student can ever receive more than 18 quarters (approximately six years) of graduate tuition scholarship from any department or combination of departments. Colleges and department/schools may set rules that are more restrictive. Importantly, summer quarters do not count in the configuration. Any student that has received any tuition support from Ohio University will be considered to have received a tuition scholarship. These policies are in effect for all graduate students beginning fall quarter.

Additionally, a graduate student with an awarded graduate degree from another institution can receive no more than 15 quarters of tuition scholarship from any department or combination of departments.

After a student has received the maximum number of quarters of tuition scholarship, that student will no longer be eligible to receive a tuition scholarship from any OU program or department/school. However, after a student has received the maximum number of

quarters of tuition scholarship, that student can still receive a stipend, just not a tuition scholarship.

This limitation does not apply to employee fee waivers.

So, what do these changes mean? Graduate students at OU can continue to receive tuition scholarships for a longer length of time. This means that graduate students, especially those working on multiple Master's degrees or those working on a Doctorate, can now spend more time at OU working on their degrees while also receiving more possible tuition scholarships.

The changes mean nothing to stipend levels.

Students no longer have to be worried about how many credit hours they are enrolled every quarter. Instead, everything is based on number of quarters. Also, students can now take summer classes and not have that quarter be added to their total.

These changes make receiving graduate degrees from OU more flexible, but they do not completely remove the time-limit cap. There will still be students that approach the 18-quarter barrier that wish to continue to receive tuition scholarships, but are not allowed to.

## PROFILE: Ethan Zell, Original Work Grant Recipient

### Length of time at Ohio University:

Since Fall 2004

### Program of study:

Experimental Psychology

### Learned about GSS grants:

From a GSS email

### Why he came to Ohio University

"I came to Ohio University to earn a Ph.D. and conduct research in the area of Social Psychology. I was particularly interested in collaborating with my current advisor, Dr. Mark Alicke."

### How Ethan is using the grant:

To give undergraduates a \$5 incentive for participating in his research.

### What he thinks about GSS grants:

"GSS grants are an extremely valuable resource for students conducting original research. They can provide graduate students the ability to purchase new technology needed to address an innovative research question.

In addition, they can be used to attract and retain undergradu-



Ethan Zell,  
Experimental Psychology Student

ate research participants.

Without this monetary incentive, many students would have likely dropped out of our longitudinal study, hampering the results and conclusions drawn from it.

However, with the grant money provided by GSS, we were able to retain more than 95% of our participants."



**OHIO UNIVERSITY GRADUATE  
STUDENT SENATE**

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[WWW.OHIO.EDU/~GSS](http://WWW.OHIO.EDU/~GSS)

### Get Involved

Are you looking for a way to contribute to the betterment of Ohio University and the graduate student body? Would you like to gain professional experience and build up your resume?

### Run for Office

Every May, Graduate Student Senate elections are held in which Executives and Senators are elected for the following academic year. For an application to run and a party declaration form, visit [www.ohio.edu/~gss](http://www.ohio.edu/~gss). You can also check out our Constitution, which includes election rules and guidelines.

### Apply for a Vacant Position

Throughout the school year, (and the summer), many elected and staff positions on Graduate Student Senate come vacant and must be filled by qualified applicants. The process is quick and easy. For an application and list of current senators, visit [www.ohio.edu/~gss](http://www.ohio.edu/~gss).

## 2005-2006 OU Graduate Student Senate Member List

EXECUTIVES/STAFF		
President	Mark Mecum	<a href="mailto:mm303901@ohio.edu">mm303901@ohio.edu</a>
VP for Communications	Natalie Pariano	<a href="mailto:np269701@ohio.edu">np269701@ohio.edu</a>
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Black Affairs	Will Tarter	<a href="mailto:wt289101@ohio.edu">wt289101@ohio.edu</a>
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