Guest Presentation: A Conversation about “AALANA”
Courtney Wade, a student in the Higher Education Administration program informed the group that there are current concerns about the university’s use of the term “AALANA”, which is currently used to identify minority groups such as African-Americans, Latino Americans, and Native Americans. She indicated that several students have expressed dissatisfaction with this term and that it diminishes the presence of different ethnic groups on campus. The Multicultural and Diversity in Higher Education course in the program is currently working on a project that may result in removal of this term; Courtney explained that she is seeking input regarding student opinions of the term “AALANA” and also potential suggestions for another more suitable word, should this term be replaced. The group took a moment to discuss the term “AALANA” and potential impacts it may have on student perceptions. The group also requested feedback on the progress of this project, and recommended that Courtney perhaps return at a later meeting to discuss the project’s developments.

Service Opportunity Announcements
Shakita Van Liew provided the group several updates and announcements regarding upcoming events and potential service opportunities.
• The Office of Experiential Education & Civic Engagement (OEECE) hosts weekly Super Service Saturdays where students are invited to partake in various volunteer projects for several locations. These events take place every Saturday during the fall semester, except for November 28th, and transportation is provided. The group briefly reviewed this community service opportunity and agreed that November 7, 2015 would be an optimal day for BGSA to support this program. Shakita plans to contact those affiliated with this project to obtain more specific information.

• The organization will be hosting a fundraiser social at Buffalo Wild Wings on November 9, 2015. Those who attend and mention BGSA will ensure that a percentage of the proceeds goes the organization. For more information about the social, please refer to the attached flyer.

• Shakita informed members that the ACME Cash Back Program is currently running and will be collecting funds until January 2016. She encouraged students to make information and flyers available in their respective academic departments and informed the group that more deposit boxes are in the process of being placed around the university. Participation in this program is simple – it entails saving and collecting receipts from any ACME purchases and depositing them in available deposit boxes on campus – BGSA will receive 5% of the proceeds. Please see the attached flyer for more information about the program.

• Shakita reminded the group that the Portage County NAACP will be holding its Freedom Fund Dinner on October 24, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Kent State Student Center. Tickets for the event are currently being sold. BGSA members are encouraged to attend.

• Black United Students (BUS) will be hosting its annual Renaissance Ball in the Kent State Student Center Ballroom on November 12, 2015. BGSA members are encouraged to attend so that fruitful connections can begin to be bridged between Black graduate and undergraduate students on campus.

• The university Career Services Center will be hosting a Fall Job and Internship Fair on October 28, 2015 from Noon – 4 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. Those who are seeking jobs and internships, information about companies and service industries, career advice, and contacts for networking are welcome to attend.

• Shakita reminded the group a guest speaker will be present at the next general body meeting in November to present information about finance management.

• The Center for Student Involvement (CSI) will be hosting the annual Spring Leadership Conference on January 30, 2016. The conference is available for students wishing to present their research or other projects. The deadline for registration is October 30th.

• Kent State Alumni Association is calling for nominations for university awards. One of the awards will go to a deserving student, the Golden Flash Award. Nominations will be accepted through December 31, 2015 and awards will be presented at the Alumni Awards Ceremony in the fall of 2016.
• OEECE is also hosting a campus-wide Food Drive and Can Sculpture Competition on October 21, 2015 from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. in the Center for Undergraduate Excellence (CUE). All donations will benefit Center of Hope, Kent Social Services, and the Campus Kitchen.
• Lastly, Shakita informed the group that the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization is currently seeking male mentors if any members know anyone that is interested in service opportunities.

General Updates
Ashley Johnson provided the group any pertinent information or updates on events that had occurred since the last meeting. She informed the group of changes the Executive Board discussed regarding the BGSA Welcome Reception which was held a few weeks prior. Primary recommendations regarded the idea of changing the date and location of the next year’s reception to make this event more accessible to students.

Some of the BGSA Executive Board members were present at the KSU Homecoming Parade; the group briefly discussed provided feedback about this event and potential ways of improving BGSA’s presence at the parade for the following year.

Peter Jeffy suggested that he could contact the Student Multicultural Center for future collaborations with BGSA in hosting socials or graduate student informal panels. He also informed the group that the students involved in the Ronald McNair Scholars program will be having a dodgeball game in the campus Recreational Center on November 5, 2012 from 5-7 p.m. BGSA members are welcome to attend.

The group briefly discussed the idea of allowing for informal discussion or an open forum to be incorporated into the one of the spring semester meetings so that students feel free to connect and share their academic experiences.

Lastly, the group was reminded that preliminary rounds for the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition will be held in the Kent State Student Center during this week. Some of the members of the group are registered in this competition to present their current research. The group was strongly encouraged to attend this event and show support. The final round will be held on October 30th from 12-2 p.m.

Closing Remarks
The next General Body meeting will be held on Monday, November 9, 2015 in Cartwright Hall, Room 141 at 12:30 p.m.