BGSA General Body Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 9th, 2015
12:30 – 1:30
Cartwright Hall 216

Present
Ashley Johnson, Executive Chair
Porsha Frazier, Vice Executive Chair
Jennifer Cooks, Communication Chair
Shakita Van Liew, Advocacy Chair
Roslynn Porch, Finance Chair

Absent
Dr. Kate McAnulty, Advisor
Peter Jeffy, Program Chair

Guest Speaker – Apprisen Financial Counseling Services
Victor Russell, a Regional Operations Manager for Apprisen, presented information to the group on effective methods for managing and monitoring finances and achieving financial goals. The group discussed various methods for improving financial planning, and the presentation was warmly received.

General Updates
Including are updates regarding events:

Several members of the organization participated in one of the Super Service Saturday opportunities on November 7, 2015. The group participated in Loaves and Fishes, which is a program which provides meals and support to those in need and is affiliated with the United Methodist Church in Ravenna, OH. The group briefly discussed the event and the organization’s participation in potential service opportunities in the future.

The Women’s Social Club of Kent is hosting a Game Night on Saturday, November 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion in Kent. There will be food, games, and raffle prizes, and the location will have a $5 entrance fee. Proceeds from this event will go towards an academic
scholarship for a student at Theodore Roosevelt High School. BGSA encourages its members and any others who may be interested to attend. More information about this event is available in the flyer attached.

BGSA plans to distribute electronic surveys to members in order to obtain feedback about the organization. BGSA is seeking member’s opinions and recommendations about what the organization is currently doing well, could be doing better, and general ways it may best meet the needs of graduate students. The survey distribution is expected to take place prior to the closing of the fall semester.

The university’s Office of Experiential Education and Civic Engagement (OEECE) is providing two service opportunities in the upcoming year. Alternative Spring Break will consist of a trip for students to one out of several metropolitan areas where volunteers will provide direct service to areas of need. Transportation and board will be provided through a one-time registration fee; this activity will occur from March 19-25, 2016. In addition to this event, the OEECE is planning a global service planning trip to Nicaragua from May 16-23, 2016. Students will be able to work directly with community members and non-profit agencies and also explore social justice issues. For more information about either events, please refer to the OEECE website.

Lastly, the university will be hosting its 2016 Spring Leadership Conference in the Kent State Student Center on January 30, 2016. This conference will focus on providing students with valuable skills for developing leadership qualities. Members and other interested students are encouraged to attend. Registration for the conference will be open from December 1st – January 21st.

Closing Remarks
The next General Body meeting is TBD for the start of the Spring semester.