BGSA Meeting Minutes  
Monday, September 21, 2015  
12:30 – 1:30  
Cartwright Hall 141

Present
Dr. Kate McAnulty, Advisor  
Ashley Johnson, Executive Chair  
Porsha Frazier, Vice Executive Chair  
Jennifer Cooks, Communication Chair  
Shakita Van Liew, Advocacy Chair  
Roslynn Porch, Finance Chair

Absent
Peter Jeffy, Program Chair

Welcome/Introductions
The meeting began with everyone taking a moment to introduce themselves, as the Board gained several new members since the previous General Body meeting.

Upcoming Events
Ashley Johnson and Porsha Frazier informed the group of several upcoming events. More information about these events was provided at the meeting from their respective flyers:

- The university will be providing several Graduate Professional and Academic Development (GPAD) Workshops during the week of September 18 – October 2, 2015. These workshops are free to attend and cover various professional topics, such as creating literature reviews, searching for opportunities for funding for grants, among others. Registration for these workshops is currently open. All of the GPAD workshops will be held in room 310C in the Kent State Student Center.
- The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) is a new initiative that the university plans to implement this year as a way to provide graduate students the opportunity to communicate about their research fields with others, and also to experience discussing their research with a
community audience. All graduate students are eligible to participate, and the group was encouraged to attend. Three preliminary rounds will take place in the Kent State Ballroom Balcony in the Student Center during October 21-23. Finals for this competition will take place on October 30th in the KIVA building.

- BGSA will be holding its annual Welcome Reception on Friday, October 2nd in the Cartwright Hall Atrium from 5-7 pm. This informal social will allow students that are interested in joining BGSA to learn more about the organization, and also allow Black graduate students to meet the members of the BGSA Executive Board and other graduate students and faculty.
- The Department of Pan-African Studies is calling for proposals and papers for the Third Bi-Annual Africa and the Global Atlantic World Conference. It was recommended that those who are conducting related research to register. The conference is scheduled for April 8-9, 2016.
- The Women’s Social Club is hosting a Fashion Show and luncheon at the university on October 10th from 11-2 in the Kent State Student Center Ballroom. Funds collected at this event will be allocated to students at Roosevelt High School. All were invited to attend to support the fundraiser and as an opportunity to connect with other students.
- The group also discussed the organization’s plans to take part in this year’s Homecoming Parade on October 3rd. All that were interested were invited to attend.

Nursing Presentation

Nursing student Laura Mance presented information regarding research on Black women’s health to the group. Children of Black women are currently faced with more health challenges statistically, and this has negative implications for the fate of black infants. Laura informed the group that she is currently conducting a research study that is seeking Black women aged 18-25 to examine potential causes for present racial disparities. She provided information on participation in the student and asked that the group distribute this information to any persons that might be interested.

Community Service & Fundraising Opportunities

Shakita Van Liew shared information regarding several fundraising and community service opportunities with the group. She noted that there is an Akron Marathon being held on Saturday, September 26th, and the event is free to all who’d like to attend. Regarding fundraising opportunities, the group was presented with several location options in Kent, including ACME grocery stores, Panini’s, and Buffalo Wild Wings. The group approved of utilizing the ACME cash back option, where receipts are collected from purchases, submitted to the company, and a percentage is given to the organization. The group also agreed that they liked the idea of utilizing Buffalo Wild Wings as a fundraising/social location.
Closing Remarks
The group took a moment to share their current experiences in their departments and information about any other upcoming news or events. The group discussed opportunities for networking and distributing information through multiple avenues, such as the Sister’s Circle and the Women’s Center.