

The University of Akron
Minutes of the Graduate Faculty
April 8, 2015

Dr. Rex Ramsier called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Present: Dr. Philip Allen, Dr. Michael Graham, Dr. Marlene Huff, Dr. Abraham Joy, Dr. Kevin Kern, Dr. Timothy O'Neil, Dr. Tracy Riley, Dr. John Roncone, Dr. Ira Sasowsky, Dr. Pamela Schulze, Dr. Tang Tang, and Dr. Mark Tausig.

1. Dr. Tang Tan made a motion to approve the minutes from April 9, 2014 meeting. Dr. Ira Sasowsky seconded the motion. Minutes from the April 9, 2014 meeting were approved without dissent.

2. Reports

Mr. Michael Giannone, Information Technology Services, was unable to attend the meeting; however, submitted a report in writing from his division for distribution to graduate faculty members present. A copy of the report is attached.

Mr. Kevin Garewal, Collection Management Librarian and Interim Head, Research and Learning Services, University Libraries, provided a report to those graduate faculty members present. A copy of the report is attached.

Dr. John Goodell, Vice Chair, Graduate Council, was unable to attend the meeting; however, submitted a report in writing for distribution to graduate faculty members present. A copy of the report is attached.

Mr. Ian Schwarber, President of Graduate Student Government, was unable to attend the meeting; however, submitted a report in writing for distribution to those graduate faculty members present. A copy of the report is attached.

Dr. Rex Ramsier, Interim Dean of the Graduate School, provided a report to those graduate faculty members present.

- An ad hoc committee has been formed by Graduate Council to identify specific concerns related to graduate education that can be presented to the President and Provost.
- President Scarborough has been invited to meet with Graduate Council.
- The graduate admissions staff is working with Lauri Thorpe to determine if there are things that can be done to recruit students campus-wide.
- The goal is to get more self-paying students to increase revenue. Development of more professional master's degree programs may attract more self-paying students.
- Currently examining course enrollments. If courses are not getting double-digit enrollment, then it may be necessary to consider the viability of the program.
- It is important to take a look at what programs we can grow.
- Graduate School, like other colleges, has provided its budget presentation.

- Graduate School has been asked to prepare for the 2017 budget, specifically related to graduate assistantships in order to attract the best students.

3. Action Items Referred from Graduate Council

There were no action items referred from Graduate Council.

4. Old Business

There was no old business for discussion.

5. New Business

There was no new business for discussion

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather A. Blake
Graduate School



Information Technology Services

Report to the Graduate School
April 8, 2015

This is a brief recap of ITS selected projects and activities over the past year.

Open Labs App

A mobile-friendly Web page is now available to help students locate “open” computers and available software in the University’s computer labs. Access to the site is at <http://www.uakron.edu/labs/> and through the UA Mobile app.

UA email system to become cloud-based

The University is migrating its email system from on premise to a cloud-based version. Over all there will be no difference to the look and feel. Functionality is largely consistent, email addresses are unchanged, as is the desktop/laptop client. Most importantly, storage capacity will increase to 50 GB for each user. Migration to University-owned computers will be seamless, though the email client on mobile devices will need to be re-configured. At present, Graduate School faculty and staff are scheduled to be migrated on April 14.

Emergency messaging on cell phones and message boards

The University’s new emergency notification system, e2campus, continues to provide faster, better emergency notifications to students, faculty, and staff via cellphones. The system is used for weather notifications and other situations that affect campus. Currently the system is being integrated with the University's electronic message boards, which will tie into the University's larger emergency notification system.

Wireless Network

IT began upgrading UA's wired and wireless networks to accommodate the additional data traffic created by the multiple wireless devices (i.e., cell phones, ipads, tablets/laptops, TVs, gaming machines, etc.) students use on campus. In the first phase, the Student Union and Bierce Library (1st floor) were completed in August 2015. Coleman Commons was completed March 2015. Other phases of network investments will be developed.

Distributed Antenna System

The University and Verizon Wireless executed a contract for Verizon, at its cost, to install approximately 425 antennas within certain buildings and outdoor locations. The project will increase the wireless coverage on campus. Installation began March 2015 and is expected to be completed July 2015.

Voice mail upgraded

An upgrade to the phone voice mail system was accomplished in late February 2015. The upgrade improved reliability, stability, and functionality of the service. The new version, AVAYA Aura Messaging, functions much like the old voice mail system, but with enhanced user interface and increased flexibility for handling messages. A new version of integrated messenger that allows users to receive voicemail on different devices will be available soon.

Fee for repair/maintenance for personally owned computers

The University began charging \$25 to work on employee and student personally-owned computers and devices. Formerly a free service, this new fee helps cover some of the labor cost of the service. As in the past, individuals remain responsible for the cost of parts and materials used in the repairs. The payment is made using a ZipCard when the computer or device is dropped-off for service.

Highlights in Service and Programming since April 2014

Launched UA's institutional repository IdeaExchange@UAkron

Changed the UL participation in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) to electronic only collections (Summer 2014)

Converted Room 275 (Map Room) in Bierce to quiet individual study space that supports mobile technologies (Fall 2014)

Held first annual Ada Lovelace Day Poster session celebrating women in STEM (Oct 2014)

Hired a new Collection Management Librarian (Nov 2014)

Hired a one-year Visiting Instructional Design Librarian (Dec 2014)

Collections Purchased since April 2014

Name/Title	Description
IBIS - Specialized Industry Reports	The database has approximately 600 Specialized Industry Reports, which covers niche and emerging markets.
Handbook of Porphyrin Science-ebook purchase	The handbook is an authoritative treatise on the subject with application to chemistry, material sciences, physics, and medicine.
AIP Digital Archives - Backfile	Purchased perpetual access to a suite of American Institute of Physics journals and conference proceedings.

Report of the Vice Chair

2015 Graduate Faculty Meeting
Wednesday, April 8, 2015

Since the beginning of the academic year, the Graduate Council has had nine meetings.

The Curriculum Committee, chaired by Dr. John Goodell, has reviewed and approved 74 curriculum proposals. These proposals were approved by Graduate Council.

The Graduate Faculty Membership Committee, chaired by Dr. Francisco Moore, has reviewed and approved 63 applications for graduate faculty membership. These graduate faculty applications were approved by Graduate Council.

The Student Policy Committee, chaired by Dr. Rebecca Willits, has examined University Rule 3359-60-06.2 Graduate Student Standards alongside practices outlined in the Graduate Bulletin related to the English Language proficiency requirement for non-native English speakers. The committee developed a survey that was sent to all academic units asking such things as how the TOEFL is used in admission decisions, what English competency issues are experienced with international graduate students, and whether or not departments would be supportive of on-campus programs to help with English competency. Eighteen academic units completed the survey, and, based on the results, the Student Policy Committee recommended that University Rule 3359-60-06.2 Graduate Student Standards be brought in line with current practices as outlined in the Graduate Bulletin. Revision to the rule approved by Graduate Council.

An Ad Hoc Committee was formed to identify specific concerns related to graduate education that can be presented to the President and Provost. This committee, chaired by Dr. Francisco Moore, developed a list of items for consideration and presented them to Graduate Council for discussion. The Ad Hoc Committee continues to work on refining this list of talking points.

Dr. Rebecca Willits attended the two-day Vision 2020 Summit, representing Graduate Council.

The Graduate Council as a whole continues to discuss such issues as how to grow and improve graduate education, managing graduate enrollment, and graduate funding.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. John Goodell, Associate Professor, Finance
College of Business Administration
Vice Chair, Graduate Council

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON



**GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015**

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON



PREPARED BY:
IAN SCHWARBER, PRESIDENT

GSG

- In the year since Vice-President, Stewart Blessing, and I have taken on the responsibilities of UA Graduate Student Government, we proceeded from Marissa & Alvaro's term quite vigorously, working on many fronts to establish a brand for the organization, which we ran on, and believe has effectively risen the profile of GSG on campus, with the new administration and in the greater Akron community.
- We felt no need to change the remarkable bylaw/legislative actions our predecessors put in place, and thus, we appropriately began making our signature improvements to this growing institution, while maintaining all of GSG's official, mandatory responsibilities, even amid the unfortunate resignation of GSG's independently elected Treasurer.
- In Short, the previous administration organized this GSG's working parts, and we took the first steps forward into building the professional development bridges that will make GSG a significant employment pipeline to the greater Akron community. The organization has been effectively branded, and the state of the institution has never been stronger.



IAN SCHWARBER, PRESIDENT
STEWART BLESSING, VICE-PRESIDENT
*****ANTHONY STRATIS, TREASURER**

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Launching our CEO Networking Series, “FROM .edu TO .com”. 2 events marked the Fall semester, and 2 events finished the series’ inaugural year in the Spring, along with a special “FROM .edu TO .com” Award, to be given at the Handing Over Ceremony in early May...
- Building the GSG brand on campus by, with the personal support of President Scott Scarborough, launching GSG’s “FROM .edu TO .com” CEO Networking Series, and attracting such prominent guests Bill Considine (Akron Children’s Hospital), Jeff Hoffman (Priceline.com), Sandra Pinalto (4th District Federal Reserve Bank in Cleveland) and Richard Smucker (J.M. Smucker Company)...
- Budgeting against growing student interest, GSG was able to appropriate 74 Professional Enrichment Grants (as of March 11, 2015) to qualified applicants, as well as enable graduate, and blended student groups to hold events or travel, while limiting GSG Executive spending to 2 very successful professional development semester-ending events...
- In collaboration and coordination with SOURCE, ALL GSG funding applications, and appropriations, are now completely electronic, taking place on the UA OrgSync website...
- Establishing, in coordination with UA Administration, GSG, USG, SBA and student trustees, engaging in bi-monthly Student Representative breakfast meetings with President Scarborough...
- Establishing a visible and continuing relationship between GSG and: The City of Akron administration, the Akron business community, the Akron philanthropic communities, and many others, not to mention working directly with UA Development, to establish a relationship platform by which GSG Executive Leaders can build on going forward...

from .edu to .com



- As the Director of Outreach (to the Akron Community) in 2013-2014, I began developing this CEO Networking Series, with the support of Mr. John LaGuardia. It was then worked into the SCHWARBER-BLESSING GSG campaign, as a pillar of the B.E.L.I.E.V.E. platform. Upon winning the 2014 election, this was the key to our administrations 2 goals of “professional development” and “expand the brand.”
- President Scott Scarborough then decided to back this effort, as he believed in our vision of a GSG with a Flagship program that was known campus-wide. His support and investment upgraded our ability to hold premier professional development events by financing our 2 banners, uniquely designed with the 2014-2015 GSG logo, the “FROM .edu TO .com” logo, and the UA logo. His support also enabled Mr. John LaGuardia to assist us in many other ways, and Stewart and I both credit President Scarborough and Mr. LaGuardia with the state “FROM .edu TO .com” is in today.

from .edu to .com



- **2014-2015 “FROM .edu TO .com” CEO NETWORKING SERIES**
- November 17th, 2014 – **Mr. William Considine**, CEO & President of Akron Children’s Hospital
- December 3rd, 2014 – **Mr. Jeff Hoffman**, former CEO & Co-Founder of Priceline.com
- February 26th, 2015 – **Ms. Sandra Pianalto**, former CEO & President of the 4th District Federal Reserve Bank at Cleveland
- April 23rd, 2015 – **Mr. Richard Smucker**, CEO of J.M. Smucker Co.

from .edu to .com

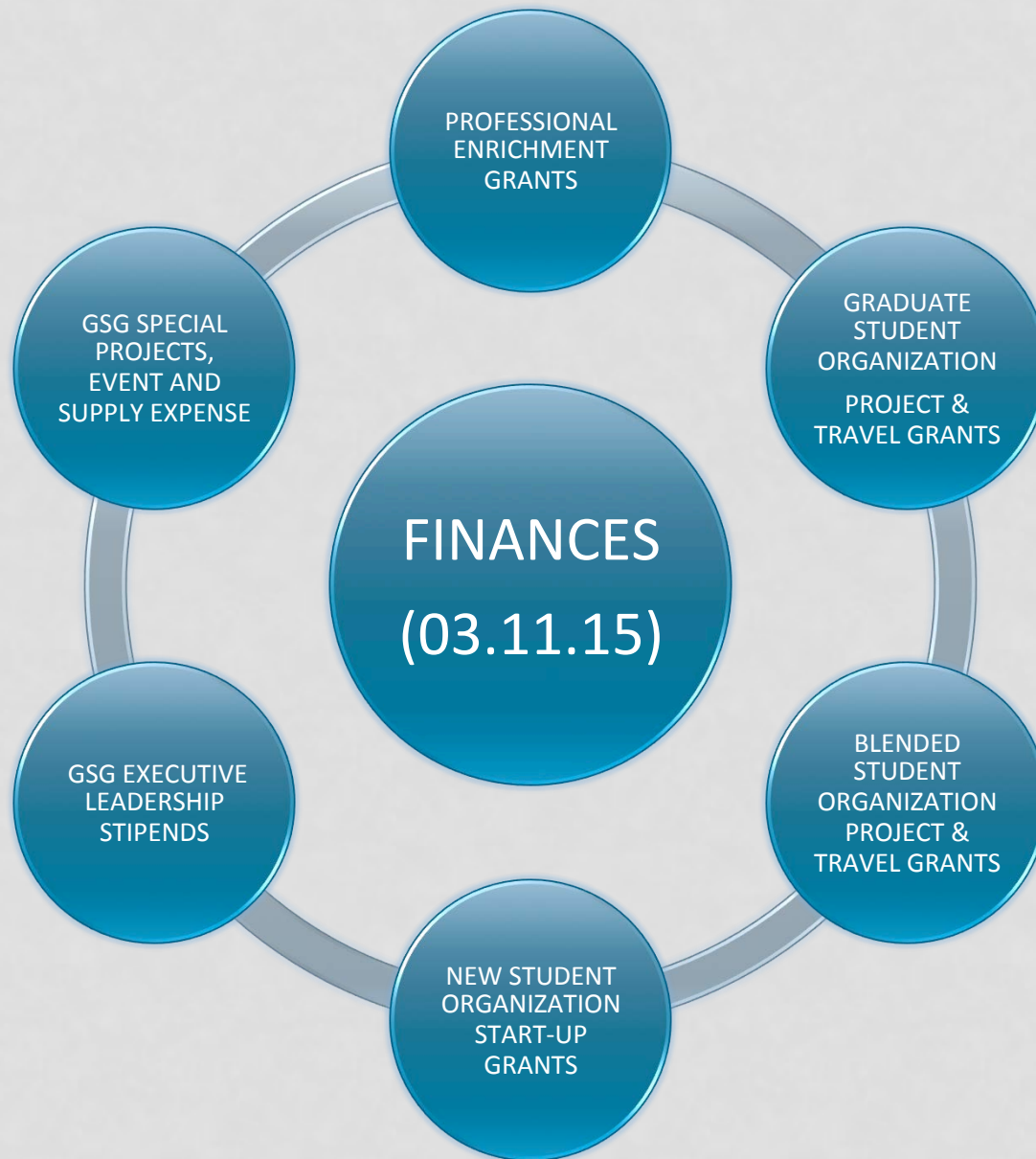
Graduating the
interview process.

OTHER GSG ACTIVITIES (1 OF 2)

- LIFE AWARDS – Participated in choosing 3 LIFE Award Winners, as well as producing 3 new sets of individual questions required for each award nomination, as well as renewing the requirement for recommendation letters.
- CONVERSION TO ONLINE FUNDING ACTIVITY – In coordination with SOURCE, all PEG and Student Organization funding requests, as well as all documentation and allocations, now take place on the UA OrgSync website.
- DEVELOPING STRONGER UNIVERSITY RELATIONSHIPS – From procuring significant, specific GSG support from President Scott Scarborough, to furthering alliances with UA offices of Development, Communications, Alumni Association, and others, GSG has never been better positioned to provide exceptional opportunities and services to over 4,000 graduate students.
- DEVELOPING STRONGER AKRON COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS – Not only with the creation of “FROM .edu TO .com,” but also in many other occasions of GSG participation, never before has the institution been known and recognized by Mayor Don Plusquellic, County Executive Russ Pry, City Council President Gary Money Penny, and many other in the greater Akron community civil services, AS WELL AS NE Ohio community business and philanthropic organizations, including J.M. Smucker Co., Akron Children’s Hospital, Summa, GOJO, Goodyear, Bridgestone-Firestone, Knight Foundation, GAR Foundation, Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Akron Partnership and many others. GSG now has a network of contacts with which to do business on behalf of the UA Graduate School student body going forward.
- BUILDING ON THE DIRECTORS OF OUTREACH TRADITION – Carrying on the DoO institution that I, myself, rose to President from, we chose to update one of the four positions from “DoO of Undergraduate Students” to “DoO of International Students,” with former 2-time GSG Vice-President Alvaro Rodriguez as it’s inaugural Director.

OTHER GSG ACTIVITIES (2 OF 2)

- GSG “NEO-POLITAN” COLLABORATION AWARD – Creation of the first annual award given to members of the Northeast Ohio political, business or other entities that show leadership in COLLABORATIVE efforts to make our community a better, more civil, place to study, work and live. The Inaugural recipients are Mayor Don Plusquellic and County Executive Russ Pry, as their leadership in uniting city-county offices, including healthcare services, was tested with a serious Ebola scare, and became the national example for local government epidemic response.
- NEW GSG LOGO’S AND BRANDING – Developed an updated “GSG” logo, with 3 variations in 2 formats, as well as the new “FROM .edu TO .com” main logo, as well as full-SLOGO with tagline, “Graduating the Interview Process.”
- GSG PARTICIPATION IN VISION 20/20 SUMMIT FEB. 13 & FEB. 27 – Being selected by President Scott Scarborough as the student representatives for his 2-day, 8-hour event discussing his strategic initiatives and how they work in conjunction with UA’s existing VISION 20/20 protocol.
- GSG PARTICIPATION IN UA SPECIAL ORGANIZATIONS & UA ACTIVITIES – Personally participated in University Council – Main, University Council – Steering, University Council – Physical Environment, University Council – Public Affairs & Development, University Council - Budget & Finance, as well as staffed most remaining UC standing committee’s. ALSO worked with USG and SBA in Student Trustee selection affairs. Participated in campus events from SPRINGFEST to CARRIBEAN DAY to the Investiture of President Scott Scarborough.
- GRANTS AND STUDENT ORGANIZATION FUNDING – Proudly supported 36 Fall Professional Enrichment Grants, and 38 Professional Enrichment Grants. Proudly supported the following Graduate Student Activities: 31 Graduate/ Blended Student Organization Projects or Events; 14 Graduate/Blended Student Organization Travel Trips.



ANALYSIS OF GSG FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (1 or 3)

- The GSG 2014-2015 financial activities were very successful, despite incredible challenges in the Treasury. This was not the hope, but, independently elected Treasurer Anthony Stratis turned out to be a very unreliable officer, and despite many interventions (even including daily updates about GSG financial submissions), fair, consistent and mature budgeting behavior, was not possible. The final straw came with an unfortunate interface with Anne Bruno, Anthony and I, and an issue of trust arose that demanded immediate action. Therefore, I asked him to draft and submit his resignation in mid-February, which was officially accepted on February 23, 2015. Having been elected President to oversee all GSG affairs - small or large - I assumed the role of Treasurer immediately. Although this did require a learning curve, a great bit of time, and some patience with the required interaction with USG Financial actions (with respect to Blended Student Organization events/projects/travel), the Treasury has been restored to a reasonable state, and the expectations that UA graduate students should expect of the GSG Treasury are again in place. Anthony Stratis Letter of Resignation is attached.

ANALYSIS OF GSG FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (2 of 3)

- The allocations of the funds were relatively balanced, as the following slides will show. The original strategy of dividing all funding in half, 50% for the Fall, and 50% for the Spring, worked relatively well, and at this point, we have a little over \$1,000 remaining in the 990331 account for PEG/ Student Organization spending, and a little over \$2,000 remaining in the 990330 account for GSG special events and activities. The 990330 number is a bit larger than the budgeting slide will show, and this is because of adjusted funds that are intended to take place concerning Anthony Stratis's THIRD stipend payment. I have chosen NOT to take that money myself, in return for becoming the Treasurer (due to no resignation practices in the GSG Bylaws), and instead have returned that money for use on GSG affairs. I felt this was a way that I could begin to restore the trusted relationship between these two independently elected branches of GSG, of which I now, effectively, dually execute.
- The 990329 account, which was established to assist New Student Organizations with \$100 start-up funding was not used as much as was speculated at the beginning of the year, and \$600 of this account has been moved into the 990331 account for use with GSG grants.

ANALYSIS OF GSG FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (3 of 3)

- The final financial aspect of this GSG academic year, are the “FROM.edu TO.com” CEO Networking Series events. 4 total events have (or will on April 23, 2015) taken place, and the only one that has cost GSG any expense was the December 3, 2014, Christmas Luncheon, featuring Priceline.com co-founder, Mr. Jeff Hoffman, at InfoCision Stadium. This event cost \$1,445.50, and was an incredible success, including the attendance of President Scarborough, as well as many members of the UA Alumni Association, and the City of Akron, thanks to the coordinated efforts of GSG and Mr. John LaGuardia, and Dr. Matt Akers.
- The final “FROM .edu TO .com” event, the grand finale of the CEO Networking Series’ Inaugural year, featuring J.M. Smucker CEO, Mr. Richard Smucker, will also be at no cost to GSG.
- The final event that will cost GSG money will be the GSG Handing Over Ceremony, which will feature the recognition of Mayor Don Plusquellic, and County Executive Russ Pry, with the 1st Annual GSG “NEO-Politan” Collaboration Award.
- All remaining monies will be transferred to the 2015-2016 GSG 990331 account, for that administration to use as they see fit.
- The following slides outline the 3 accounts GSG operated, and attached to this report is a full financial breakdown as of March 11, 2015.

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN OF GSG PROJECTS/TRAVEL ACCOUNT 990331

Graduate Student Gov Projects/Travel	Ian Schwarber/Stewart Blessing	
Carryover/Adj.	\$	2,256.74
Additional Support	\$	600.00
FY Funding Allocation	\$	24,000.00
FALL ALLOCATIONS		
Project Funds Allocated:	\$	(1,680.82)
Grad Travel Funds Allocated:	\$	(334.05)
Undergrad Travel Funds Allocated (Blended):	\$	(1,166.66)
PEG Travel	\$	(8,672.24)
FALL ALLOCATION BALANCE	\$	1,574.60
SPRING ALLOCATIONS		
Project Funds Allocated:	\$	(1,449.12)
Grad Travel Funds Allocated:	\$	-
Undergrad Travel Funds Allocated (Blended):	\$	(4,881.22)
PEG Travel	\$	(7,450.00)
SPRING ALLOCATION BALANCE	\$	(351.97)
Current Account Balance:	\$	1,222.63

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN OF GSG EXECUTIVE FUND ACCOUNT 990330

	<i>Dr. Mark Tausig</i>	
Graduate Student Gov Administration	Ian Schwarber/Stewart Blessing	
	N/A	
Carryover/Adj.	\$	149.07
FY Funding Allocation	\$	13,032.15
Payroll	\$	(9,872.37)
Communications	\$	-
Program Support	\$	-
Supplies/Services	\$	(90.00)
Travel/Hospitality	\$	(1,445.50)
Total Expenses	\$	(11,407.87)
Current Account Balance:	\$	1,773.35

Stipend for Ian Schwarber	Statement	\$ (1,595.92)
Stipend for Stewart Blessing	Statement	\$ (957.55)
Stipend for Tony Stratis	Statement	\$ (638.37)
Stipend for Ian Schwarber	Statement	\$ (1,595.92)
Stipend for Stewart Blessing	Statement	\$ (957.55)
Stipend for Tony Stratis	Statement	\$ (638.37)
Stipend for Ian Schwarber	Statement	\$ (1,595.92)
Stipend for Stewart Blessing	Statement	\$ (957.55)
Stipend for Tony Stratis	Statement	\$ (638.37)

***ANTHONY STRATIS'S INABILITY TO FAITHFULLY SERVE AS GSG TREASURER REQUIRED HIS RESIGNATION, FEB.23, 2015, BEFORE HIS THIRD STIPEND PAYMENT OF \$638.37. I HAVE DECIDED THAT HIS FINAL STIPEND PAYMENT OF \$638.37 SHOULD BE COMPLETELY TRANSFERRED TO THE GSG PROJECT/TRAVEL FUND 990331. HOPEFULLY, THIS WILL HELP RESTORE STUDENT TRUST IN THE GSG TREASURY, OF WHOM THEY ELECT INDEPENDENTLY.

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN OF GSG EXECUTIVE FUND ACCOUNT 990330 (CONTINUED)

Business cards for Ian Schwarber & Stewart Blessing	Inv 42355	\$	(60.00)
Business cards for Anthony Stratis	Inv 42412	\$	(30.00)
 			
Finger Sandwiches, Yuca Tots, Bunuelos, and Plantain Chips for Carribean Day on 9/15/14	Inv. 10842	\$	(50.00)
3-Course Luncheon with a service fee and water charge on 12/3/14 for the GSG Speaker Series	Inv. 1696	\$	(995.50)
Rental of the 5th floor club level for 12/3/14 GSG Speaker Series event	R33697	\$	(150.00)
		\$	(250.00)

THIS ADDITIONAL SLIDE IS JUST TO GIVE A VERY SPECIFIC ACCOUNTING OF ANY MONIES SPENT AT THE DISCRETION OF THE GSG EXECUTIVE TEAM.

ONE CHARGE WAS FOR ALL EXECUTIVES TO HAVE BUSINESS CARDS.

ONE CHARGE WAS TO ASSIST THE CARRIBEAN DAY EVENT IN EARLY FALL.

THE FINAL CHARGES ARE ALL ASPECTS OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2014 EVENT GSG HELD TO SIGNAL THE OFFICIAL KICK-OFF FOR OUR CEO NETWORKING SERIES, "FROM .edu TO .com."

PLEASE EMAIL GSGpresident@uakron.edu FOR ANY ADDITIONAL GSG INFO

FINAL NOTES

We would like to thank GSG Senators Andrew Golden (Arts & Sciences), Kashyap Gaglani (CBA) and Addie Hall (Education) and Megan West (Health Professions) for all of their effort and attendance. We would also like to thank Directors of Outreach Randi Hoy-Rappach (Akron Community), Stephen Flask (Student Organizations) and the irreplaceable Alvaro Rodriguez (International Students) for all they contributed to the events and the branding of GSG this academic year. GSG is nothing without it's believers, and 2014-2015 was a year worth believing in.

Stewart and I want to make very clear that we could have done none of this work without the very kind, capable and continuing support of Mrs. Joanne Dabb, USG/GSG Administrative Assistant. We would also like to thank Dr. Mark Tausig for his advisement, and make our apology to Graduate Council, of which our attendance was less than was expected. Mr. Stratis was our planned attendee in the Spring semester, and upon his resignation, I failed to attend, and for that I sincerely apologize.

Thank you to The University of Akron Graduate Student Body, the Bliss Institute, President Scott Scarborough, Paul Herold, and everyone who made GSG what it was, is and will soon become. Sincerely, President Ian Schwarber, VP Stewart Blessing