



# 2011 Fall Conference

October 21-22  
Columbus Ohio

The Mission of the Ohio Student Government Association Fall 2011 Conference sought to effectively engage representatives from the public universities in Ohio on important issues regarding higher education. In addition to this was the goal of strengthening the structure of the organization in an effort to promote sustainability. Delegates and attendees had the opportunity to attend briefings from various state officials, legislators, and experts from around the state, participate in committee sessions to discuss the status of higher education in Ohio, and participate in discussions on how our organization can continue to be a force of change in higher education.

## Conference Summary

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## A Message from the Executive Board

*We asked you to come, **and you did.*** The commitment shown by student leaders from around the state of Ohio throughout our 2011 Fall Conference is an indicator of the strengthening foundation of the Ohio Student Government Association (OSGA). Founded with the vision of protecting the value of education in the state of Ohio, our organization took a huge step forward at our fall conference in enhancing our ability to advocate on behalf of academia in our state. The OSGA Executive Board is fortunate to have support from the Ohio community and we acknowledge the following individuals who had a huge part in making our fall 2011 conference a success:



**Nick Messenger**, President, The Ohio State University Student Body

**Dr. Gordon Gee**, President, The Ohio State University

**John Loree**, Sales Manager, University Plaza Hotel | Columbus, Ohio

**Jim Petro**, Chancellor of Education, the Ohio Board of Regents

**Bruce Johnson**, President, Inter-University Council

**Dr. Dan Abrahamowicz**, Vice President for Student Affairs, Wright State University

**Zach Waymer**, Director of Economic Enhancement, the Ohio Board of Regents

**Ben Hemmelgarn**, Governmental Affairs Committee Member, The Ohio State Undergraduate Student Government

And of course, **all of our 2011-2012 delegates!**

-The OSGA E-board | [eboard@ohiosga.org](mailto:eboard@ohiosga.org)

## Conference Highlights

- Conference was held in Columbus Ohio.
- 9 of Ohio's 13 public 4-year institutions were represented.
- Over 40 individuals participated in the conference.
- 4 committees/task forces were created to address specific issues.
- 6 pieces of legislation were introduced: 5 passed, 1 pending.

## Conference Summary

Friday October 21, 2011 | The Ohio Board of Regents

The conference began with a full-delegation meeting in the Ohio Board of Regents Conference Center. Delegates discussed their expectations for the conference. Expectations included:

- Information sharing between universities on best practices for policy, marketing, and organizational structure:
- The creation of policy to increase effective communication between delegates:
- Addressing the role of student board of trustee members (student trustees), within the university board of trustees structure:
- The attainment of balanced information, thoughtful discussion, and careful consideration on the issues that matter most to higher education in Ohio:
- The immediate establishment of task-forces/ad-hoc committees to tackle specific issues, projects, or tasks:
- The building of relationships to create a foundation of unity within the organization.

Shortly after, delegates attended a presentation from Jim Petro, the Chancellor of Education for the Ohio Board of Regents and Bruce Johnson, the President of the Inter-University Council on the following topics:

- Student Trustee Voting Rights
- Senate Bill 5 / State-Issue 2
- Campus Safety/Gun Control
- House Bill 194
- The "Enterprise University" plan
- Student Fees/Financial Aid

During the meeting, the delegation received material detailing the Ohio Board of Regent's new Enterprise University plan<sup>1</sup>. Attendees were able to provide feedback to the Chancellor and the Council President on the matter. The Enterprise University plan is a proposal to augment the manner in which the state administers the university system. Designed to give university administration more control over the management of institutions, the plan lifts over 50 mandates that currently govern each public institution in our state.

Senate Bill 5 (State Issue 2)<sup>2</sup> is a very popular issue amongst OSGA delegates because of the impact it could have on education in Ohio. As proponents of the bill, Chancellor Petro and Council

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<sup>1</sup> The full text of the Enterprise University plan can be found at:

<http://www.ohiohighered.org/sites/default/files/uploads/enterprise-university-plan/Enterprise-Universities-Plan-WEB.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> A summary of SB5 can be found at:

[http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/analysis.cfm?ID=129\\_SB\\_5&hf=analyses129/s0005-prop-129.htm](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/analysis.cfm?ID=129_SB_5&hf=analyses129/s0005-prop-129.htm)

President Johnson both believe that the bill will give universities the ability to hire the best teachers available. Their insight on a very contentious issue was enlightening and helpful as delegates continued to gather information throughout the weekend on Senate Bill 5.

The delegation was also presented with a piece of legislation, currently being drafted in the Ohio General Assembly, supporting voting rights for student trustees. Student Trustee voting rights has been a centerpiece for discussion amongst OSGA delegates for years. Council President Johnson is interested in the idea of student trustees voting because he believes that students on the board have more knowledge of how various university policies affect the student body.

With 6 of 10 college students now relying on loans to attend school, tuition and financial aid is a very popular topic. Delegates were able to share ideas on how Ohio can remain competitive in regard to student fees. Bruce Johnson, who is also interested in seeing more “valuable” education for students, responded by explaining the importance of mobilizing informed, well-spoken students to the statehouse to talk to legislators about their experience on the matter.

The meeting with the Chancellor and the Council President was a very enriching moment for the delegates who attended.

### **Saturday October 22, 2011 | The Ohio State University**

Saturday began with a presentation from Ohio State University on leadership, facilitated by Nick Messenger, The President of The OSU student body. Delegates held a round-table discussion on various topics, including:

- Campus Safety
- Student Fees, Financial Aid
- Senate Bill 5/State-Issue 2
- State Issue 3 (healthcare)
- Student Trustee Voting Rights

During this discussion, delegates engaged in a dialogue about how each issue affects each respective university. In addition, delegates shared best practice methods in dealing with each issue from a student advocacy standpoint and subsequently, a discussion followed on what OSGA’s role can be in fostering recommendations, solutions, and or alternative to the issues discussed.

Delegates participated in sub-committees, designated to further deliberate on what OSGA’s role, stance, or strategy was for addressing specific issues. Four committees were established: The Ad-hoc Committee on Safety, the Ad-Hoc Student Affairs Subcommittee on Fees, the Governmental Affairs Committee, and the Ad-hoc Committee on Student Trustee Rights.

### ***Formal Session***

The final meeting of the conference was the formal session. During this session, legislation was introduced, recommending action on issues discussed throughout the weekend. The following page is a summary of the resolutions that were voted on:

**OSGA FALL CONFERENCE**  
**Formal Session**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 22, 2011**

**Resolutions by committee<sup>3</sup>**

- **Ad-hoc Committee on Safety**
  - Resolution 1.1
    - A Resolution to encourage all student governments to pass legislation recommending the banning of *concealed and carry* firearms on campus.
    - Encouraged to table until the Spring Conference. Will have a presentation on the issue at that time.
    - Motion to table by acclamation.
      - Resolution passes with no opposition
  - Resolution 1.6
    - A Resolution to create of an ad-hoc committee on safety at universities.
    - Motion for vote by acclamation.
      - Resolution passes with no opposition
- **Student Fees Subcommittee**
  - Resolution 1.2
    - A Resolution asking for a detailed breakdown of where student fees are being allocated at each institution in order to examine where the money is being spent.
    - -Motion to vote.
      - Resolution passes 14-0-0
- **Ad-hoc Committee on Student Trustee Rights/Legislation**
  - Resolution 1.3
    - A Resolution to allow student trustees into executive session and allow students to serve on the Board of Trustees regardless of compensation (i.e. scholarships etc.) received from the University
    - Motion to approve
      - Resolution passes 13-0
  - Resolution 1.4
    - A Resolution to create a task force to examine the issue of student trustee voting rights.
    - Motion to vote passes.
      - Resolution passes 13-0
- **Governmental Affairs Committee**
  - Resolution 1.5
    - A Resolution to recommend students vote no on Issue 2.

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<sup>3</sup> Please refer to the appendix of this document for the full text of each resolution. Resolution 1.6 is not electronically available at this time.

- *The wording of the bill deliberately illustrates that the delegates made the vote based on their own recommendation to students and does not necessarily represent the view of the entire student population in Ohio.*
- Motion suspend the rules and vote by 2/3 majority passes.
- Motion to vote by secret ballot 14-0 passes
  - Resolution Passes 9-4-3

## Conference Wrap-up | What's next?

1. Ad-hoc committees
  - a. During the conference 4 ad-hoc committees/task forces were created. Moving forward, the Vice Chair for Internal Affairs (currently Tony Stratis), will work with committee members to establish committee launch dates.
  - b. The committees will be charged with carrying out any action required in any legislation passed.
2. Regional Conferences
  - a. Each region is charged with holding a regional conference during the month of January.
  - b. The OSGA Executive director will coordinate with regional leads to facilitate the organization of each of the 4 regional conferences.
3. Spring Conference Bidding
  - a. Beginning in December, each university will have a chance to bid for the spring conference.
4. Organizational protocol and policy
  - a. As the organization moves forward, a committee will be created to establish standard organizational protocol for delegate and executive board expectations, internal communication, organizational finances, conference procedure, etc.
5. Strategic Planning
  - a. The Executive Board is in the process of creating a 4-year strategic plan for the organization to carry out through 2015-2016.
    - i. Plans include a structural change that would officially designate the organization as a non-profit.





# Appendix

# A. Contact Information

OSGA Website | <http://ohiosga.org>

OSGA Facebook | <http://facebook.com/ohiosga>

OSGA Twitter | <http://twitter.com/OhioSGA>

Dan Thomas, Chair | [dan.thomas@ohiosga.org](mailto:dan.thomas@ohiosga.org) | Wright State University

Jon Maze, Executive Director | [jon.maze@ohiosga.org](mailto:jon.maze@ohiosga.org) | Wright State University

Tony Stratis, Vice Chair for Internal Affairs | [tony.stratis@ohiosga.org](mailto:tony.stratis@ohiosga.org) | University of Akron

Andrea Pavlichich, Vice Chair for Governmental Affairs | [andrea.pavlichich@ohiosga.org](mailto:andrea.pavlichich@ohiosga.org) | University of Akron

Zane Roelen, Chief Financial Officer | [zane.roelen@ohiosga.org](mailto:zane.roelen@ohiosga.org) | The Ohio State University

Alan Hagerty, Chair, Presidents Council | [alan.hagerty@ohiosga.org](mailto:alan.hagerty@ohiosga.org) | The University of Cincinnati

## **B. Resolutions**

The Ohio Student Government Association  
Resolution: 1.1  
Committee: Ad-Hoc Committee on Safety  
Subject: Opposing Concealed Carry Firearms on Campus  
Sponsors:

1 *Bearing in mind* the detrimental effects of gun related crimes on campus,  
2

3 **The Ohio Student Government Association,**  
4

- 5 1. *Calls upon* all Ohio University Student Government's to:  
6 a. pass binding University resolutions banning the allowance of concealed and carry  
7 firearms on campus;  
8 b. advance safety measures and legislation that prevent individuals from carrying  
9 concealed weapons on campus;  
10 2. *Encourages* each Student Government to promote safety and awareness regarding  
11 firearms on their respective campus.  
12

13 Motion: 1) To table until more information is gathered 2) Approval by acclamation  
14

15 Second: Yes  
16

17 For: \_\_\_\_\_  
18

19 Against: no opposition  
20

21 Chair Approval: Lawrence  
22

23 Chair Veto: N/A

Ohio Student Government Association  
Resolution 1.2 (2011)  
Committee: Ad-Hoc Student Affairs Subcommittee on Fees  
Subject: Student Fees  
Sponsors:

- 1 *Recognizing* that many students are not aware of where their student fees are allocated,  
2  
3 *Bearing in mind* athletic programs present an abstract value to the student experience, and the  
4 subcommittee is interested in evaluating budget allocation decisions which were made  
5 following state budget modifications,  
6  
7 *Cognizant* of the alarming costs of textbooks causing the subcommittee to look into ways that  
8 universities can adopt policies that consider the opportunity cost of requiring the most recent  
9 textbook edition,

10  
11 **The Ohio Student Government Association,**

- 12  
13 1. *Calls upon* that each public university releases a publicized, itemized, and detailed  
14 breakdown of where student fees are allocated. This information should be made  
15 available to the public, including current and prospective students;  
16 2. *Requests* athletic departments from each university in Ohio to submit budgets from  
17 fiscal years 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 to OSGA for research and archival purposes;  
18 3. *Further requests* approval from the Presidents Council to create The Textbook  
19 Affordability Task Force Ad-Hoc Committee to be charged with:  
20 a. evaluating when professors release textbook information for the course  
21 (including when and how the information is provided to the local bookstore);  
22 b. exploring the opportunities to decrease the cost of textbooks to students;  
23 c. forming a reasonable textbook policy which considers the degree of necessity  
24 to requiring the most recent edition of each textbook.  
25

26  
27 Motion: Call to question

28  
29 Second: Yes

30  
31 For: 14

32  
33 Against: 0

34  
35 Chair Approval: D. J. Thomas

36  
37 Chair Veto: \_\_\_\_\_

The Ohio Student Government Association  
Resolution 1.3 (2011)  
Committee: The Ad-Hoc Committee on Student Trustee Legislation  
Subject: Student Trustee Legislation Recommendation  
Recognizing the need to further investigate the appointment of Student Trustees,

The Ohio Student Government Association,

1. *Supports* efforts to:
  - a. Allow Student Trustees into executive session of University Board of Trustee meetings,
  - b. Forbid the disqualification of Student Trustee applicants based on compensation received from the university, such as:
    - i. Scholarships
    - ii. Grants
    - iii. Loans
    - iv. Other forms of financial assistance payable out of the state treasury or a university fund.

Motion: Call to question

Second: Yes

For: 13

Against: 0

Chair Approval: D. Adams

Chair Veto: \_\_\_\_\_

The Ohio Student Government Association  
Resolution 1.4  
Committee: The Ad-Hoc Committee on Student Trustee Rights  
Subject: Student Trustee Voting Rights Task Force  
Sponsors:

- 1 *Recognizing* the current legislative proposal to grant voting rights to Student Trustees,  
2  
3 **The Ohio Student Government Association,**  
4  
5 1. *Calls for* the creation of a Student Trustee committee to explore the implications of  
6 granting voting rights to Student Trustees;  
7 2. *Charges* the aforementioned committee to research other State's policies on Student  
8 Trustee voting rights;  
9 3. *Further charges* the committee to compile applicable university policy and the Ohio  
10 Revised Code for the member institutions.  
11  
12  
13  
14 Motion: Call to question  
15  
16 Second: Yes  
17  
18 For: 13  
19  
20 Against: 0  
21  
22 Chair Approval: D. Williams  
23  
24 Chair Veto: \_\_\_\_\_  
25

The Ohio Student Government Association  
Resolution 1.5 (2011)  
Committee: Governmental Affairs Committee  
Subject: Senate Bill 5, Issue 2

1 *Bearing in mind* that Issue 2 on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 ballot in the State of Ohio is in regard to the  
2 ratification of Senate Bill 5,

3  
4 *Emphasizing* that the delegates of the Ohio Student Government Association (OSGA) Fall 2011  
5 State Conference believe that disputes relating to government union contracts and other  
6 government employment contracts can be resolved through the utilization of direct negotiations  
7 between parties representing labor and management,

8  
9 *Having discussed* Issue 2 and Senate Bill 5, the OSGA Governmental Affairs Committee  
10 believes that the adoption of Issue 2 and subsequent ratification of Senate Bill 5 would be  
11 severely detrimental to the students and the university systems of the State of Ohio as a whole,

12  
13 **The Ohio Student Government Association,**

14  
15 1. *Recommends* students vote "no" on Issue 2 (the adoption of Senate Bill 5) on the  
16 November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 ballot.

17  
18  
19  
20 Motion: 1) suspension of the rules to require a 2/3 approval from the delegation upon passage,  
21 2) vote by secret ballot.

22  
23 Second: Yes

24  
25 For: 9

26  
27 Against: 4

28  
29 Chair Approval: D. Williams

30  
31 Chair Veto: \_\_\_\_\_

32



## **C. Press Release (SB5)**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Ohio Student Government Association Votes Against SB5/Issue 2**

October 24, 2011

**Columbus, Ohio** - On October 21-22, the Ohio Student Government Association (OSGA) held their annual fall conference in Columbus, Ohio. OSGA is a coalition of the public university students in the state of Ohio. Student body presidents and delegates of the Ohio's thirteen four-year public institutions met with the goal of advocating and working for the betterment of higher education in the state.

One of OSGA's goals is to evaluate pieces of legislation that affect higher education. This year, one of those issues was Senate Bill 5/State Issue 2. Members of OSGA heard information from both sides of the aisle, speaking with Chancellor Jim Petro and the President of the Inter-University Council, Bruce Johnson, who are in favor of Issue 2 and a representative from We Are Ohio, who is against it.

Legislation was introduced at the conference to urge students in Ohio to vote no on Issue 2. After careful debate and a vote of 9-4-3, the delegates voted in favor of the legislation, meaning that the Ohio Student Government Association is against Senate Bill 5. OSGA Chair Daniel Thomas said, "Our united stance on this issue shows the high level of political awareness and influence that college students have in Ohio."

Other issues important to higher education were discussed including campus safety, student trustee voting rights, and tuition and fees. OSGA will meet again as a group in the spring to continue discussions on these and other important issues.

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