



Graduate and Professional Student Association

The Pennsylvania State University
315 HUB-Robeson Center
University Park, PA 16802
Email: gpsa@psu.edu

GPSA 68 th Assembly Meeting	Wednesday, October 10, 2018	6:00 pm	134 HUB
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Action Items

- Delegates with upcoming events will post event links and marketing material to the newswire slack channel before the end of the week
- Interested delegates with contact Charles about volunteering for voting events and domestic violence awareness event
- All members will fill out the syllabus policy survey Carmen posted on the general slack channel
- Committee chairs will share their committee meeting attendance records with Sailahari and Nick
 - All members will attend meetings or inform the secretary and their committee chairs of conflicts in advance, or Adam will give you a stern talking-to (and there might also be removal proceedings)
- Judiciary will provide a written clarification of the rules regarding assembly votes on constitutional changes

Bills Passed

- Bill 68-13: Happy Valley Improv

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
 - a. The meeting is called to order by the Vice President at 6:01pm
- II. Roll Call – See Addendum I
- III. Adoption of the Agenda
 - a. Motion to adopt the agenda; seconded
 - i. Charles objects
 - b. Bagmi motions to change Bill 68-12 to Bill 68-13; seconded
 - i. Motion carries
 - c. Motion to adopt the amended agenda; seconded
 - i. Motion carries; the agenda is adopted
- IV. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes from 9/26
 - a. Motion to approve past meeting minutes; seconded
 - i. Motion carries
- V. Open Student Forum
- VI. Special Presentation— Anna Barone, Director, Student Care and Advocacy
 - a. Services for students facing challenges or concerns
 - i. Mental health challenges
 - ii. Financial security (student emergency fund, one-time, no repayment required)
 - b. Usefulness for graduate students
 - i. Services for you and your colleagues

- ii. Services for students you may notice are struggling
 - c. Questions
 - i. Sailahari: Are you considered a confidential source for reporting?
 - 1. No; required to report sexual misconduct, for example
 - 2. Warns students if they approach mandated reporting subjects; can refer to confidential sources
 - ii. Bagmi: how is emergency student fund maintained and distributed?
 - 1. Typically do not give more than \$500; have about \$20,000 for the year
 - 2. Available for World Campus and Commonwealth campuses
 - 3. Previously gave more than \$500 during graduate health insurance gap
- VII. Executive Officer Reports
- a. President—Brienne Pragg
 - i. Advertising
 - 1. Budget ~\$100 extra on spending bills for advertising via facebook, etc
 - ii. Movin' On
 - 1. Terry (absent) is liaison
 - 2. Interested in feedback or ideas about how GPSA can contribute to Movin' On
 - b. Vice President—Stephanie Winkler
 - i. Stephanie met with graduate student alumni society
 - 1. We previously provided feedback regarding their annual networking event
 - 2. Changed event from Saturday to Thursday based on our feedback and had more attendance
 - c. Treasurer—Alex Zhao
 - i. Second Brienne's suggestion that we should budget for advertising
 - d. Secretary—Nick Dietrich
 - i. Please get me info about upcoming events before Friday for newswire
 - ii. Talk to Maria if you would like events on our GPSA facebook page
 - e. Faculty Senate—Carmen Vanderhoof
 - i. Next meeting October 23rd
 - 1. Carmen will relay our feedback about the syllabus policy
 - 2. Please take the survey on the general channel of Slack
 - f. Graduate Council—Claire Kelling
 - i. Grad council has not met yet
 - ii. Faculty senate is considering updating bylaws about graduate council chair
 - 1. Would like faculty member to chair graduate council
 - 2. Brienne: graduate council is a part of faculty senate, so they are not happy that an administrator is currently chairing
 - iii. Mikaela: considering adding permanent graduate seat to education committee
- VIII. New Business
- a. Bill 68-13 Happy Valley Improv (Charlie)
 - i. November social event: rent out State Theater for six hours
 - 1. Two hour show, two hour social event, plus time for set up
 - 2. Around \$550 for theater rental
 - 3. Around \$1100 honorarium for Happy Valley Improv
 - 4. Fully subsidized tickets for graduate and professional students
 - ii. Conflict of interest
 - 1. Nicole's husband is a founder of the group
 - 2. She will abstain from voting

- iii. Questions
 - 1. Bagmi: will this be in the attic or the main floor of the State Theater?
 - a The show will be in the attic
 - b 70 seats available
 - 2. Charles: Any refreshments?
 - a No; wanted to keep costs down
 - b There is a cash bar and concessions stand in the theater
 - 3. Claire: is the event limited to graduate students?
 - a We can't limit due to fee board rules
 - 4. Sid: Have you talked to the theater about buying food/refreshments to get free space?
 - a It's not feasible to spend \$550 on light snacks and refreshments
 - 5. Sid: in the past we've had problems with sign-ups for free events; people sign up and then do not attend
 - a Possibility of tickets available at the door
 - b Sid suggests that we could also require a deposit
 - c Alex Zhao suggests that the deposit only works for the boot camp because people come for multiple sessions
 - d Alex Zhao suggests that a nominal ticket price (\$1) might solve the problem
 - 6. Bagmi: making this free makes it more family friendly
 - a Happy Valley improv is not family friendly
 - 7. Liana: will this take the place of another social event?
 - a We wanted to try to get a different audience than our typical bar socials; not alcohol-based
 - 8. Claire: why are we doing it this way instead of buying student tickets?
 - a We would like to do something different than theater days
 - b Private show allows us to have a connected social event
 - c Happy Valley does not want groups bulk purchasing tickets for public shows
 - 9. Liana: have 100 people typically shown up to the bar socials?
 - a It depends on weather, advertising, etc.
- iv. Discussion
 - 1. Erick: the judiciary will make recommendations about a conflict of interest policy
 - 2. Charles: should we add \$100 for advertising?
 - 3. Charles motions to add \$100 to the budget for advertising
 - a Seconded; the motion passes
 - 4. Mikaela motions to approve by roll call; seconded
 - a The motion passes – see Addendum II
- b. Resolution 68-01 Proportional Representation and UP Residence (David)
 - i. Judiciary recommended updating our proportional recommendations
 - 1. One delegate per 300 students
 - 2. Removes 3-delegate cap; this only affects engineering
 - a Adds 2 engineering delegates
 - 3. Adds requirement of University Park residency
 - ii. This requires a three quarters vote due to constitutional changes
 - iii. Discussion

1. Brianne points out that the judiciary recommended a 4-delegate cap
 - a David thinks that there was no rationale behind the cap
 - b Only affects one constituency
2. Sailahari: engineering would gain two seats, putting them at 5 total
3. Brianne is concerned about size of engineering delegation
4. Carmen is concerned that we could have up to 11 engineering delegates depending on at-large
5. This would increase engineering by 2, law by 1, leave everything else unaffected
6. Brianne suggests a maximum of four delegates
 - a Erick suggests that the cap was partially to keep the number of delegates stable year-to-year; growth could happen over time
 - b David does not see why we are concerned about size of engineering delegation
 - i Charlie and Stephanie agree
 - c Erick notes the cap will prevent a sudden growth to seven delegates year-to-year
 - d David notes that the enrollment numbers consider three years of data
 - e Charlie suggests than an upper limit would be an important safeguard
 - f Charles asks if at-large delegates are a safeguard against this
 - i Brianne: it depends on who the president is
 - ii Nick: larger colleges have a larger influence on electing executives, meaning that they will also control at-large seats
 - iii Liana: we may want to represent the diversity of graduate students, not just proportionality
 - g Alex suggests that we set the cap at five and also amend the bylaws to prevent at-large delegates from being from the same college
7. Siavash: why are we adding a residency requirement?
 - a David notes that we functionally cannot represent other campuses
 - b Brianne points out that our entire budget comes from UP student fees, which must be spent on UP students
8. Sid recommends that we table the motion, work on amendments, and then vote on it at the next meeting
 - a Alex Zhao is concerned that we will never vote if we don't do it now
 - b Sid is not suggesting that we have more debate, he is suggesting that we are careful about vetting the wording in our bylaws
- iv. David motions to amend the bill to add "based on the average enrollment over the last three years" to the proportionality requirement by voice vote
 1. Seconded; the motion is approved unanimously by voice vote
- v. Shawn motions to amend the constitution by roll call
 1. 16 out of 21 present voting members vote yes – see Addendum II
 2. Discussion about whether the requirement is $\frac{3}{4}$ of the assembly or those in attendance
 3. Judiciary rules that the amendment does not pass because it does not meet the requirement that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the assembly vote in favor

IX. Reports

- a. Speaker of the Assembly – Sailahari Ponnaluri
 - i. Attendance
 1. Committee chairs will submit attendance to Sailahari and Nick

2. Trying to increase attendance at committee meetings
 - a Please participate in committee meetings
 - b You are there to be the voice of your constituents
 - c Members are expected to help with initiatives
- b. Committees
 - i. Advocacy and Human Diversity – Mikaela Westhoff
 1. In transition between old and new projects
 - ii. Professional Development – Bagmi Das
 1. Headshot sign-ups open
 2. Sarah Ades would like to create a graduate advising committee
 3. Considering a course-like offering for professional development over the semester
 4. Career Services hiring outreach interns
 - a Paid position (cannot take if your GA assignment precludes)
 - iii. Programming- Charlie Wolstenholme
 1. Winter Gala planning is moving along
 2. Please advertise our events on facebook
 3. Sailahari: When is fall hike?
 - a Next weekend, we will make a facebook event soon
 4. Azaria: We should be notified of events earlier so we can share with departments
 - a Charlie will try
 - b He notes that in the past, departments have become annoyed with us for sending too many emails
 - c Sid notes that program coordinators have been very accommodating in the past
 - iv. Community Service – Charles Tierney
 1. Gerrymandering panel
 - a Was a very cool event, but attendance was low
 - b Will put more effort into finding times where people are available
 2. Soliciting volunteers for an October 22nd domestic violence support and awareness event
 3. The Science Policy Group needs volunteers
 - a Hosting an absentee ballot drive
 - b Planning an election day carpool
 - v. Internal Development – David Dopfel
 1. Will fix up that resolution
- c. Liaisons
 - i. Azaria – Student Affairs
 1. Coordinating a common hour
 - a Sailahari: what's a common hour?
 - i Time where everyone has no class
 - ii. Charlie – Campus Rec Advising
 1. Discussing future of Stone Valley recreation area
 - iii. Sailahari – Student Leader
 1. An alumni donor gave \$4,000 per year for student leaders to spend
 - a Hasn't been used in many years
 - b Currently \$20,000

- c Considering putting toward mental health resources
 - d Sid: consider buying a freezer for LionPanty
 - e Bagmi: emergency fund is another option
 - iv. Claire: Emergency Management Roundtable
 - 1. Currently you can call 9-1-1 on campus about alcohol without risk of being ticketed
 - a This is not true off campus
 - 2. What to do with blue lights
 - a Emergency buttons for emergency situations
 - b Usually pressed by accident
 - c Sailahari: are they concerned that these are underutilized?
 - i The current system is either not useful or not understood
 - ii Might have been formed for sexual violence, but don't match the reality of most sexual assaults on campus
 - iii Stephanie: might serve as a deterrent
 - iv Adam: how many times are they used not accidentally? That should inform our decision
 - d. Judiciary—The Honorable Eric Flagg (Absent, Erick reporting)
 - i. Need to discuss the vote on the resolution today
 - ii. Alex Zhao would like a formal ruling on how constitutional amendments work
 - e. Student Trustee – Mike Hoeschele
 - i. Nothing to report
 - f. Advisor—Adam Christensen
 - i. There is just barely a quorum here tonight
 - 1. Speak to your colleagues about the importance of showing up
- X. Comments for the Good of the Order
 - a. Alex Zhao: Professional Development, please stay after class
- XI. Adjournment
 - a. Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm

Addendum I – Roll Call Attendance

P = present A = absent E = excused PR = proxy L = late

Office	Name	10-Oct
Executive Board		
President	Brianne Pragg	P
Vice President	Stephanie Winkler	P
Secretary	Nick Dietrich	P
Treasurer	Alex Zhao	P
Faculty Senator	Carmen Vanderhoof	P
Judiciary		
Chief Justice	Eric Flagg (Law)	E
Associate Justice	Ellen Hill (Law)	E
Associate Justice	Erick Jenkins (SIA)	P
Graduate Council		
Graduate Council	Liana Glew (Liberal Arts)	P
Graduate Council	August Jenkins (HHD)	L
Graduate Council	Claire Keiling (Science)	P
Graduate Council	Logan Rutten (Education)	A
Graduate Council	Alexander Wilson-Heid (IGDP)	A
Assembly		
Agricultural Sciences	Amanda (Mandy) Burton	P
Agricultural Sciences	Megan Griffin	A
Art & Architecture	Siavash Varasteh-Vala	P
Communications	Lars Stoltzfus-Brown	E
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Sidharth (Sid) Agrawal	P
Earth and Mineral Sciences		
Eberly College of Science	Charlie Wolstenholme	P
Eberly College of Science	Hui Zheng	P
Eberly College of Science	Emma Van Burns	P
Education	Bagmi Das	P
Education	Hye-Su Kuk	A
Education	Azaria Cunningham	P

President – Brianne Pragg | pragg@psu.edu
 Vice President – Stephanie Winkler | sxw96@psu.edu
 Advisor – Adam Christensen, Ph.D. | aec187@psu.edu

Treasurer – Alex Zhao | yazhao@psu.edu
 Secretary – Nick Dietrich | nmd184@psu.edu
 Speaker – Sailahari Ponnaluri | svp20@psu.edu

Engineering	Keerti Prakash (KP)	E
Engineering	Shawn Siroka	P
Engineering	Charles Tierney	P
Health and Human Development	Abigail Keim	P
Health and Human Development	Michael Lin	E
Information Sciences and Technology	Tiffany Knearem	P
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	David Dopfel	L
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Sailahari Ponnaluri	P
Liberal Arts	Trevor Bero	P
Liberal Arts	Jerome Clarke	E
Liberal Arts	Mikaela Westhoff	P
Nursing	Nicole Rufo	P
School of International Affairs	Alena Ricci	P
Schools of Law	Shanjida Chowhury	A
Schools of Law		
Smeal College of Business		
At-Large Delegate	Irving Evans	E
At-Large Delegate	Terry Torres-Cruz	E
At-Large Delegate	Steven Baksa	E
At-Large Delegate	Ash Gillis	P

Addendum II – Roll Call Votes

y = yes n = no a = abstain

Office	Name	Bill 68-12	Resolution 68-01
Graduate Council			
Graduate Council	Liana Glew (Liberal Arts)	y	y
Graduate Council	August Jenkins (HHD)	y	a
Graduate Council	Claire Keiling (Science)	y	a
Graduate Council	Logan Rutten (Education)		
Graduate Council	Alexander Wilson-Heid (IGDP) (Alex)		
Assembly			
Agricultural Sciences	Amanda (Mandy) Burton	y	y
Agricultural Sciences	Megan Griffin		
Art & Architecture	Siavash Varasteh-Vala	y	n
Communications	Lars Stoltzfus-Brown		
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Sidharth (Sid) Agrawal	y	a
Earth and Mineral Sciences			
Eberly College of Science	Charlie Wolstenholme	y	y
Eberly College of Science	Hui Zheng	y	y
Eberly College of Science	Emma Van Burns	y	y
Education	Bagmi Das	y	y
Education	Hye-Su Kuk		
Education	Azaria Cunningham	y	y
Engineering	Keerti Prakash (KP)		
Engineering	Shawn Siroka	y	y
Engineering	Charles Tierney	y	y
Health and Human Development	Abigail Keim	y	
Health and Human Development	Michael Lin		
Information Sciences and Technology	Tiffany Knearem	y	y
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	David Dopfel	y	y
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Sailahari Ponnaluri	y	y
Liberal Arts	Trevor Bero	y	y
Liberal Arts	Jerome Clarke		

Liberal Arts	Mikaela Westhoff	y	y
Nursing	Nicole Rufo	a	y
School of International Affairs	Alena Ricci	y	y
Schools of Law	Shanjida Chowhury		
Schools of Law	Tracy Wong		
Smeal College of Business			
At-Large Delegate	Irving Evans		
At-Large Delegate	Terry Torres-Cruz		
At-Large Delegate	Steven Baksa		
At-Large Delegate	Ash Gillis	n	a