

Bill # 66-23

The Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) The Pennsylvania State University



of the 66th Assembly
November 30, 2016

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

Support for an Interdisciplinary Teaching Forum's Efforts to Bring in Guest Speaker

Co-sponsoring and Funding for Dr. A Breeze Harper's Speaking Event and Workshops
(Decided: [Y / N / A])

1 **Nature of the Situation:**

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3 One of GPSA's primary goals is to support scholarship activities and professional development.
4 Exposure to different perspectives not only fosters intellectual growth, but also promotes
5 increased cultural competency. Graduate students across the university would benefit from a
6 series of talks and workshops centered around antiracism and ethical consumption.

7 Penn State has recently re-committed itself to diversity and inclusivity with the launch of the All
8 In initiative. In keeping with the spirit of this initiative a series of events with a diversity
9 strategist that will encourage graduate and professional students to be aware of diversity issues in
10 their research and in their daily lives are being planned. This event also holds potential to build
11 upon the university's long tradition as a land grant institution, and the ongoing work in areas of
12 agricultural and food systems, as our speaker carriers.

13 Dr. A. Breeze Harper is a diversity strategist, critical theorist, public speaker, and author, who
14 brings a fresh perspective that would benefit graduate students of all different backgrounds. Her
15 training includes degrees from Dartmouth College (BA), Harvard (MA), and University of
16 California, Davis (PhD). This event would provide the opportunity to learn about social
17 dynamics and the ways that they affect us as people (food, health, and wellness), as emerging
18 scholars (in how we do our research), and as teachers and students encountering diversity in the
19 classroom.

20 The main event is scheduled for April 14th, 2017 and will attract graduate students across
21 disciplines, including but not limited to the departments of Sociology and Criminology,
22 Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies, Department of Educational Psychology, Counseling,
23 and Special Education, Geography, Philosophy, etc. Efforts will also be made to promote the
24 event among the natural science as well as engineering departments. Lastly, it will also represent
25 an opportunity to reach out and connection with other organizations, including the Black
26 Graduate Student Association

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29 **Recommended Course of Action:**

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31 The GPSA will serve as a co-sponsor for the “Community Spotlight Series” and provide support
32 in the following ways:

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- 34 1. Allocate \$4,500 for speaker fees (including two workshops and a public lecture)
- 35 2. Allocate an estimated \$640 for flight from SFO to SC (roundtrip) April 13th-15th
- 36 3. Allocate \$150 for accommodations at the Quality Inn
- 37 4. Allocate \$500 for reception
- 38 5. Agree to have the GPSA logo included on all printed and virtual promotional materials.
- 39 6. Promote the event on the GPSA event calendar
- 40 7. Promote the event on the GPSA Facebook Page

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42 Total Requested Amount: \$5,790

Respectfully submitted,

Kyler J. Sherman-Wilkins

Chair, GPSA Human Diversity Sub-Committee; Delegate, College of Liberal Arts

President _____ Affirm Veto

The Graduate and Professional Student Association