Bill # 66-28

**The Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA)**

**The Pennsylvania State University**

****

**of the 66th Assembly**

1/18/2017

*Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,*

**Funding For Roundtable Panel on Syria in Washington, D.C.**

**Funding for transportation and food**

(Decided: [ Y / N / A])

**Nature of the Situation:**

One of the goals of GPSA is “supporting scholarship activities and professional development.” The School of International Affairs (SIA) is coordinating and facilitating an educational event that applies to graduate and professional students across multiple fields. On Thursday, February 9th between 6-8pm there will be a panel discussion titled, “From Aleppo to Washington: Crisis in Syria,” at the headquarters of the non-profit organization, AMIDEAST in Washington, D.C. (2025 M Street NW #600). Speakers on the panel include: Ambassador Theodore Kattouf, President of AMIDEAST and former ambassador to Syria; Dr. Flynt Leverett, Professor of International Affairs at Penn State and former CIA Analyst; Rachel Sayre, current lead for USAID Humanitarian Response to Syria and SIA Alumna; Retired Vice Admiral James W. Houck, former US Navy Judge Advocate General and Interim Dean of the Law School and SIA. The panel will be moderated by Dr. Scott Sigmund Gartner, SIA Director and Professor of International Affairs.

The roundtable panel discussion will focus on how the complex issues surrounding Syria and the Middle East have shaped and will continue to exert profound influence on international affairs in the years to come. Students will have the opportunity to expand their knowledge and directly engage and network with professionals in these fields. The event will feature a robust analysis of a conflict that has ended the lives of nearly half a million people and spurred one of the largest refugee crises in modern history. The panelists will specifically address the root causes of the conflict, the response from the United States and the international community over the past five years, the impact of the Syrian refugee crisis, and how the United States may respond to this conflict under the leadership of President-elect Donald Trump. The event is also free and open to the public.

**Recommended Course of Action:**

The GPSA will serve as a co-sponsor for the “From Aleppo to Washington: Crisis in Syria,” roundtable panel and provide support in the following ways:

1. Allocate $1,845 for a 45 seat Fullington charter bus to transport students to and from Washington, D.C.

2. Allocate an estimated $600 for lunch and water provided by Au Bon Pain.

3. Agree to have the GPSA logo included in all promotional materials.

4. Promote the event on the GPSA event calendar.

5. Promote the event on the GPSA Facebook Page.

Total amount requested: $2,445

Respectfully submitted,

**Jennifer Gibbs**

Delegate, School of International Affairs

President \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Affirm Veto

The Graduate and Professional Student Association