



# Graduate and Professional Student Association

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

GPSA Assembly Meeting | Wednesday, September 7, 2016 | 6:00pm | 302 HUB Robeson Center

- I. Call to order**
  - A. Meeting was called to order by the Executive Vice President at 6:02 pm.
- II. Roll call**
  - A. See Addendum I.
- III. Adoption of the Agenda**
  - A. Hearing no objection to the approval of the agenda, the agenda is approved as distributed.
- IV. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes**
  - A. Hearing no objection to the past meeting's minutes, the minutes are approved as distributed.
- V. Open Student Forum**
  - A. No student comments.
- VI. Special Presentation (Damon Sims, Vice President of Student Affairs)**
  - A. Thank you for your service to Penn State, and to the entire university community.
  - B. Counseling and Psychological Services
    1. We have had concerns about whether there is adequate service; there is no question that the need has outstripped the capacity.
    2. The provost has provided supplemental funding, which supports five providers.
    3. Ben Locke is the new Director.
    4. We were able to find new office space. New providers originally placed in Calder Way are now in the Career Services Building.
  - C. There is new leadership in campus recreation.
    1. Campus recreation used to be housed under intercollegiate athletics, and was then moved to student affairs
    2. Laura Hall, from University of California, Davis, is the new director.
    3. Campus recreation will be working on the relationship between recreation and wellness.
  - D. University Health Services
    1. How can we expand services and access?
    2. Working with Penn State Hershey to give students access to facilities in State College.
  - E. The executive leadership, along with GPSA and UPUA, are involved in a new initiative to work with the Borough of State College.
    1. Communication has been good at times, but could be enhanced.
  - F. President Barron is interested in student engagement - this means not just undergraduates, but also graduate and professional students.
  - G. Initiative under way focused on diversity and inclusion
    1. The initiative is partly in response to student concerns.

President: Kevin Horne | [kvh5130@psu.edu](mailto:kvh5130@psu.edu)

Executive Vice President: Marina Cotarelo | [mpc5184@psu.edu](mailto:mpc5184@psu.edu)

Executive Secretary: Anne Whitesell | [amw412@psu.edu](mailto:amw412@psu.edu)

Treasurer: Sidharth Agrawal | [soa5312@psu.edu](mailto:soa5312@psu.edu)

Advisor: Philip Burlingame, Ph.D. | [pyb7@psu.edu](mailto:pyb7@psu.edu)

2. President Barron thinks these issues should be primary to the institution.
  3. It formally kicks off October 6.
  4. There is still much work that we need to do.
- H. Fall Career Days are coming up (September 13 – 15).
1. Central Career Services is available to graduate and professional students.
  2. Career Services helps with development of CVs, looking for postdocs, and looking for teaching positions in the academy.
- I. Questions/comments/advice
1. What is the diversity/inclusion commitment? Are there action steps?
    - a) The university is calling attention to the issues.
    - b) Specific topics include climate issues and helping our students understand that they need to be leaders both on and off campus.
    - c) We should also recognize the programs that already exist and don't get the attention they deserve.
  2. Will there be changes in the admissions process?
    - a) This was brought up in the faculty senate meeting, and we should be receiving a report soon.
  3. Last year you discussed a survey on sexual violence. Have the results been made public and has anything been done to make changes?
    - a) We released the results of the survey last fall. They are available online.
    - b) The results were exactly what we expected; they were higher than we'd like them to be, but within the zone of our peer institutions.
    - c) Students have a high level of confidence in the institution's ability to handle these issues.
    - d) Title IX has been moved to its own office (Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response).
    - e) Stand for State is a bystander intervention program.
  4. Penn State is such a large place - it is difficult to communicate all the services available to students.
  5. We have a bill tonight about CGE. Can you speak to the unionization efforts?
    - a) A lot of the work of a union is outside the purview of student affairs.
    - b) As far as advocacy is concerned, GPSA has done a good job advocating on behalf of graduate students.
    - c) I encourage all of you to function as vocal advocates, regardless of what happens with unionization.

## **VII. Executive Officer Reports**

- A. President (Kevin Horne)
1. GPSA controls about 20 passes in the Lot 10 parking lot by IST. Those passes have now been allocated.
  2. President Barron is kicking off a year-long diversity and inclusion celebration. There will be plenty of opportunities for GPSA to get involved.
    - a) Kevin is serving on a committee to decide on a structure that honors diversity.
  3. Met with Laura Hall to discuss how campus recreation can include more graduate students.

4. The Board of Trustees meeting is September 16. If anything is super pressing, it will get sent out before the meeting.
  5. Working on getting more graduate students involved in State of State.
  6. The meeting of the student government presidents with top administrators is next Wednesday.
- B. Vice President (Marina Cotarelo)
1. I encourage you to go to a UPUA. It's a great experience.
  2. Email me if you need a name tag.
- C. Treasurer (Sidharth Agrawal)
1. Our total expenses for this year are around \$1355.
  2. Our active spending bills are around \$3371.
  3. Including open purchase orders around \$7305.
  4. Thank you to the chairs and co-chairs who have submitted a show-cause budget. If you have sent one yet, please send it by next week.
  5. Faculty Senate Committee on Student Life
    - a) Smoking Policy Forensic Report - 9 of the 14 Big 10 schools are smoke-free or tobacco free.
    - b) The student fee is being collapsed into a single fee.
    - c) "Opening Acts" at the Faculty Senate meetings will have faculties present their research.
- D. Secretary (Anne Whitesell)
1. From the first Newswire - about 2500 recipients, 30% open rate.
- E. Faculty Senate Report
1. Nothing to report
- F. Graduate Council (Morteza Karimzadeh)
1. Nothing to report

### **VIII. New Business**

- A. Bill 66-06: Moving the September 21 Meeting Time
1. Roll call will be taken, but because the meeting time is changed absences will not be counted against those not in attendance.
  2. The social hour starts at 6, so hopefully the meeting will be over by 5:30.
  3. GPSA sold 104 tickets to Cirque - the expectation was 30!
  4. Motion to approve the bill through unanimous consent. There are no objections, and the bill passes.
- B. Bill 66-07: Tailgate Funding
1. The budget for the Minnesota game is based on a 3:30 start time - a noon start time would cost a little less, 8:30 would cost more.
  2. Motion to vote via roll call; there are no objections.
  3. The bill passes. See Addendum II for the vote record.
- C. Resolution 66-01: Support of CGE's Efforts
1. Coalition of Graduate Employees (CGE) is collecting authorization cards to bring a unionization vote to Penn State.
  2. This bill is not endorsing a union, but calling on GPSA to aid CGE in getting the number of authorization cards required to bring a vote.
  3. Four requirements
    - a) Link to CGE's website on the GPSA website.
    - b) Post pamphlets on the GPSA website.
    - c) Allow for CGE information to be distributed at GPSA events.

- d) Allow CGE to advertise events through the GPSA newswire.
4. Questions
- a) Is CGE a student group?
- b) You say this is not an endorsement, but it effectively is. This does not represent the interests of most grad students.  
 (1) We do things that are not just for all graduate students.
- c) Are you asking for funds?  
 (1) No request for funds.
- d) Is there a deadline for the 60%?  
 (1) We would like it to end by November.
- e) Do other organizations get advertisements/endorsements?  
 (1) Other organizations can distribute information through the newswire.  
 (2) There are no official rules on submitting things through the Newswire.  
 (3) When we co-sponsor events, we are obligated to advertise them.
- f) If this were to pass, what would prevent every GPSA event from becoming a card drive?  
 (1) We want to be free to talk about things.  
 (2) In the past, CGE has been prevented from distributing information. This resolution is more about protecting CGE's freedom.
- g) Kevin, I thought you were going to distinguish GPSA from CGE?
- h) Why do you need GPSA?  
 (1) Information sharing is easier through GPSA.  
 (2) We just want a way to give people information. There is a unionization FAQ on the Graduate School, and it tries to toe the line, but it is not entirely truthful, and it intimidates graduate student.
- i) When did you start, how many students are in it? You are not a recognized student org?  
 (1) The group started about 3 years ago.  
 (2) We have about 15-20 people that show up to the planning committees, about 30 that show up to the happy hours.
- j) Does GPSA have rules about registered student organizations?
- k) Could CGE post just anything on the website, or would it be vetted by the executive board?
- l) Would the co-sponsors consider splitting this - GPSA will disseminate information?  
 (1) Perhaps point 4 and the language about support could be removed.  
 (2) Would the co-sponsors consider a friendly amendment?
- m) Can you tell us more about the voting process?
- n) Won't this vote be swayed towards CGE supporters?
- o) Will CGE be posting neutral information?
5. Discussion

- a) With health insurance issues, it was difficult to disseminate information. This seems like a perfectly legitimate way to get out information.
  - b) Why not ask GPSA to put up a unionization FAQ? The advocacy committee could be in charge of it. It would avoid advertising one group over another.
  - c) CGE material focuses on the positive sides of unionization. Something neutral might be nicer.
  - d) I don't mind disseminating information on the website, but I would like to have some events that don't have an agenda.
  - e) People don't appreciate being interrupted in lab. It may be intrusive to have a CGE presence at GPSA events.
  - f) There's no such thing as neutral information.
  - g) How does something end up on the website?
    - (1) It's sent to Lily and she posts it.
  - h) Could we table this bill? Everyone interested in this bill could meet to discuss.
6. Move to table the bill to clarify the language; it is seconded.

## IX. Reports

- A. Speaker of the Assembly (Lily Hill)
  - 1. I'm glad we had this conversation (about CGE and unionization). I think it's a great forum to discuss it.
- B. Internal Development (Jordan Morris)
  - 1. Nothing to report.
- C. Students Affairs
  - 1. Programming (Brian Conway): Welcome Back picnic is at Sunset Park this Friday. There will be pizza and yard games.
  - 2. Community Service (Austin Barrett): Trail work opportunity for this Sunday - two spots still open! Beginning at 11:30, lunch is provided.
  - 3. Diversity (Kylar Sherman-Wilkins):
    - a) The committee is excited to hear about the Diversity & Inclusion Commitment.
    - b) The committee will be working on an advisor how-to and how to handle microaggressions.
  - 4. Join Grad Cup!
- D. Advocacy (Kevin Reuning)
  - 1. Our first meeting was last Monday; we discussed general plans.
  - 2. The main idea is to hold town halls by issues or some subset of town halls. The committee put together a show cause budget.
- E. Liaisons:
  - 1. Health Insurance (Alison Franklin):
    - a) There have been issues with registering dependents because of LionPath. Those issues are fixed. If you didn't get your dependents registered because of that, let Alison know.
    - b) At the end of the month there will be a meeting with Aetna, but the agenda is not set yet.
- F. Judiciary (Jeremy Johnson)
  - 1. Nothing to report

- G. Board of Trustees (Allie Goldstein)
  - 1. All committees meet the Thursday before the board meeting. The meetings are open to the public.
  - 2. On Friday, the Board meeting is open to the public.
  - 3. Anything decided at the committee level is moved up to the Board level.
  - 4. This year we will start the application process for the student trustee position.
- H. Advisor (Phil Burlingame)
  - 1. Kevin has gone above and beyond his presidential duties. Thank you, Kevin!
  - 2. When we beat the University of Pittsburgh, we will be prepared.
- X. Comments for the good of the order**
  - A. What issues did the judiciary have with the resolution?
    - 1. There was no explanation as to why the GPSA should pass the resolution.
    - 2. There is no specific line in the Constitution about it, but it is in the spirit of the Constitution.
    - 3. We feel more information was needed.
  - B. We should discuss unionization more over drinks.
  - C. Christine Mosich needs help on professional development.
  - D. If you don't want to join the diversity committee, at least ask your delegates about diversity.
  - E. Delegates, don't forget that you need to attend at least one committee meeting. Missing two meetings is ground for removal.
- XI. Adjournment**
  - A. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Whitesell

## Addendum I. Attendance

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

Office	Name	September 7
<b>Executive Board</b>		
President	Kevin Horne	P
Vice President	Marina Cotarelo	P
Treasurer	Sidharth Agrawal	P
Secretary	Anne Whitesell	P
Faculty Senator	Azita Ranjbar	E
Graduate Council	Brianne Pragg	P
Graduate Council	Morteza Karimzadeh	P
Graduate Council	Alison Franklin	P
Graduate Council	Carol Rogers-Shaw	E
Graduate Council	Shahzrad Jamshidi	E
<b>Judiciary</b>		
Chief Justice	Jeremy R. Johnson	P
Associate Justice	Jesse Scott	P
Associate Justice	William Kramer	E
<b>Assembly</b>		
Agricultural Sciences	Maridel M. Reyes	A
Agricultural Sciences	Meredith Field	E
Art & Architecture	Vacant	
Communications	Vacant	
Dickinson School of Law	Eunice J. Kim	A
Dickinson School of Law	Fallon Dungan	P
Dickinson School of Law	Jordan D. Morris	P
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Vacant	
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Vacant	
Eberly College of Science	William Wright	P
Eberly College of Science	Brian Conway	P
Eberly College of Science	Erica Schwalm	P
Education	Xulu Zhang	A
Education	Colleen Unroe	P

Education	Jinhee Choi	E/PR
Engineering	John McKay	P
Engineering	Matt Krott	P
Engineering	Krishna Srinivasan	L
Health and Human Development	Austin Barrett	P
Health and Human Development	Samuel Masters	A
Information Sciences and Technology	Anthony Pinter	P
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Brittany Banik	P
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	David Dopfel	L
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Lillian Hill	P
School of International Affairs	Jennifer Gibbs	P
Liberal Arts	Kevin Reuning	P
Liberal Arts	Robert Zuchowski	E/PR
Liberal Arts	Kyler Sherman-Wilkins	P
Smeal College of Business	Steven Di Grazia	P
Smeal College of Business	James Fan	P
Smeal College of Business	Vacant	
At-Large Delegate	Mohammad Whaba	P
At-Large Delegate	Christine Mosich	L
At-Large Delegate	William Dusch	E/PR
At-Large Delegate	Sonny Arora	P
At-Large Delegate	Vacant	



## Addendum II. Roll Call Vote on Bill #66-07

Y = yes      N = no      --- = absent

Office	Name	Bill 66-07
<b>Assembly</b>		
Agricultural Sciences	Maridel M. Reyes	---
Agricultural Sciences	Meredith Field	---
Art & Architecture	Vacant	
Communications	Vacant	
Dickinson School of Law	Eunice J. Kim	---
Dickinson School of Law	Fallon Dungan	Y
Dickinson School of Law	Jordan D. Morris	Y
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Vacant	
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Vacant	
Eberly College of Science	William Wright	Y
Eberly College of Science	Brian Conway	Y
Eberly College of Science	Erica Schwalm	Y
Education	Xulu Zhang	---
Education	Colleen Unroe	Y
Education	Jinhee Choi	Y
Engineering	John McKay	Y
Engineering	Matt Krott	Y
Engineering	Krishna Srinivasan	Y
Health and Human Development	Austin Barrett	Y
Health and Human Development	Samuel Masters	---
Information Sciences and Technology	Anthony Pinter	Y
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Brittany Banik	Y
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	David Dopfel	Y
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Lillian Hill	Y

School of International Affairs	Jennifer Gibbs	Y
Liberal Arts	Kevin Reuning	Y
Liberal Arts	Robert Zuchowski	Y
Liberal Arts	Kyler Sherman-Wilkins	Y
Smeal College of Business	Steven Di Grazia	Y
Smeal College of Business	James Fan	Y
Smeal College of Business	Vacant	
At-Large Delegate	Mohammad Whaba	Y
At-Large Delegate	Christine Mosich	---
At-Large Delegate	William Dusch	Y
At-Large Delegate	Sonny Arora	Y
At-Large Delegate	Vacant	