



Graduate and Professional Student Association

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

GPSA Assembly Meeting | Wednesday August 24, 2016 | 6:00p.m. | 302 HUB

Agenda

- I. Call to order**
 - A. The meeting was called to order by the Executive Vice President at 6:04 pm.
- II. Roll call**
 - A. Please see addendum I.
- III. Adoption of the agenda**
 - A. Hearing no objections, the agenda was adopted as distributed.
- IV. Approval of past meeting minutes**
 - A. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as distributed.
- V. Open Student Forum**
 - A. No comments
- VI. Executive Officer Reports**
 - A. Report by the President (Kevin Horne)**
 1. Thanks for filling orientation slots. Everything was well-staffed, and they were well-received. There are a few bags left (30-40).
 2. Thanks to everyone who came to the retreat. There will be a document going out in the next week with what we discussed.
 3. Summer:
 - a) Extra seat on the board of trustees - Marina will be on a committee. All it took was an email to the new head.
 - b) Student fee board goes into effect this semester and has two seats for GPSA. The board controls approximately \$10 million in (mainly) undergraduate money, and the first order of business is putting out a call for ideas of how to spend the money.
 - c) State appropriations were passed on time. Five percent increase in the budget. Three percent increase in stipends.
 4. Smoke-free campus:
 - a) The administration is keen on going smoke-free, and most of the Big 10 is smoke-free.
 - b) The UPUA has already passed a resolution supporting it.
 - c) Questions from members of the Assembly: What exactly is a smoke-free campus? Would it include designated smoking areas?
 5. In town & gown relations, the State College borough had a hard time understanding why graduate and professional students should be seen as professionals rather than students.
 6. Graduate School Alumni Society:
 - a) GPSA has four seats on the GSAS board.

- b) The administration wants to take it away.
 - c) We worked on delaying the vote until October.
 - d) The meeting is October 15.
- 7. GPSA gets to sit on search committee for senior positions (such as director of campus recreation).
- 8. Special presentations:
 - a) Damon Sims will be at a GPSA meeting in a couple weeks.
 - b) We need more suggestions for special presentations.
- 9. Do you want an office manager? Need to pass legislation approving one.
- 10. GPSA is always looking for more ideas, so share them!
- B. Report by the Executive Vice President (Marina Cotarelo)**
 - 1. Marina participated in the [LION Walk](#).
 - a) The goal is to improve Town & Gown relations.
 - b) Penn State students knock on doors in the borough, introduce themselves to members of the community..
 - 2. If you need a name tag, let Marina know.
- C. Report by the Executive Secretary (Anne Whitesell)**
 - 1. The Newswire is being converted to a new system that will allow us to track how many people open the email, click on links, etc. The goal is to get the first Newswire of the semester out within the next week.
 - 2. If you have any Newswire sign-up sheets, please pass them along to Anne.
- D. Report by the Treasurer (Sidharth Agrawal)**
 - 1. The total receipts from 2015-2016 were about \$67,000.
 - a) That includes about \$4,700 carried forward from 2014-2015 FY.
 - b) There was also some money made from the dissertation boot camps and Winter Gala tickets.
 - c) In FY 2015-2016, we spent almost everything we had.
 - 2. Summer 2016 expenses:
 - a) The Graduate Student Orientation packages cost about \$8500, but that was spent with 2015-2016 money.
 - b) Other expenses included the telephone, new speakers, and the 4th of July tailgate.
 - 3. Currently 2016-2017 expenses consist of GPSA orientation costs (About \$220) and \$694 for a storage unit.
 - 4. All committee and subcommittee chairs need to submit show cause budgets to Sid by September 6 so it can be submitted to the board.
 - 5. Submit receipts to Sid and you will get reimbursed
 - 6. There are some companies that do not accept purchase orders - make sure they are approved PSU vendors
- E. Report by the Chair of the Graduate Council Caucus (Morteza Karimzadeh)**
 - 1. Carol Rogers-Shaw will be in charge of Programs & Resources.
 - 2. There needs to be an alternate representative for each member, and they must be a member of the same college, so please volunteer.
 - 3. Health insurance report

- a) Penn State is transitioning from hard waiver for international students to a system where all students (international and domestic) are required to submit a hard waiver.
- b) Students must submit documentation of having coverage equal to or better than PSU insurance.
- c) International students no longer have the opportunity to go outside of the PSU insurance
 - (1) For international students that are paying out of pocket, Aetna is an expensive option.
 - (2) For those who are subsidized by PSU or their home governments, it is less than an issue.
- d) The goal is to increase the pool and decrease the premiums.
- e) The hard waiver criteria has changed for this year
 - (1) Will it be onerous for students to find a different plan?
 - (2) Right now it's set up for Aetna to be the cheapest plan
- f) The hard waivers will apply to undergraduates as well.

VII. New business

A. Presidential Appointments

- 1. Moved to approve the delegate nominees as a slate following introductions.
 - a) New appointments are: Sonny Arora (graduate student in Mathematics, filling an at-large seat); William Dusch (graduate student in Physics, filling an at-large seat); Krishna Srinivasan (Engineering)
 - b) The nominees are approved by slate with unanimous consent.
- 2. Michael Kramer is put forth as a judicial nominee.
 - a) There is a question as to whether GPSA conflicts with his class schedule. Given that the Judiciary has no specific attendance policy, this is not a concern.
 - b) There is a motion to approve by unanimous consent. It is approved, and Michael becomes the third members of the Judiciary.

B. Bill 66-04

- 1. The welcome back picnic was wildly successful last year.
- 2. About 150 people attended, and that was only with a week and a half notice - with more planning, we expect to surpass that number this year.
- 3. Questions?
 - a) Will there be enough food? Could we expand the food budget?
 - b) How much was spent last year? \$250 was the original request
 - c) Can we avoid the mosquitos?
 - (1) The event organizers will buy Citronella candles, or consider providing bug spray.
 - d) What is the recreational equipment?
 - (1) Event organizers plan to purchase soccer ball, cornhole.
- 4. There is a motion to approve by roll call vote; the motion is seconded.
- 5. See Addendum II for roll call vote.

VIII. Reports

A. Speaker of the Assembly (Lillian Hill)

1. Subcommittee chairs need to tell their committee chairs when they have something to report.
2. Liaisons
 - a) Some of the positions are already filled, some need representatives.
 - b) The following positions need to be filled soon, because the committees are going to start meeting: Movin' On, Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention Roundtable.
 - c) Lily will email GPSA with an update.

B. Internal development (Jordan Morris)

1. The committee hopes to have its first meeting soon.
2. The committee will go through the governing documents and look for any holes that need to be addressed.

C. Student Affairs (James Fan)

1. Community Service
 - a) The committee held its first meeting on August 24 to discuss events for the year.
 - b) Fresh START is on August 27. There is less need for morning volunteers than previously expected.
2. Human Diversity
 - a) The committee will meet during the week of September 5.
 - b) The committee plans to develop a survey to gather information about underrepresented populations
 - c) Currently, there are only 4 members of the committee, so contact Kyler Sherman-Wilkins if you'd like to get involved.
3. Programming
 - a) Events to be held this year include the Winter Gala and football tailgates.
4. Professional development
 - a) The dissertation and thesis bootcamp is super successful, but to keep it running we need to help Christine Mosich.
5. Grad Cup
 - a) There was a great turn out, and about 20 volunteers, so thank you to those who helped!
 - b) Newly added to Grad Cup was a performance component, where teams prepared a skit, song, etc. The participants really enjoyed it.
6. Is there interest in starting GPSA intramural teams?

D. Advocacy (Kevin Reuning)

1. The advocacy committee is working on scheduling its first meeting. Let Kevin Reuning know if you want to be involved.
2. As we've seen from today's meeting, there are many potential issues for the advocacy committee to address.

E. Board of Trustees

1. There were two Board of Trustees' meetings over the summer: May 5-6 at University Park, and July 21-22 at Penn State Wilkes-Barre.
2. Its next meeting will be September 6, held in University Park.

3. Will be at the next meeting

IX. Comments for the good of the order

1. Keep circulating news about Penn State's Center for the Performing Arts!
2. Check out the [Mathematics for Sustainability](#) project. How could this fit into your work?

X. Adjourn

- A. Meeting adjourned at 7:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Whitesell

Addendum I. Attendance

Office	Name	August 24
Executive Board		
President	Kevin Horne	P
Vice President	Marina Cotarelo	P
Treasurer	Sidharth Agrawal	P
Secretary	Anne Whitesell	P
Faculty Senator	Azita Ranjbar	A
Graduate Council	Brianne Pragg	P
Graduate Council	Morteza Karimzadeh	P
Graduate Council	Alison Franklin	E
Graduate Council	Carol Rogers-Shaw	E
Graduate Council	Shahzrad Jamshidi	P
Judiciary		
Chief Justice	Jeremy R. Johnson	P
Associate Justice	Jesse Scott	P
Associate Justice	William Kramer	P
Assembly		
Agricultural Sciences	Maridel M. Reyes	A
Agricultural Sciences	Meredith Field	P
Art & Architecture	Vacant	
Communications	Vacant	
Dickinson School of Law	Eunice J. Kim	A
Dickinson School of Law	Fallon Dungan	E
Dickinson School of Law	Jordan D. Morris	L
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Vacant	
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Vacant	
Eberly College of Science	William Wright	P
Eberly College of Science	Brian Conway	E

Eberly College of Science	Erica Schwalm	P
Education	Xulu Zhang	P
Education	Colleen Unroe	L
Education	Jinhee Choi	A
Engineering	John McKay	P
Engineering	Matt Krott	P
Engineering	Krishna Srinivasan	P
Health and Human Development	Austin Barrett	L
Health and Human Development	Samuel Masters	P
Information Sciences and Technology	Anthony Pinter	P
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Brittany Banik	P
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	David Dopfel	P
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Lillian Hill	P
School of International Affairs	Jennifer Gibbs	P
Liberal Arts	Kevin Reuning	P
Liberal Arts	Robert Zuchowski	P
Liberal Arts	Kyler Sherman-Wilkins	E/PR
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	A
At-Large Delegate	Christine Mosich	E
At-Large Delegate	William Dusch	P
At-Large Delegate	Sonny Arora	P
At-Large Delegate	Vacant	

P = present
 A = absent (unexcused)
 E = absent (excused)

PR = proxy
 L = late

Addendum II. Roll Call Vote

Office	Name	Bill #66-04
Assembly		
Agricultural Sciences	Maridel M. Reyes	---
Agricultural Sciences	Meredith Field	Yes
Art & Architecture	Vacant	
Communications	Vacant	
Dickinson School of Law	Eunice J. Kim	---
Dickinson School of Law	Fallon Dungan	---
Dickinson School of Law	Jordan D. Morris	Yes
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Vacant	
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Vacant	
Eberly College of Science	William Wright	Yes
Eberly College of Science	Brian Conway	Yes
Eberly College of Science	Erica Schwalm	Yes
Education	Xulu Zhang	Yes
Education	Colleen Unroe	Yes
Education	Jinhee Choi	---
Engineering	John McKay	Yes
Engineering	Matt Krott	Yes
Engineering	Krishna Srinivasan	Yes

Health and Human Development	Austin Barrett	Yes
Health and Human Development	Samuel Masters	Yes
Information Sciences and Technology	Anthony Pinter	Yes
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Brittany Banik	Yes
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	David Dopfel	Yes
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Lillian Hill	Yes
School of International Affairs	Jennifer Gibbs	Yes
Liberal Arts	Kevin Reuning	Yes
Liberal Arts	Robert Zuchowski	Yes
Liberal Arts	Kyler Sherman-Wilkins	Yes
Smeal College of Business	Steven Di Grazia	Yes
Smeal College of Business	James Fan	Yes
Smeal College of Business	Vacant	
At-Large Delegate	Mohammad Whaba	---
At-Large Delegate	Christine Mosich	---
At-Large Delegate	William Dusch	Yes
At-Large Delegate	Sonny Arora	Yes
At-Large Delegate	Vacant	