I. Call to Order  
   a. The meeting is called to order by the Executive Vice President at 6:06 p.m.

II. Roll Call Attendance – See Addendum I

III. Adoption of the Agenda  
   a. Hearing no objections, the agenda is approved as distributed.

IV. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes  
   a. There is a motion to strike the 50% increase to the Grad Cup funding. The motion is seconded.
   b. Hearing no objections to the revised meeting minutes, the past meeting minutes are approved.

V. Open Student Forum  
   a. There are no comments.

VI. Special Presentation – Dr. Michael Verderame, Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate School  
   a. How does the Graduate Council make new policy?  
      i. The Faculty Senate has delegated responsibility for faculty governance to the Graduate School.
      ii. Requirements include defining membership in the graduate faculty and components of graduate programs.
   b. The explosion in professional education at Penn State meant that old policies no longer worked.
      i. The new policy was unanimously passed by the Council in 2015.
   c. Category R: primary role is supervising PhD students and teaching graduate level courses  
      i. Must be full-time, doctoral degree, “a record of scholarly achievement, and an active program of research/scholarly activity.”
   d. Category P: primary role is to teach 800-level courses and supervise students in professional degree programs  
      i. Must be full-time, master’s degree, “professional experience relevant to the professional master’s degree program field”
   e. Everyone is reviewed.  
      i. Tenure-line PhD faculty are reviewed in the tenure review process.
      ii. Non-tenure line faculty have reviews submitted separately.
   f. Q: We have heard about this issue from departments that have had problems with this distinction. Can you speak to that?  
      i. It is not a very common issue. In the department where it is an issue, it was the result of a confluence of events.
g. Q: Can’t a student choose whether they want someone on their committee with an R distinction?
   i. It is a common misconception that students pick their own committees.
   ii. The head of the program is responsible for the final composition of the committee.

h. Q: There are at least a few Big 10 schools that include “creative work” as a qualification in the R category. Can you speak to why we don’t make that distinction?
   i. A lot of other institutions require graduate faculty to have a PhD or require that faculty be tenure-track.

i. Q: How many P faculty serve as special members?
   i. There are lots.

j. Q: What’s the reasoning for not letting P faculty teach 500-level courses?
   i. 500-level courses are supposed to be preparing students to do research.
   ii. 800-level courses are preparing students to be experts in their field.

k. Q: Why put R faculty on committees when P faculty may be better suited?
   i. If someone has significant research experience, they likely have an R distinction.

l. Q: Did graduate school rankings play any role in this policy?
   i. It is something that people keep in mind. It is not the primary driver.

VII. Executive Officer Reports
a. President (Kevin Horne)
   i. Student fee board met last week and approved a $9.75 fee for CAPS and $2.50 for child care subsidy ($0.30 increase from last year).
   ii. Advisory Council for Continued Excellence is working on another survey.
   iii. Students are running candidates for Borough Council.

b. Vice President (Marina Cotarelo)
   i. Elections are coming up – if you are interested in the VP spot, talk to Marina.
   ii. The Grad Student Leader Roundtable is coming up on March 14.

c. Treasurer (Sidharth Agrawal)
   i. The budget is up-to-date.
   ii. We have about $10,000 left.

d. Secretary (Anne Whitesell)
   i. Get Newswire announcements to me by 6pm on Sunday.

e. Faculty Senate Report (Kevin Reuning)
   i. Nothing to report.

f. Graduate Council (Brianne Pragg)
   i. Nothing to report.

VIII. New Business
a. Bill 66-34: Election Programming Funding
   i. The intent to run form is already up on our website.
   ii. We will be holding a Meet the Delegates event on Monday, March 13.
   iii. On the second day of the elections, we will have voting stations with food.
   iv. The sponsors are requesting a total of $600.
   v. Q: Where do you think the voting stations will be set up?
      1. Neutral locations, such as the HUB, Nittany Lion Inn, and the law school.
vi. Q: How are you going to motivate the delegates to come to the Meet the Delegates event?
   1. Brian will bug you. It is part of your responsibility as a delegate.

vii. Motion to approve via unanimous consent. There are no objections.

viii. The resolution passes.

b. Bill 66-35: Graduate Student Open Skate
   i. The sponsors are asking for $900 for two-hour ice rental, light refreshments, and skates for children.
   ii. The sponsors have already talked to Pegula about reserving the rink for this time period.
   iii. Motion to pass the bill via unanimous consent. The motion is seconded.
   iv. The bill passes.

c. Resolution 66-11: GPSA Bylaws Article I – At Large Delegates
   i. This resolution is asking the president and the delegates to reserve one at-large seat for a delegate with an international perspective.
   ii. The seat does not necessarily have to be given to an international student; it could be an American student with international experience.
   iii. There are many international students among the graduate student population, and many issues that affect them directly.
   iv. Q: Have you considered creating a separate seat for international students?
      1. We cannot ask if someone is an international student.
   v. Q: Are the representation issues larger than the by-law? Is it a problem of getting more people to run?
   vi. Q: Are we forcing representation? Are we going to have seats reserved for other groups?
   vii. Q: What is GPSA currently doing to reach out to international students?
       1. Programming is currently the best way we are reaching international students.
       2. We could be doing more; for example, GPSA could be working with grad student organizations of international students.
   viii. No one is going to claim to not support international students, unless they are a white supremacist. This sentiment may be better expressed in a resolution.
   ix. The word “force” sounds too strong. We don’t have representation from some colleges (Ag Sciences, Nursing) but we are not going after them to get them involved.
   x. Jennifer: In my experience, as the delegate for the School of International Affairs, it is difficult getting international students involved.
   xi. Brian: I agree that we need to take on this issue. Maybe we need to have a liaison position? Work more with Global Penn State?
   xii. International students transcend colleges.
   xiii. Some of these issues could be resolved by encouraging people to run.
   xiv. There is no way to objectively measure this if we put it in the by-laws. If the language was changed to should, it wouldn’t need to be enforced.
   xv. Motion to amend the word “must” to “should” in line 30. The amendment is seconded. vote via roll call. The motion is seconded.
   xvi. Motion to table and rework the by-laws. The motion is seconded.
xvii. The resolution is tabled.

IX. Reports

a. Speaker of the Assembly (Brian Conway)
   i. Please attend the Meet the Delegates event on March 13.
   ii. If you want to join the Exec Board, please let us know.

b. Internal Development (Vacant)
   i. Nothing to report.

c. Student Affairs (James Fan)
   i. Professional Development (Erica Schwalm)
      1. This was the last week of Graduate Writing Workshop.
      2. The last session for professional headshots is in April. The sign-up will be in the Newswire.
   ii. Community Service (Jennifer Gibbs)
      1. We are working on the mid-state trail.
      2. There will be a spring food drive.
      3. We will be bringing a bill forward for snacks for Friday Night Lights.
   iii. Programming (Brian Conway)
      1. We will start advertising cooking class in the next Newswire – March 31.
      2. The ice skating event will accommodate about 100 people.
      3. The mixer last night was a success. Most of the food was gone and there were people from lots of different departments.
   iv. Diversity (Kyler Sherman-Wilkins)
      1. Black History Month was great; this is the first day of Women’s History Month.
      2. The diversity and climate survey is still in the works.
         a. Suzanne Adair would like to meet to talk about it.
         b. Ethics & Compliance is also interested in meeting.
   v. Grad Cup (Sonny Arora)
      1. We are looking to reserve the fields for April 8.

d. Advocacy (Matt Krott)
   i. We are analyzing the tobacco survey results.
   ii. We were approached by Carnegie Mellon’s graduate student association about a call-a-thon related to sanctuary cities bill in PA legislature.

e. Liaisons
   i. Canvas (Jesse Scott): the service was down for about 4 hours. There have been additional add-on modules.

f. Judiciary (Jesse Scott)
   i. We have an elections website.
   ii. The intent to run form is up and will be up until March 19.

g. Board of Trustees (Allie Goldstein)
   i. The Board of Trustees meeting was last week.
   ii. There is a new Dean of the Law School.
   iii. The Board approved room and board changes, a roofing project, and final renovations of East Hall.
   iv. You can request a ballot for the Alumni Board of Trustees election.
v. The next meeting is May 4 and 5 at University Park.
h. Advisor (Dr. Phillip Burlingame)
i. Many of our students go into service; since 1961, we have had 1085 graduates in the Peace Corps.
   ii. There is substantial funding for return volunteers to receive tuition assistance.

X. Comments for the Good of the Order
   a. Austin is representing grad student interests in the Strategic Plan Oversight Committee.

XI. Adjournment
   a. The meeting is adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Whitesell
Addendum I. Roll Call Attendance

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

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