



# 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, March 1, 2017 | 6:00pm | 134 HUB Robeson Center

## 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 (Kylar 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

Office	Name	Attendance
<b>Executive Board</b>		
President	Kevin Horne	P
Vice President	Marina Cotarelo	P
Treasurer	Sidharth Agrawal	P
Secretary	Anne Whitesell	P
Faculty Senator	Kevin Reuning	P
<b>Graduate Council</b>		
Graduate Council	Brianne Pragg	P
Graduate Council	Carol Rogers-Shaw	A
Graduate Council	Kevin Cloonan	P
<b>Judiciary</b>		
Chief Justice	Jesse Scott	P
Associate Justice	Michael Kramer	P
<b>Assembly</b>		
Agricultural Sciences	Cameron Stephens	P
Arts and Architecture	Miguel Campos	A
Dickinson School of Law	Mackenzie Mitchell	A
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Michael Cronin	P
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Gerald Knapp	P
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	Christine Mosich	E
Engineering	Mohammad Wahba	P

<b>Engineering</b>	Matt Krott	P
<b>Engineering</b>	Shen-li Pei	P
<b>Health and Human Development</b>	Austin Barrett	P
<b>Health and Human Development</b>	Katharine Grills	E/PR
<b>Information Sciences and Technology</b>	Anthony Pinter	E
<b>Inter-Collegiate Degree Program</b>	Brittany Banik	P
<b>Inter-Collegiate Degree Program</b>	David Dopfel	P
<b>School of International Affairs</b>	Jennifer Gibbs	P
<b>Liberal Arts</b>	Robert Zuchowski	E/PR
<b>Liberal Arts</b>	Kyler Sherman-Wilkins	L
<b>Smeal College of Business</b>	Steven Di Grazia	E
<b>Smeal College of Business</b>	James Fan	P
<b>Smeal College of Business</b>	Nicolas Lien	E
<b>At-Large Delegate</b>	Sonny Arora	P
<b>At-Large Delegate</b>	William Dusch	E/PR