



Graduate and Professional Student Association

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

GPSA 68 th Assembly Meeting	Wednesday, April 11, 2018	6:00 pm 134 HUB-Robeson
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Minutes

- I. Call to Order
 - a. The meeting is called to order by the Vice President at 6:02 p.m.
- II. Roll Call – See Addendum I
- III. Adoption of the Agenda
 - a. Motion to adopt agenda; adopted
- IV. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes from 3/28
 - a. Motion to approve past meeting minutes; approved
- V. Open Student Forum
- VI. Special Presentation— Eric Flagg, Chief Justice
 - a. Robert’s rules
 - b. Function of judiciary: consistency with constitution, administer elections (you can ask them constitutional questions during the meeting)
 - c. Motions and amendments
 - d. Vote by: unanimous consent, show of hands, roll call (required for funding bills >\$1000)
 - e. Objections: anyone in assembly can object, must be overcome by 2/3 vote
 - f. Quorum is 11
- VII. Executive Officer Reports
 - a. President—Brienne Pragg
 - i. Introduction
 - ii. Unionization:
 1. Vote! Two days of voting left
 2. GPSA position: decision to be made by grad assistants
 3. Misinformation: ask questions if you have them
 4. Graduate school posted misinformation about deportation; inconsistent with Penn State values
 - iii. Housekeeping
 1. Delegates will be invited to Slack; this is how we will conduct business
 2. GroupMe is terrible; Matt Krott sheds a single, silent tear
 - iv. Priorities
 1. Diversity, inclusiveness of GPSA (see also: SafeZone 101 training by LGBTQ Center)
 2. Appointments: Faculty senator, 2 student fee board spots (1 exec board, 1 delegate)

- v. Questions
 - 1. Where is SafeZone? Nick: I think it's in this room (ed. note: it is)
 - 2. What's barrier to diversity? A: outreach
- b. Vice President—Stephanie Winkler
 - i. Introduction
 - ii. Unionization
 - 1. Vote! We fought to have this vote, exercise your right to participate
 - iii. Committees
 - 1. Programming: plan social events, sense of community
 - 2. Prof development: scholarly activities
 - 3. Community Outreach: service opportunities
 - 4. Advocacy and diversity: promote diversity, handle grad problems
 - 5. Internal development: improving GPSA policy and procedures
- c. Treasurer—Alex Zhao
 - i. Introduction
 - ii. Funding Bills
 - 1. Can't buy alcohol
 - 2. Event cosponsorship: student fee money can't exceed 90% of event cost
 - iii. \$1,936 remaining (rolls over on June 30th)
 - iv. We get new allocation July 1st (last year's was \$59,542)
- d. Secretary—Nick Dietrich
 - i. Introduction
 - ii. I take attendance (please tell me if you won't be here)
 - iii. I make the newswire (please send me stuff)
 - iv. I take minutes (I'm writing these minutes right now)
 - v. Broader mission: foster engagement among graduate and professional students
- e. Faculty Senate—Kevin Reuning
 - i. Kevin's leaving at the end of the academic year
 - ii. Faculty Senate
 - 1. Overarching governance in penn state
 - 2. Recommendations to the president (president can ignore them)
 - 3. Carmen will be taking over for Kevin when the school year ends
- f. Graduate Council—Ling Yang
 - i. Ling leaves at end of academic year
 - ii. Grad Council Functions
 - 1. Meet once a month
 - 2. Currently updating grad student bulletin
 - 3. Candidacy exam → Qualifying exam, changes to timeline of committee formation
 - 4. Increasing maximum course credits for graduate students?
 - 5. Grad career development workshop and website
 - 6. Graduate exhibition
 - iii. Addendum from Claire
 - 1. Still discussing changes to qualifying exams and committee formation

VIII. New Business

- a. Confirmations of Presidential Appointments
 - i. Michael - HHD (represent intl students)
 - ii. Lars - Communications (only comm delegate, health insurance concerns)
 - iii. Irving - At-Large (interested in advocacy and diversity, representing those with diverse backgrounds)
 - iv. Cody – At-Large (MEGA, also advocacy and diversity, increase proportion of diverse students represented here)
 - v. Motion to approve by slate by unanimous consent; no objections; motion is passed
- b. Election of the Speaker of the Assembly
 - i. Motion to nominate Sailahari as speaker of the assembly
 1. Brief intermission from Eric and Jesse: speaker of the assembly sits in on executive meetings, leads the assembly, etc.
 - ii. Motion to approve by unanimous consent; no objections; motion is approved

IX. Reports

- a. Liaisons
 - i. Sailahari: new technical writing / english competency test as part of qualifying exam or on the way to qualifying exam under discussion
 1. Bagmi Q: for international students? A: for all students
 2. Kevin Q: my friend is Canadian and he had to take an English proficiency test. A: That's mandated by state of PA, this doesn't change that
 3. Q: How to address lack of proficiency? A: maybe a writing center course, still under discussion
 4. KP Q: Just PhD students? A: Yes
 - ii. Claire: Sexual Violence and Awareness and Prevention
 1. SVAP Gala coming up
- b. Judiciary—Eric Flagg
 - i. Nothing to report; please ask us if you have any questions
 - ii. Brianne: what do we need to pass next meeting?
 1. Jesse: Need to prepare for grad student orientation
 2. Jesse: Need to fund a new social media coordinator because Ann is graduating :(
 3. Eric: If we want to sponsor a tailgate, we need to get on that
 4. Jesse: Beginning of semester welcome event
 5. Jesse: Theater Day; one or two per semester; subsidized tickets; social beforehand; partner with Center for Performing Arts for advertising
- c. Student Trustee – Mike Hoeschele
 - i. Not here, haven't had a meeting since last report
 - ii. Brianne: Student trustee is elected to board of trustees; Barron reports to board
 1. We have one student seat on the board; Mike has more time left in his term

- 2. President and Vice President have non-voting seats
- d. Advisor—Adam Christensen
 - i. Reports to vice president of student affairs (Damon Sims)
 - ii. Adam has been with us for a year
 - iii. Advises in regard to university policies and procedures
- X. Comments for the Good of the Order
 - a. Brianne:
 - i. Nick made a google calendar
 - 1. Make liaisons more accountable
 - ii. VP Stephanie will be running next meeting
 - b. David Dopfel: I'm gonna go grab a drink downtown
 - i. Talk to him afterward to find out where
 - c. Stephanie: sign up for a committee!
- XI. Adjournment
 - a. Meeting adjourned at 7:18pm

Addendum I. Roll Call Attendance

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

Office	Name	Attendance
Executive Board		
President	Brianne Pragg	P
Vice President	Stephanie Winkler	P
Secretary	Nick Dietrich	P
Treasurer	Alex Zhao	P
Faculty Senator	Kevin Reuning	P
Faculty Senator (Elect)	Carmen Vanderhoof	P
Graduate Council		
Graduate Council	Alexander Wilson-Heid (IGDP)	P
Graduate Council	August Jenkins (HHD)	L
Graduate Council	Claire Kelling (Science)	P
Graduate Council	Ling Yang (Engineering)	P
Graduate Council	Liana Glew (Liberal Arts)	P
Graduate Council (Elect)	Logan Rutten (Education)	P
Judiciary		
Chief Justice	Eric Flagg (Law)	P
Associate Justice	Jesse Scott (Engineering)	P
Associate Justice	Ellen Hill (Law)	P
Assembly		
Agricultural Sciences	Amanda Burton (Mandy)	P
Agricultural Sciences	Megan Griffin	P
Art & Architecture	Siavash Varasteh-Vala	P
Communications	Lars Stolfus-Brown	P
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Harrison Cole	P
Eberly College of Science	Charlie Wolstenholme	P
Eberly College of Science	Hui Zheng	L

Education	Bagmi Das	P
Education	Hye-Su Kuk	P
Engineering	Keerti Prakash (KP)	P
Engineering	Shawn Siroka	P
Engineering	Charles Tierney	P
Health and Human Development	Abigail Keim	P
Health and Human Development	Michael Lin	P
Information Sciences and Technology	Tiffany Knearem	E
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	David Dopfel	P
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Sailahari Ponnaluri	P
Liberal Arts	Trevor Bero	P
Liberal Arts	Jerome Clarke	P
Liberal Arts	Mikaela Westhoff	PR
Nursing	Jyotsana Parajuli	E
Schools of Law	Shanjida Chowhury	P
Schools of Law	Tracy Wong	P
At-Large Delegate	Irving Evans (Law)	P
At-Large Delegate	Cody Gonzalez (Engineering)	P
At-Large Delegate		
At-Large Delegate		
At-Large Delegate		