



# Graduate and Professional Student Association

The Pennsylvania State University  
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GPSA 68 <sup>th</sup> Assembly Meeting	Wednesday, April 25, 2018	6:00 pm	134 HUB-Robeson
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## Action Items

- Appoint a liaison to the Borough of State College Council. Contact Brianne or Charles if interested.
- Form an Advocacy and Diversity subcommittee for criminal history questions on admissions applications. Contact Brianne or Mikaela if interested.
- Appoint a delegate (or interested graduate/professional student) to Student Fee Board. Contact Brianne if interested.
- Additional members needed on committees, especially Internal Development, Community Outreach, and Programming. Contact Sailahari and the committee chairs if interested.
  - Members of Advocacy and Diversity are especially encouraged to join another committee.

## Bills Passed

- Bill 68-01: GPSA Communications Intern
- Bill 68-02: Fall Welcome Picnic
- Bill 68-03: Orientation Material
- Bill 68-04: Writing Boot Camp
- Bill 68-05: Theatre Days
- Bill 68-06: Fall Tailgate

## Discussion Summary

- I. Call to Order
  - a. Meeting is called to order by the vice president at 6:04pm
- II. Roll Call
- III. Adoption of the Agenda
  - a. Motion to adopt the agenda; seconded; motion passes
- IV. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes from 4/11
  - a. Motion to approve past meeting minutes; seconded; motion passes
- V. Open Student Forum
- VI. Special Presentation— Associate Dean for Graduate Student Affairs Sarah Ades
  - a. Career/Professional Development: What do I Want to be When I Grow Up?
  - b. Sarah proposes a three-step process for identifying and developing your professional skills: self-assessment, career development, and job search.
  - c. Sarah explains and demonstrates several career development resources available through Graduate Student Affairs.
  - d. Sarah reviews short-term plans for new professional development resources in the next year. These include student surveys, partnership with Career Services, and additional events for graduate students.
  - e. Bagmi suggests that students should be encouraged to make a CV early in their career that they can update.
- VII. Executive Officer Reports

- a. President—Brienne Pragg
  - i. Graduate Unionization
    - 1. The votes were tallied yesterday and graduate assistants voted not to form a union
    - 2. GPSA will continue working for graduate and professional student interests
  - ii. Borough of State College Council Meeting
    - 1. Community outreach chair (Charles) will be looking for a liaison to the Borough Council. He will serve as temporary liaison over the summer
    - 2. UPUA has a Borough liaison and are able to advocate for their constituents when laws might affect them
    - 3. Zoning laws are being rewritten over the summer; this affects graduate students, who are considered “students” and are thus ineligible for certain housing
    - 4. Please talk to Brienne or Charles if you are interested in this position
  - iii. Criminal History Questions in Graduate Applications
    - 1. Brienne is working with Damon Sims (Vice President of Student Affairs) to keep criminal history questions off of graduate student applications and change them on undergrad and law school applications
    - 2. UPUA also interested in this issue
    - 3. Advocacy chair Mikaela may form a subcommittee for this issue. Please talk to Brienne or Mikaela if interested
  - iv. Student Fee Board
    - 1. Brienne is still searching for a delegate to serve on this board
    - 2. Doesn’t necessarily have to be a delegate; let Brienne know if someone is interested
    - 3. Finalizing other student fee board members with UPUA president
- b. Vice President—Stephanie Winkler
  - i. Brienne stole my report
- c. Treasurer—Alex Zhao
  - i. Voting on six bills today
    - 1. Only orientation bill is out of this year’s funding allocation
    - 2. This is normal; need to vote on a lot of bills at the end of spring
- d. Secretary—Nick Dietrich
  - i. The GPSA newswire will run on an ad hoc basis over the summer
    - 1. Continue sending any events over the summer for the newswire
- e. Faculty Senate—Kevin Reuning (proxy Carmen Vanderhoof)
  - i. Faculty Senate survey updates
  - ii. Alcohol use report; trying to figure out how to combat binge drinking
    - 1. One proposal is to increase classes on Friday and Monday
  - iii. Outing Club and Scuba Diving Club were removed for safety concerns; currently reviewing risks and working on a statement
  - iv. Increase in graduate students, mostly MA world campus students
  - v. 7% drop in international students, with Indian international students especially affected; working on ways to address this
  - vi. We were given a new Faculty Senate position; some debate about this, but it was approved
  - vii. Proposal to allow retaken classes to replace initial grade for that class in cumulative GPA
  - viii. Presentation for Red Folder initiative; faculty senate is supportive
  - ix. Brienne clarifies that we now have Carmen’s elected faculty senate position and an additional appointed faculty senate position
  - x. Brienne, David, and Mikaela clarify on the red folder initiative: every employee will have a red folder with mental health resources
- f. Graduate Council—Ling Yang (Absent)
  - i. Claire: we have not met since the last general assembly meeting

VIII. New Business

- a. New Delegate Confirmation
  - i. Tina Lasisi
    1. Tina is interested in advocating for mental health issues and first-generation students
    2. Interested in advocacy and diversity and professional development
  - ii. Discussion
    1. Brianne says that Tina is an at-large delegate, has met with Brianne, has done a lot of advocacy work within her department.
    2. Question: How many people are on advocacy and diversity?
      - a. Brianne: A lot. Told Tina that she will be expected to serve on another committee as well. Brianne also encourages others on that committee to serve on another committee
  - iii. Motion to approve by unanimous consent; seconded
    1. The delegate is approved by unanimous consent
- b. Bill 68-01 GPSA Communications Intern
  - i. Sailahari: all of the bills today are important, but do not be afraid to discuss bills or advocate against bills that are not in the interest of your constituents
  - ii. Mikaela clarifies the process for beginning discussion
  - iii. Our communications manager will be payed \$12/hour
  - iv. Questions
    1. Bagmi: this is a well-paying internship
  - v. Discussion
    1. Jesse: hourly rate is dictated by HUB's policies
  - vi. Motion to approve by roll call; seconded
    1. The bill is approved by roll call vote
- c. Bill 68-02 Welcome Picnic
  - i. Charlie introduces the bill; we have done this past several years, we host a picnic with games at Sunset Park. This is a service for graduate and professional students and also helps increase exposure for GPSA.
  - ii. Questions:
    1. Bagmi asks for clarification about date; Charlie responds that it is flexible and weather-dependent
  - iii. Discussion
    1. None
  - iv. Motion to approve by unanimous consent; no objections
    1. Bill is passed by unanimous consent
- d. Bill 68-03 Orientation Material
  - i. Sailahari introduces the bill: we provide material for graduate student orientation, including handouts with resources for graduate students. This helps us market GPSA and increases our engagement with graduate and professional students.
  - ii. Questions
    1. What kinds of snacks will we include?
      - a. Sailahari: last year we did chips. We get any leftover money back.
    2. Suggestion that we could get in contact with local producers of food, particularly produce. Will discuss this with Sailahari later
    3. Do we know exactly what we are putting in the packets?
      - a. Sailahari: we have materials from last year but can change them.
      - b. Jesse: we often include information about events that are already planned. Hopefully events in the bills passed today will be included.

- c. Sailahari: we will put bags together at the end of July
  - 4. Siavash: can we redesign the bags? I saw them three or four years ago
    - a. Brianne redesigned the bags and they are beautiful. They're grocery bags, smaller than in past years
    - b. Jesse notes that the bags have improved significantly over time
  - 5. Charles: can we make the materials more digital to save on printing costs and avoid overwhelming students with paper?
    - a. Sailahari: We only use a small amount of cardstock for the bags; many of the pamphlets are printed by other organizations and we just distribute them
- iii. Discussion
  - 1. None
- iv. David motions to approve by roll call; seconded
  - 1. The bill is approved by roll call vote
- e. Bill 68-04 Writing Boot Camp
  - i. Sailahari introduces the bill on behalf of professional development: writing boot camp is a service for graduate students who need a productive environment to write. Monday and Tuesday sessions with provided lunch. 5-hour times on Mondays and Tuesdays. Costs \$65 per person, but \$40 is a deposit. We take in \$25/person to help pay costs of event. Costs roughly \$6000, we will get roughly \$2000 back.
  - ii. Questions:
    - 1. Jesse asks if we have the same room secured already
      - a. Sailahari responds that we have the room for Tuesday but not Monday; still searching for another possible room due to class conflict on Monday
    - 2. Carmen asks whether we have looked at rooms in other buildings
    - 3. Mikaela asks about attendance levels
      - a. Jesse and Alex: turnout is pretty high on Mondays, lower on Tuesdays. We save money if fewer people register.
  - iii. Discussion
    - 1. None
  - iv. Motion to approve the bill by roll call vote; seconded
    - 1. The motion passes by roll call vote
- f. Bill 68-05 Theatre Days
  - i. Sailahari introduces the bill: last year we sponsored four events and they were not as well attended. This year we propose sponsoring two. We subsidize roughly 200 tickets. We also offer a social beforehand with food. We eliminated a speaker system cost to bring the cost down for this year. It is no cost to us if we don't sell all subsidized tickets.
  - ii. Questions:
    - 1. Jerome: do costs vary?
      - a. Sailahari: yes
    - 2. David: do we know when the dates of the shows are?
      - a. Sailahari says they have not finalized the date of the show. Jesse adds that we should know soon based on experience from previous years.
    - 3. Lars: Do tickets typically sell out? My constituents can't afford even with the subsidy
      - a. Jesse says that we generally sell around 200/show.
    - 4. Brianne: how is attendance at the pre-event social?
      - a. Sailahari and August: roughly 50 people
    - 5. Brianne: can we get catering from somewhere that is not Olive Garden? We should stay local. Websters?
      - a. Sailahari: we can still change where we get the food

- iii. Discussion:
  - 1. David reiterates Lars' point that subsidized tickets on large events are still very expensive. Can we move money around?
    - a. Jesse suggests they are aware of this problem and that our subsidy is a step in the right direction
  - 2. Carmen suggests offering tickets free of cost to sign up for the newswire or some other GPSA event
    - a. Jesse says that equal access is a requirement for this, although we have historically offered incentives to follow our facebook or the newswire
- iv. David motions to approve by roll call vote; seconded
  - 1. The motion is approved by roll call
- g. Bill 68-06 Fall Tailgates
  - i. Charlie introduces the bill: tailgates provide a social event for graduate students. This bill is doubling what we did last year. Catering, games, and other foods are provided. The particular games are not yet finalized.
  - ii. Questions:
    - 1. Bagmi asks for clarification regarding scheduling and rain delays
    - 2. Mikaela asks about attendance. Are we bringing out people who otherwise would not attend?
      - a. Charlie says 100 to 150 come through. Is not sure how many would not have come out otherwise
    - 3. KP asks about alcohol at these events
      - a. Charlie answers that these events are BYOB and this is good publicity
    - 4. Bagmi asks about alumni attendance
      - a. Charlie answers that these events are usually spread by word of mouth
  - iii. Discussion
    - 1. Alex asks about tentative plans given that the bill is for two tailgates
      - a. Charlie plans on an early game and another game two months later
      - b. Alex suggests that the home game schedule is going to be difficult for this scheduling plan
      - c. Charlie responds that we get back any money that is not spent on a second tailgate
      - d. Alex requests an amendment allowing unused funds to be used for the blue and white game
  - iv. David motions to strike "during the fall season" from the bill; seconded
    - 1. The bill is amended
  - v. More Discussion
    - 1. Mikaela expresses concern about the cost of the event and its value to the graduate community. Unclear that more grad and prof students are attending because of our event. Attendance is prohibitively costly for some constituents. Associating our logo with binge drinking culture is unwise.
      - a. Charlie responds that he joined GPSA because it was difficult to meet people outside his department. He sees providing events that all can attend and meet each other as the core function of the programming committee. He does not expect the tailgate to be outrageous.
    - 2. Jerome and Mikaela: costs are a concern for constituents. These are attended by those already paying the cost to attend the game
      - a. Charlie does not think that buying a ticket to the game is necessary to attend tailgate
      - b. Alex says that low-demand games tickets cost about \$40 vs. \$200 for high-demand games. Saw lots of people.

3. Lars suggests that this event is not accessible to constituents with disabilities or with children.
  - a. Mikaela makes a point of question: can we guarantee that the event is accessible for those populations?
  - b. Charlie says that it takes place on a grass field but is otherwise accessible
  - c. Lars suggests that bathroom accessibility is a concern
4. Bagmi suggests that concerns are coming from people who are not familiar with tailgate culture and asks whether we can give more info about what to expect to students
5. Irving asks for clarification on accessibility of buildings
6. Suggestion that we can cut down to a single tailgate
  - a. Charlie is offended that many delegates think that graduate students are not involved in football culture
7. Tina suggests that we amend the bill to include one tailgate event and one non-tailgate event
  - a. Charlie suggests delegates should join the programming committee to help him plan events if we want to host non-tailgate events
  - b. Brianne thinks that Tina's idea is good and we shouldn't dismiss it just because we are short-staffed right now. Asks for clarification about whether this bill must be passed at this assembly session
  - c. Charlie: that would eliminate option of September games and make planning difficult
  - d. Bagmi: can we amend the bill to say "tailgate and corresponding event"
  - e. Alex: you can have the tailgate anywhere and still call it a tailgate. We don't have to amend it
  - f. Brianne: we should amend anyway for clarification if we are having different events
  - g. David: tailgates are relatively cheap; why not just have the tailgates *and* other events? Some of our constituents avoid it, some enjoy it. We have advertised some tailgates as family-friendly in the past
8. Jesse: pretty sure we've never sponsored a tailgate for a night game. Many concerns expressed here would be mitigated for a day game
  - a. Sailahari says that we did one night game last year
  - b. Charlie suggests that flexibility is important for planning these events
- vi. Mikaela motions to table the bill until rewritten; seconded
  1. David asks for clarification on rewriting
    - a. Mikaela suggests more specificity and making the bill more in line with the priorities of this assembly
  2. Bagmi suggests that we fund one tailgate
  3. Bagmi objects to motion to table
- vii. Jerome motions to amend to one tailgate – change "x 2" to "x 1" and "tailgates" to "tailgate;" seconded
  1. The bill is amended to fund only a single tailgate
- viii. David motions to approve by show of hands
  1. The bill passes by show of hands
    - a. 10 in favor, 4 opposed, 2 abstentions

## IX. Reports

- a. Speaker of the Assembly – Sailahari Ponnaluri
  - i. Sailahari encourages more committee participation on understaffed committees
  - ii. Lot 10 parking pass application is now available on the GPSA website
- b. Committees

- i. Advocacy and Human Diversity – Mikaela Westhoff
    - 1. Committee met last week to summarize work of past committee
    - 2. Priority is promoting diversity; first action will be putting together resources for constituents
    - 3. Promoting and making available resources for parents
    - 4. Mental health: red folder initiative, pushing for more resources for mental health services for graduate students in line with other big 10 universities
    - 5. University diversity commissions are being restructured
    - 6. Discussion
      - a. Lars: LGBTQ+ commission is being liquidated by President Barron
        - i. Brianne: this may be miscommunication. These commissions are being radically restructured. Brianne will be meeting with Marcus Whitehurst (Vice Provost for Educational Equity) to discuss and make sure we have representation
        - ii. Adam adds that he is not privy but would be shocked if LGBTQ+ issues were not part of the commission structure
        - iii. Claire adds that these commission had many members and they are cutting them down to 15 members. Not sure yet what graduate representation will look like
  - ii. Professional Development – Bagmi Das
    - 1. Nothing to report
    - 2. Sailahari adds that this used to be a subcommittee
  - iii. Programming- Charlie Wolstenhome
    - 1. “I need help”
    - 2. Only two members right now, last year there were 8
    - 3. Would like to broaden the scope of our events but we currently cannot
  - iv. Community Service – Charles Tierney
    - 1. Only two members at meeting, but should have more next time
  - v. Internal Development – David Dopfel
    - 1. Currently only David is a member of this committee
    - 2. ID handles GPSA bylaws and procedures; made the current delegate handbook
      - a. Sailahari adds that we will be doing event evaluations to help future delegates
    - 3. We have a history of doing large co-sponsorships; we should evaluate whether we are getting enough out of these for the cost
  - c. Liaisons
  - d. Judiciary—The Honorable Eric Flagg (Absent: report given by Ellen)
    - i. We will be speaking to internal development in the fall as we adjust number of delegates per college to better reflect graduate and professional student population
  - e. Student Trustee – Mike Hoeschele (Absent)
    - i. Trustee meeting next week
  - f. Advisor—Adam Christensen
    - i. Will keep updated on criminal history questions and other developments
    - ii. This assembly has a lot of potential to do good work
- X. Comments for the Good of the Order
- a. Brianne: please consider joining another committee, especially if you are on advocacy and diversity. We need people who are advocacy and diversity-minded on the other committees
- XI. Adjournment
- a. Meeting is adjourned by the vice president at 8:04pm

### Addendum I. Roll Call Attendance

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

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

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

**Addendum II. Roll Call Vote**

<b>Graduate Council</b>		<b>Bill 68-01</b>	<b>Bill 68-03</b>	<b>Bill 68-04</b>	<b>Bill 68-05</b>
<b>Graduate Council</b>	Alexander Wilson-Heid (IGDP)	-	-	-	-
<b>Graduate Council</b>	August Jenkins (HHD)	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Graduate Council</b>	Claire Kelling (Science)	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Graduate Council (Outgoing)</b>	Ling Yang (Engineering)	-	-	-	-
<b>Graduate Council</b>	Liana Glew (Liberal Arts)	-	-	-	-
<b>Graduate Council</b>	Logan Rutten (Education)	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Assembly</b>					
<b>Agricultural Sciences</b>	Amanda Burton (Mandy)	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Agricultural Sciences</b>	Megan Griffin	-	-	-	-
<b>Art &amp; Architecture</b>	Siavash Varasteh-Vala	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Communications</b>	Lars Stolfus-Brown	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Earth and Mineral Sciences</b>	Harrison Cole	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Eberly College of Science</b>	Charlie Wolstenholme	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Eberly College of Science</b>	Hui Zheng	-	-	-	-
<b>Education</b>	Bagmi Das	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Education</b>	Hye-Su Kuk	-	-	-	-
<b>Engineering</b>	Keerti Prakash (KP)	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Engineering</b>	Shawn Siroka	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Engineering</b>	Charles Tierney	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Health and Human Development</b>	Abigail Keim	-	-	-	-
<b>Health and Human Development</b>	Michael Lin	-	-	-	-

<b>Information Sciences and Technology</b>	Tiffany Knearem	-	-	-	-
<b>Inter-Collegiate Degree Program</b>	David Dopfel	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Inter-Collegiate Degree Program</b>	Sailahari Ponnaluri	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Liberal Arts</b>	Trevor Bero	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Liberal Arts</b>	Jerome Clarke	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Liberal Arts</b>	Mikaela Westhoff	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Nursing</b>	Jyotsana Parajuli	-	-	-	-
<b>Schools of Law</b>	Shanjida Chowhury	-	-	-	-
<b>Schools of Law</b>	Tracy Wong	-	-	-	-
<b>At-Large Delegate</b>	Irving Evans (Law)	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>At-Large Delegate</b>	Cody Gonzalez (Engineering)	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>At-Large Delegate</b>	Tina Lasisi (Liberal Arts)	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>At-Large Delegate</b>					
<b>At-Large Delegate</b>					