



Graduate and Professional Student Association

The Pennsylvania State University
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University Park, PA 16802
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GPSA 67th Assembly Meeting | Wednesday, December 6, 2017 | 6:00pm | 108 Wartik

I. Call to Order

- a. The meeting is called to order by the Speaker at 6:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call Attendance – See Addendum I

III. Adoption of the Agenda

- a. Addition of Approval of Liana Glew for graduate council as item VI

IV. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes (November 8, 2017)

- a. Hearing no objections to the meeting minutes, the past meeting minutes are approved.

V. Open Student Forum

VI. Approval of Liana Glew for graduate council

- a. Appointment of Liana Glew as graduate council
 - i. Third year in the English department
 - ii. Been a teacher and a research assistant
 - iii. Interested in advocating for graduate students
- b. Questions
 - i. Why haven't you been part of GPSA till now?
 - A. I'm president of my graduate association within my department
- c. Discussion
 - i. We have been operating with four people on graduate council with an open seat
- d. Motion to approve via unanimous consent. The motion is seconded; there are no objections.
- e. Liana Glew is approved.

VII. Executive Officer Reports

- a. President—Matt Krott
 - i. Two thirds of our term has ended
 - ii. There is still time left and are on track
 - iii. Asking the assembly if they have been represented properly and if they have been shut to come speak with me
 - iv. I will be advocating with the president to represent all graduate students and set a meeting with CGS.
 - v. Submitted our resolution from our previous meeting. We will have our meeting with the graduate school dean next week.
 - vi. We had our university call day yesterday. We continue to coordinate with the university regarding this matter and follow it very closely.
 - vii. Over the next couple of weeks I will participate for interviews for open position in the graduate school.

- viii. Lot 10 parking lot application is open.
- ix. Thank all that helped organize the winter gala, it was a very successful event.
- b. Vice President—Brienne Pragg
- c. Treasurer—Erica Schwalm
 - i. \$22,000 left to allocate
 - ii. If you need to make a payment, talk to me beforehand
 - iii. Grad cup costs around \$7000 and collected \$1500.
 - iv. Gala and writing boot camp ticket sales will be deposited to our account in a few months
- d. Secretary—Nasr Cheaib
 - i. Send me material for the newswire
- e. Faculty Senate—Kevin Reuning
 - i. Met yesterday
 - ii. Voted for 3 and 5 year fixed term contracts
 - iii. Additional member from GPSA will be on faculty senate along with a member from graduate school
 - iv. Actions that can be taken for DACA students or students that have their immigration state. Push for completion of degree while abroad.
 - v. Discussion on policy for taking three midterms in a day for undergraduate students
- f. Graduate Council—Ling Yang
 - i. No report

VIII. New Business

- a. Bill 67-21 GWIS Voices Co-Sponsorship
 - i. This year's theme is overcoming adversity.
 - ii. Held every year at the beginning of Feb.
 - iii. Will invite many notable speakers
 - iv. Open to all graduate, faculty, and undergraduates
 - v. Asking for \$2000 to help cover for food
 - vi. Questions?
 - A. Is there a registration fees?
 - a. Yes, it depends on status (student, post doc, etc) and will go towards general costs (speaker, venue, etc.)
 - B. Is it limited to 100 attendees?
 - a. No, that's a rough estimate of last year's attendance
 - C. Advertisement efforts?
 - a. Flyers, social media
 - D. Have you received your UPAC allocation?
 - a. Yes
 - vii. Discussion
 - A. Concerns of spending a lot of money on sponsorships
 - B. Seems to be a very important event for Women in STEM
 - C. Concerns of overspending and refunds
 - viii. Motion to approve bill via roll call. The motion is seconded; there are no objections.
 - ix. See Addendum II for roll call vote.

- x. Bill passes
- b. Bill 67-22 State of State 2018 Co-Sponsorship
 - i. Student run organization to facilitate dialogue within the community
 - ii. Solely focuses on Penn State issues
 - iii. After each talk there will be breakout session and roundtables
 - iv. Full day commitment starting at 9am
 - v. Speakers are either students, faculty or community members
 - vi. Expected attendance is 300
 - vii. Requesting \$1500 in support for live stream efforts
 - viii. World campus is pledging \$8000 for live streaming
 - ix. Questions?
 - A. Why live-stream?
 - a. The idea is to create a moment to people to engage.
 - B. Have you streamed this in the past?
 - a. Yes but we don't have statistics
 - C. Total cost of live streaming?
 - a. \$13000 and hoping to bring it down to \$10000
 - D. Do you live tweet it?
 - a. Yes
 - x. Discussion
 - A. Concerns on asking price for WPSU services being too high
 - B. We are funding only 15% of one line item
 - C. This is worthwhile because it would help graduate students tune in
 - xi. Motion to amend the bill to change "Services by galaxy productions" via unanimous consent. The motion is seconded; there are no objections.
 - xii. Motion to approve amended bill via roll call. The motion is seconded; there are no objections.
 - xiii. See Addendum II for roll call vote.
 - xiv. Bill passes
- c. Bill 67-23 TEDxPSU Co-Sponsorship
 - i. Providing lunch for specific people as opposed to last year providing to everyone
 - ii. This year we are focusing on "face-to-face"
 - iii. Motion to approve bill via show of hands. The motion is seconded; there are no objections.
 - iv. 24(Yes) - 0(Abstain) - 1(No)
 - v. Bill Passes
- d. Resolution 67-02 Opposition to Recognition of Tuition Waivers as Federally Taxable Income
 - i. One of the speculations that come into recognition of the house version of the tax bill contains language graduate students that receive tuition waivers becomes taxable income.
 - ii. At Penn State it would effectively remove \$2000 from income
 - iii. The senate version does not include taxable tuition waiver
 - iv. We are commanding efforts that Penn State put forth through their office of government and community relations to oppose this
 - v. Urge the congressman do not vote for something that includes this language
 - vi. Encourage activism from graduate students regarding this matter

- vii. Question?
 - A. Can this be taken as a political stance?
 - a. GPSA is allowed to do so as long as it directly impacts students.
 - B. Can you explain what a tuition waiver is?
 - a. All students have to pay tuition even on assistantship. Tuition waivers help pay for a student's tuition and that comes from behind the scene usually from the department, grants, etc.
- viii. Discussion
 - A. This is having a negative impact on higher educations and not about raising money.
 - B. We represent the student body and this might impact some student greatly.
 - C. Concerns brought up regarding if the institution could change tuition rates for those affected
- ix. Motion to approve bill via roll call. The motion is seconded; Objection heard.
- x. Discussion
 - A. We are unified voice and we should pass this by unanimous consent
- xi. Motion to approve via unanimous consent. The motion is seconded; there are no objections.
- xii. Resolution passes
- e. Bill 67-24 Graduate Writing Boot Camp
 - i. Encourage graduate students on writing their dissertation, thesis, journals, etc.
 - ii. We will provide lunch
 - iii. Speakers will show up from CAPS, library, etc.
 - iv. No questions
 - v. No discussion
 - vi. Motion to approve bill via roll call. The motion is seconded; there are no objections.
 - vii. See Addendum II for roll call vote.
 - viii. Bill passes
- f. Bill 67-25 LinkedIn Workshop
 - i. This would better students at networking and LinkedIn in specific
 - ii. A speaker would be present to talk about this
 - iii. No questions
 - iv. No discussion
 - v. Motion to approve via unanimous consent. The motion is seconded; there are no objections.
 - vi. Bill passes

IX. Reports

- a. Speaker of the Assembly – Brian Conway
 - i. We have time to do things if you really want to do
 - ii. I sit on the student fee board
 - A. If you have any resources on campus you support, please talk to me
- b. Committees
 - i. Advocacy and Human Diversity – Gerry Knapp
 - A. Held first student leader roundtable and it was productive
 - B. Starting to form a subcommittee to look into comprehensive exams and etc.
 - ii. Student Affairs – Sonny Arora

- A. Professional Development – Alex Zhao
 - a. Looking for volunteers to help set up graduate writing boot camp
- B. Programming – Shenli Pei
 - a. Thanks for everyone who helped with winter gala
 - b. Looking for volunteers to help with Grad Cup
- C. Community Service – Emily Erickson
 - a. Collected donations for PAWs at the Gala
- iii. Internal Development – David Dopfel
 - A. Fill out event forms on Box
- c. Liaisons
 - i. Transportation commission
 - A. RIDEpass might rise in price for 14%
 - ii. Campus Rec
 - A. Looking at replacing the turf across from Rec Hall
 - B. Considering opening a new natatorium
 - iii. CAPS advisory board
 - A. They have more money than anticipated
 - B. Long term outreach ideas
- d. Judiciary
 - i. No report
- e. Student Trustee – Mike Hoeschele
- f. Advisor—Adam Christensen
 - i. Talk to Matt, if you feel your voice not being heard

X. Comments for the Good of the Order

- a. Everyone is doing great work.

XI. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nasr Cheaib

Addendum I. Roll Call Attendance

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

Office	Name	Attendance
Executive Board		
President	Matt Krott	P
Vice President	Brianne Pragg	E
Secretary	Nasr Cheaib	P
Treasurer	Erica Schwalm	P
Faculty Senator	Kevin Reuning	P
Graduate Council		
Graduate Council	Alexander Wilson-Heid (IGDP)	P
Graduate Council	August Jenkins (HHD)	P
Graduate Council	Claire Kelling (Science)	P
Graduate Council	Ling Yang (Engineering)	A
Judiciary		
Chief Justice	Jesse Scott (Engineering)	A
Associate Justice	Eric Flagg (Law)	P
Associate Justice	Ellen Hill (Law)	E
Assembly		
Agricultural Sciences	Devon Carroll	E
Agricultural Sciences	Emily Erickson	P
Art & Architecture	Abhinandan Bera	P
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Joshua Bostwick	P
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Mikael Hiestand	P
Eberly College of Science	Alex Zhao	P
Eberly College of Science	Brian Conway	P
Eberly College of Science	Sonny Arora	P
Education	Carmen Vanderhoof	P
Education	Sonja Robinson	A

Engineering	Farnaz Tehranchi	E
Engineering	Jashwant Gunasekaran	L
Engineering	Shenli Pei	P
Health and Human Development	Abigail Keim	P
Health and Human Development	Christopher Cheroret	E
Information Sciences and Technology	Stephanie Winkler	P
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	David Dopfel	P
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Gerry Knapp	P
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Sailahari Ponnaluri	P
Liberal Arts	Austin "Nathan" Geiger	P
Liberal Arts	Tori Thomas	A
Liberal Arts	Trevor Bero	L
Nursing	Bruno Saconi	E
School of International Affairs	Abdulaziz "Aziz" Dahlawi	L
Schools of Law	Allie Amatuzzo	E
Schools of Law	Chuck Deibel	P
Schools of Law	Jessie McLaughlin	E
Smeal College of Business	Huiniang "Helena" Wang	L
Smeal College of Business	Michael Rao	P
At-Large Delegate	Charlie Wolstenholme (Science)	P
At-Large Delegate	Richard Neal (Law)	P
At-Large Delegate	Roman Jaramillo (Science)	P
At-Large Delegate	Ruimin Chen (Engineering)	P
At-Large Delegate	Saratu Terreno (Engineering)	P

Addendum II. Roll Call Votes

Office	Name	Bill 67-21	Bill 67-22	Bill 67-24
Assembly				
Agricultural Sciences	Devon Carroll	-	-	-
Agricultural Sciences	Emily Erickson	Y	Y	Y
Art & Architecture	Abhinandan Bera	Y	Y	Y
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Joshua Bostwick	Y	Y	Y
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Mikael Hiestand	Y	Y	Y
Eberly College of Science	Alex Zhao	Y	Y	Y
Eberly College of Science	Brian Conway	Y	Y	Y
Eberly College of Science	Sonny Arora	Y	Y	Y
Education	Carmen Vanderhoof	Y	Y	Y
Education	Sonja Robinson	-	-	-
Engineering	Farnaz Tehranchi	-	-	-
Engineering	Jashwant Gunasekaran	Y	Y	Y
Engineering	Shenli Pei	Y	Y	Y
Health and Human Development	Abigail Keim	Y	Y	Y
Health and Human Development	Christopher Cheroret	-	-	-
Information Sciences and Technology	Stephanie Winkler	Y	Y	Y
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	David Dopfel	Y	Y	Y
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Gerry Knapp	Y	Y	Y
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Sailahari Ponnaluri	Y	Y	Y
Liberal Arts	Austin "Nathan" Geiger	Y	Y	Y

Liberal Arts	Tori Thomas	-	-	-
Liberal Arts	Trevor Bero	Y	Y	Y
Nursing	Bruno Saconi	-	-	-
School of International Affairs	Abdulaziz "Aziz" Dahlawi	Y	Y	N
Schools of Law	Allie Amatuzzo	-	-	-
Schools of Law	Chuck Deibel	Y	Y	Y
Schools of Law	Jessie McLaughlin	-	-	-
Smeal College of Business	Huiniang "Helena" Wang	Y	Y	Y
Smeal College of Business	Michael Rao	Y	N	Y
At-Large Delegate	Charlie Wolstenholme (Science)	Y	N	Y
At-Large Delegate	Richard Neal (Law)	N	Y	Y
At-Large Delegate	Roman Jaramillo (Science)	Y	Y	Y
At-Large Delegate	Saratu Terreno (Engineering)	Y	Y	Y