



Graduate and Professional Student Association

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

GPSA 67th Assembly Meeting | Wednesday, November 8, 2017 | 6:30pm | 134 HUB

I. Call to Order

- a. The meeting is called to order by the Vice President at 6:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call Attendance – See Addendum I

III. Adoption of the Agenda

- a. Hearing no objections, the agenda was adopted.

IV. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes (October 25, 2017)

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

V. Open Student Forum

VI. Special Presentation: Karen Kline & Bob Edwards – Student Health Insurance

- a. What happened this fall,
 - i. Penn State never leaves graduate students uninsured
- b. UHS Pharmacy
 - i. There was a glitch in the system where it was supposed to set for 90 days it was set back to 30 days. As of today, it is back at 90 days to get prescription for chronic diseases.
- c. WorkLion
 - i. We are migrating to WorkLion
 - ii. It's been tested and everything is running smoothly
 - iii. Files will be sent on a weekly basis
 - iv. Students should not be seeing a delay in coverage for the Spring semester
- d. Our enrollment is up by 2% - 3900 enrolled
- e. As of October 23, there is approximately 12,000 students enrolled, from 6,500 students last year
- f. Working with the school on university wide insurance
- g. There is an activity guide on Lionpath for domestic and international students preparing for university wide insurance
- h. Questions?
 - i. What is the rationale behind moving to more expensive insurance as of cheaper alternatives for international students?
 - A. With a wider pool, prices will fall next year given the utilization remains constant. The cheaper alternatives are not ACA comparable and filed offshore. This year we are asking students to have insurance that is filed with the Pennsylvania Health Department and be ACA complied.

VII. Special Presentation: Michael Verderame, Ph.D. – Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate School

- a. Career Exploration Workshops

President: Matt Krtoo | mjk5358@psu.edu
Secretary: Nasr Cheaib | nqc5100@psu.edu
Advisor: Adam Christensen, Ph.D. | acc187@psu.edu

Vice President: Brianne Pragg | bep157@psu.edu
Treasurer: Erica Schwalm | els258@psu.edu
Speaker: Brian Conway | btc150@psu.edu

- i. In 2016, all day on a Saturday, 225 registered, 60 attended, 15 watched live sessions
- ii. In 2017, half day workshop on a Saturday, 247 registered, 80 attended, 4 watched live sessions
- iii. Topics include:
 - A. Resume and CV
 - B. Define the career path wanted
 - C. How to negotiate a job offer
- iv. How might we structure these workshops to have more attendance
 - A. Career specific targets
 - B. Maybe during school week, or Saturday afternoon
 - C. Maybe twice a year
 - D. Print flyers and pass them around
 - E. Early career vs Late career

VIII. Executive Officer Reports

- a. President—Matt Krott
 - i. Thank everyone for advocating for passing the state budget
 - ii. Encourage all of you to speak out to their federal legislators to fight the new tax reform
 - iii. Consider applying to student leadership scholarship, due date is November 13
 - iv. Next week is Mental and Health Week
 - v. Homecoming parade is Friday
- b. Vice President—Brienne Pragg
 - i. Reminding the assembly of Robert Rules
- c. Treasurer—Erica Schwalm
 - i. Received our allocation
 - ii. Updated the budget summary online
 - iii. \$20,000 to spend
- d. Secretary—Nasr Cheaib
 - i. Send me material for the newswire
- e. Faculty Senate—Kevin Reuning
 - i. No report
- f. Graduate Council—Ling Yang
 - i. We are meeting next week
 - ii. No updates yet

IX. New Business

- a. Resolution 67-01 Support of Graduate Assistant Rights
 - i. We are looking at this resolution as a way to responding to the comments that PSU administration recently made that graduate students contribute to the university
 - ii. Entire transcript of the week long hearing is online
 - iii. Our goal is to say that our contributions to this university matters and we are workers, we are employees under Pennsylvania law and we have legal standings and we want to recognized as such. We would like the administrations to recognize that.
 - iv. Questions?

- A. Who are you making this statement to?
 - a. We are speaking on behalf of the student body
 - b. We are holding the administration accountable
- B. Can you give more contexts about this hearing and why we are talking about this now?
 - a. For a couple years now the graduate students wanted to form a union
 - b. Students from different departments come together to form a bargaining unit which would be able to bargain with administration for saying they want certain changes in our workplaces and such
 - c. This hearing was a result of an authorization card drive in which graduate students got together and got enough cards to show enough hold this election. There was a minimum requirement of 30% interest to hold the election, however they went much higher.
 - d. Afterwards we were supposed to go from there to hold the vote however administration has been very combative about this.
 - e. There is a work components that isn't inherit of the graduate program.
 - f. Penn State took the approach of stating that these students aren't employees at all.
- C. How does this apply to professional students?
 - a. This does not apply to professional students
 - b. Professional students would not be included in the bargaining units
- v. Co-sponsors additions
 - A. This is not a pro or against union debate, this is about the rights to hold the vote.
 - B. On the legal challenge to this, Penn State spent around seven figures on this. There is better uses to spend their money
- vi. Discussion
 - A. Concerns about the wording of the resolution not being factual.
- vii. Motion to approve bill via voice vote. The motion is seconded; there are no objections.
- viii. The resolution is passed with majority votes in favor.

X. Reports

- a. Speaker of the Assembly – Brian Conway
 - i. Very important piece of legislation just went through
 - ii. Our assembly took a position as accounted to what the current administration is currently pursuing how unionization issues proceed.
 - iii. We should all be well versed in various issues that come up with unionization.
 - A. Read literature on Gradfacts and CGE website
 - iv. Full transcripts of the hearing are available online
- b. Committees
 - i. Advocacy and Human Diversity – Gerry Knapp
 - A. Roundtable Next Wed
 - B. Working on Toll Brothers legislation
 - ii. Student Affairs – Sonny Arora
 - A. Professional Development – Alex Zhao
 - a. Need help setting up and taking down Graduate Writing Workshop
 - B. Programming – Shenli Pei

- a. Financial Literacy Workshop is tomorrow
 - b. Next Tuesday is GPSA social at 6pm, it will also serve as a kickoff to sell tickets for the Winter Gala
 - c. Tickets for the Winter Gala are limited
 - C. Community Service – Emily Erickson
 - a. Basket Driving is ongoing, we will stop collecting stuff by Tuesday
- iii. Internal Development – David Dopfel
 - A. No report
- c. Liaisons
 - i. Student Legal Services
 - A. She is going to ask the financial board for an increase of \$2
 - a. She will release a breakdown report
 - B. We are the only Big Ten school that represent students for immigration cases
 - C. On Tuesdays, they have walk-in hours all day
 - ii. Mental and Health Awareness Week
 - A. All the information is on our social media
 - B. They will have people in the HUB all week and they will have a gala as well
 - iii. Campus Rec advisory
 - A. Club sport hours are cut
 - iv. Canvas
 - A. I will be stepping down and looking for a replacement
- d. Judiciary – The Honorable Jesse Scott
 - i. No report
- e. Student Trustee – Mike Hoeschele
- f. Advisor—Adam Christensen
 - i. Looking for feedback for the next iteration for Lionpath

XI. Comments for the Good of the Order

- a. Please help pass the message of our events
- b. If you cannot donate items for the basket drive, you could donate money

XII. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 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	P
Secretary	Nasr Cheaib	P
Treasurer	Erica Schwalm	P
Faculty Senator	Kevin Reuning	L
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)	P
Judiciary		
Chief Justice	Jesse Scott (Engineering)	P
Associate Justice	Eric Flagg (Law)	P
Associate Justice	Ellen Hill (Law)	P
Assembly		
Agricultural Sciences	Devon Carroll	P
Agricultural Sciences	Emily Erickson	E
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	P
Engineering	Jashwant Gunasekaran	P
Engineering	Shenli Pei	P
Health and Human Development	Abigail Keim	P
Health and Human Development	Christopher Cheroret	P
Information Sciences and Technology	Stephanie Winkler	P
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	David Dopfel	L
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Gerry Knapp	PR
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Sailahari Ponnaluri	E
Liberal Arts	Austin "Nathan" Geiger	P
Liberal Arts	Tori Thomas	E
Liberal Arts	Trevor Bero	P
Nursing	Bruno Saconi	E
School of International Affairs	Abdulaziz "Aziz" Dahlawi	L
Schools of Law	Allie Amatuzzo	P
Schools of Law	Chuck Deibel	P
Schools of Law	Jessie McLaughlin	P
Smeal College of Business	Huiniang "Helena" Wang	P
Smeal College of Business	Michael Rao	P
At-Large Delegate	Charlie Wolstenholme (Science)	P
At-Large Delegate	Richard Neal (Law)	E
At-Large Delegate	Roman Jaramillo (Science)	P
At-Large Delegate	Ruimin Chen (Engineering)	E
At-Large Delegate	Saratu Terreno (Engineering)	P