



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, September 13, 2017 | 6:00pm | 108 Wartik

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call Attendance – See Addendum I

III. Adoption of the Agenda

- a. Motion to strike new delegate. Seconded.
- b. Hearing no objections, the agenda is amended.

IV. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes (August 30, 2017)

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

V. Open Student Forum

- a. There are no comments.

VI. Special Presentation: Laura Hall— Senior Director, Campus Recreation

- a. I was brought here to create a collegiate program
- b. Campus Rec is broken down into programs and facilities
- c. Facilities
 - i. IM building expansion was funded by student fees and had an increase of visits
 - ii. Introducing nontraditional activities to McCoy natatorium
 - iii. Stone Valley is an outdoor facility located 15 min away from campus
 - A. They offer hiking, boating, mountain biking, cabins
- d. Programs
 - i. Adventure recreation – help rent equipment for outdoor activities
 - ii. Fitness and Wellness – Group exercise classes, instructional dance
 - iii. Vertical Adventure – outdoor team building activity in Stone Valley
- e. Because it is student funded we invest back in hiring students
- f. IM Building Expansion
 - i. Just opened recently and features climbing wall, bouldering wall etc.
- g. Transcending Values
 - i. Holistic Wellness
 - A. Helping to facilitate many realms of wellness
 - B. How to balance all the realms of wellness
 - ii. Student Development
 - iii. Inclusivity
 - A. We need to understand who we are serving and aim to serve 90% of the student body
 - B. Commitment to serve the broad recreational interests of our students
- h. Why is it important?
 - i. Higher rates to retention, graduation, GPA, improved mental health

- i. Questions
 - i. Have you noticed any change in numbers of visits since the expansion?
 - A. Yes, indeed. Management realized that was a missing piece of other schools in the nation. We are untangling all the graduate student registration complexity. The natatorium is now available for all students.
 - ii. Are there any changes to the websites?
 - A. We currently have five websites and in the process of changing them
 - iii. Is there any transportation to Stone Valley?
 - A. Yes, it is in our plan. We offer bus services. It was expensive to operate last semester. Right now, Stone Valley is more appealing to non-students than students.
 - iv. Can students go hunting?
 - A. Yes. I am not sure about how it works. There are cabins and fire pits.
 - v. Are graduate student included in your assessments?
 - A. Yes, we are working on it.
 - vi. Why are there reduced hours for club sports?
 - A. Our club sports are far above national norm. We guarantee 8 hours a week of time.

VII. Executive Officer Reports

- a. President—Matt Krott
 - i. Homecoming
 - A. I want to credit Homecoming for doing all the work in terms of logistics, parade, etc.
 - B. You are all welcome to apply
 - C. I want to see at least one professional student on the selection committee
 - ii. IT
 - A. Mass email - If you have not received the mass email, please talk to me later.
 - B. Working on changing Webmail to Office
 - C. We are invited to meet with the vice president of IT
 - iii. Student fees
 - A. You can see the breakdown of the student fees on the website
 - iv. Legal focus group
 - A. Looking for student volunteers to help the focus group
 - v. Campus Rec
 - A. All graduate students should be able to have access to campus Rec
 - vi. Local Budget
 - A. The state budget still has not yet passed.
 - B. They can't pass the bill unless there is a revenue management in process
 - vii. Liaison
 - A. If you are a liaison, please send a report to the assembly. We want to know what is best for the graduate student body.
 - viii. Question?
 - A. Does it make a difference if an international student sends a letter to the state?

- a. Send it anyway.
- b. Vice President—Brienne Pragg
 - i. HUB Advisory board is requesting a liaison
 - A. Meets twice per month and more frequently during the spring semester when discussing office space allocations.
 - B. The purpose of the HUB-Robeson Center Advisory Board is to represent students, faculty, staff and community members served by the HUB-Robeson Center and consult and advise both directors in policy and procedure matters and evaluations of programs, services, and facilities.
 - ii. Movin' on liaison
 - A. Still looking for liaison
- c. Treasurer—Erica Schwalm
 - i. \$47,000 is unallocated, we can use it until July
- d. Secretary—Nasr Cheaib
 - i. Committee chairs send meeting dates and time to put on GPSA calendar
- e. Faculty Senate—Kevin Reuning
 - i. I am on Student Life Committee this year. The main focus it appears will be on how the faculty senate can be part of discussions on Greek life at Penn State which then rolls into another discussion on the drinking culture at Penn State.
 - ii. President Barron discussed the state budget concerns in his opening remarks. In particular he discussed how this year feels different than past years as people are now starting to question why places like Temple receive tax dollars.
 - iii. There was a long discussion over gym access by faculty.
 - iv. The Faculty Senate will also be starting a multi-year committee to investigate the reasons behind women receiving tenure at significantly lower rates than man.
- f. Graduate Council—Ling Yang
 - i. Need to have 5 people to sit for Grad Council Member for absence – send names to Grad Council in advance
 - ii. Grad student no longer need to fill out petition to travel to restricted country, only need to register for travel safety network, in November
 - iii. IUG degree program – establish task force to deal with issues associated with Lionpath
 - iv. A new page for Grad School Policy – everything organized in 1 page: <http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-school-policies/>
 - v. More fellowship/awards available soon: current campaign for fund raising, university match dollar for dollar for donations reaching minimum amount
 - vi. Penn state will help with fundraising and they will be used toward fellowships and awards
 - vii. Student and Faculty issue committee:
 - A. Establish basic guideline for mentoring – some departments have guidelines, some have nothing

- B. Career exploration workshop – half day focusing on job process
- C. Unionization – hearing finished today, attorney will submit legal briefing – 1 month, hearing examiner to make decision (yes or no) – 1 month if yes, start organizing election; if no, drop unless CGE file appeal; will know results in early next year
- viii. Graduate school exhibition will be at the march 23

VIII. New Business

- a. Confirmation of New Member of Judiciary
 - i. Ellen Hill
 - A. First year law student
 - B. Did my undergrad in Arizona
 - C. I want to join because I want to be involved with the graduate student body.
 - ii. Discussion
 - A. Filling the third seat is important. This is a good way to get involved. She seems prepared and excited for the judiciary roll.
 - iii. Motion to approve by unanimous consent. The motion is seconded; there are no objections.
 - iv. Vote approved by unanimous consent. Ellen Hill is confirmed to be New Member of Judiciary
- b. Bill 67-12 Co-sponsorship of Science Policy Society Panel
 - i. This year it is more focused about anthropology
 - ii. This event is on “What’s the next step in science”.
 - iii. We have Sam Keen who is a well published author and faculty
 - iv. It answers the question is “How we do science”?
 - v. Question
 - A. How many people are you expecting?
 - a. Last year it was 120. But we are expecting more.
 - B. Is this open to graduate students only?
 - a. It is open to all students and the public
 - C. How do you plan to market the event?
 - a. SPS, social media, flyers, office of strategic communications
 - D. Did you have any financial commitments or contracts?
 - a. We had to provide proof of purchase for airline ticket and hotel
 - vi. Discussion
 - A. This group has held many events. Concerns on what other sources of funding other than GPSA were brought up.
 - vii. Motion to approve bill via roll call. The motion is seconded; there are no objections.
 - viii. See Addendum II for roll call vote.
 - ix. Bill passes.
- c. Bill 67-13 Graduate Student Leadership Roundtable
 - i. Nittany lion Inn will have a lunch buffet and we will talk about specific topics
 - ii. Topics include:
 - A. What resources are available to graduate students
 - B. How to reach out to graduate students
 - iii. Three events, expecting 20-25 people, 2 students from each organization
 - iv. Questions
 - A. Did you have other options for food?

- a. Yes but we prefer to have a more professional setting rather than boxed lunch.
 - B. Do you expect to have an action plan?
 - a. It is possible that resolution might be made; I was hoping to bring back minutes and share with the assembly.
 - C. Have you reached out to professional student orgs?
 - a. No
- v. Discussion
 - A. Concerns of too many events and cut down.
- vi. Motion to approve via unanimous consent. The motion is seconded; there are no objections.
- vii. Bill passes.

IX. Reports

- a. Speaker of the Assembly – Brian Conway
 - i. Fill evaluation form for events after the event is completed. This will help future members of the assembly in planning, organizing and etc.
- b. Committees
 - i. Advocacy and Human Diversity—Gerry Knapp
 - A. Uploaded minutes on box
 - B. Unionization process was discussed
 - C. Meet the delegates event is next Wednesday
 - D. Looking on how candidacy exams are administered in departments and their guidelines
 - E. Discussed toll brothers water shed
 - ii. Student Affairs—Sonny Arora
 - A. Professional Development
 - a. Sent out Professional headshots event; filled up quickly
 - b. Working with career services to set up workshops
 - B. Programming
 - a. Discussed winter gala
 - b. Upcoming events
 - i. This Saturday is the tailgate
 - C. Community Service
 - a. We met last week
 - b. We are aiming on having one event per month
 - c. Rebuild U
 - d. Discussing a trail cleanup, suggestions on a trail?
 - e. In November, we will be having a Thanksgiving food drive
 - f. Send cards to troops overseas and set up at the winter gala
 - g. Questions?
 - i. Reach out to community service fraternity, they have many community service events
 - iii. Internal Development—David Dopfel

- A. Discussed long term initiatives.
- B. Putting together edits to be made in governing documents
- c. Liaisons
- d. Judiciary—The Honorable Jesse Scott
 - i. Thank you for approving our new member
- e. Student Trustee – Mike Hoeschele
- f. Advisor—Adam Christensen
 - i. The threat of the allocation budget is real.

X. Comments for the Good of the Order

XI. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 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	P
Graduate Council		
Graduate Council	Alexander Wilson-Heid	P
Graduate Council	August Jenkins	P
Graduate Council	Claire Kelling	P
Graduate Council	Ling Yang	P
Graduate Council	Mara Cloutier	A
Judiciary		
Associate Justice	Eric Flagg	L
Chief Justice	Jesse Scott	P
Assembly		
Agricultural Sciences	Devon Carroll	L
Agricultural Sciences	Emily Erickson	P
Art & Architecture	Abhinandan Bera	L
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	E
Education	Sonja Robinson	P

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

Addendum II. Roll Call Votes

Office	Name	Bill #67-12
Assembly		
Agricultural Sciences	Devon Carroll	Y
Agricultural Sciences	Emily Erickson	Y
Art & Architecture	Abhinandan Bera	Y
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Joshua Bostwick	Y
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Mikael Hiestand	Y
Eberly College of Science	Alex Zhao	N
Eberly College of Science	Brian Conway	Y
Eberly College of Science	Sonny Arora	Y
Education	Carmen Vanderhoof	N/A
Education	Sonja Robinson	Y
Engineering	Farnaz Tehranchi	Y
Engineering	Jashwant Gunasekaran	N/A
Engineering	Shenli Pei	Y
Health and Human Development	Abigail Keim	Y
Information Sciences and Technology	Stephanie Winkler	N/A
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	David Dopfel	Y
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Gerry Knapp	Y
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Sailahari Ponnaluri	Y
Nursing	Bruno Saconi	N/A
School of International Affairs	Abdulaziz “Aziz” Dahlawi	Y

Smeal College of Business	Huiniang "Helena" Wang	Y
Schools of Law	Allie Amatuzzo	Y
Schools of Law	Chuck Deibel	Y
Schools of Law	Jessie McLaughlin	Y
Liberal Arts	Austin "Nathan" Geiger	Y
Liberal Arts	Tori Thomas	Y
At-Large Delegate (Law)	Richard Neal	N
At-Large Delegate (Science)	Roman Jaramillo	Y
At-Large Delegate (Engineering)	Ruimin Chen	Y
At-Large Delegate (Engineering)	Saratu Terreno	Y
At-Large Delegate (Engineering)	Charlie Wolstenholme	N/A