



# Graduate and Professional Student Association

The Pennsylvania State University  
315 HUB-Robeson Center  
University Park, PA 16802  
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GPSA Assembly Meeting | Wednesday, October 19, 2016 | 6:00pm | 302 HUB Robeson Center

- I. Call to Order**
  - a. The meeting is called to order by the Executive Vice President at 6:04 p.m.
- II. Roll Call Attendance – See Addendum I**
- III. Adoption of the Agenda**
  - a. Lily proposes to include “Presidential Appointments” in New Business above Bill 66-16.
  - b. Hearing no objections, those changes are adopted.
- IV. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes**
  - a. Hearing no objection to the past meeting’s minutes, the minutes are approved as distributed.
- V. Open Student Forum**
  - a. No comments
- VI. Special Presentation – Canvas Project Team (Terry O’Heron, Tony Anderson, Kate Domico)**
  - a. There are now more active course sections in Canvas than in ANGEL
  - b. Membership includes students, both undergraduate and graduate, across the Commonwealth.
  - c. The Canvas Project Team has a representative for each college; they provide input on what kind of courses would be useful.
  - d. The last classes taught in ANGEL will be in summer 2017; all new courses are in Canvas.
  - e. Canvas.psu.edu provides resources for students and faculty.
    - i. There is a self-paced course with online modules.
  - f. All World Campus classes will be transferred by June
  - g. Feedback from the Assembly:
    - i. Is there a way to upload presentations with audio or to have an online discussion, similar to Adobe Connect?
      1. The team is looking for a replacement to Adobe Connect.
    - ii. TA seems to have fewer permissions than they did as in ANGEL
      1. The course instructor could give you additional privileges.
    - iii. A search box would be useful.
    - iv. Math has had difficulty transferring quizzes to Canvas given LaTeX documents.
    - v. Is there a way to categorize classes by semester?
      1. You can star them, but they’re not sortable currently.
    - vi. It would be great if you could see things as a student.
      1. You can; check the settings.
    - vii. When will it be single sign on?

1. The Canvas Project Team is slowly integrating ANGEL and Canvas back to WebAccess.
- viii. No graduate students use the Canvas app; very few knew an app existed.
- ix. Is there a way to remove the Test Student?
  1. They will check into that.
- x. Is there a way to easily copy quiz questions, like in ANGEL?
  1. Not yet, it's possible the feature could be added.
- xi. Is student information on the cloud?
  1. Yes, it has passed all the security measures.
- xii. What do you like about Canvas?
  1. Communication is easier (no backing out of each email)
  2. Notifications received via email.

## **VII. Executive Officer Reports**

- a. President (Kevin Horne)
  - i. Thank you for encouraging people to sign up for delegate positions. We've actually had to turn people down.
  - ii. We still need a Faculty Senator; they must be a graduate student, and not a professional student.
  - iii. All In campaign kick-off was a wonderful event. The next event is on October 27, a panel on free speech and diversity.
  - iv. We are sponsoring, along with the other student governments, a Board of Trustees townhall on diversity. We already have five Trustees signed up.
  - v. We are working to ensure that Governor Wolf continues to nominate a graduate student for the Board of Trustees.
    1. After a meeting with his chief of staff it looks promising.
    2. The governor doesn't seem to care about the method through which the second trustee is appointed.
  - vi. The exec board took a tour of the [Penn State student farm](#).
    1. It provides food to residence halls and is used by classes in the Food Systems Minor.
    2. The Student Farm Club has a lot of graduate students.
    3. We'll be doing another tour in the spring for the assembly.
  - vii. Student fee board should convene in the next month.
    1. We need five at-large members to serve on the board.
    2. Those students should not be from student government.
  - viii. Student leader scholarship
    1. All the parking tickets go into a fund for this scholarship.
    2. As members of GPSA you are eligible for the award, so please apply.
  - ix. Graduate School Alumni Society
    1. Historically GPSA has four seats (president, former president, two appointed students).
    2. Grad school attempted to adjust the bylaws to do away with the GPSA seats; grad school would appoint their own student members.

3. Grad school sent the bylaws out for a vote without explaining the changes. The stated purpose of the bylaw changes was to increase diversity.
  4. GPSA was able to make their pitch at the GSAS meeting, and GSAS voted to rescind the bylaws and keep the GPSA seats.
- b. Vice President (Marina Cotarelo)
- i. Graduate Student Leader Roundtable is a work in progress.
  - ii. Smoke-free campus
    1. CCSG and UPUA voted to support smoke-free.
    2. Faculty Senate supports a task force.
    3. Advise that GPSA take a position with a resolution.
  - iii. Homecoming
    1. Graduate students are not represented.
    2. If you'd like to get more involved, let Marina know.
- c. Treasurer (Sidharth Agrawal)
- i. In the Faculty Senate, there was discussion of including a mental health statement in every syllabi (like the disability statement). The Senate did not take a stand one way or the other.
  - ii. The library is trying to renovate the basement underneath the Knowledge Commons. They are also considering a quiet space for graduate students.
  - iii. In the future GPSA will be collaborating with the library for dissertation boot camp.
- d. Graduate Council (Brienne Pragg)
- i. The Graduate Council discussed whether there be a note on transcripts about whether a thesis is required.
  - ii. P faculty and R faculty – P faculty can't teach 500-level classes
    1. Big problem for Arts and Architecture, where a lot of professors have M.F.A.s
  - iii. Academic standards committee is more focused on philosophical conversations about graduate education.
  - iv. There needs to be more outreach on Title IX – letting faculty know what is appropriate and what's not.
  - v. The Council is also considering graduate mentoring guidelines.

### **VIII. New Business**

- a. Presidential appointments
- i. Shenli Pei (College of Engineering)
    1. Women in engineering are still an underrepresented group
    2. She wants greater representation for international students, and believes she can connect the international community with GPSA.
  - ii. Katharine Grills (College of Health and Human Development)
    1. Running for an at-large seat.
    2. She hopes to represent her department, which is relatively large and has diverse interests.
  - iii. Gerald Knapp (Earth and Mineral Sciences)

1. He has experience with student government as an undergraduate.
  2. He is interested in finding out what challenges graduate students are facing.
- iv. Cameron Stephens (College of Agricultural Sciences)
    1. He believes graduate and professional students should have a voice and representation.
  - v. Michael Chronin (Earth and Mineral Sciences)
    1. He is an alumnus of Penn State (Class of 2011).
    2. He recognized that graduate students are different from undergraduates.
  - vi. Motion to vote in as a slate via unanimous consent. The motion is seconded.
  - vii. All of the appointments are confirmed.
- b. Bill 66-16: State of State 2017
- i. State of State brings in about 12 speakers for a day-long conference; there are separate modules on topics relevant to the Penn State community
  - ii. Historically graduate students have been underrepresented, but we're looking to change that.
  - iii. Asking for \$1,000 to co-sponsor.
    1. Gifts for speakers
    2. Printing of programs (estimated attendance is 250-300)
    3. Breakfast for speakers on day of conference
  - iv. There were 17 speakers listed for last year. Is the expectation that there will be fewer speakers this year?
    1. Given the time frame of the event, the organizers estimate there will be between 9 and 12 speakers.
  - v. Are the speakers just from University Park?
    1. We have had speakers from the commonwealth campuses.
  - vi. Is there a registration fee?
    1. No, but you do have the register beforehand.
  - vii. What is the student budget for this?
    1. Last year it was about \$65,000.
  - viii. The material is gathered from the input of faculty, students, and community members.
    1. Feedback is gathered from student organizations.
    2. There are two content coordinators
  - ix. How was the attendance?
    1. Alumni Hall wasn't full, but there were about 250-300 people.
  - x. Will GPSA be recognized as a sponsor?
    1. Yes, GPSA will be on the program and the sponsors are displayed on slides that are projected in Alumni Hall.
  - xi. How can GPSA get involved?
    1. Would love for graduate students to be speakers.
  - xii. There is a motion to vote via roll call. The motion is seconded.
  - xiii. The bill passes (see Addendum II – Roll Call Vote).
- c. Bill 66-15: Winter Gala 2016 Funding

- i. This is an annual event – a combined dance and dinner. The theme this year is Mediterranean.
  - ii. A food drive to benefit the Central County Food Bank or Lion Pantry will be held in conjunction with the Gala.
  - iii. Tickets will cost \$15.
  - iv. How many people attended last year?
    - 1. There were 150 tickets sold – it sold out.
  - v. Why isn't there a vegan option?
    - 1. The organizers have spoken with the vendor and there can be a vegan option at anyone's request.
  - vi. Will 200 people fit in the room?
    - 1. It's the same contract as last year, which was for 200 people.
  - vii. There is a motion to vote via roll call. The motion is seconded.
  - viii. The bill passes (see Addendum II – Roll Call Vote).
- d. Bill 66-17: Funding for PSU vs. MSU Challenge
  - i. The blood drive kick-off is October 31.
  - ii. Typically about 50 student orgs contribute to this blood drive.
  - iii. The committee is asking for \$4,000. In exchange, GPSA will be prominently displayed on the t-shirts (1,100 to be ordered).
  - iv. GPSA has been asked to advertise and encourage the blood drives.
  - v. Is there a flyer we could distribute?
    - 1. You can share the Facebook event.
    - 2. The Red Cross contact has a list of the events.
  - vi. You should donate blood and volunteer for the blood drive.
  - vii. There is a motion to vote via roll call. The motion is seconded.
  - viii. The bill passes (see Addendum II – Roll Call Vote).
- e. Resolution 66-03: Budget Voting
  - i. If you're requesting more than \$750, you have to do a roll call. For less than \$750, you can vote via unanimous consent.
  - ii. Why \$750?
    - 1. Currently the exec board can approve spending less than \$750.
  - iii. Can we vote via raise of hands? It only takes one person to object to unanimous consent, so why do we need this?
    - 1. The point of a roll call vote is to have everyone on record.
    - 2. According to Robert's rules, every bill with spending requires a roll call vote.
    - 3. This bill codifies a less stringent rule.
  - iv. James Fan motions to amend the bill to \$1500 limit. The motion is seconded.
  - v. The amendment passes.
  - vi. There is a motion to vote via roll call. The motion is seconded.
  - vii. The bill passes (see Addendum II – Roll Call Vote).
- f. Resolution 66-04: At-large Delegate Bylaw Change
  - i. If a delegate from a college resigns, the at-large delegate from that college will move to the college delegate.

- ii. If the delegate would like to remain at-large, for whatever reason, that is fine.
- iii. There is a motion to pass via unanimous consent. The motion is seconded.
- iv. The resolution passes.

**IX. Reports**

- a. Speaker of the Assembly (Lily Hill)
  - i. Nothing to report.
- b. Internal Development (Jordan Morris)
  - i. Nothing to report.
- c. Student Affairs (James Fan)
  - i. Professional Development (Christine Mosich)
    - 1. Dissertation Bootcamp had 49 attendees.
    - 2. We are considering changing the format from a week-long event to a 6-8 weekly.
    - 3. The committee is working to set up an opportunity for graduate students to have professional headshots taken.
  - ii. Community Service (Jennifer Gibbs)
    - 1. Arboretum asked for 15 volunteers to help with pumpkin festival.
    - 2. Thanksgiving basket drive
      - a. Check the Google doc for a list of drop-off locations and needed items.
      - b. The deadline is Friday, November 11
      - c. Also accept monetary donations
    - 3. About 73 people signed up for the October 31 blood drive.
  - iii. Programming (Brian Conway)
    - 1. Nothing to report.
  - iv. Diversity (Brienne Pragg)
    - 1. Community spotlight went well.
- d. Advocacy (Kevin Reuning)
  - i. The advocacy committee will be exploring the issue of a smoke-free campus, and whether GPSA should take a stance on the issue.
  - ii. The committee is also looking into bringing Sara Goldrick Rab to campus to speak about student debt.
  - iii. We still need someone to chair the healthcare subcommittee.
- e. Liaisons
  - i. Nothing to report
- f. Judiciary (Jeremy Johnson)
  - i. The judiciary will delay its report to the next meeting.
- g. Advisor (Dr. Phillip Burlingame)
  - i. On October 27 there will be a panel discussion from 7 to 9 p.m. titled [“The First Amendment and Diversity and Inclusion.”](#)
  - ii. Faculty in Pennsylvania’s public colleges and universities are on strike.

**X. Comments for the Good of the Order**

- a. This is the first strike among the faculty of Pennsylvania’s public colleges and universities; the union was founded in 1937.

- b. Delegates, please project when you are speaking. The acoustics in the room are bad, so those sitting in the back cannot hear.
- c. The financial literacy workshop is full.
- d. Welcome to the new delegates!

**XI. Adjournment**

- a. The meeting is adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Whitesell

## Addendum I. Roll Call Attendance

P = present

A = absent

E = excused

PR = proxy

Office	Name	Attendance
<b>Executive Board</b>		
President	Kevin Horne	P
Vice President	Marina Cotarelo	P
Treasurer	Sidharth Agrawal	P
Secretary	Anne Whitesell	P
Faculty Senator	Vacant	
<b>Graduate Council</b>		
Graduate Council	Brianne Pragg	P
Graduate Council	Morteza Karimzadeh	A
Graduate Council	Alison Franklin	E
Graduate Council	Carol Rogers-Shaw	A
Graduate Council	Shahrzad Jamshidi	P
<b>Judiciary</b>		
Chief Justice	Jeremy R. Johnson	P
Associate Justice	Jesse Scott	P
Associate Justice	Michael Kramer	P
<b>Assembly</b>		
Agricultural Sciences	Cameron Stephens	P
Dickinson School of Law	Fallon Dungan	E
Dickinson School of Law	Jordan D. Morris	p
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Michael Crotin	P
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Gerald Knapp	P
Eberly College of Science	William Wright	E/PR
Eberly College of Science	Brian Conway	P
Eberly College of Science	Erica Schwalm	P
Education	Xulu Zhang	E
Education	Christine Mosich	P

<b>Education</b>	Jinhee Choi	A
<b>Engineering</b>	John McKay	P
<b>Engineering</b>	Matt Krott	P
<b>Engineering</b>	Shen-li Pei	P
<b>Health and Human Development</b>	Austin Barrett	P
<b>Health and Human Development</b>	Samuel Masters	A
<b>Information Sciences and Technology</b>	Anthony Pinter	P
<b>Inter-Collegiate Degree Program</b>	Brittany Banik	P
<b>Inter-Collegiate Degree Program</b>	David Dopfel	A
<b>Inter-Collegiate Degree Program</b>	Lilian Hill	P
<b>School of International Affairs</b>	Jennifer Gibbs	P
<b>Liberal Arts</b>	Kevin Reuning	P
<b>Liberal Arts</b>	Robert Zuchowski	E/PR
<b>Liberal Arts</b>	Kyler Sherman-Wilkins	E
<b>Smeal College of Business</b>	Steven Di Grazia	P
<b>Smeal College of Business</b>	James Fan	P
<b>At-Large Delegate</b>	Mohammad Whaba	P
<b>At-Large Delegate</b>	Katharine Grills	P
<b>At-Large Delegate</b>	Sonny Arora	P
<b>At-Large Delegate</b>	William Dusch	P

## Addendum II. Roll Call Voting

Y = Yea      N = nay      A = abstain      --- = not present

Office	Name	Bill 66-15	Bill 66-16	Bill 66-17	Res. 66-03
<b>Assembly</b>					
<b>Agricultural Sciences</b>	Cameron Stephens	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Dickinson School of Law</b>	Fallon Dungan	---	---	---	---
<b>Dickinson School of Law</b>	Jordan D. Morris	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Earth and Mineral Sciences</b>	Michael Crotin	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Earth and Mineral Sciences</b>	Gerald Knapp	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Eberly College of Science</b>	William Wright	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Eberly College of Science</b>	Brian Conway	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Eberly College of Science</b>	Erica Schwalm	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Education</b>	Xulu Zhang	---	---	---	---
<b>Education</b>	Christine Mosich	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Education</b>	Jinhee Choi	---	---	---	---
<b>Engineering</b>	John McKay	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Engineering</b>	Matt Krott	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Engineering</b>	Shen-li Pei	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Health and Human Development</b>	Austin Barrett	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Health and Human Development</b>	Samuel Masters				
<b>Information Sciences and Technology</b>	Anthony Pinter	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Inter-Collegiate Degree Program</b>	Brittany Banik	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Inter-Collegiate Degree Program</b>	David Dopfel	---	---	---	---
<b>Inter-Collegiate Degree Program</b>	Lilian Hill	Y	Y	Y	A
<b>School of International Affairs</b>	Jennifer Gibbs	Y	Y	Y	Y

<b>Liberal Arts</b>	Kevin Reuning	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Liberal Arts</b>	Robert Zuchowski	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Liberal Arts</b>	Kyler Sherman-Wilkins	---	---	---	---
<b>Smeal College of Business</b>	Steven Di Grazia	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Smeal College of Business</b>	James Fan	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>At-Large Delegate</b>	Mohammad Whaba	Y	Y	---	Y
<b>At-Large Delegate</b>	Katharine Grills	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>At-Large Delegate</b>	Sonny Arora	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>At-Large Delegate</b>	William Dusch	Y	Y	Y	Y