



# 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, September 21, 2016 | 5:00pm | Oak Building

- I. Call to Order**
  - a. The meeting is called to order by the Executive Vice President at 5:05 p.m.
- II. Roll Call – See Addendum I**
- III. Adoption of the Agenda**
  - a. Motion to amend the agenda to include the special presentation by Paul Clifford.
  - b. Hearing no objections, the agenda is amended.
- 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 student comments.
- VI. Special Presentation by Chief Executive Officer of Alumni Association, Paul J. Clifford**
  - a. Mr. Clifford is a native of Hazleton, PA, and has managed Alumni Associations all over the country for over 20 years.
  - b. Penn State has 658,000 alumni worldwide, with 1760,000 dues-paying members, making us the largest alumni network in the world. The next largest is University of Michigan.
  - c. The Alumni Association has more than 310 affiliate groups, over 3,000 volunteers, and a budget of over \$11 million.
  - d. The Penn State experience is more differentiated – the University grants degrees across the Commonwealth, and to students beyond Pennsylvania through the World Campus.
  - e. What is the alumni association known for?
    - i. Build and sustain life-long relationships.
    - ii. The Penn State network is one of the primary reasons people come to Penn State (along with affordability, academics).
    - iii. Spreading the good news of Penn State alumni.
    - iv. Support and enhance the student experience.
    - v. Celebrate academic achievement.
    - vi. Uphold tradition and sustain spirit.
  - f. We build loyalty by connecting alumni to the reasons they love Penn State.
  - g. Penn Staters advocating for Penn State makes higher education better. When Penn State receives more funding, all state universities receive more funding.
  - h. Leaders of Volunteer Engagement – how do we leverage alumni who want to be volunteers?
    - i. How are we connecting them with Deans?
    - ii. How are we engaging them with athletics?

- i. Questions
  - i. What is the alumni association's approach on attracting grad student alumni?
    - 1. We have to clearly articulate what being part of the alumni association does for you and for the University. It used to be more about pride and being a Penn Stater.
  - ii. Shouldn't the graduate students continue to be involved in GSAS?
    - 1. The best way to get alumni involved is to get them involved as students, and continue that engagement.
  - iii. Where can students get information on how to get involved?
    - 1. There isn't a form you can fill out yet. We need to develop better systems to place people in activities at a mass level.
    - 2. Students can start with the Alumni Association, and they can be connected to affiliate groups.
  - iv. If there are 177,000 dues-paying volunteers, is 3,000 volunteers a low number?
    - 1. That 3,000 number includes those who volunteer in an official capacity – e.g. serve on boards, mentor students.
    - 2. It doesn't include all the alumni who come to events.
  - v. Can graduate students become involved in Lion Ambassadors?
    - 1. I believe the guidelines state that ambassadors have to be a sophomore or junior.
  - vi. How do you engage international alumni?
    - 1. I'm surprised at the low number of alumni that live abroad – about 10,000 – but we do have contacts all around the world.
    - 2. Jennifer Tice in President Barron's office is responsible for global engagement, so the Alumni Association works with her.
  - vii. Are the sub-groups mostly regional?
    - 1. The majority are location-based, but there are many special interest groups.
    - 2. There are college-specific groups, Blue Band group, Student Government group, etc.

## **VII. Executive Officer Reports**

- a. President (Kevin Horne)
  - i. Board of Trustees
    - 1. Kevin will serve on the Legal & Compliance committee – the first time a non-trustee student will serve on the committee, following Board of Trustee Chair Ira Lubert's decision to give GPSA an additional seat.
    - 2. During the public portion of the meeting, we heard presentations from compliance officers about the status of various programs.
    - 3. Kevin inquired about all the new training student employees must undergo to receive a paycheck. He was assured that since that time many of the new background checks and training programs have become quicker and more efficient.
  - ii. State of State

1. Kevin met with executives from State of State; it seems likely that they will extend graduate students speaking slots at the conference, or at least ensure that issues specific to graduate students are part of the discussion.
  2. They are also interested in a co-sponsorship of some sort.
- iii. Diversity Memorial Committee
1. President Barron unveiled his "We Are All In" campaign for diversity and inclusion at the board meeting.
  2. One initiative that is already in progress is the creation of some sort of sculpture/statue/public art piece on campus to celebrate diversity and inclusion at Penn State. Kevin is on this committee, and it met last week for the second time.
  3. There is a push to start soliciting bids for designs soon so it can be completed by summer 2017, but the timeline (and general direction of the project) is still very much in flux.
- iv. Upcoming
1. Meeting with LionPATH execs September 22.
  2. Meeting with administrators (Damon Sims, Tom Poole, Nick Jones, David Gray) on Friday, September 23 to discuss joint-SGA initiatives for the year.
  3. GPSA Executive Board is meeting at 6 p.m. on September 28 in the GPSA Office. It is open for anyone to observe.
- b. Vice President (Marina Cotarelo): Nothing to report.
- c. Treasurer (Sidharth Agrawal)
- i. Budget Summary
    1. Total Receipts = \$ 0.00 (The allocation has not been credited to our account yet)
    2. Total Expenses = \$ 1,425.84 (As on 09.21.2016, does not include bills/receipts/POs in process)
    3. Open purchase orders = \$ 8,305.25 (Includes POs from previous year as well)
  - ii. University Libraries Graduate Advisory Group
    1. The first meeting of this semester convened on 09.20.2016.
    2. Tentative projects to be taken up during the year - Space Planning for Pattee Library (Renovation in next few years), Libraries strategic action plan, Libraries website design, Possible programming to help Teaching Assistants, Programs to help graduate students and scholars to establish their online presence. (If you have any ideas that could be brought up to the committee for discussion, please feel free to share it with me).
    3. Brought up possible collaboration for Dissertation Boot Camp. The group seemed interested and will discuss more about it in subsequent meetings. (Collaboration might be possible for Spring Boot Camp).
- d. Secretary (Anne Whitesell): Nothing to report.
- e. Faculty Senate (Azita Ranjbar): Nothing to report.
- f. Graduate Council (Morteza Karimzadeh): Nothing to report.

## **VIII. New Business**

- a. Bill 66-08 Outdoor Workday: Mid State Trail Maintenance
  - i. They need about 12 volunteers; the co-sponsors of the bill are asking for \$100 for food.
  - ii. Will it be enough money though? They will be working for 6 hours.
  - iii. Move to amend the bill, add \$50 for miscellaneous items.
  - iv. Move to amend the bill, change date to September 21, 2016
  - v. Motion to approve bill via roll call; the motion is seconded.
  - vi. The bill passes (see Addendum II).
- b. Bill 66-09 Science Policy Society Town Hall Co-Sponsorship
  - i. The Science Policy Society is bringing in Dr. Rush Holt for a town hall, along with smaller one-on-one events, roundtables, etc.
  - ii. The town hall will be held on October 13 at 7pm, and will also include Dr. Michael Mann and Dr. Peter Hudson.
  - iii. Brian has been attending the planning meetings, and the Huck advisory board contacted the GPSA.
  - iv. The amount may not be accurate because we are a student organization and therefore may receive a discount on the room rental.
  - v. Motion to approve bill via roll call; the motion is seconded.
  - vi. The bill passes (see Addendum II).
- c. Bill 66-10 Fall Dissertation Boot Camp Spending Bill
  - i. Traditionally the boot camp is held in the library, but because of changes in the reservation system, there were no available spaces.
  - ii. This fall the boot camp will be held in HUB 129 B&C.
  - iii. When will the reservation process begin?
    1. As soon as the form is finalized and emails are sent to graduate students.
  - iv. For the spring semester, it may work better for GPSA to work with the library to guarantee the space.
  - v. There is a move to change the date on the bill to September 21, 2016.
  - vi. Motion to approve the bill via roll call vote; the motion is approved.
  - vii. The bill passes (see Addendum II).

## **IX. Reports**

- a. Speaker of the Assembly (Lillian Hill)
  - i. It would be great if we could get volunteers for the dissertation boot camp.
- b. Internal Development (Jordan Morris)
  - i. The committee is developing guidelines for how to get events on the GPSA calendar and on the Facebook page.
- c. Student Affairs
  - i. Community Service Subcommittee (Steven DeGrazia):
    1. The subcommittee is getting in touch with the Red Cross to co-sponsor the PSU-Michigan State blood drive.
    2. The subcommittee is also planning activities at the Arboretum.
- d. Advocacy (Kevin Reuning): Nothing to report
- e. Liaisons

- i. Movin' On will be sending out a survey to gauge interest. The committee goes to UPAC on Tuesday to find out the budget for the event.
- f. Dr. Phil Burlingame
  - i. "All In at Penn State" diversity initiative to begin October 6.

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

- a. None

**XI. Adjournment**

- a. The meeting is adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Whitesell

## Addendum I. Attendance

P = present

PR = proxy

L = late

A = absent

E = excused absence

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	Azita Ranjbar	E
Graduate Council	Brianne Pragg	E
Graduate Council	Morteza Karimzadeh	E
Graduate Council	Alison Franklin	E
Graduate Council	Carol Rogers-Shaw	E
Graduate Council	Shahzrad Jamshidi	E
<b>Judiciary</b>		
Chief Justice	Jeremy R. Johnson	E
Associate Justice	Jesse Scott	P
Associate Justice	Michael Kramer	P
<b>Assembly</b>		
Agricultural Sciences	Meredith Field	P
Agricultural Sciences	vacant	---
Art & Architecture	Vacant	---
Communications	Vacant	---
Dickinson School of Law	Vacant	---
Dickinson School of Law	Fallon Dungan	E
Dickinson School of Law	Jordan D. Morris	E
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Vacant	---
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Vacant	---
Eberly College of Science	William Wright	P
Eberly College of Science	Brian Conway	P
Eberly College of Science	Erica Schwalm	P

Education	Xulu Zhang	E
Education	Colleen Unroe	E
Education	Jinhee Choi	E
Engineering	John McKay	E
Engineering	Matt Krott	P
Engineering	vacant	
Health and Human Development	Austin Barrett	E/PR
Health and Human Development	Samuel Masters	E
Information Sciences and Technology	Anthony Pinter	P
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Brittany Banik	E/PR
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	David Dopfel	P
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Lillian Hill	P
School of International Affairs	Jennifer Gibbs	P
Liberal Arts	Kevin Reuning	E
Liberal Arts	Robert Zuchowski	E
Liberal Arts	Kyler Sherman-Wilkins	E
Smeal College of Business	Steven Di Grazia	P
Smeal College of Business	James Fan	L
Smeal College of Business	Vacant	---
At-Large Delegate	Mohammad Whaba	P
At-Large Delegate	Christine Mosich	P
At-Large Delegate	William Dusch	P
At-Large Delegate	Sonny Arora	P
At-Large Delegate	Vacant	---

## Addendum II. Roll Call Vote

Office	Name	Bill 66-08	Bill 66-09	Bill 66-10
<b>Assembly</b>				
Agricultural Sciences	Meredith Field	Y	Y	Y
Agricultural Sciences	Vacant	---	---	---
Art & Architecture	Vacant	---	---	---
Communications	Vacant	---	---	---
Dickinson School of Law	Vacant	---	---	---
Dickinson School of Law	Fallon Dungan	---	---	---
Dickinson School of Law	Jordan D. Morris	---	---	---
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Vacant	---	---	---
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Vacant	---	---	---
Eberly College of Science	William Wright	Y	Y	Y
Eberly College of Science	Brian Conway	Y	Y	Y
Eberly College of Science	Erica Schwalm	Y	Y	Y
Education	Xulu Zhang	---	---	---
Education	Colleen Unroe	---	---	---
Education	Jinhee Choi	---	---	---
Engineering	John McKay	---	---	---
Engineering	Matt Krott	Y	Y	Y
Engineering	Vacant			
Health and Human Development	Austin Barrett	Y	Y	Y
Health and Human Development	Samuel Masters	---	---	---
Information Sciences and Technology	Anthony Pinter	Y	Y	Y
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Brittany Banik	Y	Y	Y
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	David Dopfel	Y	Y	Y
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Lillian Hill	Y	Y	Y



School of International Affairs	Jennifer Gibbs	Y	Y	Y
Liberal Arts	Kevin Reuning	---	---	---
Liberal Arts	Robert Zuchowski	---	---	---
Liberal Arts	Kyler Sherman-Wilkins	---	---	---
Smeal College of Business	Steven Di Grazia	Y	Y	Y
Smeal College of Business	James Fan	Y	Y	Y
Smeal College of Business	Vacant	---	---	---
At-Large Delegate	Mohammad Whaba	Y	Y	Y
At-Large Delegate	Christine Mosich	Y	Y	Y
At-Large Delegate	William Dusch	Y	Y	Y
At-Large Delegate	Sonny Arora	Y	Y	Y
At-Large Delegate	Vacant	---	---	---