



# Graduate and Professional Student Association

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

GPSA 68 <sup>th</sup> Assembly Meeting	Wednesday, August 29, 2018	6:00 pm	134 HUB-Robeson
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## Action Items

- All delegates will respond to their committee chairs to schedule regular committee meetings
- One delegate will become liaison to Student Legal Services; contact Stephanie if interested
- Up to three GPSA representatives will attend All-U Day football game; contact Brienne if interested
- Maria (GPSA Communications Manager) will keep track of GPSA office scheduling; contact Maria if intending to reserve the office for GPSA business

## Bills Passed

- None

## Minutes

- I. Call to Order
  - a. Meeting called to order by the vice president at 6:02pm
- II. Roll Call – See Addendum I
- III. Adoption of the Agenda
  - a. Motion to adopt the agenda; motion is adopted
- IV. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes from 4/25
  - a. Motion to approve past meeting minute; approval carries
- V. Open Student Forum
  - a. Kyle – here to observe
- VI. Special Presentation— Cathi Alloway, Director, Schlow Library
  - a. Schlow has resources for graduate students, but also their significant others and children
  - b. Accept Penn State library cards
    - i. Give free cards to anyone with PA residency; apply online or use mobile app
  - c. Services
    - i. Board games
    - ii. Children’s department
    - iii. Audiobooks, magazines, downloadable resources
    - iv. Language learning services
    - v. Early literacy programs
    - vi. Return Schlow books to PSU and vice-versa; drop-offs at Giant and other locations
  - d. Questions
    - i. Brienne: do you accept book donations?
      1. To a limited extent; we only accept new, good-condition books
      2. Older books should be donated to community organizations

- ii. What are the hours of operation?
    - 1. Hours listed on website (closed Labor Day weekend, then shifting to fall semester hours)
  - iii. Mikaela: How do you access online resources?
    - 1. Apply for online library card, use login on website or mobile app
  - iv. Limits on book rentals?
    - 1. No limits on physical books, very reasonable limits on eBooks
- VII. Executive Officer Reports
- a. President—Brienne Pragg
    - i. Brienne spoke with Sarah Ades, guest speaker from last meeting, who is planning a professional development task force
      - 1. Trying to get input from GPSA and department-level GSAs
      - 2. Brienne will be connecting professional development committee with her
    - ii. If you need to reserve the GPSA office for GPSA business, reach out to Maria Evangelou (GPSA communications manager)
      - 1. Maria will keep track on the internal GPSA calendar
    - iii. We've been invited to send representatives to All-U Day
      - 1. Walk across football game field at halftime
      - 2. Sept 15 against Kent State
      - 3. Brienne will not participate for ethical reasons
      - 4. Contact Brienne by Friday if interested; 2 representatives and an alternate
      - 5. Need to have season tickets or buy your own ticket for \$40
  - b. Vice President—Stephanie Winkler
    - i. Stephanie thanks everyone who volunteered for new student orientations
    - ii. Student legal services contacted us about a liaison position; contact Stephanie if interested
  - c. Treasurer—Alex Zhao
    - i. We do not yet have our allocation for the year
    - ii. Question: when do we get new allocation?
      - 1. Last year it was in November
  - d. Secretary—Nick Dietrich
    - i. 500+ new newswire subscribers
    - ii. David: how many total subscribers?
      - 1. Two to three thousand, many probably graduated and did not unsubscribe
  - e. Faculty Senate—Carmen Vanderhoof
    - i. Has not met yet
  - f. Graduate Council—Claire Kelling
    - i. Nothing to report
- VIII. New Business
- a. New Delegate Confirmation
    - i. Steven Baksa
      - 1. Earth and Mineral Sciences
      - 2. Community outreach, internal development
      - 3. Heard about opening from graduate school orientation, cares about student government
      - 4. First year student
    - ii. Azaria Cunningham
      - 1. Education

2. Professional development
3. Heard at graduate orientation that there was an opening
4. First year student
- iii. Alena Ricci
  1. International Affairs
  2. GPSA liaison for SIA GSA
- iv. Terry Torres-Cruz
  1. At-large delegate from Plant Pathology
  2. Community outreach, programming
  3. Heard from Alex Zhao at orientation
- v. Nicole Rufo
  1. Nursing
  2. Programming
  3. Replacing previous nursing delegate
- vi. Discussion
  1. Brianne met with all these delegates; stipulated that advocacy committee delegates must also serve on another committee
    - a They all had initiatives and they were interested in
    - b Many are first-year students who do not have an opportunity to run in our elections
- vii. David motions to approve by unanimous consent as a slate
  1. Seconded
  2. Delegates are approved

## IX. Reports

- a. Speaker of the Assembly – Sailahari Ponnaluri
  - i. For new delegates: Sailahari is the go-to person for delegates
  - ii. Lots of interest in GPSA at orientation
- b. Committees
  - i. Advocacy and Human Diversity – Mikaela Westhoff
    1. Had first committee meeting today
    2. Information for student parents initiative
      - a Gathering resources and information
    3. Resources on services available for traditionally underrepresented groups
      - a First doing university-wide options, then compiling college-specific resources
    4. Following Title IX director hiring; sat in on interviews
      - a Decision has already been made
    5. Office of Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response (OSMPR) director interviews
      - a Decision not yet made
    6. Prioritizing graduate student mental health
      - a Red folder initiative follow-up
      - b Compiling resources for mental health services
      - c CAPS guest speaker next assembly meeting
    7. Possible panel on gender harassment
      - a Reviewing current university policies
    8. Advocacy committee members should stay after this meeting to work out regular meeting schedule

9. Questions
  - a Sailahari: delegates are required to respond to committee chairs and read Slack messages
- ii. Professional Development – Bagmi Das (Absent; representing GPSA at LionBASH)
  1. Sailahari: Professional development will be working with Sarah Ades
    - a Fall and spring career fairs have recruiters for graduate students, but graduate students largely do not make use of these resources
- iii. Programming- Charlie Wolstenholme
  1. Trying to book pavilion for welcome back picnic; waiting on necessary insurance confirmation from the university
  2. Anyone interested please stay after the meeting to schedule programming committee meetings
- iv. Community Service – Charles Tierney (Absent; representing GPSA at LionBASH)
  1. Brianne: Partnering with UPUA to do PSU Votes week at the end of September
    - a Voter registration, other civic participation services
    - b UPUA puts this on every year
  2. Sailahari: traditionally we have not spent any money on community outreach
    - a Open to new initiatives
  3. Questions
    - a Are we organizing PSU Votes or just volunteering?
      - i Brianne: it is mostly volunteering; UPUA organizes. Ask Charles for details
- v. Internal Development – David Dopfel
  1. Surveying past GPSA delegates about advice and ongoing initiatives
    - a Roughly 7 responses; half of those are still here
    - b One respondent was apathetic about GPSA and reported lack of interest in their department
    - c Respondents were frustrated with lack of knowledge in GPSA and unsure how to get new projects started
    - d David suggests that new delegates with ideas should reach out to him or other chairs and executive board members
  2. Questions
    - a Sailahari: there's a delegate handbook with resources and we will be collecting feedback after events
      - i David urges the assembly to please fill out these feedback forms
    - b Kyle (see open student forum): what relationship exists between University Alumni Relations and GPSA
      - i Brianne is on the alumni council; we primarily work with the graduate school
      - ii Brianne: we advise the university on several different committees; will talk to Kyle afterwards if interested
- c. Liaisons
- d. Judiciary—The Honorable Eric Flagg (Absent—Proxy Ellen Hill)
  - i. Eric is teaching Street Law; has a scheduling conflict
  - ii. Looking into proportional representation adjustments based on actual enrollment
  - iii. Trying to replace Jesse Scott
    1. Not much interested from law school contacts

- e. Student Trustee – Mike Hoeschele (Absent)
  - i. Stephanie and Brienne will attend Board of Trustees meeting in two weeks
- f. Advisor—Adam Christensen
  - i. Adam urges GPSA to keep engagement high; it has an impact when we show up and represent GPSA on advisory boards
- X. Comments for the Good of the Order
- XI. Adjournment
  - a. Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm

**Addendum I: Roll Call Attendance**

P = Present      A = Absent      E = Excused      PR = Proxy      L = Late

Position	Name	Attendance
<b>Executive Board</b>		
President	Brianne Pragg	P
Vice President	Stephanie Winkler	P
Secretary	Nick Dietrich	P
Treasurer	Alex Zhao	P
Faculty Senator	Carmen Vanderhoof	P
<b>Judiciary</b>		
Chief Justice	Eric Flagg (Law)	E
Associate Justice	Ellen Hill (Law)	P
Associate Justice	Jesse Scott (Engineering)	P
<b>Graduate Council</b>		
Graduate Council	Liana Glew (Liberal Arts)	P
Graduate Council	August Jenkins (HHD)	A
Graduate Council	Claire Keiling (Science)	P
Graduate Council	Logan Rutten (Education)	E
Graduate Council	Alexander Wilson-Heid (IGDP)	P
<b>Assembly</b>		
Agricultural Sciences	Amanda Burton (Mandy)	P
Agricultural Sciences	Megan Griffin	P
Art & Architecture	Siavash Varasteh-Vala	P
Communications	Lars Stoltzfus-Brown	P
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Harrison Cole	A
Earth and Mineral Sciences		
Eberly College of Science	Charlie Wolstenholme	P
Eberly College of Science	Hui Zheng	E
Eberly College of Science		
Education	Bagmi Das	E
Education	Hye-Su Kuk	A
Education		
Engineering	Keerti Prakash (KP)	P

Engineering	Shawn Siroka	P
Engineering	Charles Tierney	E
Health and Human Development	Abigail Keim	P
Health and Human Development	Michael Lin	E
Information Sciences and Technology	Tiffany Knearem	P
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	David Dopfel	P
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Sailahari Ponnaluri	P
Liberal Arts	Trevor Bero	P
Liberal Arts	Jerome Clarke	A
Liberal Arts	Mikaela Westhoff	P
Nursing		
School of International Affairs		
Schools of Law	Shanjida Chowhury	A
Schools of Law	Tracy Wong	A
Smeal College of Business		
At-Large Delegate	Irving Evans	A