GPSA 68th Assembly Meeting | Wednesday, September 26, 2018 | 6:00 pm | 108 Wartik

**Action Items**

- Carmen will distribute a survey to gauge opinions on proposed faculty senate syllabus policy change
  - Delegates will respond to the survey on the Slack general channel
- Adam will contact Charlie regarding whether we need to include a liability waiver for an outdoor hike
- Interested delegates will contact Stephanie about positions that still need liaisons
  - CCSG
  - Graduate exhibition committee
  - Childcare Subsidy

**Bills Passed**

- Bill 68-10: Professional Development Workshops
- Bill 68-11: Fall Foliage Hike
- Bill 68-12: Family Friendly Tailgate

**Agenda**

I. Call to Order
   a. Meeting called to order by the Speaker of the Assembly, filling in for the Vice President, at 6:02 pm

II. Roll Call – See Addendum I

III. Adoption of the Agenda
   a. Motion; the agenda is adopted

IV. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes from 9/12
   a. Motion; past meeting minutes approved

V. Open Student Forum
   a. Ninon Nelson – Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG)
      i. CCSG would like a GPSA liaison to update them during council meetings

VI. Special Presentation— Cheryl Zeljak, Program Coordinator, Student Parent Childcare Subsidy Program
   a. Service available for students with young children
   b. Administered under HR
   c. Has picked up in last several years: has a full-time coordinator, one of the top programs in the country for student child subsidy
   d. Eight child care centers across the state, with three in University Park
   e. Eligibility
      i. Full-time degree-seeking students
      ii. Provide 75% of childcare expenses
      iii. Income threshold for eligibility based on poverty line
1. Work requirement for spouses, waiver available
2. Volunteer requirement
3. Must be in good academic standing (3.0 for graduate, 2.5 for undergraduate)
   a. This requirement came from the Department of Education grant, may be removed in the future
4. 601/610/611 students still eligible despite student fee funding

iv. Funding
1. UP student fees
2. Contributions by other campuses
3. Funded by federal Department of Education from 2001 to 2013

v. Funds roughly $5,000 per student, most of whom are graduate students
1. Available on 11 campuses, looking to expand to all campuses

VII. Executive Officer Reports

a. President—Brianne Pragg
   i. We still need proxies for grad council; typically available 3:30-5pm Wednesdays
      1. Charles and Jerome volunteer 😊
   ii. We need liaisons for committees
      1. Child subsidy committee; first meeting Monday Oct 22, 3:30-4:30pm
         a. Brianne formerly served and found it rewarding
         b. We changed eligibility rules to allow 601/610/611 students
      2. Graduate exhibition committee
         a. Meets once a month October through May
         b. Exhibition is in March
         c. First meeting October 17 from 1:30-3pm
      3. CCSG liaison
         a. Meet once per month on Saturdays from 10-11am; next October 6
         b. Would update CCSG on GPSA business

b. Vice President—Stephanie Winkler
   i. Absent

c. Treasurer—Alex Zhao
   i. We got our allocation for ~$64,000
   ii. About $5,000 more than last year
   iii. Questions:
      1. Alex Wilson-Heid: Why did our allocation increase over last year?
         a. We were not given a rationale for the allocation change
         b. Brianne will discuss with administrators
         c. With holdover from last year, we have nearly $70,000 for the year

d. Secretary—Nick Dietrich
   i. Thanks for sending things to the newswire Slack channel
   ii. Would like to work more on publicizing our advocacy
      1. Please post policy updates from liaison positions, grad council, or faculty senate

e. Faculty Senate—Carmen Vanderhoof
   i. Working on red folder distribution
   ii. Tenure rates by gender and race
   iii. Changing warnings on what counts as “consensual relationships” for our policy
      1. Currently they are allowed but discouraged and must be reported
      2. Do not account for power imbalances
iv. Small changes to faculty senate procedures
   1. Aligned university and major requirements for undergraduates
v. Considering syllabus rules change
   1. Three items need to be present:
      a. Disability resources
      b. Educational equity and report bias
      c. Counseling and Psychological services
   2. Currently these can be covered with a link; considering change to include link
      and full paragraphs
   3. Carmen will be distributing a survey about the policy change
   4. Questions:
      a. Alex Wilson-Heid: do you anticipate professors copy and pasting this?
         i. Yes
      b. Sailahari: What’s the opposition?
         i. Undergraduates are opposed because paragraphs are harder to update than a link
         ii. Carmen proposed making this a pre-registration activity, but this was rejected
      c. Bagmi: in our department we already put these in
         i. This could add length to syllabi
      d. David: Is there any evidence about effectiveness of the paragraphs or link?
         i. Students are told at orientation, but repetition is probably helpful
         ii. It's very hard to measure effectiveness
         iii. Claire: when it’s on the syllabus it can be easily found when needed
   5. At October meeting:
      a. Medical school sexual harassment survey at Hershey
      b. Equity review of task force report
f. Graduate Council—Claire Kelling
   i. Graduate council has not yet met
VIII. New Business
   a. New Delegate Confirmation
      i. Emma Van Burns – Eberly
         1. Chemistry Dept
         2. Programming committee
      ii. Ash Gillis – At-Large
         1. Psychology Dept
         2. Internal Development
      iii. Questions
         1. Alex Wilson-Heid: How did you find out about GPSA?
            a. Ash knows Nathan and Brianne
            b. Emma sees our emails and has been talking with current members for a while
   iv. Discussion
      1. Brianne:
a. Ash is involved in LGBTQ issues
b. Emma reads the newswire – Wow!
c. They both want to join committees that need members

v. David motions to approve by unanimous consent as a slate
   1. Seconded; motion carries

b. Bill 68-09 Professional Development Workshops – Bagmi
   i. Four workshops – Oct, Dec, Jan, Feb
      1. Financial Literacy 101, Budgeting, Resume/CV, Job Talks
      2. Bill asks for funding for Papa John’s pizzas
         a. Hopes to copy Charlie’s success at vegan and gluten free options
   ii. Questions
      1. Alex Wilson-Heid: how has attendance been in the past?
         a. Max of 40 in the past, but that was when it was the same workshop repeated; this year we have four different workshops
         b. Plan to advertise on Facebook and collaborate with Graduate School
   iii. Discussion
   iv. Steven motions to approve the bill by unanimous consent
      1. Seconded; bill passes

c. Bill 68-10 Fall Foliage Hike – Charlie
   i. Bill requests funding to provide granola bars and bottled waters
   ii. Would like to get graduate students outside
   iii. Timing
      1. Weekend of 6th or 20th, depending on weather
      2. Trying to time hike for when the leaves change color
      3. Avoid home football weekends
   iv. Short and long route groups
   v. Questions
      1. Mandy: What will we do about rain date?
         a. Would push from Saturday to Sunday
         b. It’s possible that it rains all of October in which case we will have to cancel
         c. Mandy suggests setting it for the earlier weekend and pushing it back if needed
      2. Tiffany: How do you get there?
         a. Charlie will not provide transportation, but might suggest carpooling
         b. Bagmi: CATA’s M bus route stops there
            i. Charlie is willing to schedule the start to coincide with the M bus
      3. Carmen: this route might be too difficult for young children
         a. Charlie might make an age limit
      4. Ash: how will you transport the water bottles up the mountain?
         a. Charlie will distribute in parking area
         b. Ash suggests a more environmentally friendly way to distribute water
         c. This might be logistically difficult, but Charlie is willing to bring gallons of water and encourage people to bring reusable bottles
      5. Alex Wilson-Heid suggests bringing trash bags and picking up
   vi. Discussion
      1. Lars is concerned about limited parking at this trailhead
a. We will need to encourage carpooling
b. Charles: let's facilitate carpooling in the facebook event

2. Steven asks whether we should allocate money specifically for garbage bags
a. Charlie thinks he can buy garbage bags within the current cost of the bill

3. Lars: do we need a plan for first aid or emergencies?
a. Alex Zhao notes that we have first aid gear in the GPSA office
b. Charlie is certified to provide first aid

4. Brianne asks Adam whether we need liability language
   a. Adam will look into it and get back to us

vii. Motion to approve the bill by unanimous consent
   a. Seconded; bill passes

d. Bill 68-11 Family Friendly Tailgate – Terry and Charlie
   i. Tailgate alternative at Orchard Park, away from campus
   ii. Similar food; adding pavilion rental and portable music speakers
   iii. Iowa game on October 27
   iv. Charlie: the plan is to have both football tailgate and alternative tailgate at same game
      1. The game will be a less heavily trafficked one

v. Questions
   1. Charles: will you watch or listen to the game?
      a. They generally shut down tailgating when the game starts

vi. Discussion
   1. Sailahari: were you able to get volunteers?
      a. Programming is already busy staffing the other tailgate; need others to help out
      b. It will be a small commitment: set up, clean up, maybe pavilion rental
      c. Need maybe two volunteers
   2. Alex Wilson-Heid: Is it a bad idea to have two events at the same time?
      a. Charlie doesn't think that the demographics really overlap
      b. If we have them on two different days, the football tailgate people might change the atmosphere of the alternative tailgate

vii. Motion to approve the bill by unanimous consent
   1. Seconded; bill passes

IX. Reports
   a. Speaker of the Assembly – Sailahari Ponnaluri
      i. Let's use our allocation to put on events and benefit our constituents
   
   b. Committees
      i. Advocacy and Human Diversity – Mikaela Westhoff (Claire gives report)
         1. Gathering department-level equity resources
         2. Gathering more information from med students regarding the Hershey campus sexual harassment survey
         3. University climate survey: will be comprehensive with students, faculty, and staff represented
            a. Considering what we want to ask
      ii. Professional Development – Bagmi Das
         1. Nothing to report
      iii. Programming- Charlie Wolstenholme
         1. Fall picnic had a good turnout
a Charlie thanks everyone from the assembly that came
b We should all show up to these events and interact with our constituents; face-to-face interactions are important
2. Booking Nittany Lion Inn ballroom for winter gala
3. Looking into free improv show for graduate students at state theater
4. Best way to advertise our events is through facebook, but difficult to invite everyone who might be interested
   a Please friend Charlie on facebook
      i Then you can invite your constituents
5. Programming is always looking for help and new ideas
iv. Community Service – Charles Tierney
   1. PSU Vote Week
      a Find people at Pollock and HUB to register to vote
      b We had volunteers to cover shifts, mostly Terry, Steven, and Charles, with undergraduates helping out where needed
      c Gerrymandering Panel discussion this week
         i Friend Charles on facebook
         ii Please share the event on your timeline
         iii 7 going, 33 interested
   2. Looking into graduate school panel
   3. Questions:
      a Brianne made a $20 executive expense to boost the Gerrymandering Panel event
         i Monitoring effectiveness of boosting posts; possibility for advertising future events
   v. Internal Development – David Dopfel
      1. Judiciary made a recommendation on enrollment numbers
      2. Looking into clarifying language to specify that we represent University Park graduate and professional student (because we are funded through UP student fees)
c. Liaisons
   i. Student Health Insurance Advisory Board – Lars
      1. Looking into addressing discrepancies in graduate vs. undergraduate insurance costs
   ii. Stand for State – Claire
      1. Bystander intervention: need more graduate students
d. Judiciary—The Honorable Eric Flagg
   i. Nothing to report
e. Student Trustee – Mike Hoeschele
   i. Senior undergraduate majoring in Nuclear Engineering
   ii. Voting member – codified student seat
   iii. Happy to answer questions – please reach out if you have comments on issues
   iv. Questions
      1. Alex Wilson-Heid: do you have any goals for the year?
         a Pick out a great successor (term over July 1)
         b Trying to get exposure to as many student orgs as possible
      2. Steven: Goals of the student affordability task force?
         a Identify cost-drivers for university at request of board leadership
b. Oversight for university spending
   3. Nick: Has the student affordability task force addressed strategies to avoid future tuition increases?
   a. Freeze in in-state tuition in July following an increase in state allocation
f. Advisor—Adam Christensen
   i. Change in student fee policy: now assessed for 601 students and students with assistantships
   ii. Alex Zhao: why the policy change when our tuition is already paid by the school?
      1. Tuition isn’t always paid by the school
      2. Affects grant funding
      3. Still matters for accounting even when different university departments pay one another
      4. This was about $2.5 million in funding

X. Comments for the Good of the Order
   a. Alex: Bills are numbered incorrectly
   b. Bagmi motions to reopen the agenda and amend the bill numbers
      i. Seconded; motion passes
   c. Steven: What does the university do on election day to encourage people to vote?
      i. Steven was told that the university had voting booths during 2016 election
      ii. Charles: if you live on campus, the HUB is your polling location
          1. There are concerns about long lines
          2. UPUA is working on this issue
          3. If you live off campus, this doesn’t affect you
   d. Nick: Fee Board is considering changes to UPAC funding rules for research travel
      i. Some of the assembly have received UPAC travel funding
      ii. Alex Zhao thinks the distinction between research and fundable travel expenses needs to be changed
          1. Others agree

XI. Adjournment
   a. Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm
## Addendum I – Roll Call Attendance

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<td>Brianne Pragg</td>
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