



# Graduate and Professional Student Association

The Pennsylvania State University  
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University Park, PA 16802  
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GPSA 68 <sup>th</sup> Assembly Meeting	Wednesday, September 26, 2018	6:00 pm	108 Wartik
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## 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 6:02pm
- 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—Brienne 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 Brienne 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 Brienne 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 6<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 covers 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



Addendum I – Roll Call Attendance

P = present      A = absent      E = excused      PR = proxy      L = late

Office	Name	26-Sept
<b>Executive Board</b>		
President	Brianne Pragg	P
Vice President	Stephanie Winkler	E
Secretary	Nick Dietrich	P
Treasurer	Alex Zhao	L
Faculty Senator	Carmen Vanderhoof	P
<b>Judiciary</b>		
Chief Justice	Eric Flagg (Law)	E
Associate Justice	Ellen Hill (Law)	P
Associate Justice	Erick Jenkins (SIA)	E
<b>Graduate Council</b>		
Graduate Council	Liana Glew (Liberal Arts)	P
Graduate Council	August Jenkins (HHD)	L
Graduate Council	Claire Keiling (Science)	P
Graduate Council	Logan Rutten (Education)	E
Graduate Council	Alex Wilson-Heid (IGDP)	L
<b>Assembly</b>		
Agricultural Sciences	Amanda (Mandy) Burton	P
Agricultural Sciences	Megan Griffin	L
Art & Architecture	Siavash Varasteh-Vala	P
Communications	Lars Stoltzfus-Brown	P
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Sidharth (Sid) Agrawal	E
Earth and Mineral Sciences		
Eberly College of Science	Charlie Wolstenholme	P
Eberly College of Science	Hui Zheng	P
Eberly College of Science	Emma Van Burns	NA
Education	Bagmi Das	P
Education	Hye-Su Kuk	E
Education	Azaria Cunningham	P
Engineering	Keerti Prakash (KP)	E

Engineering	Shawn Siroka	P
Engineering	Charles Tierney	P
Health and Human Development	Abigail Keim	E
Health and Human Development	Michael Lin	P
Information Sciences and Technology	Tiffany Knearem	P
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	David Döpfel	L
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Sailahari Ponnaluri	P
Liberal Arts	Trevor Bero	E
Liberal Arts	Jerome Clarke	P
Liberal Arts	Mikaela Westhoff	PR (Brandon Bolte)
Nursing	Nicole Rufo	A
School of International Affairs	Alena Ricci	P
Schools of Law	Shanjida Chowhury	A
Schools of Law	Tracy Wong	A
Smeal College of Business		
At-Large Delegate	Irving Evans	P
At-Large Delegate	Terry Torres-Cruz	P
At-Large Delegate	Steven Baksa	P
At-Large Delegate	Ash Gillis	NA