GPSA 68th Assembly Meeting | Wednesday, November 14, 2018 | 6:00 pm | 134 HUB

**Action Items**

- Delegates interested in volunteers at Schlow Library or Out of the Cold State College will contact Charles
  - Charles will post information about the Schlow Library Polar Express to the GPSA Slack
- Delegates interested in transportation issues will contact Nick
  - Late-night CATA loop/link service
  - Campus shuttle usage
  - Proposals to increase bus access that will not burden CATA's capacity
- All delegates will prepare to discuss and vote on the resolutions raised today at next meeting

**Bills Passed**

- Bill 68-16: Co-Sponsorship Association of Women Geoscientists Outreach Event

**Meeting Minutes**

I. **Call to Order**
   a. The meeting is called to order by the Vice President at 6:05pm

II. **Roll Call** — See Addendum I

III. **Adoption of the Agenda**
   a. Agenda is adopted

IV. **Approval of Past Meeting Minutes from 10/24**
   a. Minutes are approved

V. **Open Student Forum**

VI. **Special Presentation** — Damon Sims, Vice President of Student Affairs
   a. Damon thanks everyone present for being part of the university community
   b. Discussion of growing demand for mental health services
   c. Damon distributes red folders
      i. Provides easily accessible information for struggling students
      ii. Should be distributed to everyone who works for a department, including GAs
      iii. Please contact Damon (dsims@psu.edu) if your department has not distributed red folders
      iv. Please reach out to Damon about diversity and inclusion issues, either directly or through Brianne
   d. The pharmacy at the Health Center is the only revenue-generating division of Student Affairs
      i. Please get your prescriptions there; Damon will (apparently) personally deliver them
      ii. Increasing focus on health and wellness at Student Affairs
   e. Damon encourages everyone to vote
   f. **Questions**
      i. Steven inquires about vacant commonwealth campus support position
1. Currently Andrea Dowhower, Student Affairs VP, does this
2. Attempting to create a new position

ii. Damon asks the room how Counseling and Psychological Services is working
1. Sid mentions recent improvements, including phone and online resources
2. Wait times are still long, however
3. Damon acknowledges long wait times, CAPS is working on solutions

iii. Is there a plan for a central CAPS location?
1. Currently CAPS is split between three buildings
2. Plan under consideration to remodel northeast campus residence hall building
   a. CAPS might not end up there, but other space could be moved to give CAPS
      a central location

iv. Bagmi asks about Health Promotion and Wellness usage and effectiveness
1. Student Affairs Marketing has improved visibility
2. Anecdotally, it is being used; Adam will assess more systematically

VII. Executive Officer Reports
a. President—Brianne Pragg
   i. Graduate Pay
      1. The graduate school is assessing discrepancies in graduate funding
         a. Brianne requested coverage of racial discrepancies and university fellowships
         b. Updates soon
   ii. Student Healthcare Advisory Board
      1. A consulting firm will be producing and distributing a report on health insurance
      2. Implementing hard waiver
         a. Students who do not waive insurance will be charged for it
         b. Hiring a student insurance advocate to consult with students about cost effectiveness and Medicaid eligibility
      3. Will have updates about premiums and plan changes in February
   iii. University Libraries Archives
      1. Brianne will be reaching out about GPSA archival materials
      2. GPSA submitted many records until about 2005; they have 10 boxes of our stuff
      3. Contact Brianne if you are interested in meeting with an archivist
         a. Lars seems interested
   iv. Grad Council and Faculty Senators, please speak to Brianne after the meeting
   v. Have a nice fall break, everyone
b. Vice President—Stephanie Winkler
   i. Stephanie lost a fight with the printer in the GPSA office, hence no paper agendas
   ii. Title IX Reporting Requirements
      1. Stephanie is investigating communication about mandatory reporting
      2. Clarification needed on mandatory reporting policies involving graduate students
c. Treasurer—Alex Zhao
   i. Executive expense of $140 dollars to cover headshot room change
d. Secretary—Nick Dietrich
   i. Sending Winter Gala newswire – get me stories this week
e. Faculty Senate—Carmen Vanderhoof
   i. Faculty senate has not met since our last meeting
f. Graduate Council—Claire Kelling
   i. Discussed raising credit limit for professional master’s students; currently at 18
   ii. Improving leverage of alumni services to connect students with alumni
iii. Considering an exit survey for people who do not complete a degree
iv. Let Sailahari know if you think dissertation committees should be required to meet once per year (or think they shouldn’t)

VIII. New Business
a. Bill 68-16 Co-Sponsorship Association of Women Geoscientists Outreach Event (Sid)
   i. Event reaching out to young women and girls in the community
   ii. Promoting special exhibit on women in science
   iii. Questions
      1. Where will community members come from?
         a State College, Bellefonte, some other localities
         b 100+ elementary and middle school girls
   iv. Discussion
      1. Lars: “exhibit” is misspelled on line 7, 9, and 26
         a Stephanie attributes this to a Microsoft Word error
      2. Steven: who will be the vendor for the food?
         a Subway will be providing the food
v. Mikaela motions to approve by unanimous consent
   1. Seconded; the bill passes

b. Resolution 68-05 Constitutional Amendment: University Park Resident (David)
   i. This bill will be discussed, but not voted on, today
   ii. Requires one to be enrolled as University Park student
   iii. Questions
      1. Siavash: is this an existing or potential problem?
         a Brianne: it’s a potential problem
         b We can’t accommodate World Campus because our funding comes from UP student fees
         c David: we can still advocate for World Campus, but they can’t sit in the assembly
         d World Campus has their own organization now
         e Siavash suggests we may be disempowering World Campus students in matters like selecting a student trustee
   iv. Discussion
      1. Siavash is concerned about excluding members of our constituency
         a Mikaela points out that our funding is just for UP students
      2. Do we make a distinction between part-time and full-time students?
         a We do not make a distinction; both pay student fees
         b Clarification of what constitutes UP resident: enrolled at UP
      3. Mandy asks whether we can make non-resident students non-voting members
         a Stephanie points out that we always have open student forum
      4. Confusion about whether they would represent their department or World Campus
         a Adam suggests that World Campus students have unique needs
         b GPSA is not suited to meet the needs of World Campus students
         c Some of these concerns are the exact reasons that World Campus is getting a student government separate from GPSA and CCSG
      5. Charles asks whether we can appoint a liaison to World Campus
         a This liaison would relay concerns to us
      6. Bagmi clarifies that World Campus students can participate as non-delegates
         a World Campus students currently cannot vote in our elections
b  David clarifies that we already behave this way functionally; we are making our
governing documents consistent with this
7.  This comes from a suggestion from the graduate dean that we formalize the residency
requirement
v.  Motion to table the resolution
1.  Seconded; the resolution is tabled
c.  Resolution 68-06 Constitutional Amendment: Constituency Inconsistencies (David)
i.  Related to previous bylaw amendment about inconsistencies
ii.  Questions
1.  Sid asks for clarification on Intercollege Graduate Degree Program
   a  Collection of students from different departments
   b  Currently IGDP students can only vote for IGDP delegates
   c  There are 12 colleges, plus IGDP and law
iii.  Discussion
iv.  Motion to table until next meeting
1.  Seconded; motion passes
d.  Resolution 68-07 Constitutional Amendment: Proportional Representation I (David)
i.  Strikes college delegate cap
ii.  Questions
1.  What is the reason for this change?
   a  David: setting up for proportional representation
2.  Sid points out that graduate council is elected, at-large are appointed
   a  Need to update bill language
iii.  Discussion
1.  Brianne is opposed to this change; thinks there should be a cap in place, even if it does
   not affect any college
2.  Mikaela asks why the cap is being removed instead of raised
   a  David suggests it is an issue of shortening the governing documents
   b  Mikaela questions whether exact proportional representation is our goal
   c  Sid suggests that the “proportionality” argument is misguided; we can’t be
      perfectly proportional
   d  Alex agrees that this is not required for proportionality
3.  Brianne: did you do any benchmarking with other big 10 student governments?
   a  Many universities have fixed numbers of delegates per college
4.  Sid refers to the Ohio State governing documents
   a  They have a 4-seat cap
   b  Sid thinks that we should investigate other student governments before
      making any changes
5.  Brianne adds that GPSA used to have executive board elected from within the
    delegation
   a  We should have a deeper discussion if we are changing the way the assembly is
      set up
6.  Siavash is not convinced that the comparisons we are making are meaningful
   a  Why make a cap that isn’t needed?
   b  Steven suggests that this is a matter of principal; don’t want to cap voices
   c  Mikaela suggests that we want to represent diverse interests of graduate
      students, not just proportionality
7.  Nick suggests a cap of 5, which would not affect any colleges but would preserve the
    cap for future changes
iv. Steven moves to table; seconded

e. Resolution 68-08 Constitutional Amendment: Proportional Representation II (David)
   i. Limits at-large delegates to one per college (like graduate council)
   ii. Questions
   iii. Discussion
      1. Mikaela is in opposition to capping at-large delegates by college
         a. At-large delegates are not meant to represent their colleges
         b. They are meant to represent graduate student interests
            i. Parents, students from different backgrounds, etc.
         c. Charles agrees, but is concerned that they could be misused to represent one particular college
            i. Brianne points out that the assembly has to confirm appointments
   2. Mikaela moves to table the resolution; seconded

f. Resolution 68-09 Bylaw Amendment: Proportional Representation (David)
   i. We can technically vote on this today, but it would not make sense without previous constitutional amendments
   ii. Replaces bylaw language to make the number of delegates the average enrollment number divided by 300, rounded up
      1. Chose this number because it maintains assembly size pretty closely
   iii. Shawn: can we make the assembly a fixed size and apportion accordingly?
      1. We can do anything!🤩
   iv. Motion to table; seconded

IX. Reports
   a. Speaker of the Assembly – Sailahari Ponnaluri
      i. Participate in committee discussions!
   b. Committees
      i. Advocacy and Human Diversity – Mikaela Westhoff
         1. Climate survey committee will be meeting soon
            a. We have a liaison: Aubrey Waddick
         2. Looking into reimbursement policies in colleges and departments
            a. Some require payment upfront and reimbursement, which can disadvantage students
         3. Brianne: what are the climate survey ideas?
            a. Working conditions (training, work hours, etc.)
            b. International student support
      ii. Professional Development – Bagmi Das (Shawn Siroka)
         1. Writing boot camp has not been well-attended
            a. Charles asks about advertisement
            b. Alex thinks we may have just advertised too late
            c. Brianne thinks they have historically been used more in Spring
         2. Resume/CV workshop will be Monday after break
      iii. Programming- Charlie Wolstenholme
         1. Happy Valley Improv show was successful; sold out
         2. Winter Gala tickets are on sale
      iv. Community Service – Charles Tierney
         1. Out of the Cold State College donations at Winter Gala
            a. Collecting small food gift cards and bus tokens
            b. Considering overnight(!) volunteer opportunity
2. Schlow Library Polar Express
   a. Day of Winter Gala and the next day
   b. Need volunteers; would need to meet with person in charge before event
   c. Charles will put information in the Slack

v. Internal Development – David Dopfel
   1. David thanks everyone for the discussion today
   2. Looking into conflict of interest policy

c. Liaisons
   i. Emergency Management Roundtable Meeting (Claire)
      1. Discussing police texting apps
      2. Run-Hide-Fight policy; interested in meeting with GPSA
      3. Safewalk program
      4. Suggestion: Stop the Bleed campaign trains bystanders to give emergency medical attention
         a. Adam: police services has training available for this
   ii. Transportation Commission (Nick)
      1. Soliciting feedback about late-night and early-morning loop/link service
      2. Campus shuttle
         a. Publicize this more!
      3. RidePASS funding and bus access
   iii. Science Policy Society (Steven)
      1. Election day poll driving service
         a. Steven is very pleased that this election set midterm turnout records
   iv. HUB Advisory Board (Alex)
      1. Discussing usage of game/billiard room

d. Judiciary—The Honorable Eric Flagg
   i. Nothing to report

e. Student Trustee – Mike Hoeschele

f. Advisor—Adam Christensen
   i. Sexual Harassment Climate Survey concludes soon; please participate if you were selected

X. Comments for the Good of the Order
   a. Steven is unsure whether graduate students can bring undergraduate students to Winter Gala
      i. Grad students are allowed to bring dates
      ii. Undergraduates are allowed to attend; we just focus on graduate students in advertising

XI. Adjournment
   a. The meeting is adjourned at 8:00pm
Addendum I – Roll Call Attendance

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

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