Graduate and Professional Student Association

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

PSA 68th Assembly Meeting Wednesday, January 16, 2019 6:00 pm | 134 HUB

Action Items

• Interested persons will apply to serve on the student trustee selection committee or apply to serve as student trustee
  o Student trustee, due February 15: https://sites.psu.edu/studenttrustee/student-trustee-application/
  o Selection committee, due February 8: https://sites.psu.edu/studenttrustee/selection-committee-application/
• Anyone interested on providing feedback about biking on campus, including areas for bike racks or problem areas for biking, can contact Cecily Zhu at biking@psu.edu
• Charlie will work with the programming committee to manage the Theater Day social
• Nick will send a very full newswire

Bills Passed

• Bill 68-17: Co-sponsorship: Graduate Women in Science Voices Conference
• Bill 68-18: Co-sponsorship: Engineering Graduate Student Council CERS
• Bill 68-19: Graduate Writing Boot Camp

Agenda

I. Call to Order
   a. The meeting is called to order by the vice president at 6:04pm
II. Roll Call – See Addendum I
III. Adoption of the Agenda
   a. Motion to change “unfinished business” to “new business” and add confirmation of new delegates
      i. Seconded; approved
   b. Shawn motions to add Graduate Writing Boot Camp bill to agenda under “new business”
      i. Seconded; approved
   c. Charles motions to change “December 16” to “January 16”
      i. Seconded; approved
   d. Motion to approve the agenda; agenda is adopted
IV. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes from 11/28
   a. Motion to approve past meeting minutes; minutes are approved
V. Open Student Forum
VI. Special Presentation – Zach Robinson, Mariana Garcia, and Erick Jenkins, Lion Caucus
   a. Inaugural year of Lion Caucus
      i. 11.3% of Penn State’s budget comes from state appropriation
   b. Goals
      i. Represents interests of Penn State students to local and federal governing officials
      ii. Educate students about policy and opportunities for advocacy
   c. Student organization
      i. Both undergraduate and graduate students
ii. Presents student stories directly to legislators

d. Involvement
i. Join Lion Caucus advocacy network (signup sheet passed around)
ii. Spring recruitment; join today to represent graduate interests to lawmakers

e. Questions
i. Alex WH: what is the motivation for forming this new group? What does Lion Caucus have that other organizations don’t do?
   1. UPUA does some advocacy, but doesn’t have the resources to do it year-round
   2. Lion Caucus works through Office of Government and Community Relations

ii. Steven: what issues besides funding for education do you focus on?
   1. That is the number one issue right now, but may expand issue agenda in future

iii. Steven: what is the goal number for percentage of state funding at PSU?
   1. Funding hasn’t recovered from cuts several years ago
   2. There is a need to communicate importance of education before future drives to cut funding

iv. Claire: do your advocacy issues have to be approved?
   1. Lion Caucus looks for issues that students and university support
   2. Lion Caucus will not advocate for issues that the University administration does not support

v. Alex WH: do you have a statement on the shutdown?
   1. Funding for education is important

VII. Executive Officer Reports
a. President—Brianne Pragg
i. Siavash graduated, so we need a new Center for Performing Arts Liaison
   1. Manages the Theater Day social
   2. Charlie volunteers that programming can handle the pre-show mixer; Brianne talks him into being liaison

ii. Student trustee selection committee and student trustee applications open
   1. There has never been a grad student trustee
   2. Need two or more years remaining at Penn State, need a flexible schedule

b. Vice President—Stephanie Winkler

c. Treasurer—Alex Zhao
i. Spent money on NAGPS membership fee

d. Secretary—Nick Dietrich
i. Newswire
   1. Writing boot camp
   2. Theater Days

e. Faculty Senate—Carmen Vanderhoof (Report by Mikaela)
   i. Considering credit hour limit (some students are overloading on courses)
   ii. New rule changes:
      1. Undergraduate education committee is now General Education Committee
         a. One permanent graduate student seat
      2. Grad Council now elects its own chair instead of dean of graduate school
   iii. Questions:
      1. Brianne: when does grad council have to elect its own chair?
         a. Alex WH: there is a subcommittee formed for this, may take until fall

f. Graduate Council—Claire Kelling
   i. Graduate Exhibition registration deadline February 22nd
      1. New category on design
      2. http://gradschool.psu.edu/exhibition/
   ii. New study on graduate stipends
      1. No evidence of bias based on race, gender, or basically anything (according to graduate school)
   iii. Subcommittee to elect new chair; may be a long process
   iv. LionLink: Service that connects students with alumni
      1. https://psulionlink.peoplegrove.com
2. Alex WH says that this service is pretty good
v. Career tips graduate workshop 6-7pm on January 29th
   1. https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/career/fairs/spring/student/before/workshops
vi. Still no vote on policy requiring yearly dissertation committee meetings
vii. Professional degree credit limit increased from 15 to 21
viii. Charles can no longer serve as an alternate this semester

VIII. New Business
a. New Delegate Confirmation
i. Matt Detrick: School of International Affairs
   1. (Alena stepped down)
   2. Professional Development Committee
ii. Questions:
   1. Alex Z: What do you want to do on Professional Development?
      a. Cares about resumes and CVs
      b. Brianne clarifies that he is available to staff writing boot camp
   2. Jerome: are you related to Nick Dietrich? For nepotism reasons?
      a. No, it’s spelled different
      b. (For readers who are confused, “Dietrich” and “Detrick” are pronounced the same way)
      c. Jerome: would you say it’s spelled better?
         i. Some waffling on this point
iii. Discussion:
   1. Brianne: Professional Development could use the help
   2. Nick: There should only be one Dietrich
   3. Alex Z suggests that we replace Nick with New Detrick
   4. David motions to approve by unanimous consent:
      a. Seconded; the motion is approved
b. Bill 68-17: Co-sponsorship: Graduate Women in Science Voices Conference
   i. Annual day conference
   ii. STEM conference focused on making STEM more inclusive (on a number of dimensions)
   iii. Spending covers mostly food; also receiving UPAC funding
   iv. Questions:
      1. Brianne: the form says that they don’t take purchase orders; is this true?
         a. Consensus seems to be that they will accept POs
      b. There are alternate ways of paying them; should not be a problem
   v. Discussion
      1. Motion to approve by roll call vote
         a. The motion passes – See Addendum II
c. Bill 68-18: Co-sponsorship: Engineering Graduate Student Council CERS
   i. Funded partially by UPAC; asking GPSA for $1750
   ii. Questions
      1. Brianne: any interest to those outside of engineering?
         a. Open to public, mostly publicized to engineering
      2. Hye-Su: any plans to publicize it outside of engineering?
         a. Attempting to branch out more to tech and other general audiences
      3. Emma attended (and she is not an engineer); geared to technical audience, but not necessarily exclusively engineering
   iii. Discussion
      1. Sid asks Alex Z how much funding we provided last year
         a. Same amount
      2. Brianne: does college of engineering provide funding?
         a. Yes, about $6,000
      3. Mikaela motions to approve by roll call
d. Bill 68-19: Graduate Writing Boot Camp
   i. Regular GPSA event
   ii. $3,100 – we recoup some cost through registration
   iii. Questions
       1. Sid clarifies that the total number of participants is correct
           a) 40 people split through two sessions
       2. Charlie asks why we are charging a registration fee
           a) Alex Z says that it helps prevent people signing up and not going
           b) But there is also a deposit, so not strictly necessary
       3. Liana asks about turnout
           a) A little lower last semester, usually 40 people average over the two sessions
       4. Sid asks the amount of the deposit
           a) It is $40 on top of the $25 registration
           b) The $40 are returned to you if you attend 80% of sessions
   iv. Discussion
       1. Charlie feels that we can afford to nix the registration fee because we have the deposit
           a) Several delegates agree
           b) David suggests that we can remove the fee without amending the bill
               because the amount is an upper limit
           c) Mandy would not pay $25 to lock herself in a room and write a paper she
               doesn’t want to write
           d) Charlie adds that we aren’t selling out
       2. Mikaela motions to strike lines 16-21 from the bill and change the net cost to reflect the
           loss of income through registration fees
           a) Seconded; the motion is approved
       3. Mikaela motions to strike mention of a registration fee from the preamble
           a) Seconded; the motion is approved
       4. Question about whether the deposit needs to be mentioned in the bill
           a) Eric Flagg suggests it would be safer to just add it to the bill
       5. Motion to amend the bill to add reference to a deposit to be returned upon at least 80%
           completion of the boot camp
           a) Seconded; the motion is approved
       6. Mikaela motions to add a $76 line item for misc. costs
           a) Seconded; the motion is approved
       7. Mikaela motions to approve by roll call
           a) The bill is approved; see Addendum II

e. Bill 68-20 Support of Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Reform
   i. Sign on to letter in support of automatic voter registration with UPUA and CCSG
   ii. Questions:
       1. Do we have a draft of the letter?
           a) Not yet
       2. When will the letter go out?
           a) Not sure; they are voting in the next week
       3. Liana suggests tabling until our next meeting
       4. David suggests an amendment requiring executive board overview before final sign on
           a) Eric Flagg rules that this is constitutional, encourages us to specify how exec
               board will decide
           b) Claire points out that the PA assembly meets at the end of the month, so we
               should pass soon if possible
       5. Motion to amend the bill to make approval contingent on exec board vote on the
           wording of the letter and distribution to the assembly
           a) Seconded; the bill is amended
       6. Steven: would the student organizations be able to see responses to the letters?
           a) Charles will make sure he requests responses
7. Eric Flagg points out that we just dropped below quorum because of people leaving
   a. The bill is tabled

IX. Reports
   a. Speaker of the Assembly – Sailahari Ponnaluri
   b. Committees
      i. Advocacy and Human Diversity – Mikaela Westhoff
         1. Let Mikaela know your availability for committee meetings
      ii. Professional Development – Bagmi Das
         1. Writing boot camp coming up
         2. Seminars soon
      iii. Programming – Charlie Wolstenholme
      iv. Community Service – Charles Tierney
         1. Need one more person for Schlow research presentations (Thursday of finals week)
         2. Blood drive February 15 from 10-3 in NLI board room
            a. You can have them donate $2 toward a THON org of your choice
         3. Legislative advocacy training session
            a. 7:30pm, Althaus 101, Tues February 5
         4. Graduate student resource fair – stay tuned
   c. Liaisons
      i. Graduate exhibition council – Tiffany
         1. Info session in library; details to be posted
         2. Exhibition is March 22-24
      ii. Science Policy Society – Steven
         1. Jan 22nd in Life Science Lobby – election security event
         2. Capitol hill day – communicating with other science policy groups
      iii. Transportation – Nick
         1. Bike workshop
            a. Free lights!
         2. Going to try to simplify bike policy and communicate it in bike reg emails
         3. Cecily would like to talk to people who bike
            a. Problems with bike access on campus
            b. More shelters for bike parking
      iv. Student Leader Council – Sailahari
         1. Developing an app to put Canvas/Lionpath/etc. into a single app
      v. HUB stuff – Alex Z
         1. They inspected our space and we are using it correctly. Yay!
   d. Judiciary—The Honorable Eric Flagg
   e. Student Trustee – Mike Hoeschele
   f. Advisor—Adam Christensen

X. Comments for the Good of the Order
XI. Adjournment
   a. Meeting adjourned at 7:27pm
## Addendum I – Roll Call Attendance

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## Addendum II – Roll Call Votes

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