Graduate and Professional Student Association

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

GPSA 68th Assembly Meeting | Wednesday, November 28, 2018 | 6:00 pm | 134 HUB

Action Items

- Delegates interested in volunteering for Schlow Library’s Polar Express will respond to Charles’s post on the #general Slack channel
- Nick will relay feedback about ridepass (and other transit issues) to the Transportation Committee
- Delegates interested in providing input on orientation videos for first-year students will contact Mandy
- Anyone interested in purchasing Winter Gala tickets will contact Charlie

Bills Passed

- Resolution 68-06: Constitutional Amendment Addressing Constituency Inconsistencies

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order
   a. The meeting is called to order by the vice president at 6:01pm

II. Roll Call – See Addendum I

III. Adoption of the Agenda
   a. The agenda is adopted

IV. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes from 11/14
   a. The minutes are approved

V. Open Student Forum

VI. Special Presentation - Cecily Zhu, Alternate Transportation Program Coordinator, Transportation Services
   a. Ridepass
      i. Graduate student CATA bus passes at reduced rate
      ii. Goal: reduce traffic and emissions on campus by incentivizing transit
      iii. Currently $15/month
         1. Transportation Services pays CATA $1.68 per swipe
      iv. Funded mostly through parking revenue
      v. Challenges:
         1. Participant payments cover a tiny proportion of costs
         2. Unable to raise parking costs for some employees outside of union contracts
         3. CATA fare increases
      vi. Questions
         1. Mikaela asks about lump sum vs. monthly payments
            a. Accounting has told Transportation that payroll deduction is not an option for graduate students, for whatever reason
         2. Emma asks about the distance from loop/link stop requirements in regards to those with disabilities
            a. They are aware of these gaps in coverage and make allowances
3. Steven asks about expansion of community service passes
   a. CATA’s capacity is the primary barrier to universal access; physically can’t fit additional students on busses

4. Liana asks about summer ridepass status when teaching but not enrolled in classes
   a. Cecily would like to make this more streamlined, but lionpath does not make it easy to sort who is teaching; email ridepass@psu.edu if you have issues

5. Drew (who is not a delegate, but we appreciate his participation nonetheless) asks about sources of income
   a. Roughly 50/50 from general dollars and parking fees; much of that budget is spent on loop/link service

6. Brianne asks about event parking funds
   a. These mostly go to student athletics

7. Hye-Su asks about the large price jump from $15 to low 20s
   a. CATA rates have risen a lot in the period of the contract

8. Sid asks about ridership numbers for graduate students since 2014
   a. Difficult to compare due to price changes and lottery
   b. Roughly stayed the same

9. Brianne asks for clarification on funding sources
   a. Less than half from general funds; most of that goes to loop/link service

VII. Executive Officer Reports
    a. President—Brianne Pragg
       i. Brianne and Stephanie have meetings with senior administrators soon
          1. Plan to discuss ridepass cost increases, payroll deductions, and transportation funding
          2. Long report next time to review meetings
       ii. Know Your Rights has a casting call for videos
           1. 20 minute on-camera interviews
           2. Audio without video option if you do not want to be identified

    b. Vice President—Stephanie Winkler
       i. Thankful everyone survived Thanks

    c. Treasurer—Alex Zhao
       i. Let Alex know soon if you need something reimbursed this semester

    d. Secretary—Nick Dietrich
       i. Nothing to report

    e. Faculty Senate—Carmen Vanderhoof
       i. Meeting next Tuesday
       ii. Grad Council deciding whether it should elect its own chair
           1. Currently chair is automatically dean of the graduate school

    f. Graduate Council—Claire Kelling (Absent)
       i. Next meeting is the 13th

VIII. Unfinished Business
    a. Resolution 68-06 Constitutional Amendment: Constituency Inconsistencies (David)
       i. We discussed this last time
       ii. Address typos and inconsistencies in the constitution regarding constituencies
       iii. Motion to approve by voice vote
           1. Seconded; nobody heard any “nays,” so it passes

IX. Reports
    a. Speaker of the Assembly – Sailahari Ponnaluri
       i. Nothing to report

    b. Committees
       i. Advocacy and Human Diversity – Mikaela Westhoff
1. Investigating reimbursement systems in different departments

ii. Professional Development – Bagmi Das
   1. Discussing resume/CV resources with College of Education
   2. Sid is very happy with the advertisement for the Resume/CV event

iii. Programming – Charlie Wolstenholme
   1. Winter Gala
      a. Charlie has a few remaining tickets; email or see him after the meeting
      b. Alex W-H asks whether bar is cash-only; it is cash or credit
      c. Sid asks whether payment changes if we do not sell out; it does not
      d. Brianne asks about advertising the email tickets; Charlie and Maria updated the facebook page

iv. Community Service – Charles Tierney
   1. Out of the Cold State College
      a. They don’t need large groups of volunteers, but they do need small groups of overnight volunteers
      b. They have training nights for volunteers
      c. Mikaela asks whether background checks are required; Charles will find out
         i. Paloma (Megan’s proxy) has volunteered with them before; they did not require a background check
   2. Schlow Library Polar Express
      a. This weekend and next weekend
      b. Tell Charles ASAP if you are interested in volunteering
         i. Post email in comment chain of his post on #general slack channel
   3. Spring Volunteering Ideas
      a. Workday at arboretum
      b. Shaver’s Creek
      c. Friday night lights out (turn out lights in buildings)
      d. Reading books at daycare or elementary school
   4. Schlow Library Research Unplugged in the spring
      a. Thursdays in April
      b. Would like ~4 graduate students to present on their research for 10 minutes each

v. Internal Development – David Dopfel
   1. Meeting next Wednesday in 110 HUB
   2. Working to get the other resolutions back on the agenda at some point

c. Liaisons
   i. Student Leader Roundtable (Sailahari)
      1. Decided not to pass Chicago statement
   ii. Health Promotion and Wellness (Mandy)
      1. Looking for input on orientation videos for first-year students
      2. Monday December 3 or Tuesday December 4
   iii. Science Policy Society (Steven)
      1. December 3rd: Self care in science brownbag
   iv. Transportation Commission (Nick)
      1. Nick is always trying to get more Ridepass funding
      2. Send feedback to Nick or talk to him if you would like to sit at these meetings

d. Judiciary—The Honorable Eric Flagg
   i. Nothing to report
e. Student Trustee – Mike Hoeschele
f. Advisor—Adam Christensen
   i. Nothing to report

X. Comments for the Good of the Order

XI. Adjournment

a. Meeting is adjourned at 6:50pm
### Addendum I – Roll Call Attendance

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

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