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, February 27, 2019          6:00 pm | 134 HUB

Action Items

- Executive Board will look into microphones for 134 HUB
- All committee chairs will solicit volunteers to help Charlie plan Grad Cup

Legislation Passed

- Bill 68-22: Grad Cup
- Resolution 68-08: Bylaw Amendment, Proportional Representation
- Resolution 68-11: Constitutional Amendment, Conflict of Interest
- Resolution 68-12: Bylaw Amendment, Conflict of Interest

Minutes

I. Call to Order
   a. The meeting is called to order by the vice president at 6:02pm

II. Roll Call – See Addendum I
   a. We have 17, quorum is 16

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

IV. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes from 1/30
   a. The minutes are approved

V. Open Student Forum

VI. Special Presentation: Debra Novitsky, Communications Specialist, LionPath Development and Maintenance Organization
   a. Support for current Oracle product ends at the end of this year
      i. Will update lionpath to comport with new Oracle update
   b. New LionPATH
      i. New student view
      ii. Advisors can view student ID pictures
      iii. Viewer-friendly weekly schedule
   c. Questions
      i. Lars: Problems with lionpath self-selection of names for trans students
         1. Outs instructors to students because lionpath pulls name automatically; violates policy AD84
         2. Aware of the problem; waiting for update to functionality/policy
      ii. Erick: is the backend changing, or just the frontend?
         1. Backend is not changed for 99% of things
      iii. August: is it possible to view courses you are listed as instructor for?
         1. Should be available on faculty page
         2. Teaching assistants or graduate instructors may not have access to this
3. Would like grad interface testers in the future; week of April 8th
iv. Brianne: can you view a projected class schedule before adding classes?
1. No, there’s something called schedule builder that does this

VII. Executive Officer Reports
a. President—Brianne Pragg
i. Elections!
   1. Fill out intent to run form; currently up on website
   2. Election is on March 27-28
   3. Intent to run closes on March 20
   4. Will send an email to graduate student body
ii. Student fee board
   1. Voted on 2019-2020 fee
   2. $265/semester ($2 decrease)
   3. Graduate students are now paying into this (assistantships cover student fees)
   4. Must be approved by Damon Sims and voted on by Board of Trustees
iii. Questions:
   1. David: Why a $2 decrease?
      a. Hard to predict how fee changes; enrollment numbers, etc.

b. Vice President—Stephanie Winkler
i. Elections
   1. Vice President role will be empty
ii. Feel free to pause meeting if you can’t hear discussion
iii. Questions
   1. Claire: any progress on mics?
      a. Brianne forgot

c. Treasurer—Alex Zhao
i. Grad cup bill looks like a big expense, but we planned for it

d. Secretary—Nick Dietrich
i. Newswire coming this week
ii. Many inspiring folks in this assembly; hope they consider running for next term

e. Faculty Senate—Carmen Vanderhoof

f. Graduate Council—Claire Kelling
i. Graduate Council Election Procedures (August)
   1. Drafting procedures; will be getting feedback at March meeting
   2. Will allow for nominations and feedback on grad council chair
   3. Brianne: current proposal?
      a. Self-nominate or nominate someone else for chair and vice chair
      b. Secret electronic vote
      c. Only elected faculty members can vote
      d. Graduate students will (probably) not be able to vote under current proposal (in contrast to other faculty senate business)

VIII. New Business
a. Bill 68-22: Grad Cup (Charlie)
i. Tentatively April 20, contingent on weather and space availability
ii. Annual outdoor activities for graduate students
   1. Outdoor and intellectual games
   2. We normally get around 20 teams of 5-6 people
   3. Lunch provided and prize for winning team
iii. Discussion

1. Charlie: can we remove the $10 registration fee from previous years?
   a Sailahari: how about $10/team instead of individual?
   b Brianne: no fee might discourage attendance, but a small team fee is a good idea

2. Claire: accessibility of this event?
   a Charlie is considering more games that do not involve physical activity
   b Teams are 5-6 and games typically require 4 players, so players can sit out

3. Claire: does every team have to do every activity?
   a Under previous format, yes
   b Charlie would like other committees to chip in about this
   c Possibility of opting out of particular events

4. Steven: Is the cost of previous years’ bills comparable to this year’s bill?
   a This is about $2,000 cheaper
   b Charlie removed a post-event social from previous year due to poor attendance

5. August: Do we still have a whole bunch of extra shirts?
   a We do, but we can’t reuse them because they say 2018
   b Discussion of modifying T-shirt order to prevent waste
   c Possibility of incorporating water bottles
   d Suggestion to continue buying t-shirts, but remove year so that excess shirts can be used
   e You can turn t-shirts into dog toys or find other ways to give them away
   f Abigail strongly recommends that these bills include plans for excess T-shirts

6. Mikaela motions to approve by roll call
   a Seconded; the motion passes – See Addendum II

b. Resolution 68-07: Constitutional Amendment, Proportional Representation (David)
   i. Updated bill based on previous assembly discussions
   ii. New rule: no individual constituency will be more than 20% of the apportioned delegate seats
      1. With new apportionments rules, 31 apportioned delegates (plus 10 grad council and at-large)
      2. This equates to a cap of 6 delegates per college for the next assembly

   iii. Discussion

   1. Charlie: how feasible is it to get at-large delegates from different colleges?
      a Brianne doesn’t think there should be caps on at-large delegates because they are supposed to serve interest groups (eg, non-traditional students, LGBTQ+, etc.)
      b David points out that at-large nominations have to go through the assembly

   2. Lars: grad council have constituency limits, but at-large do not?
      a That is correct
      b This is not a change from current policy; just codifies current practice
1. Charles: I like this as a compromise option and it makes more sense than a hard limit
2. Brianne thanks ID for putting time and effort into addressing concerns
c. Resolution 68-08: Bylaw Amendment, Proportional Representation
   i. Unchanged from previous discussion
   ii. One delegate per 300 students
      1. Equates to a 3 delegate increase (1 law, 2 engineering)
   iii. Steven motions to approve by roll call
      1. Seconded; the motion is approved – See Addendum II
d. Resolution 68-11: Constitutional Amendment, Conflict of Interest (Steven)
   i. Unchanged from previous proposal
   ii. We currently have no conflict of interest policy; Brianne recommended that ID address
   iii. Questions
      1. Claire: why no changes from previous discussion?
         a. All of the necessary changes were to the bylaw amendment, which has been changed
   iv. Charles motions to approve by roll call
      1. Seconded; the motion passes – See Addendum II
e. Resolution 68-12: Bylaw Amendment, Conflict of Interest (Steven)
   i. Major changes:
      1. Specifies that disclosure should occur at start of discussion
      2. Refers to appropriate disciplinary proceedings in constitution
      3. Specifies that a member must disclose that a conflict exists (vs. what the conflict is)
   ii. David motions to strike, “during the discussion, the members will respect the member’s decision for recusal.”
      1. Seconded; the resolution is amended
   iii. Claire is concerned that asking someone to step out of the room might deprive us of a source of information and be generally unnecessary
      1. Arduous discussion of abstention vs. recusal
      2. Everything is public record anyway; Nick takes very detailed minutes 🎥
   iv. David suggests that contributing information could sway decisions
      1. Eric is concerned that excluding from discussion will sway people not to disclose
   v. Sailahari motions to strike the sentence, “the member shall leave the room…” and replace with, “the member shall abstain from voting on the legislation.”
      1. Seconded; the motion passes
   vi. Charlie motions to vote by roll call
      1. Seconded
      2. Mikaela objects to roll call
      3. Mikaela motions to pass by voice vote
      4. The motion passes
 IX. Reports
   a. Speaker of the Assembly – Sailahari Ponnaluri
      i. We have a few assembly meetings left, so there is still time for legislation
      ii. Start any bills you want to pass soon
      iii. We are not in danger of going overbudget
   b. Committees
      i. Advocacy and Human Diversity – Mikaela Westhoff
1. Un-Koch my Campus
   a. UPUA and CCSG want us to pass a resolution
   b. Advocacy is reviewing before bringing to assembly

2. Sexual Violence Roundtable
   a. Encourage people to attend Stand for State training 6-8pm April 9th
      i. Modified to be specifically relevant to grad students
      ii. Will forward advertising materials
   b. Looking into subsidizing graduate tickets to Sexual Violence Awareness Gala
      i. No date set yet

ii. Professional Development – Bagmi Das (absent, report by Alex Z)
   1. Professional headshots
      a. April 15-16
      b. Sign-ups start next week

iii. Programming – Charlie Wolstenholme
   1. Grad Cup
      a. Please help Charlie plan grad cup!

iv. Community Service – Charles Tierney
   1. Friday Night Lights Out
      a. Only took half an hour, there was free pizza 🍕
      b. Next one is the first week of April
   2. PAWS
      a. Only volunteering opportunity is landscaping
      b. There may be dogs in the vicinity (?)
      c. You can volunteer with animals, but only 5-6 people at a time and after training

3. Career Services and Graduate School
   a. Meeting rescheduled to Monday after spring break
   b. Graduate resource fair
      i. Help graduate students find support groups and communities

4. International Town Gown Association
   a. Having event in State College
   b. Charles looking into possible cosponsorship
   c. Looking into student speakers

v. Internal Development – David Dopfel
   1. One more resolution coming back next meeting: 68-07, Proportional Representation Constitutional Amendment
   2. If you are not staying in your current position, David will send you a transition form
      a. Help successors pick up where we left off

c. Liaisons
   i. Science Policy Society (Steven)
      1. April 5-7 Capital Hill Day for science policy advocacy
      2. Climate change panel
      3. Policy memo writing competition
         a. 2000 words
         b. $1000 prize, plus publication
ii. Childcare Subsidy (Carmen)
   1. More student parents supported by childcare subsidy
   2. Now a 1-semester grace period for undergraduates falling below 2.5 GPA
   3. Need help advertising

iii. Emergency Management Roundtable (Claire)
   1. Borough not interested in partnering for safewalks
   2. Looking into two campus safety apps
      a. Not currently in the budget
      b. Probably won’t be in the budget
      c. Not really a good idea
   3. UPUA push to get emergency systems in every classroom
      a. Not feasible

iv. Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention Roundtable (Claire)
   1. We can participate by attending upcoming events
      a. Gala (Probably April 11)
      b. Stand for State training (April 9)

v. Capital Day (Brianne)
   1. March 20
   2. Free breakfast and lunch
   3. Talk to your legislators

d. Judiciary—The Honorable Eric Flagg
   i. Removal proceedings for Irving, Megan, and Nicole
      1. Missed 2 of 3 consecutive meetings
      2. Are not here to defend themselves, so automatically removed
      3. Quorum down to 14

ii. Election forms are up; let judiciary know if you have any problems

vi. Student Trustee – Mike Hoeschele
    f. Advisor—Adam Christensen
       i. Congratulations to Carmen for successfully defending! 🎉
          ii. Those here tonight have been engaged; please run again or run for more involved roles!

X. Comments for the Good of the Order
   a. Sailahari is interested in planning a social event for all delegates
      i. Looking for ideas that people would attend and are not terribly expensive

XI. Adjournment
   a. The meeting is adjourned at 7:38pm
# Addendum I – Roll Call Attendance

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### Addendum II – Roll Call Votes

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