



Graduate and Professional Student Association

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

GPSA Assembly Meeting | Wednesday, January 18, 2017 | 6:00pm | 134 HUB Robeson Center

I. Call to Order

- a. The meeting is called to order by the Executive Vice President at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call Attendance – See Addendum I

III. Adoption of the Agenda

- a. Strike “a” from New Business (no longer necessary).
- b. Hearing no objections to the new agenda, the changes are approved.

IV. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

- a. Hearing no objection to the past meeting’s minutes, the minutes are approved as distributed.

V. Open Student Forum

- a. Lily Hill pleads for someone to take on the position of Speaker.

VI. Special Presentations

- a. Dr. Barbara Masi, Associate Vice Provost of Learning Outcomes Assessment
 - i. This is a new group in the Office of Planning and Assessment.
 - ii. The group collaborates with the Graduate School, colleges, and programs to assess student learning.
 - iii. Studies are focused on Penn State education effectiveness.
 - 1. How do programs align with career goals?
 - iv. The office can collaborate with GPSA to study critical issues
 - v. Question: could we include a measure of student-advisor/PI relationships?
 - 1. It is possible if it affects academic performance.
 - vi. Question: How are results disseminated?
 - 1. Reports will be put up in 2017 on a password-protected site.
 - 2. Currently there are 240 program assessment reports.
- b. Dr. Poerschke and Dean Korner, College of Arts and Architecture
 - i. Policy implemented last summer places faculty into two categories: P and R (professional and research).
 - ii. “P” faculty limits those who are allowed to serve on committees, teach 500-level courses.
 - iii. Dr. Poerschke: Have you run into any of these issues?
 - iv. Dean Korner: we understand the value in standardizing program requirements.
 - v. In the Arts, we have always worked between a Master’s degree (or a professional degree) and a PhD (or a research degree), with the M.F.A. and M.Arch.
 - vi. There are philosophical and operational concerns:
 - 1. Our type of research may not fit the typical definition of research, but it is still exploring.

2. Advisor-student relationships are limited because of these distinctions.
3. Example: a professor without a PhD and a federal grant cannot take on a student as a grad student. Any intellectual property would have to be shared with a third person (with a PhD).
4. Question: How does this compare to comparable universities?
 - a. We have looked at the requirements of about 50 universities; Penn State has one of the strictest requirements.
 - b. Many other universities include the language “degree appropriate for their field.”
5. Question: How can students who are not affected by these changes advocate for those who are?
 - a. Engage with your colleagues to get the student view of this.
6. Are we putting up barriers instead of opening doors for graduate students to engage with scholars in other fields?
7. Question: Could this have a negative effect on recruiting?
 - a. We do not have evidence of this, but I believe it is possible.
8. Kevin Horne: I hope that if GPSA really cares about this, the advocacy committee will bring it up and put forth a resolution.
9. February 15 is the next Grad Council meeting.

VII. Executive Officer Reports

- a. President (Kevin Horne)
 - i. The first student fee board meeting was last week. There were two proposals: one from CAPS and one from the Student Farm.
 1. CAPS: fee would raise \$1.2 million for services. We all know about the problems with CAPS.
 2. Student Farm: asking for \$75,000.
 - ii. Applications for the next student trustee and the board to select the next student trustee are live. It's a two-year term, full voting privileges.
 - iii. The website is updated. We're hoping to update it throughout the week.
 - iv. There was a meeting to discuss how to incorporate World Campus students.
 - v. The joint meeting between student leadership and president's council discussed diversity issues and the All In campaign.
 1. You can submit ideas for the structure to represent diversity online.
- b. Vice President (Marina Cotarelo)
 - i. Nothing to report.
- c. Treasurer (Sidharth Agrawal)
 - i. The budget is updated online.
 - ii. We have \$28,000 left to spend.
 - iii. The library is trying to improve the Knowledge Commons – trying to integrate the lower level with MacKinnon's.
- d. Secretary (Anne Whitesell)
 - i. If you have anything for the Newswire, get it to me by Sunday.
- e. Faculty Senate Report (Kevin Reuning)

- i. The Faculty Senate passed a resolution stating that the faculty is upset about LionPATH.
- ii. There does not seem to be anything big on the agenda for the next meeting.
- iii. Kevin is now serving on a committee to discuss how to collaborate with faculty at Commonwealth Campuses.
- f. Graduate Council (Brianne Pragg)
 - i. At the last meeting Grad Council discussed the P vs. R faculty distinction. There does seem to be a sense of urgency about the issue.
 - ii. Dean Younen talked about degrees that have been revoked.

VIII. New Business

- a. Election of the New Speaker
 - i. Brian Conway is nominated for the Speaker of the Assembly.
 - ii. Brian would like to be Speaker because he can make sure the hard work of the professional development and programming committees continues.
 - iii. Motion to approve via unanimous consent. The motion is seconded.
 - iv. Brian is now Speaker of the Assembly.
- b. Confirmation of Kevin Cloonan, Graduate Council
 - i. Kevin was the president of the entomology grad student association. He would like to get involved in grad student issues at the University-level.
 - ii. Motion to approve via unanimous consent. The motion is seconded.
 - iii. Kevin is now a member of the Graduate Council.
- c. Bill 66-26, TEDxPSU Co-Sponsorship
 - i. The conference will be held in Schwab on February 12. Registration is available online.
 - ii. This bill would help provide lunch for everyone involved.
 - iii. Last year, about 15% of attendees were graduate students. The Schwab auditorium can hold about 600 people.
 - iv. Other co-sponsors are paying for travel and lodging, and a post-conference reception.
 - v. Motion to vote via roll call. The motion is seconded.
 - vi. See Addendum II for roll call vote. The bill passes.
- d. Bill 66-27, Smoke Free Campus Survey
 - i. As you have probably heard, President Barron announced a smoke-free campus committee.
 - ii. We have decided we need to conduct a survey internally and not wait for the University to take action.
 - iii. The money for the gift cards are coming from unrestricted funds.
 - iv. Motion to approve via unanimous consent. The motion is seconded. The bill passes.
- e. Bill 66-28, Funding for Roundtable Panel on Syria
 - i. The bill is asking for money to pay for bus transportation and lunch.
 - ii. Question: Are there co-sponsors?
 - 1. SIA is coordinating and facilitating, but there are no co-sponsors per se.
 - iii. Question: If three of the panelists are faculty at Penn State, why aren't we hosting it here?
 - 1. The discussion on the crisis in Syria is happening in D.C.
 - iv. Question: Will there only be students on the bus?

- 1. As far as we know, yes.
 - v. Question: Can you register for the event but not register for the bus?
 - 1. Hypothetically, yes.
 - vi. Question: Could you reserve spots on the bus for non-SIA students?
 - 1. Yes, though it is expected to be mostly SIA students.
 - vii. There is a proposal to cover half the costs of the bus.
 - viii. The cost of four Penn State vans would be about \$700.
 - ix. Motion to amend the cost to \$700 via hand raise. The nays have it.
 - x. Motion to amend the cost to \$900. The motion is seconded.
 - xi. The bill is now amended to \$900 in total allocation.
 - xii. Motion to approve via unanimous consent. The motion is denied. Motion to approve via roll call. The motion is seconded.
 - xiii. See Addendum II for votes. The motion is approved via roll call.
- f. Resolution 66-07, Call on Penn State University Administration to Protect Undocumented Students
- i. In 2012, President Obama signed an executive order establishing DACA. That executive order could be wiped away under the Trump administration.
 - ii. GPSA is following in the footsteps of UPUA. It does *not* use the language of sanctuary campuses. We are not asking the University to violate any federal laws.
 - iii. Question: Do we have any data on how many undocumented students Penn State has?
 - 1. No. There is no easy way to get that data.
 - iv. Question: How does this differ from what UPUA passed?
 - 1. The UPUA resolution was a template.
 - 2. None of our recommendations go beyond what they ask.
 - v. Comment: Everyone in this country gets due process under law.
 - vi. Comment: The spirit of this resolution is to support students who may feel threatened or alienated by current conversations.
 - vii. Motion to approve via roll call vote. The motion is seconded.
 - viii. See Addendum II for votes. The motion is approved via roll call.

IX. Reports

- a. Speaker of the Assembly (Brian Conway)
 - i. Thank you.
- b. Internal Development (Vacant)
 - i. Nothing to report.
- c. Student Affairs (James Fan)
 - i. Professional Development (Christine Mosich)
 - 1. Graduate writing boot camp starts next week.
 - 2. We need help from GPSA members to meet the caterer and introduce the guest speakers.
 - 3. Professional head shots are happening in the beginning of February.
 - ii. Community Service (Steven DeGrazia)
 - 1. GPSA is sponsoring a THON blood drive Friday, February 17 – 75% of the slots are already filled.
 - 2. GPSA will be responsible for a Friday Night Lights Out in mid-April.

- 3. There are plans to visit PAWS again.
- iii. Programming (Brian Conway)
 - 1. Winter Gala was a great success.
 - 2. Theater Day sold 208 tickets. We are finalizing details on the social.
- iv. Diversity (Kyler Sherman-Wilkins)
 - 1. The survey is done. It was sent to the President of BGSA and the President of the Coalition of LGBT students.
 - 2. After getting their feedback we will decide how to distribute the survey.
- v. Grad Cup (James Fan)
 - 1. Next meeting there will be a presentation on the greatness of Grad Cup.
- d. Advocacy (Matt Krott)
 - i. Nothing to report.
- e. Liaisons
 - i. Movin' On (Anthony Pinter):
 - 1. We have the line-up confirmed.
 - 2. Soon we will be looking for volunteers.
 - ii. Canvas (Jesse Scott)
 - 1. They are leading up to the end of the transition period.
 - iii. Lions Pantry (Jesse Scott)
 - 1. There is a meeting on Sunday. We have a bin for donations outside our office.
- f. Judiciary (Jesse Scott)
 - i. We have quite a few open positions. Check the website.
 - ii. The specific date for the elections will be coming soon. We want to make a University-Park wide effort to get people to vote.
 - iii. Please check your emails during breaks. We often get close to not meeting quorum on email votes.
- g. Board of Trustees (Allie Goldstein)
 - i. Nothing to report.
- h. Advisor (Dr. Phillip Burlingame)
 - i. We could probably go back to Elion if we closed PSU for a year.
 - ii. In March LionPATH will be working with 100 students to beta test the new interface. Email kxm78@psu.edu if you are interested.
 - iii. There is a new website to check the progress of LionPATH: sites.psu.edu/lionpathstudentupdates

X. Comments for the Good of the Order

- a. Anyone want to join Brian and Jim for a drink after the meeting?

XI. Adjournment

- a. The meeting is adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Whitesell

Addendum I. Roll Call Attendance

P = present

A = absent

E = excused

PR = proxy

Office	Name	Attendance
Executive Board		
President	Kevin Horne	P
Vice President	Marina Cotarelo	P
Treasurer	Sidharth Agrawal	P
Secretary	Anne Whitesell	P
Faculty Senator	Kevin Reuning	P
Graduate Council		
Graduate Council	Brianne Pragg	P
Graduate Council	Carol Rogers-Shaw	A
Judiciary		
Chief Justice	Jesse Scott	P
Associate Justice	Michael Kramer	A
Assembly		
Agricultural Sciences	Cameron Stephens	P
Arts and Architecture	Miguel Campos	A
Dickinson School of Law	Mackenzie Mitchell	A
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Michael Cronin	P
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Gerald Knapp	P
Eberly College of Science	William Wright	E/PR
Eberly College of Science	Brian Conway	P
Eberly College of Science	Erica Schwalm	P
Education	Xulu Zhang	A
Education	Christine Mosich	P
Engineering	John McKay	A
Engineering	Matt Krott	P

Engineering	Shen-li Pei	P
Health and Human Development	Austin Barrett	P
Health and Human Development	Katharine Grills	E/PR
Information Sciences and Technology	Anthony Pinter	P
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Brittany Banik	P
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	David Dopfel	L
School of International Affairs	Jennifer Gibbs	P
Liberal Arts	Robert Zuchowski	P
Liberal Arts	Kyler Sherman-Wilkins	L
Smeal College of Business	Steven Di Grazia	L
Smeal College of Business	James Fan	P
Smeal College of Business	Nicolas Lien	P
At-Large Delegate	Mohammad Wahba	P
At-Large Delegate	Sonny Arora	P
At-Large Delegate	William Dusch	L

Addendum II. Roll Call Votes

Office	Name	Bill 66-26	Bill 66-28	Res. 66-07
Assembly				
Agricultural Sciences	Cameron Stephens	Y	A	Y
Arts and Architecture	Miguel Campos	--	--	--
Dickinson School of Law	Mackenzie Mitchell	--	--	--
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Michael Cronin	A	N	N
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Gerald Knapp	Y	Y	Y
Eberly College of Science	William Wright	N	N	N
Eberly College of Science	Brian Conway	A	Y	Y
Eberly College of Science	Erica Schwalm	Y	Y	Y
Education	Xulu Zhang	--	--	--
Education	Christine Mosich	Y	Y	Y
Engineering	John McKay	--	--	--
Engineering	Matt Krott	Y	Y	Y
Engineering	Shen-li Pei	Y	Y	Y
Health and Human Development	Austin Barrett	Y	Y	Y
Health and Human Development	Katharine Grills	Y	Y	---
Information Sciences and Technology	Anthony Pinter	A	Y	Y
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Brittany Banik	Y	Y	Y
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	David Dopfel	Y	N	Y
School of International Affairs	Jennifer Gibbs	Y	Y	Y
Liberal Arts	Robert Zuchowski	A	Y	Y
Liberal Arts	Kyler Sherman-Wilkins	Y	Y	Y

Smeal College of Business	Steven Di Grazia	--	Y	Y
Smeal College of Business	James Fan	Y	Y	Y
Smeal College of Business	Nicolas Lien	A	Y	--
At-Large Delegate	Mohammad Wahba	Y	N	Y
At-Large Delegate	Sonny Arora	Y	Y	Y
At-Large Delegate	William Dusch	Y	Y	A