



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, November 16, 2016 | 6:00pm | 302 HUB Robeson Center

I. Call to Order

- a. The meeting is called to order by the Executive Vice President at 6:04 p.m.

II. Roll Call Attendance – See Addendum I

III. Adoption of the Agenda

- a. Add Faculty Senate appointment to new business before resolution.
- b. The motion is seconded. There are no objections.
- c. Amend Graduate Council to read Brianne Pragg.
- d. Hearing no objections to those changes, those changes are adopted.

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. No comments

VI. Special Presentation – Alan Janesch, Director of Penn State Grassroots Network

- a. Legislative Education and Advocacy Program, housed with the Penn State Alumni Association
- b. The goal of the Network is to keep Penn State alumni informed about legislative issues (mostly in Harrisburg but also in Washington) that are important to Penn State.
- c. Effective advocacy can help draw attention to federal and local problems.
- d. What does the Network do?
 - i. Gives people the tools they need to reach out to elected officials.
 - ii. Sponsors events
- e. Support of Penn State by the government has decreased, while the tuition increases.
- f. Penn State is asking the state for an 11% funding increase to keep base tuition for in-state students flat.
- g. How does advocacy help you?
 - i. General support from the Commonwealth boosts economic development to create jobs and enhance student career resources.
 - ii. Strong state support increases institutional parity and prestige.
 - iii. State funding helps free up money for graduate programs, which means more research funding and more graduate assistantships.
- h. How can you get involved?
 - i. Join the Network.
 - ii. Follow the Network on Twitter.
 - iii. Like the Network on Facebook.
 - iv. Use Network resources to learn about the issues and find your legislators.

- v. Tell legislators about PSU's contributions to communities across the state and how graduate students are helping to create the knowledge that will shape the future.
- i. Questions
 - i. How does Penn State fit into the state's public education system?
 - 1. The public universities are former teacher's colleges.
 - 2. An increase in funding for one school will bring an increase in funding for all schools.
 - ii. What is the role at the federal level?
 - 1. The University gets far more money at the federal level for research than it does at the state level.
 - iii. How useful are these resources if you are interested in advocating on non-Penn State related issues?
 - 1. Anyone visiting the website can find their legislator and write to them on any issue.
 - iv. Will the Pennsylvania legislature have another shut down, and how will that affect funding?
 - 1. It is unclear what the effects will be.

VII. Special Presentation – All In Video

- a. Eight minute video not on YouTube
- b. How is this being distributed?
 - i. It was shown at the launch.
 - ii. It is available on the All In website.

VIII. Executive Officer Reports

- a. President (Kevin Horne)
 - i. There was a robust discussion at last week's exec board meeting on how GPSA has changed in the past two years. How can we be more efficient? How can we continue to make GPSA better?
 - ii. Trustees meeting
 - 1. White Course apartments are now available for rent.
 - iii. At the latest Borough Council meeting, there was discussion about an ordinance that would restrict the number of people in front yards to no more than the number of people living in the house.
 - iv. Ted xPSU will be here in February
 - v. Tour of Bloomington, Indiana and Ohio State – big changes in campus recreation
 - 1. There is a push for gym memberships to be covered by student fees.
 - vi. Thank you to those who came out the Board of Trustee town hall meeting last night. It was standing room only, and there were some tough questions asked.
 - vii. Student fee board has interviewed at-large members and will convene after Thanksgiving.
 - viii. We need three grad council representatives. We also need a Chief Justice.
- b. Vice President (Marina Cotarelo)
 - i. LionPATH steering committee announced that a new user interface will be launching in the spring.
- c. Treasurer (Sidharth Agrawal)

- i. Budget is up-to-date online.
- ii. Currently we have about \$30,000 unallocated.
- d. Secretary (Anne Whitesell)
 - i. Nothing to report.
- e. Graduate Council (Brianne Pragg)
 - i. Right now anyone getting paid over grade 21 has to seek Grad School approval. A new proposal would bump that up to grade 26, so Grad School approval would be needed for anyone receiving more than \$31,000.
 - ii. All assistantships must be a minimum grade 12, but there are some allowances made for some programs.

IX. New Business

- a. Faculty senator appointment: Kevin Reuning
 - i. Kevin wants more representation for grad students on Faculty Senate. The undergraduates have a representative for every college.
 - ii. There is a motion to approve via unanimous consent. The motion is seconded.
 - iii. The appointment is confirmed.
- b. Resolution 66-05, Involvement in University Smoke-Free Task Force
 - i. Other groups (UPUA) have done surveys and other forms of benchmarking.
 - 1. The Advocacy committee does not feel comfortable issuing a recommendation without knowing the will of the graduate students.
 - 2. The committee proposes conducting a survey either through the task force or independently.
 - ii. What is the timeline for the survey?
 - 1. Depends on how fast the task force timeline is moving.
 - iii. UPUA sample was people living on campus, so it was not exactly representative of the entire undergraduate student body.
 - iv. Is the task force being formed to implement a smoke-free campus or to discuss the possibility?
 - 1. Right now it is being formed to discuss the probability.
 - 2. Given that UPUA just received a grant for implementing a smoke-free campus, the expectation is that it will be approved.
 - v. Would we need Judiciary and/or Internal Development approval before sending a survey?
 - vi. Dean Younken wants us to support a tobacco-free campus.
 - vii. Doing a survey through Penn State could take years – UPUA was talking about it in 2014. Maybe it would be better to have the survey distributed through the task force.
 - viii. Maybe we should send the survey out through graduate staff assistants or graduate student organizations?
 - ix. There is a motion to approve via unanimous consent. The motion is seconded.
 - x. The bill passes.

X. Reports

- a. Speaker of the Assembly (Lily Hill)
 - i. The next meeting is Lily's last. If you're interested in taking over Lily's job, let her know!

- b. Internal Development (Jordan Morris)
 - i. Nothing to report.
- c. Student Affairs (James Fan)
 - i. Professional Development (Christine Mosich)
 - 1. Professional head shots were a success – 65 out of 72 slots were filled.
 - 2. The committee would like to have two more events in the spring.
 - ii. Community Service (Steve DiGrazia)
 - 1. We collected enough food for the Thanksgiving basket drive to make 37 baskets (up from 14 last year)!
 - 2. The Festival of Trees runs December 9 through 11.
 - iii. Programming (Brian Conway)
 - 1. Iowa tailgate was a success.
 - 2. Winter Gala tickets are available!
 - 3. The third financial literacy seminar was a success - 22 people showed up. The committee is looking to have 5 or 6 specialized sessions in the spring.
 - 4. The first block of tickets for Theatre Day (*ONCE*) has already sold out; get your tickets now!
 - iv. Diversity (Kylar Sherman-Wilkins)
 - 1. The Board of Trustee event was great.
 - 2. The committee has four members; even if you're not part of the committee, please send on information.
 - 3. The committee will be meeting with representatives from the Black Graduate Student Associations.
 - 4. There have been a number of teach-ins around campus to help faculty and graduate students learn how to talk about the election with their students.
 - 5. This week is Trans Visibility Week
 - a. Vigil tomorrow at 8pm
 - b. Clothing drive
- d. Advocacy (Kevin Reuning)
 - i. The committee is working on the smoking resolution.
 - ii. Members of the committee are also working on the P/R faculty distinction, and would like to bring in speakers to GPSA to discuss the implications to various academic programs.
- e. Liaisons
 - i. Movin' On
 - 1. Headliner has been confirmed.
 - ii. Student Parent Childcare Subsidy Committee
 - 1. Currently there is more flexibility in awarding the subsidy since it is no longer covered by a federal grant.
 - 2. Provost may stop giving money if they receive the federal grant again. This would be bad for graduate students.
- f. Judiciary
 - i. Nothing to report
- g. Board of Trustees (Allie Goldstein)

- i. The BoT authorized funds to pay for Trippe Hall at Penn State Behrend
- ii. Trustee town hall went well; we are excited about continuing the conversation.
- h. Advisor (Dr. Phillip Burlingame)
 - i. Thankful for everything that the delegates do in the Penn State community.

XI. Comments for the Good of the Order

- a. State of State is accepting speaker applications on the following topics: community responsibility; entrepreneurship and sustainability; unexpected members of the community. Please consider applying!
- b. The IM building continues to undergo renovation. Some recent changes include a rock climbing wall, space for slacklining, and a renewed focus on wellness.
- c. Buy Winter Gala tickets!
- d. Please consider making a donation to our Christmas tree.
- e. A Penn State Law student passed away. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

XII. Adjournment

- a. The meeting is adjourned at 7:38 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	Vacant	
Graduate Council		
Graduate Council	Brianne Pragg	P
Graduate Council	Carol Rogers-Shaw	A
Graduate Council	Vacant	
Graduate Council	Vacant	
Graduate Council	Vacant	
Judiciary		
Chief Justice	Jesse Scott	A
Associate Justice	Michael Kramer	A
Associate Justice	Vacant	
Assembly		
Agricultural Sciences	Cameron Stephens	P
Dickinson School of Law	Fallon Dungan	E
Dickinson School of Law	Jordan D. Morris	P
Dickinson School of Law	Mackenzie Mitchell	E
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Michael Cronin	E
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Gerald Knapp	P
Eberly College of Science	William Wright	P
Eberly College of Science	Brian Conway	P
Eberly College of Science	Erica Schwalm	E
Education	Xulu Zhang	P

Education	Christine Mosich	P
Education	Jinhee Choi	A
Engineering	John McKay	P
Engineering	Matt Krott	P
Engineering	Shen-li Pei	P
Health and Human Development	Austin Barrett	P
Health and Human Development	Samuel Masters	A
Information Sciences and Technology	Anthony Pinter	P
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Brittany Banik	P
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	David Dopfel	E/PR
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Lilian Hill	P
School of International Affairs	Jennifer Gibbs	P
Liberal Arts	Kevin Reuning	P
Liberal Arts	Robert Zuchowski	P
Liberal Arts	Kyler Sherman-Wilkins	P
Smeal College of Business	Steven Di Grazia	P
Smeal College of Business	James Fan	A
Smeal College of Business	Nicholas Lin	P
At-Large Delegate	Mohammad Whaba	P
At-Large Delegate	Katharine Grills	P
At-Large Delegate	Sonny Arora	E
At-Large Delegate	William Dusch	P