



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, December 2, 2015 | 6:00pm | 134 HUB-Robeson Center

I. Call to Order

- a. Meeting was called to order by the President at 6:03pm

II. Roll Call

- a. Please see Addendum I

III. Adoption of Agenda

- a. Moved to amend agenda to change spending bill 65-16 to bill 65-17 by Ayla Gafni – hearing no objections, motion to carried. Agenda approved as such

IV. Approval of Minutes

- a. Hearing no objections to the approval of minutes, minutes approved as distributed

V. Open Student Forum

- a. No discussion

VI. Special Presentation: *Dan Murphy, Co-chair CORED – President's Commission on Racial/Ethnic Diversity*

- a. Coalition formed in 1989 to advise President on issues surrounding race and ethnicity at PSU
 - i. Student participation has dwindled over the years – GPSA used to have a liaison but currently does not
 1. Currently, 1/3 of the student focus team is students (this includes students from UP and Commonwealth campuses)
 2. Time commitment is a monthly commission meeting and a monthly Student Focus Team meeting
 3. Use newswires and mass communication measures to typically contact students and encourage involvement
 - b. What does CORED do?
 - i. Meets annually with President to address and identify issues that are important or that impact students
 1. Unfortunately, student issues team is made primarily of faculty and staff
 2. Want to appeal to students to become involved and reengage with student organizations
 3. Focus is on long-term policy, structure, infrastructure across the institution rather than short-term issues

VII. New Business

- a. Vacancies
 - i. Please see website for a full list of vacancies within the Assembly:
<http://gpsa.psu.edu/membership-2/assembly/>
 - ii. There is also 1 open seat on the Graduate Council

- b. Bill 65-17 (see Addendum II)
 - i. Presented by Meridith Bartley
 - ii. Bring Emily Roberts as invited speaker to give lecture on personal finance for graduate and professional students (including post-docs)
 - 1. Given lack of attendance at the Alexandra Levit lecture, what can we do differently?
 - a. Topic is widely applicable
 - b. Working with Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) to get word out
 - c. Also have a lot more time to garner interest between now and March
 - 2. What credentials or expertise does she have to speak on this topic? Are there people that are less expensive to do this same sort of lecture or workshop?
 - a. She has a PhD in Biomedical Engineering from Duke and speaks specifically on graduate student finances
 - b. Unsure of what other resources are available at PSU to speak on this topic
 - 3. Would this talk focus on student-specific financial concerns or concerns regarding the transition between student and non-student life?
 - a. Will tailor presentation to audience and can potentially cover both of these concerns
 - 4. Timing of event is right after spring break – just something to keep in mind!
 - 5. How did you find her?
 - a. Contacted student organizations at PSU (including GWIS) – GWIS responded and someone from GPSA responded, but this fell through
 - 6. Is there potential to co-sponsor with other organizations or colleges for food?
 - 7. Do we have the venue booked?
 - a. Currently have the entire day reserved for Heritage Hall
 - 8. Other than advertisement purposes, what will GWIS contribute?
 - a. Help with logistics, planning, etc.
 - b. Potential to host a more informal lunch hour with a few students and work to make her more available to the student body
 - 9. Is she interested in doing a more in-depth workshop?
 - a. Probably not without compensation, but it might be useful to look into resources on campus to host a day-long workshop event leading up to her lecture
 - 10. Moved to table this bill until the next assembly meeting by Veronica Charbonnet, 2nd by Stacey Mitchell.
 - a. Discussion regarding tabling:
 - i. There are questions that can be better answered with more time
 - ii. Explore alternatives to accomplish similar goal for less money
 - iii. Explore connections within the Graduate School Alumni Society if they have members that have expertise in this area
 - b. 10 in favor of tabling the bill, 1 opposed – bill will be tabled until the next Assembly meeting
 - i. In the meantime, please voice any concerns or suggestions to Meridith (mzb239@psu.edu)

VIII. Standing Committee Reports

- a. **Student Concerns:** *Daniel Brenner*
 - i. Nothing to report
- b. **Grad Cup:** *James Fan, Lillian Hill*
 - i. Please let Jim (juf187@smeal.psu.edu) know if you are interested in planning this event – Jim is also looking for a co-chair!

- c. **Professional Development:** *Casey Millburg*
 - i. Please contact Anthony Christina (aoc5144@psu.edu) if you are interested in the chair position
- d. **Programming:** *Lillian Hill*
 - i. Lily is stepping down as Programming Committee chair, Grad Cup co-chair and Delegate, effective immediately. Email Anthony (aoc5144@psu.edu) if interested in serving.
 - a. Thank you to everyone for your support over the past semester
 - b. Will first finish up everything for the Winter Gala
 - i. We are donating \$220.00 to each charity from this event
 - c. Alexandra Levit would like to thank us for hosting her – she is interested in visiting again and will cut her honoraria in half if we choose to ask her to speak again
 - ii. Thank you Lily for all of your hard work!
- e. **Publicity & Media:** *Nicole Benevento*
 - i. Committee chair position is vacant. Email Anthony (aoc5144@psu.edu) if interested in serving
- f. **Healthcare & Health Insurance:** *Alison Franklin*
 - i. Graduate School is interested in moving forward with workshops next semester – will share costs for room, video, food, etc.
 - ii. Alison (amy125@psu.edu) is looking for feedback on what topics to cover and what vocabulary should be discussed at the workshop
- g. **Community Service:** *Jesse Scott*
 - i. Blood drive
 - 1. GPSA's blood drive did not hit our goal but we came close!
 - 2. PSU won the challenge by ~30 units or so – Red Cross representatives are stoked! Our additional support made a big difference!
 - ii. Basket drive
 - 1. GPSA helped facilitate 14 baskets
 - 2. 350 or so provided 350 or so university wide
 - a. Still did not meet the demand (which was just shy of 400 baskets)
 - iii. Decoration Creation
 - 1. First decoration session was yesterday! Second meeting will happen on Saturday (December 5, 2015) at 10am in GPSA office
 - a. If you are interested in helping, show up or let Stacey (sxm629@psu.edu) know!
 - iv. Spring food drive
 - 1. Working to have a food drive in conjunction with Students Engaging Students
 - a. Want to work with local grocery stores to coordinate donations of their locations
 - b. Still in planning stages but hopefully this will take place halfway through next semester – will be looking for volunteers when the time comes
- h. **Human Diversity:** *Luis Ocampo*
 - i. Nothing to report
- i. **PACCC:**
 - i. Committee chair position is vacant. Email Anthony (aoc5144@psu.edu) if interested in serving

IX. Report by the President: *Kevin Horne*

- a. PSU hiring Paul Apicella as Title IX Coordinator!
- b. Borough Zoning update

- i. Planning commission met today (December 2, 2015) – looks like it will be a positive recommendation but Kevin will send out the final recommendation when the information becomes available
 - c. Student Fees
 - i. President’s Council and President Barron has approved proposal of the student fee advisory board
 - 1. Facilities, IT and student activities fees will now be consolidated into one and will be governed by the student governments
 - a. This will increase flexibility in determining where the money is spent
 - 2. Should it pass through the Board of Trustees, it will be implemented next fall
 - 3. More detailed report to come!
 - d. Board of Trustees Meeting
 - i. Board was moving forward to put turnstiles in front of recreational facilities to restrict access
 - 1. Would cost 7.5 million dollars and additional money per year for staff to man the turnstiles
 - 2. Student governments spoke against this, and the board decided to table it – this is a huge success for student governments!
 - 3. Board will revisit this with a new proposal that will mitigate some of these costs
- X. Report by the Executive Vice President: *Anthony Christina***
 - a. Nothing to report
- XI. Report by the Vice President of External Affairs: *Nicole Benevento***
 - a. Nothing to report
- XII. Report by the Treasurer: *Ayla Gafni***
 - a. Spreadsheet online is up-to-date – email any questions you might have to Ayla (arg225@psu.edu) and she will address them at the next Assembly meeting
 - b. There is flexibility in changing budgets of programming and professional development committees when new chairs take place – Ayla is willing to work with you!
- XIII. Report by the Secretary: *Courtney Davis***
 - a. Nothing to report
- XIV. Report by the Faculty Senate: *Azita Ranjbar***
 - a. Nothing to report
- XV. Report by the Judiciary: *Jeremy Johnson***
 - a. Nothing to report
- XVI. Report by Graduate Council: *Brad Sottile***
 - a. Nothing to report
- XVII. Report by the Liaisons**
 - a. Nothing to report
- XVIII. Report by the Student Trustee: *Allie Goldstein***
 - a. Board did not vote on legislation proposed to build residence halls at Commonwealth campuses (Burkes & Abington) – will be reviewing this again in December
 - b. January will be a closed meeting for self-assessment
- XIX. Report by the Advisor: *Philip Burlingame***
 - a. For those who are new to the organization – urge you to become involved! There is a need for new leadership to step forward – GPSA has a problem of burning out its leaders, so we need more people to step up!
- XX. Comments for the Good of the Order**
 - a. Thank you Lily for all of your hard work!

- b. Eberly College of Science Graduate Student Association is planning an elevator pitch forum
 - i. There will likely be a co-sponsorship bill in the future regarding this
- c. CCSG will be meeting this weekend in Heritage Hall if anyone is interested in attending!

XXI. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 6:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney Davis

President: Kevin Horne | kvh5130@psu.edu
Executive Vice President: Anthony Christina | aoc5144@psu.edu
VP of External Affairs: Nicole Benevento | nmb5273@psu.edu
Executive Secretary: Courtney Davis | cld303@psu.edu
Treasurer: Ayla Gafni | arg225@psu.edu
Advisor: Philip Burlingame, Ph.D. | pvb7@psu.edu

Addendum I

GPSA Roll Call

- P** – present
- P/R** – proxy sent
- A** – absent
- W** – left early
- L** – late
- E** – excused

Executive Board

Kevin Horne	P
Anthony Christina	L
Nicole Benevento	A
Courtney Davis	P
Ayla Gafni	P
Phillip Burlingame	P

Faculty Senate

Azita Ranjbar	A
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Graduate Council

Brad Sottile	A
Morteza Karimzadeh	A
jeffrey masko	L
Sidharth Agrawal	P
Marina Cotarelo	P

Agricultural Sciences

Alison Franklin	E
1 delegate seat vacant	

Art & Architecture

1 delegate seat vacant

Communications

1 delegate seat vacant

Education

Karyn Rizzo	A
Daniel Brenner	E
Junxian Zhang	A

Dickinson School of Law

Christina Gallagher	P
Theresa DeAngelis	A
Jessica Tully	E
Engineering	
Jesse Scott	P
Ashish Shah	A
Wenjie Fei	E
Smeal College of Business	
James Fan	P
Alexander Murdoch	A
Steven Di Grazia	E
Earth & Mineral Sciences	
Yiming Zhang	P
1 delegate seat vacant	
Liberal Arts	
Veronica Anne Charbonnet	P
Stacey Mitchell	P
1 delegate seat vacant	
Health & Human Development	
Adam Copeland	P
Hannah Van Every	A
Information Sciences & Technology	
Dev Khare	A
International Affairs	
Jennifer Gibbs	P
Nursing	
1 delegate seat vacant	
Eberly College of Science	
Meridith Bartley	P
Jason Bernstein	A
Will Wright	P
White Course Apartments	
Douglas Dooling, Jr.	E
Inter-College Degree Program	
Lillian Hill	P

David Dopfel L

1 delegate seat vacant

At Large

Luis Ocampo A

Casey Millburg A

Penina Backer P

Hye Won Chai A

Chao Su A

Judiciary

Brian Aynardi L

Alex Park A

Jeremy Johnson P

Bill # 65-16

**The Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA)
The Pennsylvania State University**



of the 65th Assembly
December 2, 2015

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

Invited Speaker: Emily Roberts
Funding for Travel and other Fees for an Invited Speaker
(Decided: [Y / N / A])

Nature of the Situation:

Many graduate students struggle with management of their personal finances. Emily Roberts of the blog Graduate Student Finances has developed a series of lectures for graduate students that cover how to pay for school, budget stipends, pay taxes, save and invest money, and afford a social life. Roberts' message that graduate students can successfully practice personal financial management is very much in line with GPSA's mission of empowering graduate students at Penn State, and thus we propose that GPSA sponsor a visit from Roberts to talk with graduate students at Penn State University.

Additional information about Emily Roberts may be found at:
<http://www.gradstudentfinances.org/about/>.

Recommended Course of Action:

The Graduate and Professional Student Association will pay honoraria and travel fees for Emily Roberts to speak at Penn State on March 15, 2016 in Heritage Hall

Honorarium: \$1,000
Travel and lodging: \$1,500
Auditorium Fee: \$0
Total: \$2,500

Respectfully submitted

Meridith Bartley
Delegate, Eberly College of Science

Jason Bernstein
Delegate, Eberly College of Science

President _____

Affirm Veto

The Graduate and Professional Student Association