



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, February 24, 2016 | 6:00pm | 134 HUB-Robeson Center

I. Call to Order

- a. Meeting was called to order by the Executive Vice President at 6:06pm

II. Roll Call

- a. Please see Addendum I

III. Adoption of Agenda

- a. Moved to add 'Swearing in of new delegate' as item I under New Business by Jesse Scott, 2nd by David Dopfel – hearing no objections, so moved
- b. Moved to move Report by the VPEA to item VIII of the agenda by Jesse Scott, 2nd by Steven DiGrazia – hearing no objections, so moved
- c. No objections to the adoption of the agenda as amended

IV. Approval of Minutes

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

V. Open Student Forum

- a. The Red Cross has presented GPSA with a plaque in thanks for our support in their initiatives this year – congratulations to the community service committee, in particular, for helping with these efforts!

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

- a. Job is to keep volunteers informed about legislative issues in Harrisburg and Washington DC that impact Penn State
- b. Capital Day will be April 5, 2016 – will include a high visibility/high energy rally in the Capital Rotunda and meeting with elected officials and students to ask for Penn State funding
- c. Budget impasse will impact the University – graduate and undergraduate students should be concerned with this issue and work in whatever capacity they can to encourage legislators to end the impasse
- d. Steps that graduate students can take to advocate for Penn State include:
 - i. Signing up for the newsletter and action alerts form the Grassroots network (alumni.psu.edu/grassroots)
 - ii. Take part in Capital Day
 - iii. Develop long term relationship with elected officials

VII. Report by the Treasurer: *Ayla Gafni*

- a. Budget spreadsheet is up to date on the website: <http://gpsa.psu.edu/about-the-gpsa/budget/>

VIII. Report by the Vice President for External Affairs: *Nicole Benevento*

- a. Ride Pass Program
 - i. \$15.00 per month

- ii. Bulk of complaints so far have been in regard to the restrictions put in place (i.e., people who live within 1.5 miles of a blue loop or red link bus stop are ineligible for the pass)
- iii. There will be no lottery system for graduate students – all restrictions put in place are effective for students, faculty, staff
- iv. There will be an application to sign up for a 9 month or a 12 month program
- v. Medical and JD students will now be eligible to be included in the program

IX. New Business

a. Vacancies

- i. Christine Mosich, College of Education
 - 1. Main areas of interest are centered in the Professional Development committee – currently working to plan the Spring Dissertation Bootcamp
 - 2. Moved to approve through unanimous consent by Jesse Scott, 2nd by Steven DiGrazia – hearing no objections, so moved – congratulations!

b. Bill #65-20 (addendum II)

- i. Spring Food drive
- ii. Food pantries typically receive lots of support during the holidays, but are often in deficit during other times of the year
- iii. On March 19th, there will be a food drive at a local supermarket during which customers can buy additional items in support of local food pantries
 - 1. This will most likely take place at the North Atherton Walmart Supercenter, but contact has been made with other stores in the off-chance that this falls through
- iv. Will be looking for volunteers to work 1 hour shifts during the day (9am-5pm) to encourage customers to purchase the additional goods
- v. If this proves successful, would like to expand this model to additional stores in the local area
- vi. Friendly amendment by Steven DiGrazia to change line 5 to read March 19, 2016 instead of April 19, 2016, 2nd by Jesse Scott – hearing no objection, so moved
- vii. Call the question by Jesse Scott, 2nd by David Dopfel – motion passes (11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions; see addendum VII for roll call votes)

c. Bill #65-21 (addendum III)

- i. 19th Consecutive ECMSS conference
- ii. Main purpose of this event is to provide a low-stress opportunity for students to present on their research
 - 1. Multiple colleges and programs participate in this, as do students from surrounding Commonwealth campuses
- iii. Looking for advertising and financial support (\$1240 to cover food expenses) from GPSA
 - 1. GPSA has never co-sponsored this event in the past
 - 2. Approximately 150 people in attendance in past events
- iv. Friendly amendment to change line 11 to read \$1240 rather than \$4640 by James Fan, 2nd by Jesse Scott – hearing no objection, so moved
- v. Call the question by Jesse Schott, 2nd by James Fan – motion passes (11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions; see addendum VII for roll call votes)

d. Bill #65-23 (addendum IV)

- i. Great Debate was started in 2013, but last year was the first year that the debate was built from the ground up
 - ii. Goal is to provide a philosophical argument on policies and issues of concern – meant to spark a political dialogue on campus that is otherwise lacking
 - iii. Event is typically sold out (899 seats in Schwab Auditorium)
 - iv. This event has been tailored to focus on undergraduates in the past, but this year, the planning committee is hoping to get more graduate student involvement in the process and during the actual event
 - v. Total budget is ~42000 - \$2000 co-sponsorship from GPSA would go toward paying honoraria
 - vi. Speakers are chosen by the planning committee and cannot be released at this time (until all funding is secured)
 - vii. The event will be Monday, April 25th at 7pm in Schwab Auditorium
 - viii. Call the question by Steven DiGrazia, 2nd by David Dopfel – motion passes (9 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 abstentions; see addendum VII for roll call votes)
 - e. **Bill #65-22 (addendum V)**
 - i. Once a semester, the student governments host a town hall open forum with the University President that is open to all students
 - ii. President Barron will give a short address and then take questions from the live audience
 - iii. This event will be live streamed to every commonwealth campus
 - iv. Cost (~\$4000) will be split between the three student governments and the administration
 - v. This event will be on March 16 at 3:00pm in the Hintz Alumni Center
 - vi. Call the question by David Dopfel, 2nd by James Fan – motion approved (11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions; see addendum VII for roll call votes)
 - f. **Resolution #65-02 (addendum VI)**
 - i. Please see addendum VI for full resolution details
 - ii. Lobbying is a full year effort and the student body needs an initiative that reflects this and that is solely committed to governmental affairs and our priority as students
 - iii. GPSA previously passed a resolution regarding the joint student platform, and this initiative might be a way to keep this platform moving forward year after year
 - iv. There has been a lot of GPSA involvement along the way in the development of this campaign
 - v. Call the question by David Dopfel, 2nd by Jessica Tully – motion approved (10 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention; see addendum VII for roll call votes)
- X. Standing Committee Reports**
- a. **Student Concerns:** *Daniel Brenner*
 - i. Nothing to report
 - b. **Grad Cup:** *James Fan*
 - i. Great events are being planned!
 - ii. Need every delegate to reach out to their colleges and departments to get teams to sign up
 - 1. Registration is open – check out the Facebook page
 - a. Discounted registration if teams sign up before March 16

- iii. Unofficially, the date has been set for April 23 from 8am (set-up) to 5pm (clean-up)
 - c. **Professional Development:**
 - i. Christine Mosich will help plan Dissertation Bootcamp this semester, but more help is needed! Please contact Kevin (kvh5130@psu.edu) if you are interested in helping plan this important event
 - d. **Programming:**
 - i. Thanks to David for setting up and running the Mixer at Café 210 last week – there were close to 100 people who signed in!
 - ii. Still looking for people to plan events such as multicultural week and the graduate student appreciation week
 - e. **Publicity & Media:**
 - i. Nothing to report
 - f. **Healthcare & Health Insurance:** *Alison Franklin*
 - i. Nothing to report
 - g. **Community Service:** *Jesse Scott*
 - i. Blood drive at the Nittany Lion Inn last Friday was successful! Goal was to collect 19 units, and 23 units were collected from 25 donors!
 - ii. Thank you for approving the bill for the food drive!
 - iii. Maple Harvest Festival is still looking for volunteers if anyone is interested in helping
 - iv. Organizing a Centre County PAWS visit for a Saturday in March – please contact Jim (juf187@smeal.psu.edu) if you are interested in participating in the event
 - h. **Human Diversity:**
 - i. Please contact Anthony Christina (aoc5144@psu.edu) if you are interested in the chair position
 - i. **PACCC:**
 - i. Committee chair position is vacant. Email Anthony (aoc5144@psu.edu) if interested in serving
- XI. Report by the President:** *Kevin Horne*
- a. TedXPSU is this Sunday – starts at 10am in Schwab auditorium
 - i. Please let Kevin know if you are interested in attending the event but were unable to get tickets
 - b. Governing documents are done!
 - i. Drafts are available on the Google docs sent to all assembly members
 - ii. Documents will be on the floor at the next meeting (which is 1 month away)
 - c. Attendance Issues
 - i. No one showed up at the Borough Planning Commission meeting – if we do not show up to the Council meeting when it comes to the floor, this will not pass. We need bodies. Please contact Kevin (kvh5130@psu.edu) for more details regarding the meeting
- XII. Report by the Executive Vice President:** *Anthony Christina*
- a. Contact Anthony (aoc5144@psu.edu) if you are interested in learning more about his position for the upcoming elections
- XIII. Report by the Secretary:** *Courtney Davis*
- a. Please have articles for the GPSA newswire to Courtney (cld303@psu.edu) by Friday (2/26) afternoon, so that she can get it organized and sent out early Monday morning
- XIV. Report by the Judiciary:** *Jeremy Johnson*

- a. Nothing to report

XV. Report by Graduate Council: Brad Sottile

- a. Nothing to report

XVI. Report by the Liaisons

- a. Health Insurance Liaison: *Alison Franklin*

- i. Latest premium rates presented by Aetna are \$9 cheaper with the elimination of the continuation plan (see below)

- 1. Premium per person would be \$3,332
- 2. If the hard waiver is put in place for the upcoming year, Aetna will lower the rate to \$2504
- 3. Currently working on a draft update to send out to students – still gathering information about the hard waiver situation

- ii. Would like to gather information from the Assembly on the continuation plan

- 1. Continuation plan is a one month continuation of the SHIP after a student graduates (either January or August)
 - a. This past year the individuals on the continuation plan (10 people) had utilization that was 1500%

- 2. Suggested during the meeting with Aetna that the continuation plan be removed

- a. Health Insurance liaisons are divided about keeping or removing the continuation plan

- i. Some think that a \$9.00 drop in premium is not worth removing the continuation plan
- ii. Continuation plan was in place before the Exchange became available
- iii. For some liaisons (and Karen Kline), the continuation plan is viewed as a risk, especially given the utilization this past year

- b. If anyone has input on this matter – please contact Alison
(AlisonFranklin@psu.edu)

XVII. Report by the Student Trustee: Allie Goldstein

- a. Nothing to report

XVIII. Report by the Advisor: Philip Burlingame

- a. Reinforce that every member should take a close look at the governing documents

XIX. Comments for the Good of the Order

- a. Thank you for passing this evening's legislation

XX. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.

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	P
Nicole Benevento	P
Courtney Davis	P
Ayla Gafni	P
Phillip Burlingame	P

Faculty Senate

Azita Ranjbar	A
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Graduate Council

Brad Sottile	P
Morteza Karimzadeh	A
Sidharth Agrawal	A
Marina Cotarelo	A

Agricultural Sciences

Alison Franklin	E
1 delegate seat vacant	

Art & Architecture

1 delegate seat vacant

Communications

1 delegate seat vacant

Education

Junxian Zhang	P
Daniel Brenner	A
1 delegate seat vacant	

Dickinson School of Law

Christina Gallagher	E
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Jessica Tully P

1 delegate seat vacant

Engineering

Jesse Scott P

2 delegate seats vacant

Smeal College of Business

James Fan P

Steven Di Grazia P

1 delegate seat vacant

Earth & Mineral Sciences

Yiming Zhang A

1 delegate seat vacant

Liberal Arts

Veronica Anne Charbonnet A

Stacey Mitchell E

1 delegate seat vacant

Health & Human Development

Adam Copeland P

Hannah Van Every A

Information Sciences & Technology

1 delegate seat vacant

International Affairs

Jennifer Gibbs P

Nursing

1 delegate seat vacant

Eberly College of Science

Will Wright A

2 delegate seats vacant

White Course Apartments

1 delegate seat vacant

Inter-College Degree Program

David Dopfel P

Lillian Hill A

1 delegate seat vacant

At Large

Chao Su	A
Casey Millburg	A
Penina Backer	P
Hye Won Chai	P
1 delegate seat vacant	

Judiciary

Brian Aynardi	A
Alex Park	A
Jeremy Johnson	A

Bill # 65-20

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



of the 65th Assembly
2/24/2016

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

GPSA Spring Food Drive
Funding for Necessary Supplies to Conduct the Food Drive
(Decided: [Y / N / A])

1 **Nature of the Situation:**

2

3 The State College area food banks are in constant need of food donations throughout the year in
4 order to provide food for those in need. While supply typically peaks during Thanksgiving and
5 the Holidays, these food banks need to service this community the entire year.

6

7 The mission of the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA), in striving to enrich
8 the experience of graduate and professional students, shall be to provide leadership, social, and
9 service opportunities to the graduate and professional student body; and Events and activities to
10 promote a sense of community among graduate and professional students and their families.

11

12 The Community Service Committee has agreed that the GPSA should support both the Penn
13 State and the State College Community by providing a service opportunity for graduate and
14 professional students that will result in less students and community members being hungry
15 during a time of year when they are most in need and supplies are at their lowest.

16

17 The food drive will entail a partnership between local area food banks, grocery stores, and PSU
18 students. The students will ask the patrons of the local supermarkets to purchase additional non-
19 perishable food items will making their regular purchases. These additional items will be
20 dropped off to the PSU students when the patrons are leaving the grocery stores. In turn, the
21 students will deliver these goods to the local area food banks so that they can be stored and
22 distributed by the staff at the food pantries.

23

1 **Recommended Course of Action:**

2
3 The Graduate and Professional Student Association authorizes the Community Service
4 Committee to purchase the following items in order to support the food drive coordinated by the
5 Service Committee currently scheduled for April 19th 2016.

6	Estimated Expenses:	
7		
8	Flyers and Posters	\$ 50.00
9	Water for Volunteers	\$ 20.00
10	Snacks for Volunteers	\$ 30.00
11	Vehicle Rental to Transport Donations	\$100.00
12	(2) Banners to Use During Event	\$ 50.00
13	-----	
14	TOTAL	\$250.00

15
16 The Graduate and Professional Student Association authorizes the Secretary and requests that
17 each delegate communicate with the graduate and professional student body to solicit volunteers
18 and donors for this food collection drive.

19
20 Respectfully submitted,

Steven Di Grazia
Delegate, Smeal College of Business

Jesse Scott
Delegate, College of Engineering
Chair, Community Service Committee

President _____ Affirm Veto

The Graduate and Professional Student Association

Bill # 65-20

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



of the 65th Assembly
February 24, 2016

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

ECMSS Co-Sponsorship
(Decided: [Y / N / A])

1 **Nature of the Situation:**

2 The Environmental Chemistry and Microbiology Student Symposium (ECMSS) is a student-run
3 platform that brings together graduate students, undergraduates, and faculty members engaged in
4 environmentally relevant research. The symposium invites students to present their work in oral
5 presentations and poster sessions, providing a friendly, low-stress academic atmosphere.
6 Additionally, the symposium hosts three exciting keynote speakers from diverse research areas
7 throughout the two-day event.

8
9 The event takes place April 8-9, 2015

10
11 ECMSS has requested a co-sponsorship from GPSA in the amount of \$4,640 to cover all of their
12 food expenses. See attached budget.

13
14 **Recommended Course of Action:**

15
16 The Graduate and Professional Student Association agrees to co-sponsor this event in the amount
17 of \$1,240 to cover breakfast, lunch, and coffee breaks on Saturday, April 9 as well as meals with
18 the keynote speakers.

19
20

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Hill
Delegate, Intercollege Degree Programs

Ayla Gafni
Treasurer

President _____ Affirm Veto

The Graduate and Professional Student Association

Bill #65-23

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



of the 65th Assembly
February 24, 2016

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

Great Debate Funding

Sponsoring the College Republicans and College Democrats’ annual “Great Debate” event.

(Decided: [Y / N / A])

1 **Nature of the Situation:**

2
3 Part of the Graduate and Professional Student Association’s mission is to support programming
4 events of interest to graduate and professional students and the scholarly community at Penn
5 State. For two out of the past three years, Penn State’s two prominent political groups have
6 teamed up to host a “Great Debate,” pitting one Democrat and one Republican politician against
7 each other for a night of friendly discussion. Previous Republicans include former Speaker Newt
8 Gingrich and Congressman Ron Paul. Previous Democrats include former White House Press
9 Secretary Robert Gibbs and Congressman Barney Frank.

10
11 The Great Debate will happen again this spring in Schwab Auditorium (date TBD). The event
12 has sold out at both prior events and is attended by a diverse cross-section of the university
13 community, include graduate and professional students.

14
15 The Great Debate organizers are working to secure funding for this year’s event.

16
17 **Recommended Course of Action:**

18
19 The GPSA will provide \$2,000 total to the College Republicans and College Democrats to use
20 for speaker honoraria.

21
22 The GPSA agrees to publicize the event through all relevant communication channels.

23

1 The College Republicans and College Democrats will accept one GPSA representative to assist
2 in event planning, per university co-sponsorship guidelines.

3

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Horne
President

President _____ Affirm Veto

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The Graduate and Professional Student Association

Bill #65-22

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



of the 65th Assembly
February 24, 2016

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

Presidential Town Hall Funding
Support and funding for a town hall forum event with President Eric Barron
(Decided: [Y / N / A])

1 **Nature of the Situation:**

2

3 Part of the Graduate and Professional Student Association’s mission is to connect the graduate
4 and professional student body with administrators and university decision makers.

5

6 In recent years, the Penn State Student Government Associations have fostered connection by
7 hosting town halls with members of the President’s Council, Trustees, Administrators, and the
8 President.

9

10 President Eric Barron has agreed to participate in a town hall forum on March 16, 2016, in the
11 Hintz Alumni Center, hosted by the three Penn State student governments. President Barron will
12 deliver remarks and then answer questions from students. Only students are permitted to attend
13 and ask questions. The event will be live streamed on WPSU (<http://pspb.org/studentforum16/>).

14

15 **Recommended Course of Action:**

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17 The GPSA will provide \$1,000 to support the event. Costs include live streaming, pre-and-post
18 event food, and room rental. GPSA, UPUA, CCSG, and the administration are providing equal
19 financial support for the event.

20

21 The GPSA agrees to publicize the open forum to the graduate and professional student body
22 using all appropriate communication channels.

23

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Horne
President

President _____ Affirm Veto

The Graduate and Professional Student Association

Resolution #65-02

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



of the 65th Assembly
February 24, 2016

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

Support and Endorsement of the We Are...Worth Funding Campaign
(Decided: [Y / N / A])

1 **Nature of the Situation:**

2

3 Last year, GPSA endorsed a resolution to develop a cohesive legislative platform to benefit Penn
4 State students. Specifically, its charge was to:

5

6 *Develop a long term strategic plan for student legislative outreach at Penn State including*
7 *determining the housing and structure for a formalized and institutionalized student-led entity*
8 *within the University.*

9

10 As it stands, all legislative outreach efforts are decentralized, with each student government
11 conducting its own efforts. In the past, the three student governments have partnered with the
12 Alumni Association and Grassroots Network for its key lobbying day -- Capital Day -- where
13 Penn State students travel to Harrisburg to advocate for higher appropriations. However, the lack
14 of a full-year commitment towards legislative outreach is a major problem, as student
15 governments must compete with paid full-year lobbyists of other major entities who also desire
16 funding. The advocacy was also mostly focused on lowering undergraduate tuition without
17 adequate specificity or attention to state funding to directly benefit graduate students.

18

19 GPSA helped form a Legislative Outreach committee to discuss effective advocacy tools and
20 practices that may be adopted. Among the benchmarked student governments, the Commission
21 endorsed the University of Texas' "Invest in Texas" campaign, an initiative led by the student
22 governments of the University of Texas. The Invest in Texas campaign sets up active meetings
23 with legislators and has made a large impact in the state government. The student governments at
24 Penn State desire to pursue a similar model.

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Recommended Course of Action:

The Graduate and Professional Student Association, on behalf of the graduate and professional student body, hereby establishes and endorses the “We Are... Worth Funding” Campaign. The campaign shall be a joint initiative with the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments and the University Park Undergraduate Association. The purpose of the campaign shall be to advocate for and promote the state and federal legislative agenda of the united student body of the Pennsylvania State University. The goals of the Campaign shall be to:

- 1. Increase the effectiveness of Capital Day
- 2. Strengthen relationships with legislators and alumni alike
- 3. Add other organizations, outside of student governments, to the campaign for higher education
- 4. Maintain a year-round campaign to pressure legislators to act on higher education
- 5. Raise money to help mobilize students more effectively
- 6. Take part in campaigning beyond Capital Day, such as letter-writing campaigns and phone banking
- 7. Better educate students on relevant legislation occurring in Harrisburg
- 8. Develop better training for students attend events or participating in campaigning
- 9. Maintain a Penn State Student Platform that highlights the legislative priorities of students beyond higher appropriations, with approval by each student government
- 10. Promote higher education as a priority of the Pennsylvania State Government

The Campaign shall promote this effort year-round and shall be overseen by three Executive Directors from each student government that will be appointed by their respective Presidents through appropriate means.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Horne
President

President _____ Affirm Veto

The Graduate and Professional Student Association

Addendum VII – Roll Call Votes

Roll call vote

	Bill #65- 20	Bill #65- 21	Bill #65- 23	Resolution #65-02	Bill #65- 22
Alison Franklin	-	-	-	-	-
Christina Gallagher	-	-	-	-	-
Jessica Tully	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jesse Scott	Y	Y	O	Y	Y
Adam Copeland	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Stacey Mitchell	-	-	-	-	-
Veronica Anne Charbonnet	-	-	-	-	-
James Fan	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
Casey Milburg	-	-	-	-	-
Hannah Vanevery	-	-	-	-	-
Yiming Zhang	-	-	-	-	-
David Dopfel	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Penina Backer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Will Wright	-	-	-	-	-
Hye Won Chai	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dan Brenner	-	-	-	-	-
Junxian Zhang	Y	Y	O	Y	Y
Steven Di Grazia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Chao Su	-	-	-	-	-
Jennifer Gibbs	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lillian Hill	-	-	-	-	-
Christine Mosich	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

A = abstain Y = in favor O = opposed - = not present