I. Call to Order
   a. Meeting was called to order by the Executive Vice President at 6:12pm

II. Roll Call
   a. Please see Addendum I

III. Approval of Minutes
   a. Moved to approve minutes of February 4, 2015 as distributed, by unanimous consent
      by Jesse Scott, 2nd by Luis Ocampo. Motion carries.

IV. Standing Committee Reports
   a. Internal Development: Kevin Horne
      i. There are certain amendments and changes to the constitution and bylaws that must
         be made in order to be recognized by the associated student activities office
      1. Please see Addendum II
      ii. Article X
         1. Clarification on $500.00 limit – was this arbitrary? UPUA currently has a limit of $1000.00
            a. This would potentially be a problem during the summer term, or if decisions
               must be made during a time when the assembly cannot meet
               i. There should be a summer discretionary fund with unlimited spending power
                  by the appropriate officers for instances such as this
            b. $1000 or $750 limit would be reasonable
            c. $500.00 limit would be almost every programming event, which means that we
               would spend a lot of time during Assembly meetings discussing every event,
               no matter how small
      2. Is a percentage of total allocation a better method to use when setting this limit?
         a. This method would accommodate changes to the budget, but would not be very user-friendly
         b. Moved to extend discussion by 10 minutes through unanimous consent
            by Kevin Horne, 2nd by Jesse Scott – motion passes
      3. Concern that student governments should be ultra-transparent and all events should
         come before the assembly
      4. Would this also apply to committee chairs or just officers?
a. This is to keep the officers who have access to the money, in check (Treasurer, President, Office Manager), so that no member can spend money without oversight

iii. Moved to amend Article X, Subsection II, Paragraph II – ‘expenditure of $750.00 or more...’ through unanimous consent by Jesse Scott, 2nd by Luis Ocampo – 1 dissention – 13 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 abstentions – motion passes

iv. Friendly amendments (does not change substance or intent of amendment in question):
1. Capitalization of Constitution and Bylaws throughout document
2. Consistent spacing between bullet points
3. Moved to add word ‘professional’ to Article III, section D, through unanimous consent by Jesse Scott, 2nd by Erica Hildabridle
4. Moved to add ‘officers of the organization or their designees’ in Article X, Subsection II, Paragraph II, through unanimous consent by Jesse Scott, 2nd by Luis Ocampo – motion passes
   a. Moved to extend discussion by 2 minutes by unanimous consent by Jesse Scott, 2nd by Erica Hildabridle – motions passes
5. Moved to change wording of ARTICLE VIII Section D. ADVISOR, to ‘…full-time faculty, staff, or administrator at the Pennsylvania State University…’ through unanimous consent by Jesse Scott, 2nd by Kevin Horne – motion passes

v. These changes will be voted on at the next Assembly Meeting on March 4th

b. Jared has stepped down as chair of Internal Development – Kevin Horne has now been appointed chair of the committee – please contact him (kvh5130) with questions, comments or concerns! Thanks Kevin!

c. Community Service: Erica Hildabridle
   i. The next committee meeting with by March 18th
   ii. Looking for volunteers for the Maple Harvest Festival at Shaver’s Creek Environmental Center (http://shaverscreek.org/public-programs-and-events/maple-harvest-festival/) - please email Jesse Scott (jus121) if interested. It will be held on March 21 & 22, 2015
   iii. Emails will be sent in the near future that detail more community service opportunities
      1. Take a look at volunteer.psu.edu if you would like to look for ideas or specific events

d. Grad Cup: Marika Merritt
   i. The date of Grad Cup has been set – it will take place on April 25th
      1. Mark your calendars and spread the word! We will need volunteers on the day of the event, as well. More details to come. Contact Marika (mmn5084) if you would like to be involved
      2. Registration will be open at the beginning of March – stay tuned

e. Professional Development:
   i. Dissertation & Thesis bootcamp is currently underway and going well!

f. Programming Committee: Marika Merritt
   i. There will be a Spring Mixer at Champs, tentatively during the week before spring break
      1. More information will be posted on social media and on website once details are solidified
   ii. Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week
1. If you have ideas for events, please send them to Marika (mnm5084) ASAP
   a. We are looking for colleges, departments and/or organizations willing to help plan and co-sponsor
2. Events will take place throughout the week of April 20-April 24 – the following are tentative ideas that have been discussed thus far:
   a. Thank you note tabling at the HUB
   b. Massage hours
   c. Professional Headshots
   d. Coffee hours
   e. Speakers/read-ins (preferably someone on campus)
   f. Giveaways
3. Hopefully by the next assembly meeting, the events will be solidified

   g. Publicity and Media: Nicole Benevento
      i. Committees are encouraged to send information and resources to Nicole (nmb5273) to be posted on the website on committee pages (i.e. Community service page would have links to volunteering opportunities, events, etc.). Nicole is willing to help you with getting your information and ideas on the webpage but we need the committees to compile necessary information
      ii. Committees can also send announcements to Nicole for events to be added to the calendar and post to the webpage and social media

   h. Human Diversity: Luis Ocampo
      i. Nothing to report
      ii. THON: Marika Merritt
         i. Nothing to report

   j. PACCC:
      i. Nothing to report

k. Healthcare/Health Insurance: Alison Franklin
   i. Special Health Insurance Meeting was held on February 11
      1. Attendance was ~30-35 graduate students throughout the evening
      2. Dennis Shea presented information on premium parity (AKA Family Rating), the RFP process and self-funded insurance plans (Note: PA does not allow student health insurance plans to be self-funded)
   3. Feedback on plan design showed that students prefer:
      a. Platinum Plan to a Gold Plan (28 to 0)
      b. Coinsurance to copays (20 to 8)
      c. Same/similar deductible & coinsurance as current plan to either 1) higher coinsurance & lower deductible and 2) higher deductible & lower coinsurance (21 to 1 to 0)
      d. Same/similar deductible & out-of-pocket maximum as current plan to either 1) higher deductible and lower OOP and 2) lower deductible and higher OOP (19 to 1 to 0)
   4. Students expressed interest in survey to gather further feedback, but in order to make informed decisions, it is best to have a learning component to explain why our plan cannot go back to the plan design prior to this year
      a. ACA guidelines need to be explained
      b. Students were encouraged to go back to their respective programs and spread the word that GPSA is seeking feedback – delegates, this means you!
c. Feedback is needed immediately on major plan designs and within the next months with regard to detailed plan design
d. Please email Alison (amy125) and Nathaniel (ndp135) if you have feedback, questions, or concerns

5. Student also expressed interest in advocating for PA to allow self-funded health insurance plans
   a. This would provide leverage when seeking a health insurance provider if the option to self-fund was available
   b. There is the potential to send students to Capitol Day to pitch this idea and potential to pass a resolution from all three student governments at PSU, which would request that Penn State look into how this legislation could be passed in PA

   6. Overall, the meeting went well. Attendance could have been higher.
     ii. Next health insurance meeting will most likely be Thursday, February 26, time and location TBA
         1. Work on planning the upcoming workshops
         2. If you are interested in attending, please contact Alison (amy125) or Nathaniel (ndp135)

iii. There is an upcoming workshop on financial literacy and health care that is scheduled for Thursday, March 5 from 5-6pm in 265 Willard
   1. This will feature Dr. Daad Rizk, Penn State Financial Literacy Coordinator
   2. More information will be posted on the website, social media and in the newswire as it becomes available.

iv. Lists are now supposed to be fully sent out for dental, vision, etc.
   1. Anyone having problems should be able to have claim reevaluated

l. Student Concerns: Kyler Sherman-Wilkins
   i. Kyler has been reaching out via email to introduce himself as the new chair of the committee
   ii. Issue to be aware of: there has been an alarmingly high number of sexual assaults on campus recently and the Student Concerns committee is working on a resolution about this issue
      1. The resolution that was presented and voted down in the Fall requires significant substance changes to address structural issues and will be returned to ID in the next few weeks for review
      2. Chief Justice McLaughlin will pass along contact information of students on the Sexual Assault Task force so that we can receive their input as well
   iii. If you have any other concerns, please contact Kyler (kjs309)

V. Report by the President: Danielle Rhubart
   a. Student Trustee applications are still open and will remain open until Friday, February 27th
      i. The application to be on the selection committee has closed
      ii. If you know of an interested student (or are interested, yourself!), please encourage them to fill out the application for the 2 year term
   b. Save the date:
      i. March 4th, 4:00-5:30pm – Trustee Town Hall Panel
         1. Location to be announced, but we are looking for volunteers to help the night of! Please email Danielle (Rhubart@psu.edu) if interested!
      ii. March 30th, 4:30-5:30pm – President’s Forum on the budget
1. Hintz Family Alumni Center
2. Looking for volunteers for this event too – please email Danielle (Rhubart@psu.edu)

iii. We want graduate & professional students represented at these events to show administration that we are interested in discussing issues and working to find a way forward

c. Commission on Student Fees
i. Thank you to Enica Castañeda, Danielle Rhubart, Jesse Scott, Kevin Horne and Courtney Davis for volunteering to help with this initiative

ii. This commission is broken into three subgroups:
1. How to propose a new fee
2. Setting fee levels
3. Effective allocation of fees

iii. This commission will research the above topics, gather information from similar universities, and compile a list of recommendations for the administration

d. Campus Lighting Feedback
i. In regard to the special meeting held in the fall to survey campus for areas where additional lighting would be beneficial
1. Two/three light posts will be put up near Pond
2. Lights have been attached to fences at construction sites
3. Old Main & Shortlidge locations are on hold
   a. Aesthetic issue in front of Old Main, but there might be a potential opportunity to place lighting on side walkways
   b. Other side of Shortlidge is currently well-lit

e. Group Activity at last Assembly meeting
i. Notes were compiled and typed by the Office Manager and distributed to members of the Assembly (and are attached in Addendum III)

ii. Committee chairs: please look through this document with your committee and prepare a report for the next Assembly meeting with ideas on how to improve in these areas or reflect on things that are already going well

f. Bellefonte Borough Roundtable
i. Alison, Marika, Nicole and Danielle joined people from Adult Learner’s Program (ALP) and met with Ralph Steward, the borough manager of Bellefonte

   1. Bellefonte borough is small (only 2 sq. miles), so we are looking to extend reach to neighboring townships as well (Benner, Spring, Marian, Walker)

ii. We need to think about how best to reach out to graduate & professional students living in these areas

iii. Looking to survey the interest among graduate, professional & adult learner students in having an event for students to interface with Bellefonte Area leaders

   1. This would be held sometime in the later half of March, most likely
   2. Moved to support this event by unanimous consent by Enica Castañeda, 2nd by Jesse Scott – motion passes

g. Looking Ahead (please mark your calendars!)
i. February16-20: Dissertation & Thesis Bootcamp

ii. March 4: Trustee Town Hall Forum

iii. March 5: Financial Literacy & Health Care Workshop

iv. March 30: President’s Forum on the Budget
1. The President’s presentation of university budget to the house and the senate is an open meeting – Danielle will look up details on this and report back

v. March 31: Capital Day
vi. April 25: Grad Cup
vii. April 20-24: G&P Student Appreciation week
viii. Other events: coffee hours, Bellefonte borough roundtable, commission on student fees, health insurance office liaising work

VI. Report by the Executive Vice President: Douglas Whalen
   a. Thank you to all of those who were in attendance tonight!
   b. Please continue to advertise and promote the open delegate and graduate council alternate positions

VII. Report by the Vice President of External Affairs: Nicole Benevento
   a. THON weekend!
      i. February 20-22 is THON weekend – please note that special event parking is in effect to avoid fees and heavy traffic
      ii. Vehicles displaying a valid PSU parking permit will not be subject to the event parking fees
         1. www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=z0Y3e_o7ZDTg.k-XccADr7W5o
         2. These changes are also posted to the Facebook page and website
   b. FFAC Preliminary meeting – 2/9
      i. Student Farm Initiative
      ii. Other ideas from Student Sustainability Advisory Committee (solar arrays, retrofitting exercise equipment in gyms, etc.)
      iii. Consider projects based on Senior Class Gift Ideas that were not adopted as gifts this year
      iv. Appeared to be unanimous student support of Penn State Student Farm Initiative
         1. Mission: Living laboratory to link classroom education with experiential education, research and community engagement
         2. Enable and elevate transformative learning opportunities in sustainable agriculture and food systems
         3. Identified a potential site for this near the Arboretum
         4. There is potential to fund different phases of this project through the FFAC
         5. For more information: sites.psu.edu/studentfarm/
         6. Please send any specific feedback, comments or suggestions to Nicole (nmb5273)
         7. THAW 5K proceeds will benefit this initiative, as well
   c. Transportation Commission – 2/11
      i. Freshmen student representatives presented on potential Segway program – way to go Freshmen!
      ii. Bike share survey will be released at some point between March 18 & April 1 – be on the lookout for this and please forward along to your constituencies!
      iii. Campus shuttle stops will be undergoing maintenance in the near future (likely over the summer)
      iv. If you have specific concerns about parking, please note the date and time to help staff determine the cause of the issue when you are reporting
   d. Health Care Meeting – 2/11
      i. Thank you Alison & Nathaniel for planning and running this meeting! Your hard work is much appreciated!
ii. Please share the information found at: gpsa.psu.edu/resources/healthcare/ with your constituencies!

iii. Be on the lookout for upcoming healthcare workshops

e. HUB-Robeson Center Advisory Board – 2/17
   i. Space Allocation Committee
      1. This is the committee that recommends what organizations get space in the HUB – these recommendations will be made in the next couple of weeks
      2. Due to the recent expansion, additional space will be opening up for more student organizations to have space
   ii. Carlos Wiley update (Paul Robeson Cultural Center Director)
      1. Penn State BLUEprint Civil Rights Exploratory Spring Break Trip will be traveling to Atlanta, Birmingham and Memphis
      2. This organization works to promote the well being of first year students, focusing on students of color
         a. There is a potential future opportunity for graduate students to serve as mentors for first year students
      3. Check out the website for a list of upcoming events: studentaffairs.psu.edu/cultural/programs
         a. Don McPhearson – March 2^{nd}
         b. Social Justice Symposium – March 21^{st} – Pre-registration is required!
   iii. Mary Edgington update (Senior Director of Union and Student Activities)
      1. THAW weekend is February 27-29
         a. Check out the website for the list of events: www.thawfestival.com/
      2. HUB Expansion Grand Opening will be on March 2^{nd}!
         a. Events will be occurring from 11:00am to 4:00pm on that day
            i. Our very own Danielle Rhubart will be participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11:00am
            ii. There will be cookies and cake and lots of free goodies!
      3. Green roof will not open until the summer
      4. HUB lawn will be reopening in Fall 2015
         a. Moved to extend report by 5 minutes by Luis Ocampo, 2^{nd} by Jesse Scott – 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions – motion passes
   iv. Channel Selection Committee – 2/17
      1. Complaints have been filed about the channels played in the HUB 1^{st} floor foyer
      2. A survey will be sent out to find out student interest and preferred news networks/entertainment
      3. A recommendation will be made in April for channels to be displayed

f. Next Capital Day Meeting – 2/25
   i. Capital Day is March 31^{st}!!
      1. We really want to increase graduate & professional student representation at this event!
         a. We can use this to advocate for self-insured healthcare plans, but we need students there to advocate!
      2. Nicole has also reached out to include the Student Bar Association representatives
3. Alan Janesch, Director of Penn State Grassroots Network will be speaking at the next Assembly meeting (March 4th) about this and how students can become involved!

4. If you are interested in participating in the panning of Capital Day, please contact Nicole (nmb5273)

g. Graduate Exhibition
   i. If you are not entered as a contestant, please consider signing up as a judge for one of the sessions. You can find more information here: [http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/exhibition/judging/](http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/exhibition/judging/)

VIII. Report by the Secretary:
   a. Nothing to report.

IX. Report by the Treasurer: Courtney Davis
   a. A presentation was given as a follow-up to the expenditure summary presentation given in the fall – this presentation detailed the number of students present at each event and the estimate of costs for each event during the 2013-2014 fiscal year
   i. This will be posted to the website – please contact Courtney (cl303) if you have any questions
   b. A presentation was given on the current status of the budget – please see addendum IV. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact Courtney (cl303)!

X. Report by the Faculty Senate: Enica Castañeda
   a. Nothing to report

XI. Report by Graduate Council: Douglas Whalen
   a. Revised policy for graduate student roles in graduate-level courses was voted on and passed with no dissentions
   i. Summary of revised policy:
      1. Graduate students allowed to have limited roles in instruction of graduate course (500- and 800-level)
      2. GSIA rules also apply to non-assistantship guest lecturers and guest discussion leaders
      3. GSIA will be required to fill out a ‘conflict of interest’ form prior to assuming the role & cannot grade anyone when there is potential conflict of interest, including, but not limited to:
         a. Friendship, romantic relationship, history of conflict, roommates, office-mates, or lab-mates
      4. GSIA will not be allowed to grade any assignment which is more than 30% of the final grade
      5. Typically, GSIA should be doctoral students who have completed all coursework and have previously taken the course or equivalent with a grade of B or better
      6. GSIA who are responsible for guest lectures must be qualified by virtue of their own research (500-level) or professional expertise (800-level) and guest lectures are limited to 10% of the course
      7. GSIA may not teach the entire course, determine the assignments, plan the examination, determine course grades, or adjudicate conflict over grading or assignments
   ii. Friendly amendment was passed regarding the percent of graded material a graduate student could grade in the course (it is now 50%)
iii. Way to go Nathaniel & Brad for representing and advocating for graduate students!
b. Graduate Council members who resigned from other delegate positions will retain
their Graduate Council positions, as long as they do not officially resign or fail to
attend three consecutive meetings

XII. Reports from Liaisons
a. Movin’ On: Char White
i. The lineup will be officially announced on February 25th – check the Movin’ On
website (http://www.movinon.org/) for more information!
ii. The Battle of the Bands applications are due on February 28th – enter to get your few
minutes of fame! Check out the website for more details
iii. If you have comments or suggestions, please send to Char (cnw5058) – the organizing
committee is always looking for feedback and input from us, as we are a co-sponsor of
the event

b. S- Book: Marika Merritt
i. S-book is a guidebook/handbook for UP campus that is distributed to new (first year
or transfer) students during orientation by UPUA
1. Currently, this is mostly focused on undergraduate students, but we are
working with UPUA to create a ‘Graduate & Professional Student’ section
   a. Please send ideas to Marika (mnm5084) on: things you wish you knew,
      hangout spots for G & P students, useful tips, etc. The first draft must
      be submitted on February 26th!
   b. There will be printed and online versions available for distribution
2. Would it be useful to have a booklet that is entirely Graduate & Professional
   student oriented?
   a. S- book currently contains LOTS of useful information, so it would be
      more work and more money, theoretically, to do so

XIII. Report by the Judiciary: Emily McLaughlin
a. Elections will be held April 1 & 2
b. The following delegate seats are available, in addition to graduate council alternates
   and the Executive Secretary position
c. Please encourage students to run for an office in the upcoming election & encourage
   them to attend meetings beforehand
   i. The ‘two-meeting’ rule prior to being elected does not hold for the end-of-term
      elections in April, but does hold for the current delegate positions that are open
   ii. Please email Judiciary (judiciaryGPSA@gmail.com) with any questions, comments or
      concerns regarding this process

XIV. Co-sponsorship Request: Sexual Violence Awareness Roundtable
a. Scott Rager, as liaison to the Sexual Violence Awareness Roundtable, has filed a
request for $400.00 for the screening of The Hunting Ground and subsequent panel
discussion
i. The purpose of this event is to expand awareness and education about the issue of
   sexual violence on college campuses
ii. The film details the Jameis Winston case at Florida State University – for more info on
   the film, check out: www.thehuntinggroundfilm.com
iii. Hope to engage in discussion on how to tackle this issue
iv. The $400 would cover film rights and the roundtable is not seeking assistance from
   other organizations
1. Also ask assistance in finding and reserving a venue for the screening and advertising of the event
   a. Ideas on this from the Assembly: Carnegie, Law School Auditorium (film pertains to law), HUB auditorium
v. Is the roundtable planning on collaborating with other organizations to organize this event? Yes.
vi. Is there a need/request for venue money? As the request currently stands, no – the $400 is stated to be for film rights.
   1. Why do we need to pay for film rights? Since this is a screening that is open to the public at large, we must pay for rights
   2. Moved to extend discussion by 5 minutes by unanimous consent by Jesse Scott, 2nd by Enica Castañeda – motion passes.
vii. Is there a rush for venue support? A subsequent request can be filed if more money is needed for this.
   1. Moved to approve co-sponsorship request for $400.00 by unanimous consent by Luis Ocampo, 2nd by Jesse Scott – 1 dissention – 14 in favor, 1 opposed, motion passes.

XV. Co-sponsorship Request: Innovation & Interdisciplinary Collaboration Community (IICC)
a. The IICC aims to encourage innovative ideas & strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration – host a variety of workshops and social events, which primarily target Chinese students
b. VP of Accuweather, Inc. has been invited to speak on how weather can impact smart devices (smart phones, smart houses, etc.)
i. IICC is looking to expand audience for this talk beyond the Chinese student community, and is seeking a non-financial co-sponsorship to help distribute information through newswire & social media
   1. No help is currently needed on the day of the event
   2. All financial support has been secured through the Chinese Support Student Association for refreshments after the talk
ii. Moved to approve non-financial co-sponsorship request of the IICC through unanimous consent by Enica Castañeda, 2nd by Kevin Horne – motion passes

XVI. Report by the Advisor: Philip Burlingame
a. Please check out THAW website (http://www.thawfestival.com/) for information on events, performances and volunteer opportunities during THAW (February 25 – March 1)
i. There are specific events for children during this week, as well
ii. Two of the event highlights include 1) an amazing film festival; 2) State Day of Service, the largest day of service organized by Penn State students
   1. The link to sign up for State Day of Service can be found on the calendar at volunteer.psu.edu
iii. There is potential for GPSA to create and host an event that is focused on graduate & professional students during next year’s festival

XVII. Open Forum
a. The feedback on the survey was accepted and final revisions are being made by the office manager this week
i. Survey will be disseminated via mass email communication in addition to the newswire, website and social media
ii. Delegates- please forward this survey out to your constituencies and look for it in the coming weeks!

XVIII. Adjourn

a. Moved to adjourn by unanimous consent by Enica Castañeda, 2nd by Kevin Horne – motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

President: Danielle Rhubart | dcr185@psu.edu
Executive Vice President: Doug Whalen | dkw5064@psu.edu
VP of External Affairs: Nicole Benevento | nmb5273@psu.edu
Treasurer: Courtney Davis | cld303@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

Executive Board
Danielle Rhubart  P
Doug Whalen  P
Nicole Benevento  P
Courtney Davis  P
Phillip Burlingame  P

Faculty Senate
Enica Castañeda  P

Graduate Council
Brad Sottile  A
Nathaniel Porter  A
Morteza Karimzadeh  A
Doug Whalen -
jeffrey masko  A

Agricultural Sciences
Alison Franklin  A
Erica Hildabridle  P

Art & Architecture
One delegate seat vacant

Communications
Enica Castañeda -

Education
Carly Scarton  P
two delegate seats vacant

Dickinson School of Law
Alex Park  A
Alyssa Looney  P
Jared Kephart  A
Engineering
   Emery Etter       A
   Luis Ocampo      P
   Andrew Goodyear  A

Smeal College of Business
   James Fan        P
   Matt Borzoo      A

Earth & Mineral Sciences
   Jacob Hagedorn   P
   1 delegate seat vacant

Liberal Arts
   Kyler Sherman-Wilkins   P
   Stacey Mitchell         P
   1 delegate seat vacant

Health & Human Development
   Jonathan Reader      P
   Nicole Roberts       A

Information Sciences & Technology
   One delegate seat vacant

International Affairs
   One delegate seat vacant

Nursing
   One delegate seat vacant

Eberly College of Science
   Ayla Gafni          P/R
   Sony Arora          A
   One delegate seat vacant

White Course Apartments
   One delegate seat vacant

Inter-College Degree Program
   Char White          L
   1 delegate seat vacant

At Large
   Kevin Horne        P
   Jesse Scott        P
   Marika Merritt     P
1 seat vacant

Judiciary

Emily McLaughlin P
Seth Kandl P
Brian Aynardi P
WHEREAS, the Graduate and Professional Student Association adopted its new name during the 2013-2014 term.

WHEREAS, Penn State Union and Student Activities refused to accept the Graduate and Professional Student Association’s desired name change until its Constitution was updated to adhere to new policies.

WHEREAS, as an official registered student government, the Graduate and Professional Student Association is responsible for ensuring that its governing documents are up to date and follow all policies set forth by Union and Student Activities.

WHEREAS, the Graduate and Professional Student Association is tasked with making regular updates to its governing documents to increase clarity and improve policies.

RESOLVED, that the following amendments and additions be made to the Graduate and Professional Student Association Constitution:

Additions

Article I

SECTION B. All references herein, and through the materials of the Graduate and Professional Student Association, to the Graduate Student Association are understood to refer to what is now the Graduate and Professional Student Association.

Article III

SECTION D. The majority of the active membership of the Graduate and Professional Student Association must be graduate students of The Pennsylvania State University. Only currently registered students of The Pennsylvania State University are eligible for active membership.

Article X – FINANCES

1. No dues shall be required of the members of this organization as a condition of membership.

2. All organizational funds of the Graduate and Professional Student Association will be handled exclusively through the Associated Student Activities office and the organization will not maintain any off-campus account with a bank, savings and loan association, lender, or other financial institution.

The expenditure of $500 or by the officers of this organization towards any event, purchase, or expense shall require a vote of approval by the assembly.
Article XIII – RATIFICATION

3. All amendments to this Constitution are subject to approval of the Office of Student Activities and a copy of this constitution will be made available to anyone upon request.

ARTICLE XIV – ELECTIONS

A. Elections shall be held once a year in the spring semester.

B. No individual who is an official candidate may be involved in conducting elections.

C. The President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of External Affairs, Executive Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast in an election. In the event of a tie vote in the election, the tie breaker shall be a vote of the General Assembly between the two candidates. Whichever receives a majority vote shall be declared the winner.

D. Newly elected officers shall begin their terms at the last meeting of the Spring Semester.

E. Subject to these provisions, all elections shall be carried out in accordance with the manner specified in the bylaws of this organization.

ARTICLE VIII – EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION D. ADVISOR

The Graduate and Professional Student Association must, at all times, retain an advisor who is a full-time faculty member at the Pennsylvania State University. As per the Graduate and Professional Student Association’s status as a student government organization, the Vice President of Student Affairs shall nominate an advisor, who will be brought before the Assembly for an approval vote.

Amendments

Article V Section C. MEETINGS

4. Extraordinary Special meetings of the Assembly shall be called by the Chair of the Judiciary upon receipt of a petition, duly signed by ten percent of the delegates to the Assembly.
Addendum III
Notes from Assembly Meeting (2/4) Activity
Station 1 – Representing and supporting through leadership:
• How do you define leadership in light of the text above?
• Are there other ways in which leadership should be defined in relation to the mission of the GPSA?
• In what ways does the GPSA effectively represent and support G&P students through leadership?
• In what ways could the GPSA effectively represent and support the G&P students through leadership?

Station 1 – Responses:
• Democratic
• Transparent
• Explanatory in rationale
• Respectful of diverse opinion
• Willing to make important decisions
• Represents student voice
• Uplift and empower
• Anticipate needs and issues of current and future Graduate and Professional students
• Exec leader lead delegates
• Knowledgeable about systems
  o How to get things done, institutional knowledge
• Represents student voice
  o Stand in place of many students
  o Communicate with constituents and actively seek opinions
  o What is feasible – make it easy to find out
  o Why are unit delegates not connected to units?
• Accountability constituents
• Role modeling – ethics/participation
• Formal mechanism to communicate Handbook – requirements, expectations, tools
• Change constitution to enable effective leadership and accountability
• How do we communicate what we do? (to broader Graduate and Professional student population)
  o “Throw message” – we reach out to collegiate leaders
• Should leadership in traditional sense be a part of our GPSA missions?
  o Or support role to make other orgs more effective
• Explicit goal setting for organization (e.g. – beginning of year)
• Conduit: Student  decision makers
  o Assembly can do more by serving on boards
  o Process of liaison and committee chair selection
• Individual delegate updates to colleges
  o And departmental orientations
• Clear delegate roles and explanations
• Unrepresented programs and departments – need backing to go to colleges and be recognized
• Leading through examples
  o No Drama!
  o Image issues
Station 2 – Representing and supporting through service:

- How do you define service in light of the text above?
- Are there other ways in which service should be defined in relation to the mission of the GPSA?
- In what ways does the GPSA effectively represent and support G&P students through service?
- In what ways could the GPSA effectively represent and support the G&P students through service?

Station 2 - Responses:

- Sending Liaisons to University committees
- Providing graduate and professional students with opportunities to give back
- Represent constituents
- Social/Professional opportunities for constituents
- Need to do more to help people participate in their communities
- Responding to needs of constituents
- Advocating for Graduate/Professional student body
- Proactive – anticipating issues
- Push students to Dissertation Bootcamp
- Human Diversity student concerns
- “Better listserv”
- What have we done? What are we doing? _ introspection
- Need to get volunteers – major challenge!
- Advertising!
- Incentive structure – competitions
- Networking – meeting professors
- Promote value to Graduate and Professionals
- Project Development in Service
- PhD candidates get “stuck in routine” – what’s in it for me?
- Promote THON team (whole university seems to get behind)
- Educating Graduate and professional students
- Proactive recruitment
- Monthly – get service on a schedule – becomes part of the routine
- Target our resources towards specific service activities
  - At beginning of each new assembly
- Enforce delegates on committees
- Volunteer.psu.edu opportunities
- Have a seat down with council of lionhearts
- Fresh Start day of service for new graduates
- Consider getting students involved with large organized activities – MLK Jr. Day, State Paddy’s Day, Alt. Spring Break (work with office of student activities)
- Should be more involved with grad student exhibition
- work with college student governments and our constituents for activities
- Roundtable of service leaders
- We don’t have to reinvent the wheel – work with existing service organizations
- GPSA should be facilitating service – not running it
- Not role of student governments to “run” service events
- “I don’t like it in the context of GPSA” – Thon, e.g. may not be our role on campus
- can empower grad and professional students to participate in other advisable service activities
- THON and community service committees
- Service potential has not been met – not recruiting enough grad students
• Information gets pushed through word of mouth
• There has to be a way to get people involved
• This is a waste of our assembly time
• Need to find a place to go for getting things done
• Doing a good job with Hot Topic issues
• Clearly spell out the service we provide (website)
• Central location for student concerns

Station 3 – Representing and supporting through social opportunities:
• How do you define social opportunities in light of the text above?
• Are there other ways in which social opportunities should be defined in relation to the mission of the GPSA?
• In what ways does the GPSA effectively represent and support G&P students through social opportunities?
• In what ways could the GPSA effectively represent and support the G&P students through social opportunities?

Station 3 - Social Opportunities:
• Opportunities for a community
  o Facilitates communication, interaction
  o Mixers, gala, grad cup – relying on feedback (word of mouth, # of people attending, etc.)
• Informal student body activities
• Social activities are necessary for graduate and professional students
• What else could we spend money on? → Beer
• We don’t do it enough! → Lots of work, but the events we hold are well planned
• We need to advertise more
  o Is e-mail even effective?
  o Facebook events → work on getting events on University calendars
• Potential food ideas: Jimmy Johns, Hoags, Jersey Mike’s, Wings over, Wegmans
• We do not necessarily know student needs, so how can we accommodate those?
• How do students contact GPSA?
  o Submit
• Graduate student – wide surveys (up the frequency)
  o Evaluate previous information to understand needs
• Smaller events → coffee hours, read-ins, etc.
• University wide activities calendar – resource for students and communication between students and organizations
• Not everyone’s priority (we are all here for different reasons)
• We have gladiators in our presence
• Interaction! Outside realm of leadership or service → No secondary objective
• How do we provide/promote activities?
  o Work into organization documentation.
• Strike Article II
• Student governments should rather empower other organizations to host social events
  o Co-sponsorship – pull in other organizations this way
  o Way to get GPSA out there, getting people involved, etc.
  o Co-sponsorships not just monetary but getting people involved in events
  o Are we trying to do too much? – spreading ourselves too thin?
Social activities taking away what we can do for students?
- Teaching graduate students to go to UPAC for funding
  - Knowledge of process, availability, etc.
- Not enough advertising of events – not a lot of grad students are being reached
  - We need to extend our reach beyond the assembly and board
- Issue of Newswire? – too much information, hard to read, not enticing
  - How many students are we reaching through this means?
- Networking during events is a benefit
- Information needs to be disseminated further in advance
  - Flyers, tvs in HUB → we need something beyond “word of mouth”
- Interaction/networking beyond department – concern across various organizations, colleges, etc.
  - There is a world beyond our research bubbles! (good for mental health)
- Extend social bubbles through GPSA activities
- What do people want?
  - Get feedback; We have gotten better, but can do better still
- People’s priorities in GPSA differ, but we should acknowledge these
- Events calendar – delegates need to take a larger role
  - Time of event, free things, food, discounts, good location (transportation if not)
  - Advertising events – more public awareness
- Opportunities to know people outside office, college, etc.
  - Can take a step away from work when necessary
- First-come, first-served events
  - Contact ticket offices to hold events (GPSA block) for students
    - Great way to get people who have similar interests together
- Practice interactions with diverse people
  - Great way to practice answering the question “what do you do?”; Ice breaker events
- Putting value on events is difficult
  - Certain events serve as a gateway to GPSA, State College, PSU, etc.
- Include students with spouses/partners, kids, etc. – they are important too!
- Clearwater conservancy clean up day

Station 4 – Organizational Structure & Internal Committees:
- What parts of the internal structure work well for the GPSA? What committees serve the GPSA & its constituents well?
- Are there committees the GPSA should have, but currently does not, in order to fulfill its mission?
- Are there committees that should be restructured, combined, subdivided?
- Are there structural changes to committees and other internal structures that would benefit from being changed? How and why?
- If you could only change two things about the GPSA Constitution or By-laws, what would they be?
- What would be the benefits of making these changes to the Constitution and By-laws?
- What might be the challenges posed by making these changes to the Constitution and By-laws?

Station 4 - Responses
- Too many moving parts
  - Resolution process too convolutes
  - If not going to simplify, offer a crash course, publish committee reports
- Exec VP – Head of assembly
  - Charged to lead
- Liaison to exec board
- Head of steering committee
- Need a steering committee for legislation
- Need a “Head of the assembly”
  - Appointed by the assembly (VP)
  - Works with speaker
- Crash Course on GPSA (first meeting)
- Committee reports published
- Too many exec members on board
- One faculty senator for graduate school – not professional students – both or none
- Senior Delegate
- Make sure we put stuff in agenda
- Budget committee
  - Voting on budget at second meeting
- Everyone aware of rules – really?
- Consortium
  - THON and CS Combined
- More set guidelines for committee chairs
- Axe FS and GC from Executive Board
- For consortium to amend constitution/by-laws
- Committee handbook – how to do things/what works and what doesn’t
- Constitution and By-Laws too short
  - Explicitly define lots
- Budget – vote on at beginning of the year – not a binding vote
- Preliminary budget for association based on allocation
- Formally constitute FS and GC as junior officers, not executive
  - Cannot hold different exec. Positions
- Not convinced Human Diversity accomplished anything since film series
- Combined HDC and CSC
- Budget Update
  - Do not agree with budget committee
- Senior Delegate
  - Voting member on exec. board
- Training on RRO
- Delegate role defined
- “Diversity” no “human”
- Delegate booklet
- Constitution formalized with delegate regulations
- Working budget
  - No “budget committee”
- Define delegate obligations

**Station 5 – External Representation (liaising):**

- Are there committees, boards, and/or groups on campus to which the GPSA should have representation but currently does not?
- Are there committees, boards, and/or groups off campus to which the GPSA should have representation but currently does not?
- How can the GPSA be better connected to and represented in Colleges and Departments?
Station 5 – Responses:

- Roundtable student government presidents (colleges/departments) to meet on a regular basis
- UPUA and CCSG should have liaisons coming to us as well
- IT fee board should have student representation
- Alumni council
- Interaction with Deans of Colleges
- Bellefonte Roundtable support
- Sending Newswire/e-mails to Departments/Colleges regularly?
- Climate and Diversity Committee in Eberly College of Science
  - Best practices guidelines
  - Do departments have a venue for lodging internal complaints?
  - Ayla to send “Best practices” recently adopted by Eberly College of Science
- Contacting Deans of Colleges about who the elected delegates are in order to facilitate communication.
- How to facilitate communication with Harrisburg, Hershey, Great Valley, and Erie (contacting graduate students needs to be a priority)
- IRB (graduate and professional student representation on board)
  - Communicating changes/updates/implications to changes
- Greater graduate student involvement in search committees
- Delegate reports? (share via e-mail with agenda maybe?)
- Liaison to Black Graduate Student Association

Station 6 – The GPSA Wish List:

- Are there other things that could be done to better fulfill the GPSA mission?
- What would help the GPSA function more efficiently?
- What would help the GPSA function more effectively?
- What are underutilized resources in the GPSA?
- What would make the GPSA better?

Station 6 - Responses

- Shorter weekly meetings
- Make more of an effort to have delegate intervention with colleges as a whole
- All reports written ahead of time and sent with agenda, and accessible on the website – less reporting = more discussion at meeting
- Greater visibility to Grad student body
- More college-centered GPSA events
- Tutorial on meeting/RRO procedures → optional and outside rooms meeting times
- Structure Newswire with deadlines
- Steering committee
- Create site/feature of website to request Newswire access
- Limit hard non-extendable limit for reports from committees
- Explain more clearly to committees what needs assembly approval/discussion and what does not
- Guide to how GPSA runs – RRO for new delegates and Proxies
  - What is good to bring to meeting vs. what is better for e-mails and committee meetings
  - Explanation of how to get things on the agenda
  - When asking delegates to inform constituents – have a written blurb for distribution
- Comprehensive survey – each committee chair with input
• Someone to run meeting with parliamentary procedure – not an exec. Member – assembly selected
  o i.e. chair/speaker, or chief of staff
  o can extend time without consultation
  o look at CCSG/UPUA for model

• Guidelines for Money
  o Reports
  o Requests
  o How to allocate

• Better means of contacting every department
  o Relationship with someone and track who that contact is for the future

• Become rally points at non-GPSA events
  o i.e. Grad students going to hockey game, Section 5 – something with ticket office?

• Flag ➔ not just PSU flag with GPSA written on it

• Better Newswire – real listserv where people can subscribe themselves
  o Use lists@psu.edu

• Revised constitution/everything
  o Submit new one to HUB

• More funding

• Regular events ➔ social network/service

• Better communication with other grad student organizations
  o Liaisons

• Better open forum plan – at beginning of meeting/way to request

• Image improving activities/campaigns
  o Videos
  o Statement updates
  o Recruitment strategy

• Beer – at meetings and other
  o At least after-meeting drinks

• More power- oversee administrative stuff – like parking council
  o See other schools for model

Station 7 – Delegates

• How do you perceive your role as delegate?

• What are your responsibilities as a delegate?

• What do you above and beyond your delegate responsibilities as outlined by the constitution?

• What ways could delegates be used more effectively?

Station 7 - Responses:

• College Administrations should know who their delegates are
  o Internal grad groups more relied on
    ▪ Double work

• More effectively communicate with their department/colleges

• Dean of Graduate School come in – or from Colleges

• (This activity isn’t a useful use of our time)

• Was unaware of time commitment – no accountability (from within GPSA)
  o Forum(?) set-up for side-by-side; peer check

• Getting information out ➔ written protocol (contact person within Department or College)
  o From GPSA – from prior delegate
o Don’t recreate the wheel – get info out to wider college

• Relay information and represent a diverse group
• Active Liaison with College and/or Department
  o Always be in contact with grad groups within Colleges/Departments, and key administration
• Delegate should be a leader and resource of all things PSU
• Serve – Participate → be a part of your community and offer assistance
• Duty to friends and peers to advocate on their behalf
• Be visible within Colleges and others
• Accessible
• Unstructured
  o Be more active in resolutions
  o More defined roles
  o Be involved
    ▪ Service points
    ▪ Measurable
• Represent a direct communications between GPSA and other students
  o “be” the Newswire
  o Actually speak to your constituents
• Undesired by student body and reflects influence with constituents
• Strengthen the perception of GPSA
  o Tell them how great the GPSA is
  o We have the power to enforce change
  o Stamp with GPSA (event/product)
  o Communication vessel between Grad → student body
  o Thing are not outlined (was tried before)
    ▪ Delegates do not want responsibilities
    ▪ Show up and vote
  o Separation between GPSA and Grad Groups around campus (units del. Represent)
• Level of involvement of delegate should be variable, but should exist
• Help make constituent aware of available opportunities
• Update with changes
• Conduit → Student body ←← Um and Administrative/Decision makers will consult student properly assembled
• Should participate in committees
  o Amend constitution
  o Keep records of active members/attendance list
Addendum IV  
Current & Showcase Budget 2014-2015  
As shown in GPSA Show Cause Budget 2014-2015  
Actual (as of 2/15/2015)

### Office Expenses

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### Programming

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### Publicity

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### Internal Development

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### Student Concerns

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