



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

I. Call to Order

- a. Meeting was called to order by the Executive Vice President at 6:07pm

II. Roll Call

- a. Please see Addendum I

III. Adoption of Agenda

- a. Moved to adopt the agenda as distributed by Brad Sottile, 2nd by Adam Copeland – hearing no objections, adopted as distributed

IV. Approval of Minutes

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

V. Open Student Forum

- a. Nothing to report

VI. Report by the Treasurer: *Ayla Gafni*

- a. Budget spreadsheet is up to date on the website: <http://gpsa.psu.edu/about-the-gpsa/budget/>
- b. If everything is taken into account that is allocated, we still have \$12,434.54 remaining unspent

VII. New Business

a. Resolution 65-03 – (addendum II)

- i. Summarizes arguments to the Borough Council for the approval of graduate students status for borough residency
 1. Why doesn't this include professional students?
 - a. Borough didn't seem to like that argument but we could try and find a way to work around this
 2. Amendment to change all 10 mentions of PhD to doctoral by Lily Hill, 2nd by James Fan – passes unanimously
 3. What is the impact of this bill?
 - a. It will open up housing opportunities downtown for graduate students, if passed
 - i. Some form of legal recognition of this sort by Council is a step to the larger problem
 - b. Is the fact that we pass this bill recognized by the council?
 - i. Yes – the purpose of the resolution is to show the Council that the graduate student body at large supports this rather than just this subgroup
 - c. When will this go into effect if passed?

- i. 60 days or so, probably until after the rental period for this year (next year)
 - d. So we're backing away from professional students?
 - i. It is hard to forecast the Council's opinion. They didn't seem amenable to budging any further. If we could prepare some sort of argument on behalf of professional students, we could start that discussion
 - ii. Jesse Scott moves to approve, 2nd by James fan – resolution passes (8 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention; see amendment IV for roll call votes)
- b. **Bill 65-26 – Grad Cup Social (addendum III)**
 - i. After grad cup social is a way to unwind and talk with a wide group of people
 - ii. In the past, this has been a well-attended event (better attended than the random socials held throughout the year)
 - iii. Suggesting that we have a mixer/social at Bar Bleu on April 23 – time is still in negotiations but sometime around 6-8pm or 7-9pm
 - iv. Asking for: \$500 for room rental, \$2500 for food, \$500 for souvenir glasses that will say 2016 Grad Cup on them and have the logo form the shirt
 - 1. Cups are \$0.90 each (plus additional shipping costs)
 - 2. Practical object that people will use (rather than the previous prizes given out in previous years)
 - v. Open to everyone – don't need to go to Grad Cup to go to this event
 - 1. Is Bar Bleu ok with us distributing these? Concerns regarding distributing glasses at a bar where they are serving alcohol
 - a. If there is a problem, alternatives can be looked at (e.g., water bottles)
 - 2. Will every participant get one?
 - a. Try to buy enough for everyone but it will be first come, first serve
 - vi. Adam Copeland call the question, objection by Jesse Scott
 - vii. Lily Hill calls the question, 2nd by Stacey Mitchell – bill passes (11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions; see addendum IV for roll call vote)

VIII. Standing Committee Reports

- a. **Student Concerns:** *Daniel Brenner*
 - i. Nothing to report
- b. **Grad Cup:** *James Fan*
 - i. There are 23 teams signed up (272 people) – the event will be awesome!
 - ii. Registration is now closed but we really need volunteers now! Volunteers will get free food and a t-shirt.
 - 1. Volunteer meeting is set for Tuesday, April 19 at 5pm in 118 ASI – rules of all the events and the times for each event will be disclosed then
 - iii. All events have even finalized and will be great! Lily will update the Facebook events after the team captain's event
- c. **Professional Development:**
 - i. Dissertation and Thesis Bootcamp happened and was a great success! Thanks to Christine and Ayla for helping out with the planning and execution of the event!
- d. **Programming:**
 - i. Lily would like a tailgate for Blue & White Weekend – we could possibly do a last minute vote
- e. **Publicity & Media:**
 - i. Facebook has been pretty well kept up to date

- ii. Lily will work with the new Assembly to transition into redoing the website
 - iii. If you have any events to add to the calendar on the website, please send Lily an email (lzh157@psu.edu)
 - f. **Healthcare & Health Insurance:** *Alison Franklin*
 - i. Nothing to report
 - g. **Community Service:** *Jesse Scott*
 - i. There are currently 25 people signed up for the PAWS information session – there are still spots open (can take up to 30)
 - 1. Leaving from the HUB at 3:30pm, or you can join the crew at PAWS at 4:00pm. There will be food
 - 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
- IX. Report by the President:** *Kevin Horne*
- a. Model lease meeting
 - i. Students are working to develop a resource for housing downtown that includes a model lease to help students look for problem areas in lease so that they don't sign anything they don't need to
 - b. Students' Advocacy Initiative
 - i. Met with State Senator Jake Corman last week to work on this – he was receptive and all are worried about dragging out the budget again next year for education funding
 - c. Facilities Fee Advisory Committee
 - i. Everything was passed (some items are still private), include:
 - 1. Items approved in concept: student farm initiative, stone valley restoration, HUB student engagement portal, ice cream truck
 - 2. Proposals for discussion/approval (approved dollar amounts): Tea institute (\$14,000), Quik Boost Mounted Charging Stations (\$5,000), Outdoor fitness park (\$50,000)
 - d. Thanks all for a great year! A good deal was accomplished and you all should be proud!
- X. Report by the Executive Vice President:** *Anthony Christina*
- a. Nothing to report.
- XI. Report by the Vice President for External Affairs:** *Nicole Benevento*
- a. **Thank you for everything!** And thanks to Nicole for her dedicated service to GPSA!
- XII. Report by the Secretary:** *Courtney Davis*
- a. Thanks for a great year!
- XIII. Report by the Judiciary:** *Jeremy Johnson*
- a. Expect an email with election results early next week
- XIV. Report by Graduate Council:** *Brad Sottile*
- a. The Council will be meeting next week
- XV. Report by the Liaisons**
- a. Student Health Insurance Advisory Board: *Alison Franklin*
 - i. Requirement for all students to have insurance is moving forward with a plan to be implemented by Fall 2017

1. Discussion of having all international students take the student plan except when they already have an employer-sponsored plan or international sponsors is still ongoing
- ii. Negotiations are still ongoing with Aetna about the premium rates for this upcoming year
- iii. The university is employing a consulting firm to assist with these negotiations and implementation of the insurance requirement (Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Insurance Services)
- iv. Premium rates per individual will at most be approximately \$3,300 – since the University is still negotiating with Aetna and has employed a consultant, Alison would tend to lean toward that premium rate being lower
- v. The international student waiver standards are for the 2016-2017 academic year and not finalized and may be updated to include a \$3,000 in-network out-of-pocket maximum
- vi. Discussions are already occurring with Jennifer Campbell, Director, Global Engagement and Operations to reach out to international student groups and sponsors about any and all of these possible changes

XVI. Report by the Student Trustee: *Allie Goldstein*

- a. Upcoming Board of Trustees meeting is May 5-6
 - i. Committee meetings are open to the public on Thursday and the agenda can be found on the website
 - ii. Meeting begins at 1:30pm on Friday and is open to the public as well
- b. Congratulations to all on a great year and Allie looks forward to joining us again next year!

XVII. Report by the Advisor: *Philip Burlingame*

- a. Congratulations to the 65th Assembly for an extraordinary year! Commend all of you for working all year to move the organization forward in meaningful ways – the 32 bills passed are extraordinarily good!
- b. Often the Executives of this organization find themselves in a thankless position so join in thanking them for this year as well!

XVIII. Awards

- a. **Congratulations to the following award recipients:**
 - i. Delegate of the year: Lillian Hill
 - ii. Kenneth Martin Service to GPSA: Jesse Scott
 - iii. George Atherton Service to Penn State: Brad Sottile

XIX. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:12pm.

Respectfully submitted (for the last time),
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	A
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	P

Agricultural Sciences

Alison Franklin	A
1 delegate seat vacant	

Art & Architecture

1 delegate seat vacant

Communications

1 delegate seat vacant

Education

Junxian Zhang	A
Daniel Brenner	A
1 delegate seat vacant	

Dickinson School of Law

Christina Gallagher	A
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Jessica Tully A

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 A

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 P

2 delegate seats vacant

White Course Apartments

1 delegate seat vacant

Inter-College Degree Program

David Dopfel P

Lillian Hill P

1 delegate seat vacant

At Large

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

Judiciary

Brian Aynardi	A
Alex Park	A
Jeremy Johnson	P

Resolution # 65-03

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



of the 65th Assembly
April, 6 2016

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

Zoning Ordinance Amendment Bill
Support of the amendment exempting PhD students from student housing ordinance
(Decided: [Y / N / A])

Nature of the Situation:

Part of GPSA's mission is to provide a forum to address the concerns of graduate and professional students and to provide a unified and informed voice representing graduate and professional students to any organization that makes decisions on behalf of students. The current zoning ordinance in the State College Borough uses a narrow definition of student which does not distinguish undergraduate students from PhD students. The Borough defines a student as anyone taking a course as part of a degree program. PhD students are paid by the university for either their teaching duties or research duties and take courses solely for the purpose of broadening their knowledge in specialized topics. As instructors and postdoctoral researchers are also paid to perform these same tasks, I believe many PhD students would support an amendment to the current zoning ordinance to include an exemption for PhD students.

Many PhD students I have spoken with have had difficulty finding quiet and affordable housing, especially in their first year of study. I've been told stories of PhD students sleeping on a friend's couch during the week they take their qualifying exams and stories of students who due to lack of sleep quit their doctoral program entirely. Although this amendment will not completely alleviate this problem, its passage would be a step forward in ensuring the rental market within the borough is adequate for the needs of future PhD students. Including PhD students in the body of professional renters would incentivize more developers to build more properties specifically targeted at professionals. As members of the council have pointed out, such projects were simply inconceivable ten years ago. A show of support for this amendment by the graduate student body would not only show the council that the current zoning ordinance

affects many of our constituents, it would also show developers that there is some demand for rental properties targeted at professionals and encourage them to build rental properties with these considerations in mind.

Recommended Course of Action:

The Graduate and Professional Student Association, on behalf of the graduate student body at Penn State, supports the proposed amendment to modify the Borough's definition of student to exempt PhD students.

Respectfully submitted,

William Wright

Delegate, Eberly College of Science

President _____ Affirm Veto

The Graduate and Professional Student Association

Bill/Resolution # X-X

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



of the 65th Assembly
[INSERT DATE]

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

SPENDING BILL FOR POST-GRAD CUP SOCIAL

Funding for space reservation and appetizers.

(Decided: [Y / N / A])

1 **Nature of the Situation:**

2

3 Part of GPSA's mission is to provide events to enrich graduate student life at Penn State. Grad
4 Cup brings together students from different majors, however during the event students only
5 socialize with their teams. GPSA will host a post-Grad Cup social where all event participants
6 can meet students from other majors, eat food, and receive an event souvenir.

7

8 **Recommended Course of Action:**

9

10 GPSA authorizes the Grad Cup Committee to purchase the following items for a post-Grad Cup
11 social at Bar Bleu on Saturday, April 23, 2016:

12

- 13 1. Event space: \$500 (Bar Bleu's lower-level room)
14 2. Food: \$2,500 (an array of appetizers)
15 3. Souvenirs: \$500 (2016 GPSA Grad Cup souvenir glasses, likely between 150 and 250,
16 purchased from DiscountMugs.com at a cost of \$0.90 each, not including shipping)

17 **Total: \$3,500**

Respectfully submitted,

Casey Millburg

At-large delegate, Law School

Addendum IV: Roll Call Votes

Roll call vote	Resolution #65-3	Bill #65-26
Alison Franklin	-	-
Christina Gallagher	-	-
Jessica Tully	-	-
Jesse Scott	Y	Y
Adam Copeland	Y	Y
Stacey Mitchell	Y	Y
Veronica Anne Charbonnet	-	-
Alexander Murdoch	N	Y
James Fan	Y	Y
Casey Milburg	-	-
Hannah Vanevery	-	-
Yiming Zhang	-	-
David Dopfel	-	Y
Penina Backer	-	-
Will Wright	Y	Y
Hye Won Chai	Y	Y
Dan Brenner	-	-
Junxian Zhang	-	-
Steven Di Grazia	A	Y
Chao Su	-	-
Jennifer Gibbs	Y	Y
Lillian Hill	Y	Y
Christine Mosich	-	-

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