



# Graduate and Professional Student Association

The Pennsylvania State University  
315 HUB-Robeson Center  
University Park, PA 16802  
Email: [gpsa@psu.edu](mailto:gpsa@psu.edu)

GPSA Assembly Meeting | Wednesday, January 13, 2016 | 6:00pm | 134 HUB-Robeson Center

## I. Call to Order

- a. Meeting was called to order by the President at 6:01pm

## II. Roll Call

- a. Please see Addendum I

## III. Adoption of Agenda

- a. Moved to appoint President Horne as Chair of the meeting in VP Christina's absence by Jesse Scott, 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Dopfel – hearing no objections, so moved
- b. Moved to move the Report by the Student Trustee to follow the Special Presentations by Jesse Scott, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Meridith Bartley – hearing no objections, so moved
- c. Moved to adopt the agenda by Jesse Scott, 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Dopfel – hearing no objections, so moved

## IV. Approval of Minutes

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

## V. Open Student Forum

- a. No discussion

## VI. Special Presentation: *Statistical Consulting Center*

- a. Statistical consulting center provides free statistical support services for students
  - i. Provides training for graduate students in the Statistics department, as well
  - ii. You can learn more about the options available here:  
<http://stat.psu.edu/consulting/statistical-consulting-center>

## VII. Special Presentation: *State of State*

- a. State of State is student-run organization – facilitates a dialogue within the university about Penn State-related issues
- b. Monthly 'salon' events
- c. Conference on February 13 – registration starts on January 25 and ends February 8
  - i. Discussions will focus around personal identity, penn state traditions & change, penn state culture, penn state degree
  - ii. For more information, please visit their website: <http://www.psustateofstate.com/>

## VIII. Report by the Student Trustee: *Allie Goldstein*

- a. Board of Trustees meet on December 15 and discussed the 'tabled' projects for Penn State Abington and Penn State Brandywine – projects were approved (22 in favor, 13 opposed)
- b. Boar retreat is happening at University Park this week (1/14 and 1/15) – wish Allie luck!
- c. January 25 – 26 will be the next board meeting at Penn State Hershey – details will be passed along when they become available

## IX. Report by the Treasurer: *Ayla Gafni*

- a. Budget summary online is currently up to date and can be found here:  
<http://gpsa.psu.edu/about-the-gpsa/budget/>

## X. New Business

- a. Bill 65-16 (see Addendum II; tabled on 12/2/15)
  - i. Presented by Meridith Bartley
  - ii. Bring Emily Roberts as invited speaker to give lecture on personal finance for graduate and professional students (including post-docs)
  - iii. It is likely that it is possible to find someone through Penn State that could host the workshop – if someone else would like to take lead on this, Meridith (mzb239@psu.edu) can provide additional information
    - 1. GWIS representative has not made headway on this project
    - 2. Thought about working with the graduate school, who suggested contacting a local financial firm or a representative from Smeal
  - iv. Meridith has withdrawn the bill from further action and discussion (though it can still be reintroduced at a later date)
- b. Bill 65-17 (see Addendum III)
  - i. Healthcare Literacy 101 workshop, presented by Alison Franklin
  - ii. Graduate School was contacted last semester about their interest in helping with this event – they took it and ran with it quickly! We appreciate the support!
  - iii. Local speakers are on the program and are healthcare professionals or experts in their field (either alumni or friends of alumni that were willing to do it for free)
  - iv. Graduate School has picked up the cost for everything, but is looking for \$400 support from the GPSA to fund pizza and drinks for one of the nights
    - 1. BUT this is primarily hosted by the GPSA
  - v. Lecture hall fits approximately 200-300 students
    - 1. Room is reserved until 8pm to allow for more question/answer or informal discussion following the program
    - 2. Will also be providing contact information for speakers and relevant literature
  - vi. Moved to approve as presented by Jesse Scott, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Meridith Bartley – bill is approved – see Addendum IV for roll call vote (14 in favor, 1 opposed)

## XI. Standing Committee Reports

- a. **Student Concerns:** *Daniel Brenner*
  - i. The committee has been relatively inactive over break, but is currently looking for members – Contact Daniel Brenner (dcb259@psu.edu) if interested
- b. **Grad Cup:** *James Fan*
  - i. Please let Jim (juf187@smeal.psu.edu) know if you are interested in planning this event – Jim is also looking for a co-chair!
- c. **Professional Development:**
  - i. Please contact Anthony Christina (aoc5144@psu.edu) if you are interested in the chair position
- d. **Programming:**
  - i. Please contact Anthony Christina (aoc5144@psu.edu) if you are interested in the chair position
- e. **Publicity & Media:**
  - i. Committee chair position is vacant. Email Anthony (aoc5144@psu.edu) if interested in serving
- f. **Healthcare & Health Insurance:** *Alison Franklin*
  - i. Planning the next meeting to be January 18, 2016 – send Alison (alisonfranklin@psu.edu) an email if interested in attending
- g. **Community Service:** *Jesse Scott*

- i. Committee meeting will likely be during the weeks opposite of GPSA Assembly meetings (meeting is tentatively set for January 19 at 5pm in the GPSA office) – email Jesse (jus121@psu.edu) if you are interested in attending or participating in the committee
  - ii. Blood drive on February 19 (10:00am-3:30pm), at the Nittany Lion Inn, hosted with the Nittany Lion Inn
  - iii. Spring food drive – details will be coming
  - iv. Maple harvest festival at Shaver’s Creek – potential to work for a bit (i.e., hand out food, clean dishes, etc.), in exchange for pancakes. PANCAKES!
  - v. Festival of trees went very well but we will need to make more decorations for future events
- h. **Human Diversity:** *Luis Ocampo*
- i. Nothing to report
- i. **PACCC:**
- i. Committee chair position is vacant. Email Anthony (aoc5144@psu.edu) if interested in serving

**XII. Report by the President:** *Kevin Horne*

- a. Student Activity Fee Board – no UPAC increase this year
- b. Strategic plan approved by the Board of Trustees committee – strategicplan.psu.edu
  - i. Significant graduate student representation – way to go!
- c. S-book ideas
  - i. Revived in 2011 by UPUA – classical freshman handbook – deliver to every PSU freshman currently
    - 1. GPSA has always had a seta on the committee – hoping that we can increase this representation – could potentially be useful for 1<sup>st</sup> year graduate students
      - a. Might need to commit some money to the cause if we want to expand to include first year graduate students
      - b. Could be useful for international students, as well
      - c. Available online as well!
- d. Hard waiver policy conversation
  - i. Part of the healthcare recommendations was a hard waiver policy (all students have to opt out by providing proof that they are elsewhere insured)
  - ii. University is trying to move forward with this by the next academic year
  - iii. Would be useful to have a GPSA resolution drafted in support of this, if that is the general consensus
- e. Legislative outreach update (We Are...Worth Funding campaign)
  - i. 3 executive directors (the presidents of UPUA, GPSA & CCSG) will oversee an operational committee of 6 students derived from these different entities
    - 1. Operational committee members will manage communications, finance, grassroots, programming, policy and volunteering efforts
    - 2. Not necessarily a ‘2 students from each entity’ model, but rather a model where the best candidate gets the position, regardless of which entity they represent
  - ii. Hopes to spend the 2016 spring semester laying the groundwork for a full-fledged campaign
- f. Ayla has been appointed as the NEW director of fun to plan low budget events for just the group
- g. Facilities Fee Advisory committee
  - i. The administration found \$8 million for use this semester in a Barnes & Noble account

1. Kevin will double check to ensure that this money has been dedicated strictly to the committee
- ii. Ideas currently floating around:
  1. IM Phase III over budget (by approx. 3-4 million dollars currently)
  2. Student engagement portal/center in HUB
    - a. Information portal that would be staffed that could get students immediately connected with organizations and events on campus
  3. Stone Valley/Shavers Creek project
    - a. Stone Valley management has recently moved to Student Affairs – would be interested in developing nice cottages for retreats or even a small conference center next to Lake Perez
  4. Potential intercollegiate master plan involvement
  5. On campus playgrounds
    - a. Needed for some majors and/or classes (i.e., Early Childhood Development) – requesting at least one (perhaps by the IM building)
  6. More scooters for injured students
  7. Send any other ideas to Kevin (kvh5130@psu.edu)!
- h. Upcoming events/tasks
  - i. Need someone to help plan the spring dissertation boot camp – please contact Kevin (kvh5130@psu.edu) if you are interested!
  - ii. Borough Zoning (potential vote within the next two weeks – more details to come)
  - iii. We have two pizza outreach meetings left!
    1. One will be before the next Assembly meeting on January 27 – look for more details in the coming days!
  - iv. Governing documents – plan on February 3 Public Town Hall
  - v. New week: meetings with VP Sims and other senior administrators – if you have any concerns that you want voiced, please send them to Kevin (kvh5130@psu.edu) ASAP
  - vi. VP Sims will be coming to the GPSA meeting in two weeks – please come prepared with good and thoughtful questions!**
  - vii. More open delegate spots – check out the list here: <http://gpsa.psu.edu/membership-2/assembly/>
  - viii. Please email Kevin (kvh5130@psu.edu) to tell him what committee you are interested in serving on so that we can finish the year strong!
  - ix. Contact Lily Hill (lzh157@psu.edu) if you are interested in helping plan the Multicultural Week
  - x. Only 5 more meetings left after today until the next term – let’s make the most of them!

**XIII. Report by the Executive Vice President: *Anthony Christina***

- a. Nothing to report

**XIV. Report by the Vice President of External Affairs: *Nicole Benevento***

- a. Nothing to report

**XV. Report by the Secretary: *Courtney Davis***

- a. GPSA newswire is back in business after break – if you have articles to include, please send to [gpsanewswire@gmail.com](mailto:gpsanewswire@gmail.com)

**XVI. Report by the Faculty Senate: *Azita Ranjbar***

- a. Nothing to report

**XVII. Report by the Judiciary: *Jeremy Johnson***

- a. Brian Aynardi has stepped down from the chief justice position – Jeremy Johnson has been appointed as current chief justice

**XVIII. Report by Graduate Council: *Brad Sottile***

- a. The council met on December 9, 2015 – attendance was low and quorum was not met

- b. January meeting will host a vote on concurrent graduate degree programs
- c. Committee on fellowship and awards – graduate fellowship awards are being finalized
  - i. Bonus awards for colleges that put forward underrepresented minority groups
- d. Sign up to judge the Graduate Exhibition if you are interested! The registration link can be found here: <http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/exhibition/judging/>

**XIX. Report by the Liaisons**

- a. Health Insurance
  - i. Student insurance advisory council is meeting with AETNA to discuss rates for the next year on Wednesday (1/20).
- b. Sexual Violence and Awareness Roundtable is seeking a new student to serve as GPSA liaison – please contact Kevin ([kvh5130@psu.edu](mailto:kvh5130@psu.edu)) or Nicole ([nmb5273@psu.edu](mailto:nmb5273@psu.edu)) if you are interested

**XX. Report by the Advisor: *Philip Burlingame***

- a. For those who are new to the organization – urge you to become involved! There is a need for new leadership to step forward – GPSA has a problem of burning out its leaders, so we need more people to step up!

**XXI. Comments for the Good of the Order**

- a. Nothing to report

**XXII. Adjourn**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Courtney Davis

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

### **Faculty Senate**

Azita Ranjbar	A
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### **Graduate Council**

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

### **Agricultural Sciences**

Alison Franklin	P
1 delegate seat vacant	

### **Art & Architecture**

1 delegate seat vacant

### **Communications**

1 delegate seat vacant

### **Education**

Karyn Rizzo	A
Daniel Brenner	P
Junxian Zhang	P

### **Dickinson School of Law**

Christina Gallagher	P
Theresa DeAngelis	A
Jessica Tully	A

**Engineering**

Jesse Scott	P
Ashish Shah	A
Wenjie Fei	A

**Smeal College of Business**

James Fan	P
Alexander Murdoch	A
Steven Di Grazia	P

**Earth & Mineral Sciences**

Yiming Zhang	A
1 delegate seat vacant	

**Liberal Arts**

Veronica Anne Charbonnet	P
Stacey Mitchell	P
1 delegate seat vacant	

**Health & Human Development**

Adam Copeland	P
Hannah Van Every	L

**Information Sciences & Technology**

Dev Khare	A
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**International Affairs**

Jennifer Gibbs	P
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**Nursing**

1 delegate seat vacant

**Eberly College of Science**

Meridith Bartley	P
Will Wright	P
1 delegate seat vacant	

**White Course Apartments**

1 delegate seat vacant

**Inter-College Degree Program**

David Dopfel	P
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2 delegate seats vacant

**At Large**

Luis Ocampo	A
Casey Millburg	E
Penina Backer	E
Hye Won Chai	A
Chao Su	A

**Judiciary**

Brian Aynardi	A
Alex Park	P
Jeremy Johnson	L



Bill # 65-16

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



**of the 65th Assembly**  
December 2, 2015

*Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,*

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

**Nature of the Situation:**

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

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

**Recommended Course of Action:**

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

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

Respectfully submitted

**Meridith Bartley**  
Delegate, Eberly College of Science

**Jason Bernstein**  
Delegate, Eberly College of Science

President \_\_\_\_\_

Affirm Veto

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The Graduate and Professional Student Association

Bill #65-17

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



**of the 65th Assembly**  
January 13, 2016

*Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,*

**Co-Sponsorship of Healthcare Literacy 101 Workshops  
Funding for Health Care Workshops**  
(Decided: [ Y / N / A ])

1 **Nature of the Situation:**

2  
3 Part of the GPSA’s mission is to provide programming events to enrich graduate student life at  
4 Penn State. Over the past two years, health insurance and healthcare have been important areas  
5 of concern for graduate students, specifically costs of health care, adequate health insurance  
6 coverage, and available healthcare services. Students have constantly expressed their concerns  
7 and questions surrounding health insurance and health care, and Penn State formed a Task Force  
8 to specifically address these issues in summer of 2014. The GPSA has consistently identified  
9 healthcare and insurance as extremely important topics for graduate students.

10  
11 In spring of 2015, the GPSA sponsored a financial literacy workshop with the hope of additional  
12 workshops in 2015-2016. With the assistance of the Graduate School, two Healthcare Literacy  
13 101 workshops are planned for January 25 and 26 from 5:30-7 PM in 100 Life Sciences  
14 Building. These workshops will be live-streamed and recorded with links to the recordings  
15 available on the Graduate School and GPSA websites subsequent to the events. To encourage  
16 students to attend, food and drinks will be offered following the events.

17  
18 The proposed Healthcare Workshops will cover general questions and concerns about health care  
19 in the United States as well as specific health care available at Penn State. The workshops will  
20 provide time for general questions and answers followed by informational tables during a time  
21 when students can mingle with the speakers, ask more specific questions and enjoy food and  
22 drinks. The agenda for the workshops is as follows:

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**I. Formal Presentation (40 mins)**

Brief high-level overview of the US health care system, and health insurance  
*Mary Beth Jenkins, Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, UPMC Health Plan (January 25 only)*  
*David Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, UPMC – Altoona Physician Group Management (January 25 & 26)*

Comparison of health insurance plans to illustrates how health insurance works  
*Karen Kline, Manager of UHS Student Insurance*

Brief overview of services provided by University Health Service  
*Robin Oliver, Director of UHS*

**II. Public Question and Answer Session (up to 20 mins)**

General questions about health care, health insurance and UHS  
*Michael Verderame, Senior Associate Dean, Graduate School*

**III. Information Tables (30 min)**

Have a series of tables staffed by:  
UHS & University’s student health insurance office  
Two healthcare speakers from formal presentation  
GPSA

**Recommended Course of Action:**

The Graduate and Professional Student Association authorizes the healthcare committee to purchase pizza and soda for two healthcare workshops scheduled for January 25 and 26, 2016.

Pizza: \$300  
Soda: \$100

In addition, the GPSA agrees to assist in publicizing these events and provide hands-on assistance during the events. The Healthcare Committee requests that representatives from GPSA, including healthcare/insurance liaisons, be present during and after the event to help answer questions that students may have.

Respectfully submitted,

**Alison M. Franklin**  
Chair, Healthcare Committee / Delegate, College of Agricultural Sciences

President \_\_\_\_\_ Affirm Veto

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The Graduate and Professional Student Association

## Addendum IV – Roll call vote

### Roll call vote 65-17

Alison Franklin	Y
Christina Gallagher	N
Theresa DeAngelis	-
Jessica Tully	-
Meridith Bartley	Y
Karyn Rizzo	-
Jesse Scott	Y
Ashish Shah	-
Wenjie Fei	-
Adam Copeland	Y
Stacey Mitchell	Y
Veronica Anne Charbonnet	Y
Alexander Murdoch	-
James Fan	Y
Luis Ocampo	-
Casey Milburg	-
Dev Khare	-
Hannah Vanevery	Y
Yiming Zhang	-
David Dopfel	Y
Penina Backer	-
Will Wright	Y
Hye Won Chai	-
Dan Brenner	Y
Junxian Zhang	Y
Steven Di Grazia	Y
Chao Su	-
Jennifer Gibbs	Y

Y – in favor

N – opposed

- – not present