



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, January 27, 2016 | 6:00pm | 134 HUB-Robeson Center

I. Call to Order

- a. Meeting was called to order by the Executive Vice President at 6:05pm

II. Roll Call

- a. Please see Addendum I

III. Adoption of Agenda

- a. Moved to add Grad Cup Spending Bill 65-19 to agenda below bill 65-18 by James Fan, 2nd by David Dopfel – hearing no objections, so moved
- b. Moved to switch Faculty Senator Report below the special presentation, and add the Executive Vice President of External Affairs report before Treasurers report by James Fan, 2nd by Adam Copeland – 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: *Vice President of Student Affairs, Damon Sims*

- a. Thank you, everyone, for your service to PSU – this is a complicated place with complicated issues so we need to engage everyone in the community as fully as we possibly can
 - i. The guidance of involvement of GPSA has always been useful
- b. Student health, health insurance, counseling and psychological
 - i. This is an area of continuing concern for the entire community
 - ii. Student leaders have been assertive with their concerns regarding the need for this
 - iii. Operation we currently have is not currently able to keep up with the need – we have increased the number of providers in the past 2 years, but the need still surpasses the current offerings
 - iv. Space in UHS is completely occupied, so they have leased space on Calder Way for the past couple of years
 1. Found space adjacent to UHS next year for counseling and psychological services, and now hope to increase the number of providers
- c. Fee commission
 - i. Set of mandatory fees currently include the activity fee, the facilities fee and the technology fee
 - ii. Student leaders brought idea to consolidate into one fee and expenditures are now in the hands of the students

1. Driven by the belief that if students are willing to tax themselves for an activity, program or facility, then the university shouldn't stand in the way of that continuing forward
 2. Universal agreement from senior administration to move this forward
- d. Student Health
- i. Hershey is creating a number of clinical operations in the community – specialties not provided by UHS can be provided by Hershey clinics
 1. Hours for UHS are limited (no weekend hours) but medical needs exist
 2. Through partnership to find a way to tap into the clinical offerings of Hershey and have immediate care when the need arises
- e. Student Insurance
- i. Possibility of university moving toward mandate that students prove they are insured (hard waiver policy)
 1. Expand the pool of people for the university health plan
 2. Currently working through logistics of this currently, but this has been informed by students and student leaders
- f. Zoning in State College Borough
- i. Cause to disaggregate certain classes of students (i.e., graduate students)
 - ii. Hope GPSA continues to be engaged with this issue
- g. Campus recreation activities is now in the hands of student affairs
- i. Access to campus recreation facilities has been circumscribed
 1. Looking to install controlled access in recreation facilities
 - a. Manages a limited resource (large population to serve and PSU has nice but limited facilities)
- h. Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment
- i. Task Force created a list of 18 recommendations last January – President approved all 18
 1. Trying to constitute a title IX, stand alone operation at PSU (just hired the first title IX coordinator in this stand alone capacity)
 - ii. Issues related to sexual misconduct, assault and harassment should be of concern for all students
 1. Results of a climate survey conducted on these issues will be going public shortly
- i. Questions/comments from the Assembly
- i. Access to mental health services on campus – any talk about early intervention/prevention program?
 1. Can't just shovel money endlessly at the problem without understanding the cause
 - a. Need to find ways to intervene early and address concerns that arise before they become critical
 - b. Need to find ways to alert people to available services
 - ii. What sort of student participation did you receive for climate survey and what is the involvement with student health insurance through university
 1. Response rate (~35% overall student population) was high in comparison to values survey
 2. As for the participation in the university insurance plan – low for undergraduates, at least
 - iii. Are there certain population that might be disproportionately impacted by mandated insurance?

1. We don't really know who doesn't have student insurance – don't know how many people would be impacted by the hard waiver (i.e., potentially students who do not have university assistantships)
 - a. Conversations regarding how much would be covered by loans, for example
 - b. There were a number of international students dropped out of the plan (with new increases) but do not know the number of US students that dropped out of the plan
- iv. Mental health care & commission of student fees
 1. Worry that this sets a precedent that students actually paying for students paying for services that previously might be under the purview of the university: university is challenged financially
 - a. Need to protect core mission of the institution (academic side of the house) – services and programs are appendices of the main body of the institution (research and teaching) – might not get additional resources directed through the university so instead, might work with student fee commission
 - i. The enhancement of services would come through the fee (students have advocated for it, don't see another way that we will get resources to enhance services anything outside of tuition)
- v. State patty's day
 1. The administration has worked hard to minimize this day – providing an economic incentive to the bars, restaurants, bottleshops, etc., to not sell alcohol on state patty's day (expensive and taverns, bars were no longer interested)
 2. Administration tried to replace last year with winter festival called THAW – numbers weren't that impressive for involvement
 3. Students are not talking about state patty's day
 4. No THAW this year
 - a. Potentially working on a winter festival for the following year (won't happen during state patty's day)
- vi. 18 recommendations for sexual assault task force (i.e., move office of student conduct toward an investigative model)
 1. Hired professional investigator (came from university police who previously worked on sexual misconduct cases)
 - a. Few cases where the model was followed, the panel has done a good job receiving the report
 - b. Meets certain values and expectations we sought to achieve through this process
 - c. Federal case is now challenging the constitutionality of the process in Williamsport – judge could decide to send us back to the model we were working with before

VII. Report by the Faculty Senator

- a. Student Life Committee
 - i. Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Task Force
 1. Update on survey – preliminary findings
 2. Advisory and Consultative Report, March 2016

- ii. LGBTQ Resources for Students at Penn State
 - 1. Climate survey this year for LGBTQ faculty, staff and students
 - 2. Follow up to the 2012 Senate report
 - 3. Working group established and survey is in development
 - 4. Survey to be circulated at the end of the spring semester
- iii. Mental Health
 - 1. Informational Report to be submitted to the Senate by March 2016
 - a. What are the available health facilities that can accommodate the need for mental health care for Penn State students?
 - b. Determine the impact of mental health issues on students' time to degree, access to financial aid, and continuity of registration
 - c. What changes, if any, will be required for mental health care coverage for students under the ACA?
 - d. Does the University have a plan to meet new requirements and the cost of providing any increases in services?
 - 2. Related developments
 - a. Proposed Student Fee Commission with allocations for mental health services
 - b. 2016 Senior gift in an endowment to CAPS
 - c. CAPS office relocations from Calder Way to the Career Services Building (adjacent to UHS)
 - d. 2015 Student by the Center for Collegiate Mental Health to inform Penn State on how to better meet students' needs
 - e. Administration wants CAPS to move to direct billing for students with insurance; CAPS is concerned that students without insurance will not have access to needed services
 - f. Search for a new CAPS director
- iv. Graduate Health Care Plans
 - 1. The administration is considering mandatory enrollment in the student health care plan for: international students; or, all undergraduate and graduate students
 - 2. Aetna insurance to increase by 10% in the coming year
 - 3. Proposal to increase the pool of enrolled students and reduce costs
 - 4. Proposal preceded by a drop in the number of enrolled international students
 - 5. No numbers provided by UHS on how many US students have stopped using the student health care plan since insurance costs increased
 - 6. Students 26 and under could stay on parent insurance although this may not cover providers in the State College area
 - 7. Concerns about managing waivers on LionPATH
 - 8. An area of concern is how this will impact graduate students without university assistantships or fellowships
- v. Faculty Senate Meeting (January 26, 2016)
 - 1. Student Fee Commission proposal presented by UPUA
 - 2. Penn State commonwealth appropriation still not approved due to the PA budget stalemate
 - 3. Strategic Plan will be voted on by Board of Trustees in February
 - 4. The Administration is adapting the Strategic plan to the capital campaign that will be launched this summer
 - 5. Possible themes of the campaign include:
 - a. Global engagement
 - b. Penn State as a cultural destination
 - c. Population and personalized health

- d. Natural resources
- e. Access and affordability
- f. Digital technology

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

- a. Ride for five update
 - i. More specifics on new transportation program will be available during the next Assembly meeting
 - 1. There will be no monetary value assigned to the program's name in the future
 - 2. Prices will increase for all involved (graduate students, staff, faculty)
- b. Capital Day update
 - i. Date was originally chosen by the Grassroots Network as March 29
 - 1. However, neither chamber will be in session on that day – might instead convert this into a day of action rather than going to Harrisburg

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. Vacancies
 - i. Lillian Hill would like to be voted in as Delegate to the Intercollege Graduate Degree Program
 - 1. Moved to approve Lillian Hill as Delegate through unanimous consent by Jesse Scott, 2nd by David Dopfel – hearing no objections, so moved
- b. Bill 65-18 (see Addendum II for roll call vote)
 - i. Presented by David Dopfel
 - ii. Space is reserved, but need to wait on approval of spending bill to set time (currently, the event is tentatively 6-8pm)
 - iii. Graduate and professional students would prefer to go to events that are off campus and are incentivized by food!
 - iv. Call the question by Jesse Scott, 2nd by James Fan – motion is approve (15 in favor, 1 opposed)
- c. Bill 65-19 (see Addendum III for roll call vote)
 - i. Presented by James Fan and the Grad Cup committee
 - ii. Either April 9 or April 23 – intramural fields are currently on reserve until further date
 - iii. Costs were approximated using previous budgets and quotes from specific companies – would like to see actual documentation on the approximate spending of this bill
 - iv. Tickets are \$7.00 per person when people register early (covers the cost of the shirts)
 - v. In the past, we have allowed spouses to participate in the event, but cannot allow children (due to insurance and risk purposes)
 - 1. Could be useful to let individuals register as individuals, as well
 - vi. Cost last year was \$8083 for 250 people – this, therefore, is a comparable budget for 50% increase in the number of people in attendance
 - vii. Moved to table for next meeting for more specific breakdown of items involved by Casey Millburg, 2nd by Steven DiGrazia – 6 in favor, 7 opposed – motion fails
 - viii. Motion to put on the table until Comments for the good of the order – 13 in favor, 0 opposed (by overwhelming majority of the chair)
 - ix. Equipment costs include people to man equipment if necessary

- x. Moved to approve by Jesse Scoot, 2nd by Casey Millburg – motion approved (16 in favor, 0 opposed)

XI. Standing Committee Reports

- a. **Student Concerns:** *Daniel Brenner*
 - i. Currently developing a survey to disseminate to the student population – contact Dan (dcb259@psu.edu) if you would like to make suggestions
 - ii. College of Education program (MS in Higher Education) will be dissolved – still trying to figure out what the cause of this was, what students need to do to secure funding – still gathering information
 - 1. Other programs across the university were also affected by Graduate Council policies – please look for impacts in your departments and send comments/questions/concerns to Dan (dcb259@psu.edu) and Kevin (kvh5130@psu.edu)
- b. **Grad Cup:** *James Fan*
 - i. Nothing to report
- 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. Lillian Hill (lzh157@psu.edu) has taken over the chair position for Publicity & Media committee
- f. **Healthcare & Health Insurance:** *Alison Franklin*
 - i. Healthcare Literacy 101 Workshops
 - 1. Two were held, one on January 25 and one on January 26
 - 2. Event was well received by those in attendance, especially the second night
 - 3. Might be a good idea to hold this workshop again in the future given the positive responses received this time
 - 4. Had 25 people register for each night – approximately 20 individuals showed up the first night, and 25 the second night (in addition to the 5 people/night who viewed the live screening of the events)
 - 5. Of the \$400 allocated for the event, only \$135.18 was spent
 - 6. Special thank you to Morteza Karimzadeh, Enica Castañeda and Katie Kragh-Beutow for their help with this!!
- g. **Community Service:** *Jesse Scott*
 - i. Committee will meet on Thursday opposite Assembly meeting weeks at 5pm in GPSA office
 - ii. Blood drive is scheduled for February 19 – this is the last THON drive
 - 1. Will be hosted at the Nittany Lion Inn and is cosponsored with Penn State Hospitality and Hotel Management student organization
 - iii. Service event is being planned for Centre County PAWS – dates and times to be determined
 - iv. Food collection drive
 - 1. In conversation with supermarkets in the area to have date set in March when we can conduct the drive
 - 2. Additional basket drive on campus – still talking with different food pantries, so stay tuned!
- 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

XII. Report by the President: *Kevin Horne*

- a. Governing Documents – there will be an open Town Hal meeting next Wednesday in 009 HUB to discuss changes to the documents
- b. MS in Higher Education
 - i. The program was discontinued due to a Graduate Council policy passed in May, which required that all instructors in research science degrees be full time graduate faculty
 - 1. Student Affairs Administrators were no longer able to teach in research degrees
 - ii. All current students will get their research degree and their guaranteed funding
 - iii. Graduate School's position is difficult to interpret – college did it willingly, but the policy is sound and PSU shouldn't have non-research oriented members teaching research programs
 - 1. No longer able to mix research and professional practice in degrees
- c. Tobacco Free policy on campus
 - i. The direction that higher education is moving toward
 - ii. UPUA has passed a resolution in support of this – GPSA will need to make a stance, probably by the end of our terms
- d. ABC nightline is coming to PSU to film a panel on sexual assault and harassment – GPSA has up to 7 seats if anyone is interested in attending – the event is February 5th, 1:30-5:00pm

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

- a. Nothing to report

XIV. Report by the Secretary: *Courtney Davis*

- a. Nothing to report

XV. Report by the Judiciary: *Jeremy Johnson*

- a. Nothing to report

XVI. Report by Graduate Council: *Brad Sottile*

- a. Graduate Council is currently reviewing a new policy change regarding concurrent degree programs – this will be sent around on the newswire to receive feedback
- b. Past Graduate Council policies are available on the graduate school website

XVII. Report by the Liaisons

- a. Sexual Violence and Awareness Roundtable: *Marina Cotarelo*
 - i. Looking for GPSA to host an event specifically for Graduate students
 - 1. If you are interested in working on this, please contact Marina (mpc5184@psu.edu)
 - 2. Also looking for graduate students doing research on this topic, please contact Marina (mpc5184@psu.edu)
- b. Health Care Liaison: *Alison Franklin*
 - i. SIAB/SIAC Meeting with Aetna
 - 1. Aetna presented info regarding the utilization for 2014/2015 year
 - a. Overall fairly good utilization of ~78%
 - b. Continuation plan (1 month) had a utilization of 1500%
 - i. Continuation plan was meant to hold over graduate students who finished in August but didn't have a job jet (prior to ACA)

- ii. With implementation of ACA and exchanges, students who graduate & lost their insurance can go on the exchanges mid year due to changes in circumstances and obtain insurance
 - iii. Discussing the continuation plan, as it has the potential to detrimentally affect our plan
 - 1. Proposed rates for upcoming year are ~\$3300/individual
 - 2. Removal of the Continuation Plan will lower this premium slightly
- 2. Hard waivers are being discussed for all students
 - a. New hard waiver rule where international students need to take the Student Health insurance plan offered through PSU
 - b. If either of these go in place by Fall 2016, then rates will drop below \$3000
 - i. ~\$2800 – International Hard Waiver change
 - ii. ~\$2500 - all students
- ii. Hard Waiver meeting
 - 1. Proposed by the Task Force in Fall 2013
 - 2. Reasons for hard waiver
 - a. Ensuring that all students are adequately covered by a health insurance plan
 - i. Not all plans work in Centre County, PA (many insurance plans are regional)
 - ii. Anyone on medical assistance – if they don't change their residence to Centre County, they are not covered
 - b. Make obtaining health insurance more affordable to needy students
 - i. Insurance premium would automatically go on the student's bill until it is waived (removed by providing proof of insurance)
 - 1. Then considered as a cost of attendance and be used to calculate financial aid
 - a. Financial aid may be used to pay the premium (currently not the case)
 - ii. Most people in attendance seemed to favor the hard waiver policy
 - 1. Various people noted that it would be difficult to have this in place by Fall 2016

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

- a. Retreat was held on January 14-15
- b. Upcoming board meeting in Hershey February 25-26, more details will be announced once they become public

XIX. Report by the Advisor: *Philip Burlingame*

- a. January 27 was the rollout day for Stand for State
 - i. Delegates: go to #StandforState, look up the three D's (direct, delegate, distract) and know enough about the initiative to disseminate the ideas of the program throughout your programs
- b. Governing documents
 - i. As disseminated, they move the organization forward in positive ways – way to go Kevin!

XX. Comments for the Good of the Order

- a. Ayla Gafni
 - i. As Director of Fun, moves for everyone to go to zenos, 2nd by Casey Millburg
- b. Allie Goldstein

- i. Stand for State workshops are fantastic! Currently looking for nominations for students to join in on the workshops – please contact Allie (asg206@psu.edu) if you are interested
- c. James Fan
 - i. Everyone supported the Graduate Cup spending bill – that means that everyone should help advertise Graduate Cup (by either being on a team or volunteering the day-of)

XXI. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

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	W
Courtney Davis	P
Ayla Gafni	P
Phillip Burlingame	P

Faculty Senate

Azita Ranjbar	W
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Graduate Council

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

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	P
1 delegate seat vacant	

Dickinson School of Law

Christina Gallagher P

Jessica Tully A

1 delegate seat vacant

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 A

Stacey Mitchell P

1 delegate seat vacant

Health & Human Development

Adam Copeland P

Hannah Van Every P

Information Sciences & Technology

1 delegate seat vacant

International Affairs

Jennifer Gibbs P

Nursing

1 delegate seat vacant

Eberly College of Science

Meridith Bartley A

Will Wright A

1 delegate seat vacant

White Course Apartments

1 delegate seat vacant

Inter-College Degree Program

David Dopfel P

2 delegate seats vacant

At Large

Chao Su P

Casey Millburg P

Penina Backer P

Hye Won Chai P

1 delegate seat vacant

Judiciary

Brian Aynardi A

Alex Park A

Jeremy Johnson A

Bill # 65-18

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



of the 65th Assembly
January 27, 2016

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

Spring Mixer at Café 210 West
(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 and
4 professional student life at Penn State and to create a sense of community across various
5 disciplines and departments. In order to lift the spirits of graduate and professional students
6 during the cold winter months, the GPSA should hold an indoor social event in the month of
7 February.

8

9 **Recommended Course of Action:**

10

11 The Graduate and Professional Student Association authorizes the Programming Committee and
12 the Director of Fun to host a mixer at Café 210 West on Wednesday, February 17. The expenses
13 of the event include room rental, snacks, and gratuity, and will not exceed \$1500.

14

15 The GPSA will advertise the event through its calendar, newswire, and social media pages.
16 Delegates in the assembly are asked to get the word out to their departments and colleges
17 through appropriate channels.

18

19 No GPSA or Student Activity Fee funds will be used for alcohol expenses.

20

Respectfully submitted,

David Dopfel
Delegate, Inter-College Degree Program

Ayla Gafni
Treasurer, Director of Fun

President _____ Affirm Veto

The Graduate and Professional Student Association

Bill # 65-19

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



of the 65th Assembly
January 27, 2016

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

Grad Cup 2016
Funding for this year's Grad Cup
(Decided: [Y / N / A])

1 **Nature of the Situation:**

2

3 Grad Cup is an annual event started in 2013 by GPSA. This event gives graduate and
4 professional students the opportunity to socialize in a friendly competition featuring different
5 outdoor events. This event is consistent with GPSA's mission to enrich the lives of graduate
6 students by providing a welcoming atmosphere for graduate and professional students to unwind
7 near the end of the Spring semester.

8

9 This year's grad cup is scheduled will be on either April 8 or April 23, depending on availability.
10 The daylong event features outdoor events punctuated by breaks with food and refreshments.
11 This year we are anticipating 300-400 participants in the grad cup.

12

13 **Recommended Course of Action:**

14

15 The Graduate and Professional Student Association authorizes the programming committee to
16 purchase the following items for the grad cup

17

18 Tent, Chair, Table Rental: \$2000

19 Port-a-potty: \$500

20 Lunch: \$4000

21 Additional Snacks and Refreshments: \$500

22 Equipment Rental: \$3000

23 T-Shirts: \$2000

24 **TOTAL: \$12,000**

1 \$2100 will be collected from registration fees for the event. The registration fee will be \$7 for
2 early registration and \$10 for normal registration.

3
4
5

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Fan

Delegate, Smeal College of Business

Will Wright

Delegate, Eberly College of Science

President _____ Affirm Veto

The Graduate and Professional Student Association

Addendum IV – Roll call vote

Roll call vote	Mixer 65-18	Grad Cup 65-19
Alison Franklin	-	-
Christina Gallagher	n	y
Jessica Tully	-	-
Meridith Bartley	-	-
Jesse Scott	y	y
Ashish Shah	-	-
Wenjie Fei	-	-
Adam Copeland	y	y
Stacey Mitchell	y	y
Veronica Anne Charbonnet	-	-
Alexander Murdoch	-	-
James Fan	y	y
Casey Milburg	y	y
Hannah Vanevery	y	y
Yiming Zhang	-	-
David Dopfel	y	y
Penina Backer	y	y
Will Wright	-	y
Hye Won Chai	y	y
Dan Brenner	y	y
Junxian Zhang	y	y
Steven Di Grazia	y	y
Chao Su	y	y
Jennifer Gibbs	y	y
Lillian Hill	y	y

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