



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, November 18, 2015 | 6:00pm | 134 HUB-Robeson

I. Call to Order

- a. Meeting was called to order by the Executive Vice President at 6:04pm

II. Roll Call

- a. Please see Addendum I

III. Adoption of Agenda

- a. Moved to amend agenda to add spending bill 65-16 to new business by James Fan, 2nd by Alexander Murdoch – hearing no objections, motion to carried. Agenda approved as such

IV. Approval of Minutes

- a. Moved to amend minutes to read ‘November 4, 2015’ instead of ‘November 6, 2015 by Stacey Mitchell, 2nd by James Fan – hearing no objections, motion is carried. Minutes approved as such

V. Open Student Forum

- a. No discussion

VI. Special Presentation: *Jennifer Campbell, Office of Global Programs*

- a. Penn State’s vision: “Penn Stat will be a world leader in scholarship and international engagement” – UOGP Strategic Plan
- b. UOGP Goals
 - i. Global Citizenship – for all PSU students
 - ii. Global Leadership – for PSU scholarship and international engagement
- c. Three-sided approach
 - i. GO – we need to send a more diverse pool of students to more nontraditional locations
 - ii. COME – attracting more students from more diverse and underrepresented regions of the world
 - iii. PARTNER – with peer institutions, organizations, companies abroad
- d. There are currently 2491 international graduate students studying at UP
- e. Services by the office:
 - i. DISSA: international student advising
 - ii. DEA: more than 250 abroad programs
 - iii. DSEO: Student engagement
 1. Graduate international student orientation, international education week in November, international student organization funding, graduate student travel grants, explorer bus trips to places like NYC, Philadelphia, Washington D. C.
- iv. What are the challenges for international graduate students? What services can be provided by the OGP? How can GPSA help?

1. How can GPSA help? Invite and welcome international students to events and to participate in the assembly
 - a. OGP currently developing a focus group as a result of meeting with various departments
 - i. Invite leadership to open up discussions
 - b. Love to have representative at graduate student orientation for fall and spring semesters
 - c. Use OGP list-serves to directly contact international graduate students

VII. New Business

- a. Vacancies
 - i. Please see website for a full list of vacancies within the Assembly:
<http://gpsa.psu.edu/membership-2/assembly/>
 - ii. Jennifer Gibbs, School of International Affairs
 1. Would like to better integrate the School of International Affairs with the rest of the university
 2. Moved to approve as delegate by Alexander Murdoch, 2nd by Stacey Mitchell – hearing no objections, it is so moved. Congratulations Jennifer!
- b. Bill 65-15 (see Addendum II)
 - i. Presented by Alexander Murdoch – current Curator for TEDxPSU
 1. Sidenote: first graduate student to be curator – congrats!!
 2. Asking for \$1500 in finds and to utilize communication channels to directly connect with graduate students and reach beyond undergraduate audiences
 - a. This will be applied to the overall cost of lunch (total is approximately \$20000 for all 700 attendees)
 - b. Lunch will take place in Heritage Hall
 3. Role GPSA has in administering the event: have representatives present at assigned lunch tables to interact with students
 - a. Can a small number of tickets be set aside for GPSA members? Most likely this can be worked out
 - b. Looking for volunteers on day of event
 - c. Name will be on promotional materials and programs will be handed out with GPSA name and logo on
 4. Is there additional UPAC funding?
 - a. Yes – a full budget will be presented once UPAC funding has been secured
 5. Moved to call the question – please see Addendum IV for roll-call votes – motion to approve spending bill passes unanimously
- c. Bill 65-16 (see Addendum III)
 - i. Presented by Kevin Horne
 - ii. Funding pizza at the informational session for Graduate Exhibition
 - iii. Amendment proposed by Brad Sottile to include name for promotional materials (after line 24) – 2nd by Steven DiGrazia – hearing no objections, amendment passes – Bill as presented in Addendum III reflects this change
 - iv. Great way to support Graduate Exhibition – graduate students can also serve as judges or volunteer time in other ways
 - v. Moved to call the question – please see Addendum IV for roll-call votes – motion to approve spending bill passes unanimously

VIII. Standing Committee Reports

- a. **Student Concerns:** *Daniel Brenner*

- i. The committee now has members (yay!) but is still looking for more – please contact Dan (dcb259@psu.edu) if you are interested in serving
 - ii. Committee is putting together a survey to share at the next meeting that will ultimately reach the larger student body
- b. **Grad Cup:** *James Fan, Lillian Hill*
 - i. Please let Jim (juf187@smeal.psu.edu) or Lily (lzh157@psu.edu) know if you are interested in planning this event
- c. **Professional Development:** *Casey Millburg*
 - i. Casey Millburg has stepped down as chair – please contact Anthony Christina (aoc5144@psu.edu) if you are interested in the chair position
- d. **Programming:** *Lillian Hill*
 - i. Winter Masquerade Ball
 - 1. Thank you to everyone for your help selling tickets!
 - 2. We sold out and had a waiting list of more than 50 people
 - 3. Raised approximately \$340.00 for the charities (split evenly between Centre County PAWS and Centre County Women’s Resource Center)
 - 4. THANKS to Lily for planning such a successful event!!
 - ii. GPSA-ChemE GSA Tailgate
 - 1. Saturday – spread the word with the FB event:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/947241015313639/>
 - iii. Multi-Cultural Week
 - 1. Start scheduling the first organizational meeting for hopefully the week after Thanksgiving Break (more likely the first few weeks into the Spring semester)
 - 2. Please let Lily (lzh157@psu.edu) know if you are interested in working on this event!
- e. **Publicity & Media:** *Nicole Benevento*
 - i. Committee chair position is vacant. Email Anthony (aoc5144@psu.edu) if interested in serving
 - ii. Relying on delegates to share and publicize the GPSA calendar:
<http://gpsa.psu.edu/calendar-of-events/>
- f. **Healthcare & Health Insurance:** *Alison Franklin*
 - i. Committee met last week to discuss health insurance workshops, which will be coordinated with the Graduate school
 - 1. The plan as of now is to host 1 general workshop but at 2 different times (3-4 weeks apart)
 - 2. Go over terminology, differences between plans, HMO vs. deductible, discuss services on campus, bring in experts on healthcare, etc.
 - ii. Planning a healthy eating event for mid-January
 - 1. Please contact Alison (amy125@psu.edu) if you are interested in getting involved with the planning of the event or if you have ideas for the event
- g. **Community Service:** *Jesse Scott*
 - i. Planning a food drive in the spring and will be compiling list of supermarkets to partner with, food pantries, student orgs, etc.
 - 1. Will be looking for volunteers, resources, etc. – will keep assembly updated
 - ii. Christmas tree update
 - 1. Should have gotten an email from Stacey regarding decoration creation if you told her you were interested
 - a. Creation of decorations will take place on December 1 from 4-5pm and on December 5 at 10am – please let Stacey (sxm629@psu.edu) know if you are interested in helping!
 - 2. Will need volunteers for tree set up and tree tear down as well

- 3. Thank you to those who have donated money! We are at \$40.00 so far!
- iii. Thanks to those who participated in the blood drive!
- iv. There were 14 baskets created for the Thanksgiving basket drive!
- 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
- IX. Report by the President:** *Kevin Horne*
 - a. Thanks for the nametags, Kevin!
 - b. Retreat
 - i. Had 27 people RSVP but only 9 people showed up (2 of which didn't RSVP)
 - 1. Despite that, total expense was \$227.25
 - ii. Productive morning discussing issues to tackle
 - 1. Nest-practices document to deal with advisor/student relationship – currently, this is inconsistent across documents but could be an extremely useful document!
 - c. Campus Recreation Advisory Board
 - i. First time GPSA has had presence at the meeting
 - ii. Working on policies for gym memberships, facilities, etc.
 - d. Legislative outreach committee
 - i. Going forward with student platform – will set up consistent meeting with local legislators to make sure that we continue to work on these issues
 - e. Board of Trustees Meeting
 - i. November 19 and 20 – all are welcome to attend the full board meeting!
- X. Report by the Executive Vice President:** *Anthony Christina*
 - a. Committee structure changes
 - i. Each chair will prepare a written committee report to submit and publish to be included in the biweekly agenda
 - ii. Delegates will be assigned to one/or more committee by the Executive VP – implementations will be carried through to the next semester
 - 1. If delegates do not wish to be committee members, they will voluntarily have to 'opt-out' and notify the Chair and Executive VP
 - 2. Reasons for this: to more fully allow the committee structure to operate at its full potential and committees now are either inactive or have few members
 - a. Increases transparency and oversight
 - b. Allows buy-in from membership to fully participate in the body
- XI. Report by the Vice President of External Affairs:** *Nicole Benevento*
 - a. GSAS Board Meeting
 - i. Thanks to everyone who came to the GSAS/GPSA reception!
 - ii. Report from the Vice Provost
 - 1. Working with colleges to make sure graduate student stipends above the cost of living levels in the area
 - a. 22,000/yr in Center county (10-month stipend would be \$18,333)
 - 2. Desire to provide hands-on learning opportunities (i.e., internships, etc.) for graduate students before they graduate
 - iii. Professional Development Committee
 - 1. Grant Writing Workshops not well attended this year
 - 2. Want to provide meaningful and useful professional development opportunities

3. Coordinate with Committee on Graduate Student & Faculty Issues (Grad Council), GPSA Professional Development, and the Graduate School so that we aren't reinventing the wheel
- b. Meeting with Transportation Services
- i. Meeting with CATA
 1. May be nonplussed if we do away with the program
 2. Not in a financial position to purchase more vehicles/older vehicles need repair
 3. Have agreed to keep the program at \$42.00 for one last year (2016-2017)
 - ii. With current demand the program is not sustainable
 1. Will be instituting some mandatory conditions to participate in the program
 - a. Those living within a 1.0/1.5 mile buffer around closes free bus service (i.e., Loop/Link) will be ineligible
 2. Would like input from GPSA and graduate students about preferable option
 - iii. Some options on the table (NOTE: there are 1820 graduate students currently participating in the program)
 1. Option 1: Keep price as is (\$5.00); limited to 900 graduate students
 - a. This option is only available for 1 year. Basically we would be passing the buck for another year to let future leaders decide
 - b. Since there is no price increase graduate student participation would have to be severely limited to ensure the program remains affordable
 2. Option 2: Raise price to \$15.00; limited to 1200 graduate students
 - a. Moderate price increase will allow more graduate student participation
 - b. Graduate student participation still limited to ensure the program remains affordable
 3. Option 3: Raise price to \$20.00; open to all graduate students
 - a. Greater price increase (from original price, but still a dramatically reduced price from a 1-month CATA pass)
 - b. Unlimited graduate student involvement (provided you meet the criteria)
 4. Option 4: Discontinue program
 5. It is important to point out that these are not the finalized options NOR is it clear whether the administration will agree to whatever we suggest but we want to go on record as making a positive suggestion
 - iv. Some Criteria
 1. None of the available options would institute a minimum ridership requirement
 2. All options would require either a 12- or 9- month commitment
 3. All would include a condition of living outside a minimum zone of proximity (1.0/1.5 miles) to a free bus service route
 4. As before, if you live in a housing area that already provides bus passes for residents, you are ineligible
- c. UP Student Transportation Commission
- i. Tara Wycoff & students – Traffic Safety PR Campaign Project
 1. Class project addressing road safety at Atherton/Park as part of the Sustainable Communities Collaborative:
<https://sustainability.psu.edu/live/staff/sustainable-communities-collaborative>
 2. Developing a PR campaign to increase road safety and safety awareness
 3. Distributed surveys to people who use the intersection
 - a. Most people not students

- b. 75% did not ‘feel safe’
 - c. Event December 3rd to present campaign
 - ii. Parking before and during exams
 - 1. The overnight parking restriction for student parking permits will be waived
 - 2. Certain decks will also be available (see announcement after Thanksgiving break)
 - 3. Resident students not currently registered for a permit may purchase a two-week parking permit
 - iii. Lost permit process
- d. Upcoming events
 - i. ACCE (Advisory Council for continued excellence) meeting – 12/3/15

XII. Report by the Treasurer: *Ayla Gafni*

- a. If submitting spending bills – please email both Kevin (kvh5130@psu.edu) and Ayla (arg225@psu.edu)
- b. If you are purchasing something for an event, please inform Ayla (arg225@psu.edu) BEFOREHAND the amount, the reason and how you are paying for it – otherwise, reimbursement is not guaranteed
- c. Budget is updated online
 - i. Tailgate total - \$1500
 - ii. Gala - \$5000 after ticket sale revenue

XIII. Report by the Secretary: *Courtney Davis*

- a. Nothing to report

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

- a. Nothing to report

XV. Report by the Judiciary: *Jeremy Johnson*

- a. Nothing to report

XVI. Report by Graduate Council: *Brad Sottile*

- a. Senate committee for research – forensic report for more extensive collaboration between UP and commonwealth campuses
 - i. How would you feel if advisor were at a different campus? Please feel free to email views or opinions on this to Brad (bsottile@psu.edu)
 - 1. One thing to take into consideration is the difference in teaching vs. research focus

XVII. Report by the Liaisons

- a. Health insurance: *Katie Kragh-Buetow*
 - i. Student health insurance advisory board met
 - 1. Profit loss numbers – 103% - able to recover dollars on that regard
 - 2. Meeting with AETNA in January
 - a. Human resources for faculty and staff has changed policy for same sex partnerships and relationships
 - 3. Still waiting from IRS on clarification of legality for subsidizing health insurance for graduate students

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

- a. Nothing to report

XIX. Report by the Advisor: *Philip Burlingame*

XX. Comments for the Good of the Order

- a. Nothing to report

XXI. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm.

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	L
Courtney Davis	P
Ayla Gafni	P
Phillip Burlingame	P

Faculty Senate

Azita Ranjbar	E
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Graduate Council

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

Agricultural Sciences

Alison Franklin	P
1 delegate seat vacant	

Art & Architecture

1 delegate seat vacant

Communications

Jared LaGroue	A
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Education

Karyn Rizzo	A
Daniel Brenner	P
Junxian Zhang	A

Dickinson School of Law

Christina Gallagher	A
Theresa DeAngelis	A
Jessica Tully	P
Engineering	
Jesse Scott	A
Ashish Shah	A
Wenjie Fei	A
Smeal College of Business	
James Fan	P
Alexander Murdoch	P
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	E
Hannah Van Every	E
Information Sciences & Technology	
Dev Khare	A
International Affairs	
Jennifer Gibbs	P
Nursing	
1 delegate seat vacant	
Eberly College of Science	
Meridith Bartley	P
Jason Bernstein	P
Will Wright	E
White Course Apartments	
Douglas Dooling, Jr.	P
Inter-College Degree Program	
Lillian Hill	A

David Dopfel P

1 delegate seat vacant

At Large

Luis Ocampo E

Casey Millburg E

Penina Backer P

Hye Won Chai A

Chao Su P

Judiciary

Brian Aynardi A

Alex Park A

Jeremy Johnson P

Bill # 65-15

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



of the 65th Assembly
November 18, 2015

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

TEDxPSU Co-Sponsorship
Funding for TEDxPSU/TEDxPSU media support
(Decided: [Y / N / A])

1 **Nature of the Situation:**

2

3 TEDxPSU, an independently organized TED event, was brought to the Penn State community in
4 2010. The mission of the event is to bring together innovative and thought-provoking individuals
5 from the Penn State community and the world to share ideas worth spreading. Using a blend of
6 live talks and pre-recorded videos, TEDxPSU unites the University community and kicks off a
7 dialogue about the challenges and opportunities facing our society.

8

9 This year's annual conference is scheduled for February 28, 2016 in Schwab Auditorium. Each
10 year, the conference serves approximately 700 attendees, including professors, graduate students,
11 undergraduate students, and members of the community. The daylong conference features a wide
12 range of speakers to discuss issues facing our society. Admission is free, and all talks are live
13 streamed and recorded.

14

15 TEDxPSU desired to have a greater graduate student presence at this event. TEDxPSU's mission
16 and the spirit of shared ideas and innovation is relevant to the graduate student population.

17

18 **Recommended Course of Action:**

19

20 The Graduate and Professional Student Association shall co-sponsor the 2016 TEDxPSU
21 conference.

22

1 The Graduate and Professional Student Association authorizes \$1,500 for TEDxPSU to cover
2 food expenses at the conference. This expense will help cover lunch for all attendees, speakers,
3 volunteers, and staff attending or working the event.
4
5 The Graduate and Professional Student Association shall forward pertinent TEDxPSU messages
6 to its graduate student constituents and promote TEDxPSU through its communications networks
7 leading up to the 2016 event.
8

Respectfully submitted,

Alexander Murdoch
Delegate, Smeal College of Business

President _____ Affirm Veto

The Graduate and Professional Student Association

Addendum III – Bill 65-16 Graduate Exhibition

Bill/Resolution # 65-16

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



of the 65th Assembly
November 18, 2015

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

Graduate Exhibition Co-Sponsorship Funding for food at the Graduate Exhibition General Information Session (Decided: [Y / N / A])

1 **Nature of the Situation:**

2

3 The annual Graduate Exhibition showcases graduate students and their work to the university
4 community at large. The event includes music and theatrical performances, a visual arts display,
5 and poster exhibits with presentations by graduate students, all to celebrate research and creative
6 scholarship.

7

8 The 31st annual event is scheduled for March 20, 2016 at the HUB-Robeson Center. There are a
9 number of important dates leading up to the main event, including an information session on
10 December 8 to give an overview of the Graduate Exhibition and cover the presentation options.
11 The Graduate and Professional Student Association has provided pizza and soda for this
12 information session for the past several years. Last year, the Graduate and Professional Student
13 Association allocated \$400 for the event, although \$260 was returned.

14

15 **Recommended Course of Action:**

16

17 The Graduate and Professional Student Association shall provide \$400 for pizza and soda at the
18 Graduate Exhibition General Information Session on December 8 from 5:15 to 7 p.m. in 112
19 Kern Graduate Building.

20

21 The Graduate and Professional Student Association shall continue to support the Graduate
22 Exhibition and will promote the event on all appropriate channels.

1 The delegates to this General Assembly believe that their constituents have the right to know that
2 GPSA has co-sponsored the Graduate Exhibition. Therefore, as a condition of this co-
3 sponsorship, the Graduate School shall be required to disclose GPSA's co-sponsorship of this
4 event on all promotional materials for the Graduate Exhibition. This may be accomplished by
5 including the GPSA mark on any promotional materials where the Graduate School's mark also
6 appears.

7

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Horne

President

President _____ Affirm Veto

The Graduate and Professional Student Association

Addendum IV – Roll Call Votes

Roll call vote	TEDxPSU 65-15	Graduate Exhibition 65-16
Alison Franklin	Y	Y
Jared LaGroue	-	-
Christina Gallagher	-	-
Theresa DeAngelis	-	-
Jessica Tully	Y	Y
Meridith Bartley	Y	Y
Jason Bernstein	Y	Y
Karyn Rizzo	-	-
Jesse Scott	-	-
Ashish Shah	-	-
Wenjie Fei	-	-
Adam Copeland	-	-
Lillian Hill	-	-
Stacey Mitchell	Y	Y
Veronica Charbonnet	Y	Y
Alexander Murdoch	Y	Y
James Fan	Y	Y
Luis Ocampo	-	-
Casey Milburg	-	-
Dev Khare	-	-
Hannah Vanevery	-	-
Yiming Zhang	-	-
Doug Dooling	Y	Y
David Dopfel	Y	Y
Penina Backer	Y	Y
Will Right	-	-
Hyong Chai	-	-
Dan Brenner	Y	Y
Junxian Zhang	-	-
Steven Di Grazia	Y	Y
Chao Su (new)	Y	Y
Jennifer Gibbs	-	Y

- = not present A = abstain Y = in favor