



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, October 21, 2015 | 6:00pm | 134 HUB-Robeson Center

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

- a. Please see Addendum I

III. Adoption of Agenda

- a. No objections to the adoption of the agenda

IV. Approval of Minutes

- a. No objections to the approval of the October 7, 2015 minutes, as distributed.

V. Open Student Forum

- a. No discussion

VI. Special Presentation: *Amit Das, Chair of GSAS Global Outreach Committee*

- a. Importance of networking
 - i. Networking mainly within circles of influence
 1. Getting hired is a function of knowledge/demand, personality and luck
- b. Looking back
 - i. While taking courses, think about what skills you are gaining
 1. Courses are there to train your thinking and listening skills
 - ii. Grades are not important – your passion in a particular area is important
 - iii. Networking and teamwork/collaborations are the keys to success
 - iv. Improve your communication skills!
 - v. Attend conferences and present – network, speak the language, communicate!
 - vi. Use your advisor
 - vii. Collaborate with other researchers at PSU – learn teamwork
 - viii. Attend career workshops, resume writing, etc.
- c. Working smart
 - i. Have clear priorities
 - ii. Learn time management skills – time is a luxury that will diminish in the future
 - iii. Have a vision for the future
 - iv. Have a mission
 - v. Networking through publications/internships/conferences
 - vi. Focused research with a continuous evaluation loop
 - vii. Embrace change if necessary for long-term success

VII. New Business

- a. Vacancies

- i. Steven Di Grazia, interested in running for delegate of Smeal College of Business
 - 1. Already an active member of the Community Service Committee
 - 2. Moved to unanimously approve as delegate by Lillian Hill, 2nd by Jesse Scott – motion approved – hearing no objections, so moved
- b. Bill 65-10
 - i. Halloween Part with Student Bar Association
 - 1. GPSA will be selling tickets for the event and providing money for food (\$350.00 in total)
 - 2. Motion to call the question by Casey Millburg, 2nd by Jesse Scott
 - a. Please see Addendum II for Roll Call Vote

VIII. Standing Committee Reports

- a. **Student Concerns**
 - i. Chair position is now vacant. Email Anthony (aoc5144@psu.edu) if interested.
- 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
 - ii. Business building is nervous about the amount of space required for this event, so we are back to the IM fields
 - 1. Currently pricing out bouncy houses, etc.
 - iii. Graduate School will not be able to sponsor this event, as its focus is not on academics
- c. **Professional Development:** *Casey Millburg*
 - i. Good attendance and great feedback from Thesis & Dissertation bootcamp
 - 1. Graduate School is interested in helping fund this in the future (there is a huge demand!)
 - ii. Committee is working now on an event for international students
 - 1. Casey is working with career services to identify useful programs for international students, but please feel free to send any ideas or comments to her (ctm175@psu.edu)
- d. **Programming:** *Lillian Hill*
 - i. Meet the delegates event this evening was successful
 - 1. Delegates: it is your job to get information about news and events to your constituencies – Lily will stop holding your hand as of now, so get to it!
 - ii. Alexandra Levit will be speaking on November 3, 2015
 - 1. SPA lectures will be helping cosponsor (approximately \$2500.00)
 - 2. Fliers will be edited to reflect this change, and tabling will occur in the HUB to advertise for the event – more information to come!
 - iii. Winter Masquerade Ball tickets are now available
 - 1. Will send out information and need for people to help create and set up decorations for the event
 - 2. Dress code is costume or formal wear recommended, but all that is required is that you are clothed (please and thank you)!
- e. **Publicity & Media:** *Nicole Benevento*
 - i. Committee chair position is vacant. Email Anthony (aoc5144@psu.edu) if interested in serving
- f. **Healthcare & Health Insurance:** *Alison Franklin*
 - i. Nothing to report

- g. **Community Service:** *Jesse Scott*
 - i. Meetings will take place on the Tuesday before Assembly meetings from 5-6pm in the GPSA office
 - 1. Show up or email Jesse (jus121@psu.edu) if you are interested in participating on the committee
 - ii. Thank you to all the volunteers for the Arboretum Festival last week
 - iii. Met with Red Cross representative to discuss GPSA's blood drive on November 11
 - 1. Will take place in the Millennium Sciences Complex (MMSC)
 - 2. Goal is 36/37 units
 - 3. Drive will be cosponsored with the Materials Research Institute
 - iv. Thanksgiving Dinner baskets with Students Engaging Students organization
 - 1. Donate materials to families in need – last year, distributed 220 baskets, but demand was for 300
 - a. Goal this year is to distribute at least 300
 - 2. Info will be sent to about drop off locations and organizing a small group of students to help put together baskets – please help support this in any way you can!
 - v. Village of Trees
 - 1. United Way hosts annual festival of trees
 - 2. GPSA is interested in sponsoring a Christmas tree to be on display at the event
 - a. Available options are:
 - i. \$100 tree, from unrestricted funds
 - ii. Ask for donations to buy the tree
 - iii. \$50 tree for non-profit organizations
 - b. Also be a group getting together to help set up and decorate the tree – more specific details to come!
- h. **Human Diversity:** *Luis Ocampo*
 - i. First meeting is Thursday, October 22 at 6pm in 125 Reber Building
- 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. Office Manager update
 - i. Congratulations to Inder Pratap!
 - ii. He will begin his duties once the paperwork has been filed with the University
- b. Meeting room
 - i. We hve outgrown current set up – next meeting will be set up differently to better accommodate the Assembly
- c. Retreat
 - i. Delegates, please fill out the doodle poll so that we can select a date
 - ii. Currently, it looks like November 15 is in the lead – poll will be open until Friday (10/23) morning
- d. Governing Documents
 - i. A draft form was presented to the executive board last week
 - 1. Executive board will take two weeks to provide comments, suggestions and feedbacks on proposed changes

- 2. Eventually, an open forum will be hosted for students to express concerns or suggestions
 - 3. Hopefully, these will be good to go by the end of the semester
 - e. Student platform
 - i. Joint initiative between UPUA, GPSA and CCSA
 - 1. Draft will be going forward for approval in the near future
 - 2. This is a good start for advocacy going forward, at least jointly with other student governments
 - f. Off-campus student roundtable
 - i. Borough Zoning update
 - 1. Not that often that something like this gets put on the table at a city meeting
 - 2. Proposal will be presented on November 2 at 7pm in the Borough building
 - a. Anyone interested in speaking at that meeting? Please contact Kevin (kvh5130@psu.edu)
 - b. Would like to have a wealth of support at the meeting from graduate and professional students
 - g. Student Leader scholarships
 - i. Everyone in this room is eligible and encouraged to apply – scholarships range from \$500 to \$1500 in value and are due to 103 HUB-Robeson Center by 4:30pm, November 6th
 - 1. See <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/hub/studentactivities/applications.shtml> for more information
 - h. Student Activity Fee Board
 - i. Discussed fee levels for the coming year
 - ii. Student legal services is requesting a \$1.00 increase for the next year to hire an additional attorney – open to suggestions or discussions but Kevin is inclined to approve this increase
 - 1. Approve increase rather than a simple re-allocation of funds with current fee levels
- X. Report by the Executive Vice President: *Anthony Christina***
- a. Nothing to report
- XI. Report by the Vice President of External Affairs: *Nicole Benevento***
- a. Title IX Director Search
 - i. On campus interviews have concluded; many thanks to all who participated
 - ii. Announcement is still pending
 - b. Student Transportation commission
 - i. Rideshare/carshare
 - 1. Risk management reviewing contracts now
 - ii. Bikeshare
 - 1. Met with Borough, OPP, etc. before sending RFP out (expected end of October/early November)
 - 2. Feedback on objectives: reduce number of abandoned bikes, establish connections between transportation access points (i.e., routes and interior of campus), promote active transportation, promote bikeshare in broader area (i.e., the Borough), sustainability goals
 - iii. AVL
 - 1. In negotiations now for installing technology on campus shuttles to track location of shuttles in real-time

- 2. Who rides campus shuttles? Looking to conduct a soft roll-out for regular uses – please contact Nicole (nmb5273@psu.edu) if interested
- iv. PARCS
 - 1. Still working on RFP
 - v. Electronic vehicle charging stations will be installed in the Nittany Lion Deck
 - vi. Next meeting with hear from invited guests about updates to safety issues on Atherton Street
- c. Facilities Fee Advisory Committee
 - i. Budget of \$500,000 for next 5 years (due to IM Phase III funding commitment)
 - ii. Brainstormed ideas of small projects to improve facilities on campus for student
- d. HUB-Robeson Center Advisory Board
 - i. Paul Robeson Cultural Center upcoming events
 - 1. Prison Industrial complex discussion planned for this semester
 - 2. Interest in soliciting ideas for a diversity mural outside of the PRCC
 - ii. HUB update
 - 1. Flex Theater to open shortly
 - 2. Green roof to open for student enjoyment in the Spring
 - 3. HUB lawn to open for programming in the Spring as well
- e. Penn State Grassroots Network: Capital Day
 - i. Preliminary discussion on training module for students interested in participating in Capital Day
 - ii. How to incorporate student platform?
 - iii. If you are interested in getting involved in the planning of Capital Day, please contact Nicole (nmb5273@psu.edu) – we need more graduate and professional student representation!
- f. Meeting with Transportation services coming up
 - i. Feel free to send Kevin (kvh5130@psu.edu) and Nicole (nmb5273@psu.edu) input/ideas/suggestions for Ride for Five
- g. Graduate Student Career Exploration Workshop (10/24)
 - i. Pre-register at <http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/current-students/career-exploration-workshop/>
 - 1. Session I: Professionalizing your web presence
 - 2. Session II: Navigating the Academic Job Search/Tenure Process
- h. GSAS Reception with GPSA (11/6)
- i. GSAS Board meeting (11/7)
- j. Liaison appointments – please contact Nicole (nmb5237@psu.edu) if interested in serving on the:
 - i. Student Technology Advisory Committee
 - ii. Student Sustainability Advisory Council

XII. Report by the Treasurer: *Ayla Gafni*

- a. Currently revamping the cosponsorship guidelines
 - i. Process was previously separate from the spirit of GPSA
 - 1. GPSA is not an allocation body – we must be involved in the planning and execution of cosponsored events!
 - ii. There will be two paths to pursue cosponsorship:
 - 1. Interested organization locates a delegate or committee within GPSA and the bill is brought straight to the floor

2. Interested organization fills out online form and is then put in contact with delegate or committee that would prove most useful
- iii. Both paths require full budgets of the event and will come before the assembly for a final vote

XIII. Report by the Secretary: *Courtney Davis*

- a. Newswire goes out on a biweekly basis (opposite of Assembly meetings) – we can change this if necessary, we just don't have enough articles to warrant a weekly newsletter at the moment

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

- a. Nothing to report

XV. Report by the Judiciary: *Brian Aynardi*

- a. Nothing to report

XVI. Report by Graduate Council: *Brad Sottile*

- a. Nothing to report

XVII. Report by the Liaisons

- a. Sexual Violence Prevention & Awareness Roundtable: *Doug Dooling*
 - i. If you have suggestions on what should be included in orientation presentations, please contact Doug (dwd5131@psu.edu)
 - ii. Eve Ensler will be speaking on March 28 (author of *Vagina Monologues*) – more information to come!
- b. *Movin' On:* *Adam Copeland*
 - i. Have acquired a first act and are currently working on the second act – information will be released shortly!
 - ii. Working to create more of a festival atmosphere
- c. Senate committee on Educational Equity & Campus Environment: *Luis Ocampo*
 - i. Draft of work will be released shortly
 - ii. Seeking GPSA feedback on these documents – stay tuned!

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

- a. Next Board of Trustees meeting is November 19 – 20. All are welcome and encouraged to attend
 - i. Check out <http://www.psu.edu/trustees/> for more info!

XIX. Report by the Advisor: *Philip Burlingame*

- a. Nothing to report

XX. Comments for the Good of the Order

- a. Meetings will begin 5 minutes later if preceded by a 'Meet-the-Delegates' event
 - i. Next 'Meet-the-Delegates' event is November 4 on the 3rd floor bridge of the Life Sciences Building
- b. Retreat will not count against attendance, but all members are highly encouraged to attend

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	P
Courtney Davis	P
Ayla Gafni	P
Phillip Burlingame	E

Faculty Senate

Azita Ranjbar	E
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Graduate Council

Brad Sottile	P
Morteza Karimzadeh	A
jeffrey masko	P
Sidharth Agrawal	A

Agricultural Sciences

Alison Franklin	E
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	P

Dickinson School of Law

Christina Gallagher	A
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Theresa DeAngelis	A
Jessica Tully	P
Engineering	
Jesse Scott	P
Ashish Shah	P
Wenjie Fei	P
Smeal College of Business	
James Fan	P
Alexander Murdoch	A
Steven Di Grazia	P
Earth & Mineral Sciences	
Yiming Zhang	P
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	P
Information Sciences & Technology	
Dev Khare	A
International Affairs	
1 delegate seat vacant	
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	P
David Dopfel	P

1 delegate seat vacant

At Large

Luis Ocampo	P
Casey Millburg	P
Penina Backer	P
Hye Won Chai	A

Judiciary

Brian Aynardi	P
Alex Park	A
Jeremy Johnson	P

Addendum II – Roll Call Votes

Bill 65–10:

Halloween w/ SBA

Alison Franklin	-
Jared LaGroue	-
Christina Gallagher	-
Theresa DeAngelis	-
Jessica Tully	Y
Meridith Bartley	Y
Jason Bernstein	Y
Karyn Rizzo	-
Jesse Scott	Y
Ashish Shah	Y
Wenjie Fei	Y
Adam Copeland	Y
Lillian Hill	Y
Stacey Mitchell	Y
Veronica Anne Charbonnet	Y
Alexander Murdoch	-
James Fan	Y
Kyler Sherman-Wilkins	
Luis Ocampo	Y
Casey Milburg	Y
Dev Khare	-
Hannah Vanevery	Y
Yiming Zhang	Y
Doug Dooling	Y
David Dopfel	Y
Penina Backer	Y
Will Right	-
Hyong Chai	-
Dan Brenner	Y
Junxian Zhang	Y
Steven Di Grazia	Y

Y – In favor N – Not in favor A – abstain - – Not present