



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 7, 2015 | 6:00pm | 134 HUB-Robeson Center

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. Amendment proposed by Jesse Scott: move VPEA report before standing committees and move Treasurer's report above new business, 2nd by James – no objections, motion passed as stated

IV. Approval of Minutes

- a. No objections to the approval of the September 23, 2015 minutes, as distributed.

V. Open Student Forum

- a. No discussion

VI. Special Presentation:

- a. Special presentation was cancelled and will be rescheduled for a future Assembly meeting

VII. Report by the Treasurer: *Ayla Gafni*

- a. The informal plan for spending of the 2015-2016 budget has been posted online at <http://gpsa.psu.edu/about-the-gpsa/budget/>
 - i. Google doc sheet will be updated in real time as needed
 - ii. We receive all of the \$4700 carry-forward from last year's budget

VIII. New Business

- a. Vacancies
 - i. There are several vacancies in the Assembly:
 1. Junxian Zhang and Daniel Brenner from the College of Education are interested in running for Delegate positions within that college
 - a. Moved to nominate candidates as a slate by Jesse Scott, 2nd by Jason Bernstein – hearing no objections, it is so moved
 - ii. 2 open positions in the Graduate Council:
 1. Marina Cotarelo from the College of Education is interested in running for Graduate Council
 - a. Moved to nominate by Jesse Scott, 2nd by Alexander Murdoch – hearing no objections, it is so moved
- b. Bill 65-06
 - i. This bill reflects part of the cost of t-shirts for the MSU-PSU blood drive
 - ii. This cosponsorship has three components:

1. Publicize all drives during the challenge
2. Financial obligation (\$4000 for t-shirt expenditure)
 - a. Increase from past years is really a recommendation to get more engaged with community service events
 - b. Money is also coming from UPUA, and extra would be covered by the Student Chapter of the Red Cross
3. Sponsor a drive on November 11
- iii. Moved to call the question by Lillian Hill, 2nd by Jesse Scott
 1. Bill passes – 20 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions
- c. Bill 65-07
 - i. In place of 4 meeting socials, as introduced previously, this is a great way to meet constituents
 - ii. Each event will target specific colleges or departments, but plan to target all graduate and professional students
 1. Sound like a great idea and a great compromise to not spending food on ourselves while trying to engage the student body outside of the Assembly
 2. Great idea to have events spread throughout campus
 - iii. Moved to call the question by Jesse Scott, 2nd by Casey Millburg
 1. Bill passes – 20 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions
- d. Bill 65-08
 - i. Speaker Alexandra Levit
 1. Q&A style or Interactive workshop style – she is open to anything that we feel would be useful!
 2. Efforts to find cosponsorships are currently underway
 - a. SPA distinguished lecture series and graduate school have been contacted
 3. Reservation has been made for Freeman Auditorium (seats up to 150) for 3-5:00pm
 4. Did not previously anticipate paying travel costs on top of honorarium, so this spending bill is a little larger than previously thought
 5. Will work on increasing diversity of speakers for the spring
 6. Did not want to move the event later into the winter, due to potential travel issues
 - a. Only other time she is available is during finals week, but we can't host events that week anyway
 7. This is new for GPSA – we haven't brought a speaker in for at least the past three years, if not longer
 8. Please contact Lily (lzh157@psu.edu) if you have additional suggestions
 9. Moved to call the question by Jesse Scott, 2nd by Casey Millburg – bill passes 19 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention
 10. Great job Lily!
- e. Bill 65-09
 - i. Winter Masquerade Ball
 1. Silent auction will benefit PAWS and CC Women's resource center
 - a. Speaker for WRC will be in attendance
 - b. Also ask individuals to bring items that are needed for both organizations as well
 - c. Accumulating donations from local businesses

- d. Combination of charities in interesting – be careful about advertising the two together
- 2. Plan on 200 people attending, \$10 per ticket
 - a. Cost per person is \$25.50 per plate, so cost may vary depending on how many tickets are sold
- 3. Frequently we have student show up to this event that have never interacted with GPSA before
- 4. We have great feedback from past events (including the satisfaction survey passed around last year)
- 5. Great work Lily!
- 6. Bill passes – 20 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

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

- i. Title IX Director Search
 - 1. Finishing up on-campus interviews this week
 - 2. Final open presentation
 - a. Thursday, October 8, 8:45-9:45 am in 134 HUB
- ii. Graduate School Town Hall meetings
 - 1. Please attend Town Hall meeting for your college and encourage your constituents to do the same!
 - 2. Attendance has been pretty low at the first few
 - 3. This is the opportunity to have the ear of many high-level administrators
- iii. Strategic plan of the Graduate School: priority goals for Graduate Education
 - 1. Advancing technologies for support of graduate education
 - a. Centralizing and digitizing transcripts
 - b. Constituent Relationship Management system
 - c. Redesign/reorganize website
 - 2. Advancing strategies in support of graduate education quality
 - a. Conduct regular graduate program reviews
 - b. Improve graduate student support (stipends/fellowship support)
 - 3. Promoting and facilitating interdisciplinary graduate education
 - a. Dual title programs, recruitment and retention, etc.
 - 4. Increasing diversity of the resident graduate student population
- iv. Dissertation and Thesis bootcamp
 - 1. Lots of interest this semester!
 - 2. Congrats and many thanks to the Professional Development Committee!!
- v. Up-coming event
 - 1. Homecoming events this week/weekend
 - a. <https://homecoming.psu.edu/About/Events>
 - 2. UP Student Transportation Commission – 10/13
 - 3. HUB-Robeson Center Advisory Board Meeting – 10/20
 - 4. Graduate Student Career Exploration workshop – 10/24
 - a. Pre-register:
 - i. <http://www.gradscool.psu.edu/current-students/career-exploration-workshop/>
 - 5. GSAS Reception with GPSA – 11/6
 - 6. GSAS Board Meeting – 11/7
- vi. Liaison appointments – please contact Nicole (nmb5273@psu.edu) if you are interested in any of these!

1. Campus recreation advisory committee
2. Student technology advisory committee
3. Student sustainability advisory council

X. 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

c. Professional Development: *Casey Millburg*

- i. Dissertation bootcamp is currently underway and is going well!
 1. There are 37 out of 40 regularly participating students
 2. Receiving great feedback for the future
 - a. Question raised about having this event more than once per semester
 3. It would be great to reach out to the Collegian to see if we could have an article written to highlight this
- ii. Great job Casey!! Also, thanks for the cookies - they were delicious!

d. Programming: *Lillian Hill*

- i. Programming committee NEEDS committee members!! Contact Lily (lzh157@psu.edu) if you are interested!
- ii. Winter Masquerade Ball
 1. Donations will be collected for PAWS and CC Women's Resource Center
 2. \$10 ticket cost, will be setting up office hours for sale
 - a. Additionally, every delegate or college will be given a certain number of tickets to be sold
- iii. Meet the Delegates Mixer
 1. 1st will be before the next meeting (October 21st) in IST 209 – pizza will be served!
- iv. Halloween Party at Indigo with the Student Bar Association
 1. On October 31 from 7-9:00pm
 2. Potentially GPSA could help fund food
 3. Tickets will be approximately \$10.00

e. Publicity & Media: *Nicole Benevento*

- i. Nothing to report

f. Healthcare & Health Insurance: *Alison Franklin*

- i. Attendance at first committee meeting was a little disappointing
- ii. Working on planning workshops with the graduate school
 1. Hopefully, one will be planned for this semester and one next semester
- iii. Working on a 'Health Eating' event
 1. Will likely take place during an afternoon prior to an Assembly meeting (~3:30-5:30pm) in HUB
 2. Currently seeking donations from restaurants for health foods, recipes, menus (to showcase where you can eat healthy), etc.
 3. Delegates – look out for an email regarding this event (will likely be sometime in January/early in next year)
 4. Would be a great idea to have information or representatives from CSA's at this event as well!

- iv. Email Alison (amy125@psu.edu) if you are interested in serving on this committee
- g. **Community Service:** *Jesse Scott*
 - i. Have a great schedule of upcoming events for the semester
 - 1. Need volunteers for Arboretum festival – contact Jesse (jus121@psu.edu) if interested
 - a. Tasks include set up/clean up, pumpkin carving, corn husking, etc.
 - b. If interested, consult the spreadsheet (link below) and email Stacey Mitchell (sxm629@psu.edu) with your preferred date/time/task
 - i. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qTjmXexFWoh6aSA6q4XzQsXTFMTC7r8bSeDI6T5htvc/edit?usp=sharing>
 - ii. Thank you for funding the blood drive and Red Cross sponsorship!
 - iii. Other ideas for future events:
 - 1. Thanksgiving dinner/ basket drive
 - 2. Spring food drive?
 - 3. Village of Trees with United way
 - iv. Committee will be meeting the Tuesday before Assembly meetings from 5-6:00pm in the GSPA
- 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

XI. Report by the President: *Kevin Horne*

- a. Mark your calendars on November 1 for the GPSA Assembly retreat
 - i. Pending room reservation, the event will take place from 9am until 1 or 2pm
 - ii. Will provide light breakfast, lunch
 - iii. Hoping to use this as a chance to brainstorm ideas for the future of GPSA
- b. SAFB meeting
 - i. Approved budget unanimously, only concern was food at Assembly meetings
 - 1. Kevin assured the board that this will not happen again
 - ii. Next SAFB meeting will occur in 2 weeks and the focus will be on proposing new fees for the coming year
- c. Greek Life task force
 - i. People have been appointed to the task force, but there are no graduate or professional students included in the group
 - 1. Kevin has expressed concern about this, but assures us that we can channel concerns through other students that are currently involved with the committee
- d. Student platform
 - i. This is the list of ideas or initiatives that all student governments want to advocate for – if you have ideas, please send to Kevin (kvh5130@psu.edu)
- e. Office manager
 - i. Interviews are occurring on Monday, October 12 – hopefully we will have an office manager early next week!

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

- a. Nothing to report

XIII. Report by the Secretary: *Courtney Davis*

- a. Nothing to report.

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

- a. Sexual assault and sexual harassment task force
 - i. Preparing an advisory and consultative report, March 2016
- b. LGBTQ resources for students
 - i. Student life committee, committee on education equity and campus environment
 - 1. Climate survey – follow up to the 2012 Senate report
 - 2. Preparing an information report on the finding of this survey, April 2016
- c. Mental Health
 - i. Information report by March 2016 that addresses:
 - 1. Available health care facilities, coverage for graduate students in current healthcare, required changes for mental health care coverage, determine impact of mental health issues on students' time to degree, access to financial aid and continuity of registration, etc.
- d. Increasing number of graduate student senators
 - i. Currently, we have 1 for UP graduate school – hoping to expand this to 1 senator for each college of UP – this will hopefully be on the agenda for the January senate meeting
- e. President Barron's address
 - i. Capital campaign launched July 1, 2016 – in line with PSU's strategic plan
 - 1. Statement on diversity, equity and inclusive excellence
 - a. Creating environmental of respected inclusion and new population of social justice advocates

XV. Report by the Judiciary: *Brian Aynardi*

- a. 1 Graduate Council seat remains open
- b. There are also open delegate seats in the Colleges of:
 - i. Please email judiciary at judiciarygpsa@gmail.com if you are interested in any of these positions
 - ii. Kyler Sherman-Wilkins has officially resigned as an at-large delegate

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. Working to have a presentation about sexual violence at graduate orientation
 - 1. Office of Student Conduct had planned to bring this up during their discussion at orientation, but it was truck from agenda prior to orientation
 - a. Dean Younken was unaware of this – Dr. Susan Adair has been contacted so that we can (hopefully) get to the bottom of this!
- b. Movin' On: *Adam Copeland*
 - i. Funding from UPAC has gone through and offers are going out for performances
 - ii. Look for a bill at the next meeting for GPSA Cosponsorship of this event
 - iii. Date has been set: April 29, 2016
- c. Student Legal Services: *Anthony Christina*
 - i. They have maxed out their budget and, as is, are not sustainable given high demand
 - ii. Proposing a \$1.00 increase to Student Activity Fee Board for coming year to help offset this expense

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

- a. Nothing to report...other than hi!

XIX. Report by the Advisor: *Philip Burlingame*

- a. Nothing to report

XX. Comments for the Good of the Order

- a. Hannah VanEvery:
 - i. Home Chef Program kicks off next week!
 - 1. Friday, October 16 from 6-10:00pm
 - 2. Learn the cuisine of Spain, Latin American and Mexico
 - 3. For more information, check out the website:
 - a. <http://psu.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=917eb7b9ecbaff77bc1574c4a&id=86295b1f87&e=1b79c37991>
- b. Ayla Gafni:
 - i. Welcome and congratulations to all of the new delegates!
 - ii. One responsibility of delegates, per our bylaws, is to join and participate on a committee, so please do so!
 - iii. Kevin: note that in the new bylaws, everyone will be assigned to a committee to make sure that committees are filled up!
- c. Lillian Hill:
 - i. Special thanks to Ayla for checking over spending bills!! You rock!
 - ii. Contact Lily (lzh157@psu.edu) if you would like something updated on the website (at least until we get an office manager in place!)
- d. Casey Millburg:
 - i. Small group of people are getting together to do the THON 5K on November 7th – cost is \$15.00 to participate – contact Casey (ctm175@psu.edu) if interested
- e. Meredith Bartley:
 - i. In general, Townhalls have been poorly attended thus far (there were ~6 people in addition to Meredith present at the Eberly College of Science townhall)
 - ii. There is still lots of misinformation floating around out there (regarding health care, administration's thoughts on graduate students, etc.)
 - 1. As delegates, it is your job to actively work to fix this disconnect!
- f. Kevin Horne:
 - i. If you have concerns or issues to bring to Old Main, feel free to send them Kevin's way (kvh5130@psu.edu)
 - ii. Kevin can also help or put you in touch with the right people
- g. Brad Sottile:
 - i. Approach or email Brad (bsottile@psu.edu) if you are interested in serving on Graduate Council
- h. Meredith Bartley: Do we need to print out bills and agendas? Is this the general feeling of the group?
 - i. Printouts can be helpful for visitors, so it may be good to have a limited amount available. It is also helpful to make discussions go faster

XXI. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

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	P

Faculty Senate

Azita Ranjbar	P
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Graduate Council

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

Agricultural Sciences

Alison Franklin	P
1 delegate seat vacant	

Art & Architecture

1 delegate seat vacant

Communications

Jared LaGroue	P
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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	P
Jessica Tully	P
Engineering	
Jesse Scott	P
Ashish Shah	A
Wenjie Fei	A
Smeal College of Business	
James Fan	P
Alexander Murdoch	A
1 delegate seat vacant	
Earth & Mineral Sciences	
Yiming Zhang	P
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	L
Information Sciences & Technology	
Dev Khare	P
International Affairs	
1 delegate seat vacant	
Nursing	
1 delegate seat vacant	
Eberly College of Science	
Meridith Bartley	L
Jason Bernstein	P
Will Wright	P
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	A
Alex Park	P
Jeremy Johnson	A

Addendum II – Roll Call Votes

	Bill 65-06: Blood drive	Bill 65-07: Meet the Delegates	Bill 65-08: Alexandra Levit	Bill 65-09: Winter Masquerade
Alison Franklin	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jared LaGroue	Y	Y	Y	Y
Christina Gallagher	-	-	-	-
Theresa DeAngelis	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jessica Tully	Y	Y	Y	Y
Meridith Bartley	-	-	-	-
Jason Bernstein	Y	Y	Y	Y
Karyn Rizzo	-	-	-	-
Jesse Scott	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ashish Shah	-	-	-	-
Wenjie Fei	-	-	-	-
Adam Copeland	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lillian Hill	Y	Y	Y	Y
Stacey Mitchell	Y	Y	Y	Y
Veronica Anne Charbonnet	-	-	-	-
Alexander Murdoch	-	-	-	-
James Fan	Y	Y	A	Y
Kyler Sherman-Wilkins	-	-	-	-
Luis Ocampo	-	-	-	-
Casey Milburg	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dev Khare	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hannah Vanevery	Y	Y	Y	Y
Yiming Zhang	Y	Y	Y	Y
Doug Dooling	Y	Y	Y	Y
David Dopfel	Y	Y	Y	Y
Penina Backer	Y	Y	Y	Y
Will Right	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hyong Chai	-	-	-	-
Dan Brenner	Y	Y	Y	Y
Junxian Zhang	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Y - In favor	N - Not in favor	A - abstain	- Not present