



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, September 23, 2015 | 6:00pm | 134 HUB-Robeson

I. Call to Order

- a. Meeting was called to order by the Executive Vice President at 6:06pm

II. Roll Call

- a. Please see Addendum I

III. Adoption of Agenda

- a. Amendment proposed by Lillian Hill: add swearing in of 3 new delegates to agenda under new business, 2nd by Jesse – no objections, motion passed as stated

IV. Approval of Minutes

- a. No objections to the approval of the September 9, 2015 minutes, as distributed.

V. Open Student Forum

- a. Chris Valacie: History Graduate students
 - i. Chris is a new student at PSU and wants to address GPSA on the CATA situation and the Ride for Five program
 1. Commends the decision to provide more than 4x more passes than initially allocated
 2. This whole situation has been an enormous point of stress – it was part of recruitment last semester to PSU and was told that Ride for Five program would make commuting very easy
 - a. This weighed heavily in decision to attend PSU, and so was a huge surprise when it was announced that this program would be more limited
 - i. This information should have been disseminated by spring semester (last semester), along with clear reasons as to why these changes were being implemented (so far, the explanations have not been clear)
 - ii. How were these students using the program if they were not using it as Ride for Five intended?
 - iii. There must be other channels of negotiation that we can pursue

VI. Special Presentation: *Rob Demayo, Transportation Director & Jason Thomas & Cecily Zhu*

- a. Brief overview of transportation services and its role at Penn State
- b. Ride for Five
 - i. Program will cost \$1.1 million next year
 - ii. There is an extreme increase in the demand for this program – the budget was freed up to allow for 450 total passes this year (initially it was only for 150 passes)

- iii. In its current form, Ride for Five is not financially sustainable
 - 1. Unless the university increases permit prices, it cannot continue in its current form
 - 2. We are always going to ask the question of: Does the current form meet the goal of the program?
- iv. Last year, there were 1800 participants
- v. Goal was to get vehicles off the road, but of those 1800 participants, we only had 100 permits turned in
 - 1. That's not meeting the goal of getting vehicles off the road!
 - 2. We don't feel like we made a change!
 - 3. CATA had a significant number of people turn in their \$69.00 token for the \$5.00 a month token
- vi. New plan will be announced in February (if not before)
 - 1. DeMayo expects CATA to increase prices
 - 2. There could be a minimum number of uses required to keep the pass
 - 3. Might also consider a 9 month pass
- vii. Graduate students cost \$155 per capita, subsidized by transportation, per year. That more than 3x the cost of undergraduates

VII. New Business

- a. Swearing in of new delegates
 - i. Penina Backer: being a delegate will help improve relations with her college (from HHD)
 - 1. Sworn in as at-large delegate
 - ii. Hyong Chai: being a delegate will hopefully renew the flow of information from GPSA to department
 - 1. Sworn in as at-large delegate
 - iii. Will Right: interested in how the internal politics of student governments work
 - 1. Sworn in as delegate from Eberly College of Science
 - iv. Moved by Luis Ocampo to approve all candidates through unanimous consent, 2nd by Meredith Bartley – hearing no objections, it is so moved. Congratulations, all!

VIII. Standing Committee Reports

- a. **Internal Development:**
 - i. Chair position is now vacant. Email Anthony (aoc5144@psu.edu) if interested.
- b. **Community Service:** *Jesse Scott*
 - i. Jesse Scott (jus121@psu.edu) has now assumed the position of chair of the community service committee, as Erica Hildabridle has resigned
 - ii. Upcoming Service Event at Shaver's Creek
 - 1. Shaver's Creek Building Bridge Service Event - sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity
 - a. Date: September 27, 2015
 - b. Time: Will leave from the HUB at 8:30am, rides back to campus depart at 12:00pm.
 - iii. Blood drive is scheduled for November 11 at the Millennium Science Complex
 - 1. This will be part of the MSU-PSU blood drive
 - iv. Committee is looking for committee members – please contact Jesse (jus121@psu.edu) if you are interested.
- c. **Student Concerns:** *Kyler Sherman-Wilkins*

- i. Nothing to report
- d. **Grad Cup:** *James Fan, Lillian Hill*
 - i. Looking to increase delegate attendance and involvement in this event
 - ii. There is the possibility for the Graduate School to partially cover costs of t-shirts and/or food
 - iii. Please let Jim (juf187@smeal.psu.edu) or Lily (lzh157@psu.edu) know if you are interested in planning this event
- e. **Professional Development:** *Casey Millburg*
 - i. Dissertation bootcamp planning is underway
 - 1. Total spending bill is approximately \$4,400 – look for an email vote in the next few days regarding this expense
 - 2. Speakers will be there from the writing center, CAPS, the Graduate School and Career Services
- f. **Programming:** *Lillian Hill*
 - i. Welcome back event
 - 1. Attendance was great! 105 people attended – Lily will be putting together a spreadsheet of the various colleges that attended
 - ii. Tailgate attendance is bad – could be due to weather and time of game
 - 1. Next tailgate is during Homecoming
 - iii. Winter Gala
 - 1. Will have a charitable element this year
 - a. Centre County PAWS will be present – donations have been solicited for a silent auction
 - b. Ticket costs will be approximately \$10.00 per person to offset the cost of the dinner (which is approximately \$25.00 per person)
 - c. Will be open to 200 people
 - d. Spending bill will be presented at the next Assembly meeting
 - iv. There will also be a spending bill to bring in Alexander Levitt to speak
 - v. Multi-cultural week planning in underway after a meeting with Global Programming
 - 1. This will lead up to Grad Cup in April
 - vi. Programming committee is looking for committee members! Our chair needs help! If interested, please contact Lily (lzh157@psu.edu)
 - vii. Before meeting socials
 - 1. Perhaps reach out to different college to participate in various locations so that it can be more of a ‘meet the delegates’ social event
- g. **Publicity & Media:** *Nicole Benevento*
 - i. We currently have just over 900 likes on Facebook and under 500 followers on Twitter. Please follow us on both if you haven’t already and encourage your constituents to follow as well!
 - ii. Please send any events for the calendar to Nicole (nmb5273@psu.edu) or Kevin (kvh5130@psu.edu)
- 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
- j. **Healthcare & Health Insurance:** *Alison Franklin*

- i. First committee meeting will be next Thursday in the GPSA office
- ii. Website is currently updated with information. Check it out:
<http://gpsa.psu.edu/healthcare/healthcare/>
- 1. Great job, Alison!
- iii. Planning workshops are in the works with the graduate school about health insurance

IX. Report by the President: *Kevin Horne*

- a. ANGEL to Canvas switch is in the works
- b. Graduate student zoning in the Borough of State College
 - i. New timeline
 - ii. Public hearing and planning commission recommendation meeting will occur next months
 - iii. Potential vote in November or December
- c. Legislative Outreach Committee
 - i. Initiative between three student governments to create student platform
 - ii. Solicitation for GPSA ideas
 - iii. Pass as resolution in mid-October to begin advocating and planning for implementation
- d. Global Penn State
 - i. Global programs has an interest in partnering with GPSA on event promotion and initiatives
 - ii. There is now a person in the Student Engagement office dedicated solely to graduate students
 - iii. Ideas include joint programming events, orientation planning, among other initiatives
 - iv. Two advocacy issues to brainstorm: international student transportation and the two week housing gap
- e. Odds and ends
 - i. All lot 10 passes were allocated
 - ii. Office manager interviews have been scheduled, but we would still accept applications
 - iii. Potential date for the retreat is October 25 (Saturday) – lunch would be provided
 - iv. SAF meeting on Friday – pushing forward with the student fee board
 - v. Graduate School town halls: October 5 – 13, November 4 – 10
 - vi. Governing documents: committed to presenting draft by the Executive Board Meeting on September 30, 2015

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

- a. Please send agenda items and bills to Anthony (aoc5144@psu.edu) no later than the Sunday before an Assembly meeting

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

- a. On campus interviews for the Senior Director and Title IX Coordinator position will take place over the next few weeks
 - i. There are open presentation that people are encouraged to attend:
 - 1. Apicella: Wednesday, September 23, 9:30am – 10:30am, 134 HUB
 - 2. Olshak: Tuesday, September 29, 8:45am – 9:45am, 134 HUB
 - 3. Harris: Friday, October 2, 9:45am – 10:45am, 134 HUB
 - 4. Ard: Thursday, October 9, 8:45am – 9:45am, 134 HUB
- b. UP Student Transportation Commission Meeting

- i. New Alternative Coordinator Introduction
 - 1. Penn State Transportation Services has announced the hiring of Cecily Zhu as its first Alternative Transportation Coordinator:
http://www.parking.psu.edu/transportation/news-story-detail.cfm?custome1_dataPageID_1948=100083
 - 2. Zhu comes to PSU from Pittsburgh, where she most recently worked as a Transportation Policy and Planning Fellow for the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group
 - 3. Will oversee projects such as:
 - a. Bikeshare, Rideshare, carshare, Application to League of American Bicyclists (bicycle friendly university status), etc.
- ii. Updates
 - 1. Rideshare/Carshare
 - a. Still needs approval by risk managements (toward end of October)
 - b. Will go to David Gray (Senior VP for Finance and Business) for approval after that
 - 2. Bikeshare
 - a. RFP to go out mid/end October
 - b. Transportation Services will need student government support as we move forward
 - 3. Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL)
 - a. Proposal to equip campus shuttles with AVL system for customer ease
 - b. RFP already went out and are working with vendors
 - c. Aiming for spring rollout
 - 4. Parking Access Revenue Control System (PARCS)
 - a. Comprehensive update of the technology in the parking decks to include barcode technology, data collection on available spaces, peak parking periods, 24/7 operation
 - b. RFP already went out and are working with vendors
- iii. Student updates
 - 1. UPUA
 - a. Propose expanding number of electric scooters available to students with injuries
 - i. Currently 2, proposed to add 2 more
 - ii. Looking into FFAC funding
 - iii. Need to work out storage issues
 - b. Resolution 05-10 Call for the Reevaluation of the Safety of Atherton Street
 - i. In light of recent events, this asks the Borough to reevaluate Atherton Street intersections to ensure the safety for students and citizens
 - ii. Resolution passed at September 16th assembly meeting
 - c. What to Fix Penn State
 - i. Asking groups to reach out to their constituencies in a direct campaign to get more ideas
 - 2. ASRH
 - a. Bike safety concerns: preventing accidents with pedestrians
 - i. Talk of dedicated enforcement officers on bikes

- ii. Launching bikeshare will allow the opportunities for re-education on safety and bike rules/regulations

3.SSAC

- a. Would like to be involved in Bike Friendly Application

4.GPSA

- a. Ride for five meeting with Transportation Services scheduled for mid October
- b. Update on bike repair station maintenance (hose missing at Stadium West)
- c. Request for bike racks in front of Sackett building

XII. Report by the Treasurer: *Ayla Gafni*

- a. Nothing to report.

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: *Brian Aynardi*

- a. We should consider enforcing the attendance policy more rigidly
 - i. Typically, this falls to the Executive Vice President, but it could also be up to the Assembly if he so chooses

XVI. Report by Graduate Council: *Brad Sottile*

- a. New grad school applications are now over on LionPath
- b. Committee on academic standards is studying joint degree requirements
- c. Career Explorations Workshop will take place on October 24, 2015
- d. Graduate Council is looking to form a special committee to student assessment within the graduate curricula. Every credit at this university is going to be assessable.

XVII. Report by the Liaisons

- a. Movin' on: *Adam Copeland*
 - i. Currently reviewing student surveys on this event – they've received over 4,000 responses so far
 - ii. UPAC allocation is next Tuesday
 - iii. Preparing to put in a bid for headliner
 - iv. GPSA traditionally covers food for artists, so there will be a spending bill presented for this shortly
 - v. Will take place on the Friday before the start of finals week
- b. Sexual Violence Prevention & Awareness Roundtable: *Doug Dooling*
 - i. Considering joining a national campaign, such as 'It's on us' or the 'green dot initiative'
 - 1. A lot of these things are geared toward undergraduates, but we need to think of ways to open this up to graduate students as well
 - a. Is this something that could/should be added to graduate orientation?
- c. Transportation Services: *Xavier Harmony*
 - i. Most points were discussed by the Parking office tonight that came up at the last meeting
 - ii. Resolution from UPUA was brought forward about the safety on Atherton Street
 - 1. Civil Engineering classes are currently doing studies on that corridor to improve safety and operations
 - 2. Committee is looking to expand more electric scooters to students with injuries

3. Bike safety concerns were also mentioned – it was suggested that enforcement be increased for biking violations

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

- a. Morgan Center expansion was among the topics at the last board meeting
- b. Transfer of control to Hershey Medical Center to new Penn State Health group to expand PSU's health enterprise
 - i. Has there been any discussion about moving Hershey medical students to UP?
Not that Trustee Goldstein is aware
- c. Three trustees were approved as Emeritus at last meeting

XIX. Report by the Advisor: *Philip Burlingame*

- a. GPSA's involvement in the Ride for Five situation has been critically important
 - i. He has met with administrations to see if they can allocate more to add a few additional graduate students to Ride for Five
 1. This extra funding shows that people are listening and are concerned about what GPSA has to say
 2. Funding is only temporary, so advocacy here is important
 - a. Folks are interested in what you have to say – please add your voice to this!
 - b. Hope that together we can come up with an elegant solution to serve the most people and meet as many needs as possible

XX. Comments for the Good of the Order

- a. Lily has taken inventory of the storage unit and is currently disposing of all the old GPSA material
- b. Casey commends the programming committee on the Welcome Back event

XXI. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney Davis
(with the help of President Horne)

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 | E |
| Courtney Davis | E |
| Ayla Gafni | E |
| Phillip Burlingame | P |

Faculty Senate

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Azita Ranjbar | P |
|---------------|---|

Graduate Council

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Brad Sottile | P |
| Morteza Karimzadeh | E |
| jeffrey masko | P |
| Sidharth Agrawal | E |

Agricultural Sciences

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Alison Franklin | E |
| 1 delegate seat vacant | |

Art & Architecture

1 delegate seat vacant

Communications

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Jared LaGroue | E |
|---------------|---|

Education

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Karyn Rizzo | E |
| 2 delegate seats vacant | |

Dickinson School of Law

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Christina Gallagher | E |
| Theresa DeAngelis | E |

Jessica Tully E

Engineering

Jesse Scott P

Ashish Shah P

Wenjie Fei P

Smeal College of Business

James Fan P

Alexander Murdoch E

1 delegate seat vacant

Earth & Mineral Sciences

Yiming Zhang E

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 E

Information Sciences & Technology

Dev Khare E

International Affairs

1 delegate seat vacant

Nursing

1 delegate seat vacant

Eberly College of Science

Meridith Bartley P

Jason Bernstein E

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

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Kyler Sherman-Wilkins | E |
| Luis Ocampo | P |
| Casey Millburg | P |
| Penina Backer | P |
| Hye Won Chai | P |

Judiciary

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Brian Aynardi | P |
| Alex Park | E |
| Jeremy Johnson | E |

Addendum II: Resignation from Delegate Erica Hildabridle

To GPSA Executive Board

From Erica Hildabridle

September 21, 2015

Dear all,

After a lot of thought and consideration I have decided that I need to step down as Delegate for the College of Agricultural Sciences and as the Community Service Chair effective immediately. I am very sad to have to write this, but this is what is best for me and the completion of my program.

Thank you,

Erica S. Hildabridle

Erica Hildabridle

M.S. Agricultural Extension and Education

