Resolution # 69-08

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

of the 69th Assembly
December 4, 2019

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

Constitutional Amendment
Inclusivity, Equity, and Antidiscrimination
(Decided: [ Y / N / A ])

Nature of the Situation:

The GPSA Constitution currently requires members to abide by the University’s nondiscrimination statement, however it does not ensure that GPSA partner with organizations that also abide by the nondiscrimination agreement, nor does it specifically address inclusivity and equity. This amendment aims to ensure all business involving GPSA is inclusive, nondiscriminatory, and promote equity.

Recommended Course of Action:

It is proposed that the GPSA adopt the following amendments to the GPSA Constitution:

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVE of the Constitution will now read:

SECTION A. Mission Statement

The mission of the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA), in striving to enrich the experience of graduate and professional students, shall be to provide:
1. A unified and informed voice representing graduate and professional students to the
University’s administration, Board of Trustees, academic units, and other external organizations
that make decisions on behalf of students;

2. A forum to address the ideas and concerns of graduate and professional students;

3. Support of scholarly activities and professional development;

4. Leadership, social, and service opportunities to the graduate and professional student body;

and,

5. Events and activities to promote a sense of community among graduate and professional
students and their families that promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion.

ARTICLE IX – JUDICIARY of the Constitution will now read:

SECTION A. Powers and Responsibilities

All authorities over matters of dispute between entity and matters of rule and equity within the
GPSA are solely vested in a Judicial Board (“Judiciary”).

The Judiciary shall have the power to:

1. Conduct hearings and issue rulings related to disputed matters within the GPSA, specifically
pertaining to election disputes, disciplinary actions, and disputes concerning the interpretation of
this Constitution and legislation pursuant to it;

2. Review all GPSA Constitutional amendments, unless otherwise specified, for fairness and
equity. The review and any resulting opinion shall be considered non-binding;

3. Adjudicate all parliamentary procedure questions and serve as the Assembly’s Chief
Parliamentarian;

4. Hear cases of impeachment and make final decisions in such cases;

5. Procedurally review all internal elections and appointments;

6. Review, sua sponte, all legislation and resolutions approved during the current Assembly for
compliance with University policy;

7. Administer the annual graduate and professional student body elections; and

8. Assume all duties prescribed by the Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Burton
Delegate, College of Agricultural Sciences

President __________________________________________ Affirm  Veto

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The Graduate and Professional Student Association
