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

of the 68th Assembly  
January 16, 2019

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

Graduate Writing Boot Camp  
Creating a dedicated space for focused writing for graduate and professional students  
(Decided: [ Y / N / A ])

Nature of the Situation:

GPSA’s Professional Development Committee gives voice to the interests and needs of graduate and professional students by promoting professional and scholarly activity. The mission of this subcommittee is to plan and execute events that benefit students in their journey through their degree. The Graduate Writing Boot Camp is designed to support graduate and professional students in meeting their writing goals by providing a quiet and supportive writing environment. In order to promote healthy and productive writing habit, participants will meet for 5 hours once a week for six weeks. Sessions will be available two days a week, allowing students to pick the day that best fits their schedule. Boot Camp includes dedicated writing time in the library and guest speakers to help participants better understand and practice healthy habits. Included in the $25 participation fee is lunch every week, a quiet place to write, and a support group of people trying to achieve similar writing goals.

This semester the first sessions of Graduate Writing Boot Camp will take place from the week of Feb. 6 to the week of March 18, with each group meeting once a week (Monday & Tuesday). Each week will start with lunch and some weeks will have a presentation from speakers around campus, followed by 4-5 hours of dedicated writing time. Registration will be open beginning Jan. 16, 2019. Each session will hold up to 20 participants.
We invite any graduate or professional students working on dissertations, theses, capstone projects, or important research papers to apply to participate.

**Recommended Course of Action:**

That the Graduate and Professional Student Association authorizes the Professional Development Committee to purchase lunch for each GWBC participant each week.

Total Allocation Request: $3100.00

**Box Lunches**
- Catered by Irvings, $12.00 per lunch
- (20 participants + 1 volunteer) x 6 weeks x 2 days per week = 252 lunches
- Sub-total: $3,024.00

**Registration Fees**
- $25.00 per participant
- 40 participants
- Sub-total: -$1,000.00

*Net cost to GPSA: $2,024.00*

Respectfully submitted,

**Shawn Siroka**
Delegate, College of Engineering

**Bagmi Das**
Delegate, College of Education
Chair, Professional Development Committee

President _____________________________ Affirm Veto

The Graduate and Professional Student Association
Changes to Tax Code

- Section 117
  - Repeal section (d). Will make tuition wavers need to be included in taxable income.
- Sections 221, 222, 135, and 127
  - Strike sections. Will remove many tax deductions currently in place for situations where employers are providing benefits for employees’ education, for people paying back student loans, and for other educational expenses.

Links:

- https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/16/opinion/house-tax-bill-graduate-students.html?_r=0
  - Glenn Thompson (PA 5th Congressional District Representative) has voted for this bill. He is the representative for State College.
  - Section 117 of the current tax code.

Section of proposed tax bill that repeals the section of the current tax code which exclude tuition wavers and reductions from taxable income (Chapter 1, Subchapter B, Section 117) and the sections that give tax credits for educational expenses and interest paid on student loans (Chapter 1, Subchapter B, Sections 221, 222, 135, and 127)