Resolution # 67-05

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

of the 67th Assembly
January 17, 2018

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

2017-18 Elections Schedule
Setting the timeline for the election of the 68th Assembly
(Decided: [ Y / N / A ])

Nature of the Situation:
The Graduate and Professional Student Association constitution (Article XIII, Section A) requires that elections be held once a year in the spring semester. The bylaws (Article VI, Section A) state “Elections shall be held annually on the second Tuesday and Wednesday of April by default. The Assembly may select a new date by a majority vote.” The bylaws also state (Article VI, Section D) that “Any graduate or professional student who wishes to run for an elected office must submit an Intent to Run form to the Judiciary no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the first day of the election. The Intent to Run form shall be made available and publicized by the Judiciary no later than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the election.”

To increase the success of the elections, the Judiciary believes that scheduling elections to coincide with undergraduate student government elections (March 28th) will increase the success of both elections’ turnouts. After contacting UPUA, reviewing the schedule of the GPSA, and considering the academic calendar of the university, the GPSA Judiciary has determined the optimal timeline to execute the elections process.

It is the expectation, after discussions with the chair, that the programming sub-committee will schedule and plan at least one “Meet the Delegates” event that will provide a venue that will incentivize the interaction of the graduate and professional student body and those individuals who will be running for a position in GPSA with the event occurring between February 18th and March 20th. The legislation for this event will be submitted as separate legislation.
Recommended Course of Action:

We recommend that the GPSA Assembly approve the following timeline for the election of the 68th Assembly during the spring 2018 semester.
- Intent to run period: Begins 12:01am, February 18th and ends 11:59pm, March 20th.
- Campaign period: Begins when intent to run is approved and ends 11:59pm, March 29th.
- Elections period: Begins 12:01am, March 28th and ends 11:59pm, March 29th.

Additionally, the judiciary requests that the GPSA President send a university-wide graduate and professional email to inform students of the intent to run period, to explain the benefits and responsibilities of the positions, and to distribute the intent to run form to all students eligible to run.

The following change will also be made to the GPSA bylaws (changes underlined)

Bylaws (Article VI, Section A):
“Elections shall begin on the Wednesday thirteen (13) academic days after the conclusion of Spring Break of the year in question, and they shall end on the next day. The Assembly may select a new date by a majority vote.”

Based on the current academic calendar, this wording ensures that the incoming Assembly will have two meetings before the end of the spring semester, which allows for a smoother transition than the one meeting which has occurred after elections under the previous bylaws.

Bylaws (Article VI, Section D):
“Any graduate or professional student who wishes to run for an elected office must submit an Intent to Run form to the Judiciary no later than seven (7) days prior to the first day of the election. The Intent to Run form shall be made available and publicized by the Judiciary no later than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the election.”

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Conway
Delegate, Eberly College of Science
Speaker of the Assembly

Matthew Krott
President, GPSA

President _____________________________ Affirm Veto

The Graduate and Professional Student Association