Resolution # 67-08
The Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA)
The Pennsylvania State University

of the 67th Assembly
March 14th, 2018

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

GPSA Bylaws Amendment
Standing Committees
(Decided: [ Y / N / A ])

Nature of the Situation:

Standing committees are defined by the GPSA Bylaws Article IV Section. C which designates Student Affairs, Internal Development, and Student Advocacy and Diversity as standing committees. In Article IV Section D. the Student Affairs committee is further broken up into Programming, Grad Cup, and Professional Development standing subcommittees. In Article IV Section E. the Healthcare subcommittee is made a standing subcommittee in Student Advocacy and Diversity.

During the course of the 67th Assembly this committee structure has been assessed and altered at the discretion of the Speaker to better serve the organization. The current structure as it stands in the bylaws is inefficient. The proposed changes in this legislation bring our bylaws in line with the practice of the 67th Assembly.

Each of the standing subcommittees within the Student Affairs committee operates independently. Logistically, it is unnecessary to create a Student Affairs committee that exists only to organize the subcommittees. Elimination of the standing committee and elevating the contained subcommittees will streamline the process of committee assignments at the beginning of new assemblies. Furthermore, each of these committees
should be active throughout the year. Therefore, we propose to eliminate the Grad Cup subcommittee with the expectation that the work will continue in the Programming committee. Additionally, we establish the Community Outreach committee as a full standing committee as opposed to its current existence as an ad-hoc subcommittee.

While in past years, the Healthcare subcommittee has served an important role within GPSA, it is typically only active in years when PSU is negotiating new student health insurance contracts. In other years, the standing status of this subcommittee is frivolous. Rather it should be the purview of the Student Advocacy and Diversity committee chair to create an ad-hoc committee when he/she sees fit.

**Recommended Course of Action:**

Changing the standing committee structure to reflect the functional nature of the committees over the course of the year will make the purpose of each clear to members of the Assembly and others.

It is proposed that the GPSA adopt the following amendments to the GPSA Bylaws.

The current Article IV Sections C.-F. will be removed. Subsequent sections will be appropriately retitled to account for the below additions.

Article IV Section C. will now read:

> The following shall be the standing Committees: Programming, Professional Development, Community Outreach, Student Advocacy and Diversity, and Internal Development.

Article IV Section D. will now read:

> The Programming Committee shall be tasked with fulfilling GPSA’s mission as it relates to providing programs, initiatives, and events that promote the sense of community within the graduate and professional student body and their families.

Article IV Section E. will now read:

> The Professional Development Committee shall be tasked with fulfilling GPSA’s mission as it relates to providing support of scholarly activities and professional development.

Article IV Section F. will now read:

> The Community Outreach Committee shall be tasked with fulfilling GPSA’s mission as it relates to providing the graduate and professional student body with service opportunities and engagement of the State College and Penn State community at large.

Article IV Section G. will now read:

> The Student Advocacy and Diversity Committee shall be tasked with fulfilling GPSA’s mission as it relates to providing a forum to address the ideas and concerns of graduate and professional
students. This includes addressing student concerns and promoting diversity by advocating for policies or initiatives to outside parties within the university and in the community.

Article IV Section H. will now read:

*The Internal Development Committee shall be tasked with improving GPSA policies and procedures and all other internal matters to ensure the well-being of GPSA and its members.*

Article IV Section L. will now read:

*The Chairs of the standing committees along with the Speaker of the Assembly shall constitute the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee shall meet, at the discretion of the Speaker, to establish Assembly business and to ensure productivity in the various committees and subcommittees.*

Respectfully submitted,

**David Dopfel**  
Delegate, Intercollege Graduate Degree Programs  
Chair, Internal Development

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

President ___________________________________________________  Affirm   Veto

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The Graduate and Professional Student Association