Resolution #68-XX
The Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA)
The Pennsylvania State University

of the 68th Assembly
January 16th, 2019

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

Support of Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Reform
(Decided: [ Y / N / A ])

Nature of the Situation:
The Pennsylvania legislature is currently considering two bills: Senate Bill 806 and House Bill 193. These bills would officially change voter registration to “opt-out” in the state of Pennsylvania. Additionally, Governor Tom Wolf is attempting to change the absentee ballot system to a “no excuse system,” which would no longer require Pennsylvanians to have a valid excuse, such as being a college student or having a conflict with a religious holiday, in order to request an absentee ballot.

Recommended Course of Action:
It is believed that PA Senate Bill 806 and House Bill 193 will positively affect graduate and professional students, improve access to the political process, and encourage civic engagement. Because of this, the University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) is beginning a letter writing campaign to the Pennsylvania State University’s State Representatives Scott Conklin (PA-House-77), Kerry Benninghoff (PA-House-171), and State Senator Jake Corman (PA-Senate-34) in order to advocate on behalf of these bills. In conjunction with UPUA, the
Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) will sign onto these letters to support this legislation and to encourage the state legislators to pass these bills.

Respectfully submitted

Charles Tierney
Delegate, College of Engineering
Community Outreach Chair

The Graduate and Professional Student Association