Resolution # 68-11

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

of the 68th Assembly
December 12th, 2018

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

Constitutional Amendment
Conflicts of Interest
(Decided: [ Y / N / A ])

Nature of the Situation:
Addressing conflicts of interests is fundamental to any organization including GPSA and the University as a whole.

However, there is no provision in the Constitution that outlines the course of action for any member experiencing a potential or occurring conflict of interest regarding decisions that could impact graduate, professional, as well as undergraduate students.

Recommended Course of Action:
It is proposed that the GPSA adopt the following amendments to the GPSA:

Introduce a new article and section focusing on conflicts of interest (between ARTICLES II and III and renumbered accordingly)

ARTICLE III of the Constitution will now read:

Article III – Conflicts of Interest

Section A. Definition
Conflict of Interest shall be defined as a situation where: (1) the goals and interests of the member are not compatible with the goals and interests of GPSA, or (2) the member is in a position to receive personal benefit from actions and/or decisions made by GPSA. These personal benefits include, but are not limited to, family relations, business/professional relations, and financial/material gains.

Section B. Course of Action
All members from the Assembly of Delegates, the Executive Board, and the Judiciary shall exercise the utmost good faith in all decisions regarding GPSA. Members shall not use their positions, or knowledge gained there from, in such a way that a conflict of interest might arise between the interest of GPSA and that of the individual. All members must disclose any and all conflicts of interest to the three bodies during discussion and recuse themselves prior to any voting and/or ruling decision.

Section C. Discipline
Any member that does not execute the course of action outlined in Section B shall be subjected to the discipline process outlined in Article X of the Constitution, depending on the severity of the situation.

Section D. Additional Information
For more information concerning Penn State University's policy on conflicts of interest (HR 91), see https://policy.psu.edu/policies/hr91

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Baksa
Delegate, At-Large

David Dopfel
Delegate, Intercollege Graduate Degree Programs

President ___________________________________________________ Affirm Veto

The Graduate and Professional Student Association