Resolution # 68-18

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,

Bylaws 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 Bylaws that outlines the process of recusal 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 IX, Section F of the Bylaws focusing on conflicts of interest (current versions of Sections F and G will be renumbered accordingly)

ARTICLE IX, Section F the Bylaws will now read:

ARTICLE IX – Legislation
F. If any member from the Assembly of Delegates, the Executive Board, and the Judiciary has a conflict of interest with regard to any legislation, the member must disclose that the conflict of interest exists to all three
bodies at the beginning of prior to discussion of the legislation. After the conflict of interest is disclosed, the member will shall step outside the room while a conflict of interest is present with legislation on the floor, be then asked to step outside the room during the voting process. During the discussion, the remaining members shall respect the member’s decision for recusal. The member may step shall be invited back when the legislation is no longer on the floor inside the room after the original decision has been voted on. If a member allegedly failed to disclose the existence of any and all conflicts of interest prior to any voting decision, any member the Assembly may bring forth the allegation through the discipline process outlined in Article X of the Constitution, depending on the severity of the allegation.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Baksa
Delegate, At-Large

David Dopfel
Delegate, Intercollege Graduate Degree Programs

The Graduate and Professional Student Association