

Resolution # 69-12

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



of the 69th Assembly
February 12, 2020

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

**Call to Add Graduate/Professional Student Representative to Borough
Council**

**Encouragement to the State College Borough Council to add a Graduate/Professional
Student Representative, in addition to the current Student Representative**

(Decided: [Y / N / A])

1 **Nature of the Situation:**

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3 On October 18, 2010 through Resolution 1030, the State College Borough Council created the role
4 of “Student Representative” to the Borough Council to help foster greater communication and
5 collaboration to the University Park student body.¹ On March 19, 2018, the Borough Council
6 passed Resolution 1206, which specified that the Student Representative would be internally
7 appointed by the University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA).² While the Student
8 Representative was created “to assist in the process of improving communication between the
9 body of students residing within the Borough and Borough Council”, the UPUA solely serves to
10 represent the interests of the undergraduate student body at Penn State’s University Park Campus.²
11 Therefore, the State College Borough Council has no formal structure to receive input or feedback
12 from the graduate/professional student body.

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14 Graduate/professional students have a different relationship with the State College community
15 than undergraduate students, as many graduate/professional students are year-round residents who
16 may live here for longer periods of time and/or with family. As graduate/professional students are
17 generally older than undergraduate students, they are more frequently raising families or have

¹ http://www.statecollegepa.us/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_10182010-232 (page 11)

² <http://www.statecollegepa.us/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/6352?fileID=5954> (page 29)

1 children who attend local schools. Their employment at the University in addition to taking classes
2 changes their relationship to the university and the Borough. Graduate/professional students also
3 live in different areas of town and therefore housing concerns for these students differ from
4 undergraduate student concerns.

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6 **Recommended Course of Action:**

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8 The GPSA believes that the most effective way to proceed is to create two positions: one
9 representing undergraduate students and another representing graduate/professional students. The
10 UPUA’s Borough Council Liaison, who has historically served as the Student Representative to
11 the Borough Council, requires a large amount of time and energy and therefore would not be able
12 to take on the responsibility of representing an additional constituency. The GPSA believes that a
13 single student would not be able to represent both interests effectively, as the undergraduate and
14 graduate/professional student experience are notably different.

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16 The GPSA believes that although many student interests are aligned between undergraduate and
17 graduate/professional students, it would be most effective for individuals from both populations to
18 represent their constituencies.

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20 By adopting this resolution, the GPSA formally recommends the State College Borough Council
21 adopt the following or comparable policy changes. We have attached the suggested language
22 changes to Resolution 1206 as an appendix.

- 23
24 1. Change the current “Student Representative” position to the “Undergraduate Student
25 Representative.”
26 2. Create a new position called the “Graduate/Professional Student Representative” to
27 represent the issues of graduate/professional students to the State College Borough
28 Council. This position would be internally appointed by GPSA.

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30 GPSA Executive Board members will attempt to meet with each member of the State College
31 Borough Council to discuss our recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Kelling
President, GPSA

Terry Torres Cruz
Delegate, College of Agricultural Sciences

President _____ Affirm Veto
