Resolution # 69-17

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

of the 69th Assembly
March 18, 2020

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

GPSA Elections Delay
In support of delaying the 2020 GPSA Elections
(Decided: [ Y / N / A ])

Nature of the Situation

GPSA elections for the 70th Assembly are currently scheduled to be held online from April 1–2, 2020; with intent-to-run submissions open until March 25, 2020 to be included on the ballot. Penn State has taken preventive measures in response to COVID-19, including classes being held remotely for the rest of the Spring semester.

In the interest of preventing elections to be overshadowed by the transition to remote classes, in addition to other burdens this pandemic adds on the lives of graduate and professional students, we propose delaying GPSA elections until April 15–16, 2020. This two-week delay may alleviate the work of Student Affairs in setting up elections for GPSA, as they are currently tasked with other urgent matters in relation to the COVID-19 response. This is also in line with the University Park Undergraduate Association’s (UPUA) delay of their elections until April 15. The election will be held on these dates despite classes being held remotely for the rest of the Spring semester, as our governing documents require elections be held before the end of the Spring semester.

The intent-to-run deadline is given in GPSA’s bylaws as seven days before the first day of election. Therefore, extending the deadline for elections automatically extends the intent-to-run deadline.
1 **Recommended Course of Action**

2 By adopting this resolution, the GPSA delays the election period from April 1–2 to April 15–16, 2020; automatically moving the intent-to-run deadline to April 8, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

**Terry J Torres Cruz**  
Delegate, College of Agricultural Sciences

President ___________________________________________________________  
Affirm   Veto

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The Graduate and Professional Student Association