Resolution # 70-06

The Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA)

The Pennsylvania State University

of the 70th Assembly

September 16, 2020

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

Bylaws Amendment

Clarification of Committees and Legislative Roles

(Decided: [Y / N / A])

Nature of the Situation:

In the Bylaws, there are a couple of changes to Article IV: Selection and Duties of Committees and Liaisons that would make the Bylaws more in line with current practice.

We propose that the role of the President in proposing legislation be expanded in Article IV, Section K, so this article follows Article IX – Legislation, Section A which states "Bills and resolutions ("legislation") may be proposed by any Delegate or the President for Assembly approval. No other entity shall be permitted to propose a piece of legislation."

For the Professional Student Affairs Committee, professional students do not only come from professional schools. There are professional students in colleges such as Engineering and Arts and Architecture, which necessitates the distinguish between schools and constituencies.

Recommended Course of Action:

It is proposed that the GPSA adopt the following amendment to the GPSA Bylaws:

ARTICLE IV – SELECTION AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

C. The following shall be the standing Committees: Programming, Professional Development, Community Outreach, ~~Student~~ Advocacy and Diversity, and Internal Development

G. The ~~Student~~ Advocacy and Diversity Committee shall be tasked with fulfilling GPSA's mission as it relates to providing a forum to address the ideas and concerns of graduate and professional students. This includes addressing student concerns and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion by advocating for policies or initiatives to outside parties within the university and in the community.

I. The President, in collaboration with the Speaker of the Assembly, shall be responsible for appointing all liaisons ~~and overseeing the business of the Assembly through the various committees~~. Non-delegates may serve as a GPSA liaison. Each liaison shall be charged with providing the Assembly and Executive Board with regular updates of the committees and boards.

K. Legislation, projects, and programming events should originate in the standing committees before being presented to the Assembly. Committees shall be responsible for hearing student concerns and acting appropriately and responsibly in their various areas to enhance graduate and professional student life. The Speaker of the Assembly shall be responsible for overseeing the business of the Assembly through the various committees. The President may also introduce legislation, projects, and programming events, in collaboration with the standing committees.

O. The Professional Student Affairs Committee shall be tasked with developing and sustaining positive relations between the GPSA and professional students through regular meetings between delegates from professional student constituencies~~professional schools~~, the GPSA president, and the Speaker of the Assembly. The committee will meet at least once per semester.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Kelling
Graduate Council Student Caucus Chair

President _____ Affirm Veto

The Graduate and Professional Student Association