Resolution # 70-07

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
Change of At-Large Delegate Role
(Decided: [ Y / N / A ])

Nature of the Situation:
In the Bylaws, there is a section stating that At-Large delegates will fill a college-level seat if a college-level seat in the Assembly becomes vacant and the At-Large representative is from that constituency. At-Large delegates play a fundamentally different role than delegates from colleges as At-Large delegates represent the entire graduate and professional student body. Recently, these At-Large seats have been used to create valuable university-wide partnerships with organizations representing marginalized students at Penn State.

The President will collaborate with the Internal Development Committee and the Advocacy and Diversity Committee to develop an application process. The application process will be posted publicly on the GPSA website.

Recommended Course of Action:
It is proposed that the GPSA remove this replacement procedure and allow At-Large representatives to stay in their respective seat, even in college-level vacancies. It is recommended that GPSA make it clear that At-Large representatives should be both prepared to and capable of advocating for marginalized students at Penn State. It is proposed that the GPSA adopt the following amendment to the GPSA Bylaws:
ARTICLE I – ASSEMBLY OF DELGATES

E. There shall be a total of five At-Large delegate seats. Any current graduate or professional student who is not already a delegate from a constituency may fill an At-Large delegate seat. These seats shall be filled by a presidential appointment and approved by a majority vote of the Assembly. The President should solicit applications for At-Large delegates from the graduate and professional student body. If a seat in the Assembly representing a constituency becomes vacant during the Assembly term, and there is a currently serving At Large Delegate from that same constituency, that At Large delegate shall automatically become the representative of that constituency, and the At Large seat shall be considered vacant. If there are two At Large Delegates from the same constituency, the President shall decide prior to the next Assembly meeting which delegate will move to the constituency seat, and which shall remain At Large. Each At-Large delegate’s constituency is effectively all graduate and professional students. When making appointments to the Assembly, for At-Large seats and otherwise, the President shall consider the diversity of the graduate and professional student body and shall strive to make appointments to the Assembly that reflect this diversity in accordance with the Penn State nondiscrimination policy and the GPSA official statement on diversity and inclusion. The President shall strive to appoint At-Large delegates that will be both prepared to and capable of effectively advocating for marginalized graduate and professional students at Penn State.

J. Vacancies resulting from a removal from office shall not be filled until all appeal processes have been exhausted. All delegate vacancies will be filled from their respective constituencies. For college delegates, the position will be filled by someone from the respective college. At-Large delegate vacancies may be filled by any graduate or professional student who is not already a delegate from a college constituency.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Kelling  
Graduate Council Student Caucus Chair

Diego Hernandez  
Advocacy and Diversity Chair  
Delegate, College of Liberal Arts

Emma Robertson  
Delegate, School of Law

Amanda Burton  
Delegate, College of Agricultural Sciences

President ___________________________________________________      Affirm  Veto

The Graduate and Professional Student Association