Graduate and Professional Student Association

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| GPSA 70th Assembly Meeting | Wednesday, January 20, 2021 | 6:00 pm | Zoom meeting |

**Actions Items:**

* Get in touch with Leah Zimmerman (lrz2@psu.edu) of Student Disability Resources (SDR) if you have suggestions for more highly publicizing SDR and creating disability initiatives.
* Let Alex Zhao or Yasha Duggal know if you are aware of anyone interested in serving as an Associate Justice or a Graduate Council, EMS, or Engineering delegate.
* Contact Claire Kelling if you have suggestions or ideas for revising GPSA’s nomination and appointment processes for delegates and representatives.
* Get in touch with Kade Crittenden if you are interested in speaking at the NAGPS Northeastern Regional Conference.
* Let Yasha Duggal know if you are interested in joining the Climate Action Subcommittee by Thursday, January 21, 2021.

**Legislation Passed:**

* Bristol Gunderson confirmed as the new Smeal College of Business Delegate
* Bill 70-12: Virtual Cook-Along with a Professional Chef
* Bill 70-13: Professional Headshots

**Agenda**

1. Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM
2. Roll Call – See Appendix I
3. Adoption of the Agenda
   1. Chair of Professional Development Committee changed from “Justin Korman” to “Farhan Sadique”
4. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes from December 9, 2020: Approved
5. Open Student Forum
6. Special Presentation: Leah Zimmerman, Executive Director of Student Disability Resources (SDR)
   1. SDR has three main goals
      1. Protecting students from discrimination
      2. Providing access to education
      3. Providing reasonable accommodations for equal access and full participation
   2. Currently serving 2% of graduate students with disabilities (likely more graduate students with disabilities since about 10% of total grad student population in the U.S. has some form of disability).
      1. Psychological or mental health disorders are the most common ones SDR sees at PSU (36%)
      2. ADHD is second most common disability seen at PSU (26%)
      3. Physical health disorders third most common disability (13%)
      4. Learning disorders are fourth most common disability (8%)
   3. Four most common disabilities among grad students at PSU are invisible disabilites, which means it can be harder to get accommodations since professors do not see the disabilities.
   4. Accommodations for grad students are different than those offered to undergraduates because grad life is different:
      1. Extended time for qualifying and comprehensive exams
      2. Notes when defending thesis
      3. Recording discussions
      4. Flexible attendance policies, deadline extensions, exam rescheduling
      5. Adjustments for teaching responsibilities and work schedules
      6. Changing the comprehensive exam location
   5. SDR will work with you, professors, and department to determine reasonable accommodations for grad students.
   6. SDR Current Initiatives
      1. Want to more comprehensively support grad students – recognize social integration of disability in addition to academic integration
      2. Serve as advisor to faculty to facilitate an interactive and deliberative accommodation process
      3. Promote campus climate evolution
      4. Disability Access initiative – new working group that will create recommendations for addressing inclusion barriers.
      5. More events for disability community
   7. Email or get in touch with Leah Zimmerman (lrz2@psu.edu) if you have suggestions for more highly publicizing SDR and creating initiatives.
      1. **Questions and Comments**
         1. **Yasha Duggal:** Grad students have a lot of hidden deadlines (data due), does SDR have plans for these accommodations?
            1. Yes, we highlight the big ones because they’re common to all grad students, but we can help with smaller deadlines and hurdles as well.
         2. **Niladri Sekhar Mandal:** What publicization efforts are being undertaken to make grad students aware of SDR? What about having faculty advisors suggest SDR to their grad students?
            1. That’s a big question, stigma is one of the biggest obstacles to people getting accommodations (people uncomfortable with the term “disability”)
            2. Changed office name to make students more comfortable and also trying to have more social interactions (social media, virtual meet and greets, etc.)
            3. We are trying to do faculty awareness, but those who are most accepting of disabilities and accommodations have disabilities themselves or know someone close to them with a disability. Have some liasions to try to make all faculty aware of disability issues and give them the tools to talk about disability in a non-discriminatory manner.
            4. Disability does not equate incompetence, that’s the main message we’re trying to spread.
         3. **Niladri Sekhar Mandal:** What about encouraging faculty to recommend SDR to students so they’re more comfortable seeking accommodations?
            1. Yes, want to do that, working so that faculty advisors see SDR as less adversarial.
         4. **Alex Zhao:** Have you noticed any common issues that students experience in getting accommodations? Are there specific points where grad students are getting hung up in the process?
            1. We are obligated to ask for documentation from a professional that substantiates the disability – that’s a significant hardship because of the prominence of invisible disabilities among grad students and the pandemic has made it harder to see healthcare providers.
            2. Grad faculty fear setting up accommodations in grad school will set them up for failure in the “real” world and vocational schools, but this is not a justified anxiety because accommodations are still available outside academia.
         5. **Ali Watts:** Are there ways SDR is, or could be involved with, thinking about universal design in relation to grad programs? Thinking particularly about equity concerns here.
            1. Firm believer in universal design and there are multiple groups working on educating faculty about universal design, but can be difficult to build into a program or the university as a whole because grad programs can be very unique.
            2. Spot on about how universal design could be a good response to accommodation concerns among grad students.
7. Executive Officer Reports
   1. President – Alex Zhao
      1. January 19, 2021, meeting with Graduate School deans
         1. Discussed a variety of issues, but focused on pandemic and international graduate students.
            1. International grad students need to return to the U.S.
         2. University instructors not prioritized for COVID-19 vaccine
         3. Have to request one of the mail-in tests from Vault if you’re going to be on campus or within 20 miles of campus because they’re not the same as walk-in tests
      2. Board of Trustees Chair Meeting
         1. Content similar to Graduate School deans meeting
         2. New chair and vice chair seem willing to be transparent and honest
      3. Meeting with university leadership
         1. Concerns about COVID-19 and Wellness Days, but not different from other meetings
      4. Resignations – Alex Cassell, Michelle Massey, and Tim Shokri – so if you know people interested in being a Graduate Council, EMS, or Engineering delegate, or an Associate Justice, let Alex or Yasha know.
         1. Have about 2.5 months left in this Assembly and want to close out strong; want to push through and make the most of the remaining time we have.
      5. **Questions**
         1. **Diego Hernandez:** Could you give us some more details about the Board of Trustees meeting – what does “positive” mean?
            1. “Positive” might be wrong word, but the new chair and vice chair seem willing to let us know what their priorities and positions are.
            2. In relation to climate change, willing to acknowledge the way the university needs to go, but no clear plan.
            3. Diversity and inclusion efforts not part of the meeting
            4. Not going to reduce tuition or room/board costs
            5. There are still disagreements, but they will at least share their positions.
         2. **Julia Kelliher:** Chair and Vice Chair said they did read our climate resolution and said our points were hard to argue against and didn’t think there would be ideological pushback, just financial (pandemic problems).
         3. **Niladri Sekhar Mandal:** Kelly Wolgast said the last time that walk-in testing was the same as Vault (PCR testing) and a constitutent was told walk-in testing was a substitue for mail-in testing.
            1. Everything that has been communicated to me has been that you would need a mail-in test and an Alumni Center test would be insufficient, but will check again.
            2. Possible that the Alumni Center is still offering PCR tests, but the procedure seems to require a mail-in test.
         4. **Diego Hernandez:** Our program has disclosed that the walk-in and mail-in tests are the same, but requiring the mail-in tests is a way to streamline the testing process. If you get a walk-in test, can contact administrator so that you can get out of mail-in test.
   2. Vice President – Julia Kelliher
      1. Mt. Nittany Medical Center now has around 40 COVID-19 patients (up to 73 over break)
      2. Mask Up or Pack Up campaign being revamped
      3. No penalties for not abiding by COVID-19 testing requirement
      4. Student Trustee application is now open
      5. No updates on when students will have access to the vaccine
      6. **Questions**
         1. **Ali Watts:** Really no penalties?
            1. **Alex Zhao:** Yeah, they are exploring penalties, but only if a lot of people don’t get the required test.
         2. **Ali Watts:** I would say a significant portion of grad students in my department did the walk-up testing and I don’t think our administrators are as informed about required testing, so what should I be telling students who did the walk-in testing, but don’t want to do the mail-in testing?
            1. We’ve heard only that mail-in testing is acceptable (it’s free), we didn’t hear anything about contacting administrators.
            2. It doesn’t seem like the penalty would be enforced
            3. **Ali Watts:** One student felt forced to get testing, since they had to go to walk-up testing and felt resentful about being exposed while getting tested – not happy about having to do another test.
         3. **Diego Hernandez:** Will be in touch with administrators about doing the walk-in testing and who to contact; will subsequently share info in the #general Slack channel.
         4. **Yasha Duggal:** Not an official answer to Ali’s question, but the reason the walk-in testing doesn’t work is that it’s a HIPAA violation for them to give your information to different parts of the university; Vault has a waiver for this, but walk-in testing does not.
         5. **Diego Hernandez:** Walk-in testing makes you sign the same form though.
         6. **Niladri Sekhar Mandal:** Is there something we can do to make the university honor the walk-in testing?
            1. **Alex Zhao:** Not sure we can ask that of the whole university since they want to streamline the process and I don’t know how to initiate that process.
            2. Recommend taking a mail-in test right now and getting that squared away.
         7. **Kade Crittenden:** In my file when I access my page, I have a negative test on file and I did walk-in testing, so they are recording/keeping track of test results. Should maybe ask if that counts as an official record? I’ll be ordering a mail-in test anyway.
   3. Treasurer – Matt Billups
      1. January 8, 2021, meeting with committee chairs to discuss bills for Spring 2021 semester - $15,000 worth of ideas came up in the meeting ($46,000 remaining in the budget)
         1. Meeting very productive, lots of good ideas, mostly a matter of executing and continuing to come up with new ideas.
      2. Encouraging committee chairs and members to come up with events and spending bills so that GPSA can use its remaining budget effectively.
      3. Awkward budget timing since our fiscal year ends in Summer 2021, but should spend as wisely as possible during the remaining few months this Assembly is in action.
   4. Secretary – Katie Warczak
      1. Please let me know if mispronouncing delegates’ names or if delegates enter the meeting after attendance has been taken.
      2. Committee chairs please send her attendance records after each committee meeting.
      3. Sending out the first newswire of the semester tomorrow, please submit any event announcements or graphics to me or #newswire channel on Slack by noon.
   5. Faculty Senate – Artemio Cardenas (subbing for Star Sharp)
      1. Not a lot happening; meeting next week, agenda came out this afternoon
         1. Discussing general budget and capital revisions
         2. Senate response to violence at the Capitol
         3. Alternate grading scale to be discussed, recommended keeping Fall 2020 policy, but that’s a hot button issue, so it will be a long discussion.
      2. **Questions**
         1. **Diego Hernandez:** Can you ask for an update on the Land Acknowledgement Statement at the next meeting?
            1. I was on that committee, but that has been disbanded since the statements has passed from us to lawyers to the nations and there’s no timeline for when we’ll see it again.
   6. Graduate Council – Claire Kelling
      1. Grad Council met today and talked a lot about COVID-19 testing
      2. Grad Council meetings are now available for public viewing via Zoom (both in pandemic and non-pandemic times)
      3. Residency requirement is for in-person degrees, not virtual ones
8. New Delegate Confirmation
   1. Nominating Bristol Gunderson for Smeal College of Business delegate position.
      1. First-year JD-MBA student; completed two years of law school
      2. Want to get to know more people in Smeal and learn how to serve as an effective representative.
   2. **Questions** 
      1. **Steven Baksa:** Part of being a good delegate is having connections already, so what connections do you already have to Smeal and how can you expand on those to be an effective representative?
         1. As a first year MBA, have links to others in those programs
         2. Planning a weekly meeting with Office 220 and other groups that have advised GPSA in the past.
         3. Has been at Penn State for a while, needs to focus on making connections to Smeal Ph.D. candidates.
      2. **Steven Baksa:** What committees are you interested in?
         1. Judiciary, but interested in learning about other ones.
      3. **Claire Kelling:** Judiciary isn’t a committee and you can’t join it, so between the available ones, what are you interested in?
         1. Professional Development, Programming, or Community Outreach
      4. **Diego Hernandez:** What makes you a good fit not only for GPSA, but for one of the committees you want to join?
         1. Was treasurer of the Women’s Law Caucus and we did a lot of programming (one event each month) and ours was voted the best student org on campus that semester.
         2. President of Bible study club, which involves a lot of programming, planning, and event coordination.
         3. Lots of interest in engaging students in programming and community outreach.
         4. In terms of professional development, as a JD-MBA, am very interested in professional issues, women’s rights, and am running for president of the women’s MBA organization.
            1. Trying to fill gaps in women MBAs’ professional development (pay discrepancies, golf training, etc.)
      5. **Diego Hernandez:** We value diversity and inclusion in GPSA, so just want to confirm that you’re dedicated to the promotion of diversity in the student body, especially when it comes to protected identities.
         1. Absolutely.
   3. **Discussion**
      1. **Steven Baksa:** What specifically was the reason you (**Alex Zhao**) nominated Bristol for this position?
         1. In her interview, Bristol stressed her experience with programming and events and talked about specific issues that she was interested in. It basically came down to who seemed to be in a good position to represent Smeal students with 2.5 months left in the Assembly.
      2. **Diego Hernandez:** Have some reservations since she seemed to stress the social connections of GPSA and was interested in getting those connections out of this experience rather than being a representative.
         1. **Emory Robertson** and **Steven Baksa** second this concern.
         2. **Alex Zhao:** In her interview and in her mention of Office 220, for instance, it was clearer that she wanted to serve as a representative, not just get social connections from the job. Initial Zoom troubles likely contributed to awkwardness.
      3. **Rachel Park:** Also have some concerns, since it didn’t sound like she had properly prepared to present herself to GPSA; I think she’s fully capable of doing a good job, but it didn’t feel like she fully prepared and might have other things going on.
      4. **Steven Baksa:** Yeah, she did seem a bit unprepared and Zoom issues might be a factor, but you should know what the committees are, especially if you want to be a part of them. Some concerns about her commitments and preparations, so am on the fence here.
      5. **Diego Hernandez:** Has the potential to provide some great things for GPSA, but do worry about her having too much going on with the different organizations she’s a part of as either a participant or an officer since committee work takes up a good chunk of time.
      6. **Alex Zhao:** Did ask her about her other commitments and I don’t think she’s consumed by her other work, but perhaps we can bring her back and you can ask her about it.
      7. **Claire Kelling:** I don’t think we need to ask that question, we don’t need to be judging others’ time commitments, if she thinks she can handle it, then she can handle it.
         1. **Terry Torres Cruz, Jocelyn Delgado, Sandeep Krishnakumar,** and **Izzy Healey** agree

**NEW DELEGATE CONFIRMED 27-4-7 (See Appendix II)**

1. Borough Council Graduate and Professional Student Representative Advisory Confirmation
   1. Nominating Stephen Elliott for the Borough Council Graduate and Professional Student Representative
      1. Originally from Pittsburgh and came to Penn State as an undergraduate
      2. Started MBA here in Fall 2020 (moved from Washington, D.C. with his wife).
      3. Interested in the position because you get the most out of government when you’re involved and there’s lots of people sharing their ideas.
      4. Important for graduate students to have their voices heard at Penn State and in the surrounding community.
      5. Qualifications
         1. Spent several years in the federal government (intern, contractor, civil servant) and love what government can do for people.
      6. GPSA Rep will keep abridged of GPSA as well as Borough Council activities and stances and advocate for graduate students on the Council as well as communicate between the two legislative bodies.
   2. **Questions** 
      1. **Diego Hernandez:** What are your pronouns and how does your love for government factor into how you’ll represent the entire graduate student body and remain apolitical?
         1. Pronouns are he/him/his
         2. Will represent the interests of GPSA since that is the purpose of this advisory position.
      2. **Niladri Sekhar Mandal:** Are there any specific issues or causes you want to specifically take up with the Borough Council?
         1. Focused on COVID-19, testing, returning to campus, police oversight, and similar issues.
         2. Want to make sure the mask mandate stays in place.
      3. **Claire Kelling:** Can you elaborate more on specific graduate student issues you’d like to address?
         1. I just became a grad student last fall, so don’t have a personal agenda; I’m here to learn and represent the interests of GPSA, not my own concerns.
      4. **Steven Baksa:** One issue that’s very prominent among grduate students is housing and paying for housing over the spring semester, so what might you bring to the Borough Council?
         1. That is a newer issue for me, but willing to learn and would make sure positions communicated to the Council are current with those of GPSA.
      5. **Steven Baksa:** What is it that you know now about graduate students and how will you go from what you currently know to what you should know?
         1. As far as issues concerning grad studnents, those include COVID-19, SDR, housing, climate issues, and other things, have learned about these problems in the past semester.
         2. Want to bring previous governmental experience to bear on Borough Council and that’s important for understanding the scope of problems and things that the Council can do.
      6. **Diego Hernandez:** Could you clarify what you meant earlier about police oversight and brining that concern to the Borough Council?
         1. Yes, my understanding is that the Council is interested in creating an oversight board for the police and my stance would be the stance of the GPSA Assembly.
      7. **Claire Kelling:** Good idea for the representative to know what the Council can and can’t do, so what is the Council not doing for grad students now that it could improve upon?
         1. Can’t speak to specifics yet, but can certainly address some issues in the downtown area and borough; here to take messaging from GPSA.
      8. **Emory Robertson:** Do you have any experience advocating for diversity and inclusion issues?
         1. These are incredibly important issues and this is an opportunity to advocate in this way.
      9. **Steven Baksa:** Can you be more specific about how you will advocate for diversity and inclusion? Any specific examples?
         1. One mechanism would be communicating the resolutions that have been discussed and passed in GPSA on to the Borough Council for the sake of brainstorming ideas.
   3. **Discussion**
      1. **Claire Kelling:** I thought somewhere we codified that we would have two candidates for this position, so could we get some clarification on that? And how are we being currently represented?
         1. **Alex Zhao:** Three people initially applied to be the representative and two people withdrew their applications as a result of time conflicts, so only nominated one person today because two of the three people who applied withdrew their nominations.
         2. During the Council meetings right now, Alex gives reports on GPSA activities and fields questions.
         3. This position is to represent GPSA’s interests, so it’s less of a liasion position.
      2. **Steven Baksa:** Is there a specific reason you chose to nominate Stephen for the position?
         1. **Alex Zhao:** Aside from the applicant numbers, Stephen was able to discuss his government experiences and understood the representative role of this position, which is what made me consider nominating him for this job. We don’t want Stephen to take a position contrary to that of GPSA, so his role would be more conveying GPSA’s positions rather than inserting his own personal views.
      3. **Sandeep Krishnakumar:** What was he asked to prepare for today’s meeting because there were a lot of questions about what he would do if he was appointed and it may be unfair to judge him on those answers if he wasn’t told to prepare answers about his plans.
         1. **Alex Zhao:** I asked him to speak a bit about himself and be prepared to speak about himself in the role of representative and why he was interested in the position.
            1. Stephen followed up to inquire about what the expectations would be outside attending Borough Council meetings.
      4. **Ama Agyapong:** Think we need more than a sounding board sent as our representative; did you get a sense from him that he can advocate for graduate and professional students? I didn’t get that sense from him when he spoke, especially when he said he was here to study.
         1. **Alex Zhao:** He does have a passion for working in government and he cares about issues that affect graduate students. The crux of the problem for graduate representation is that grad students are also professionals and we’re historically treated as young professionals rather than students (which we also are). Has strength for working with local government.
      5. **Bristol Gunderson:** Stephen is passionate about government, but sometimes makes some questionable calls, some things he’s said in class have surprised me, but he is certainly knowledgeable about government.
         1. Likely won’t vote for him
      6. **Diego Hernandez:** Thank you to **Alex Zhao** for clarifying what Stephen was asked to prepare for the evening – he could have prepared better.
         1. Might have some unconscious bias against nonbinary individuals (evaded nonbinary questions, but answered cis questions)
         2. Couldn’t specifically point to graduate student issues.
         3. Likely won’t vote for him,
      7. **Ali Watts:** Seconding a lot of the concerns here, but want to acknowledge that while experience in government is good, the last few years have shown us that isn’t inherently positive. Also concerned that sometimes issues will come up in Council that GPSA doesn’t have an explicit position on, so there is the potential that, at times, the representative will have to speak for grad students without first checking back with GPSA.
      8. **Steven Baksa:** Is Bristol at liberty to share what Stephen has said that made her uncomfortable?
         1. **Bristol Gunderson:** Questionable judgement, going on tangents, going away from the question being asked in class; has a little bit of a reputation of being a wild hare.
         2. **Steven Baksa:** Maybe it was different in his meeting with **Alex Zhao**, but it was hard to get a straight answer out of him and I provided him with several opportunities to speak on specific grad issues he’d advocate for, but he didn’t really respond. Will vote no.
      9. **Claire Kelling:** Concerned about this mouthpiece vs. advocate distinction since we do need an advocate here; the representative can’t always check what GPSA’s position on an issue is and it’s very concerning that he wasn’t able to identify one issue that affected graduate students in this borough, which is disqualifying for him.
         1. This is a very different position than a GPSA delegate, so need to have even higher standards than usual.
      10. **Ashley Smalls:** Is there any way to mediate this process better because this is a lot and many of these questions shouldn’t be a one-off thing. That said, his demeanor towards diversity and inclusion is particularly concerning. But is there any possible way that, in the future, we can mediate the process better since we have to vote in a couple minutes after first meeting a candidate.
      11. **Alex Zhao:** Want to make three comments
          1. When talking about candidates, try to stick with what’s known since Stephen’s reported strange comments didn’t come up during the interview or Q&A session, though there were things that came up in the Q&A session that warranted discussion.
          2. Having this process start in October and end here now with what seems to be an unsatisfactory candidate, then we need to have a different process or different description of the position since we have had problems garnering applications and satisfactory candidates up to this point.
          3. It seems clear from the discussion that Stephen is not to the liking of the Assembly and since this is an advisory confirmation, am withdrawing Stephen’s candidacy. **Alex Zhao** will fulfill the duties of Borough Council rep for the rest of the semester.

**BOROUGH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE NOMINATION WITHDRAWN**

* + 1. **Emory Robertson:** Am concerned about how visibly queer people were dismissed during the Q&A and the Assembly should be mindful of that going forward.
    2. **Sandeep Krishnakumar:** He didn’t have strong answers during the Q&A session, so perhaps in the future we can request that applicants have specific responses to these types of queries (relevant graduate student issues, diversity and inclusion, etc.) so that the confirmation process can be streamlined.
    3. **Niladri Sekhar Mandal:** This interview, nomination, and confirmation process might need some work; perhaps Internal Development can look into this so that there is less of a sling shot presentation of candidates.
       1. **Steven Baksa** and **Claire Kelling** interested in doing this

1. Bill 70-12: Virtual Cook-Along with a Professional Chef
   1. Chef Greg Franklin has agreed to partner with GPSA to offer three cook-along classes over Zoom.
      1. Chef Greg will provide participants with a list of ingredients and needed tools beforehand and then walk attendees through how to prepare the featured dish and dessert.
      2. One Programming committee member will serve as mediator/moderator.
   2. Asking for $2,625 ($2,025 for grocery store gift cards so participants can buy materials and $600 for compensation for Chef Greg)
      1. Material prices determined using Wal-Mart prices
   3. **Questions**
      1. **Kade Crittenden:** Did Chef Greg provide a list of the items needed for these recipes?
         1. **Jocelyn Delgado:** Yes, the lists for equipment and food are in the Zoom Chat.
      2. **Ashley Smalls:** Would recording the session for use by students later be an option?
         1. **Jocelyn Delgado:** Hadn’t thought of that, but can certainly ask.
      3. **Diego Hernandez:** Would there be a way of publicizing the lists so that students who don’t need a gift card, but want to participate, could participate in the event?
         1. **Jocelyn Delgado:** He doesn’t want more than 15 people in the Zoom room, so that might be difficult.
         2. **Diego Hernandez: Ashley Smalls’** point about recording would help with this.
      4. **Terry Torres Cruz:** Would the recipe be the same for each session?
         1. **Jocelyn Delgado:** Yes
      5. **Terry Torres Cruz:** The recipe isn’t vegan or vegetarian, would that be an option?
         1. **Jocelyn Delgado:** He’s interested in doing vegetarian and vegan dishes in the future.
      6. **Emory Robertson:** Will closed captioning be available?
         1. **Jocelyn Delgado:** Not sure about closed captioning on Zoom, but definitely an option to explore.
         2. **Nico Terry:** There is an option to do closed captioning on Zoom, but the host has to do it.
         3. **Brooke Mattern:** You need a third-party app for closed captioning unless you are typing it yourself.
      7. **Ali Watts:** Does Chef Greg identify as Creole?
         1. **Jocelyn Delgado:** Not sure how he identifies, but his cooking is heavily Creole inspired

**BILL 70-13 PASSES 35-0-0 (See Appendix II)**

1. Bill 70-13: Professional Headshots
   1. Headshots offered to grad students to use on platforms such as LinkedIn when on the job market.
   2. Headshots this year will be offered for three hours outside (Old Main or Lion Shrine) on three separate days (up to 72 participants per session)
   3. Headshot photographer is Joaquim Diego Santos
      1. Examples of work can be found at <https://jdphotography9734.mypixieset.com/>.
      2. Has headshot experience and interested in Penn State community (takes UPAC and Homecoming pictures)
      3. Also has experience doing photographs under COVID-19 restraints
   4. Tentative photography days will be:
      1. Saturday, February 6, 2021
      2. Friday, March 12, 2021
      3. Sunday, April 4, 2021
   5. Requesting $900 ($100/hour for 9 hours of work)
   6. **Questions**
      1. **Brooke Mattern:** Will the participants sign up in advance?
         1. **Yasha Duggal:** Yes, there will be a Google Form and participants will be asked to show up no more than 15 minutes before their assigned slot.
      2. **Claire Kelling:** Since this is outside and on campus, does it need to be approved by Student Affairs?
         1. **Alex Zhao:** We had a meeting and talked about this, but will check in to see if approval is necessary.
      3. **Ashley Smalls:** Did anyone look into grad student photographers?
         1. **Yasha Duggal**: No, went with Diego because he was highly regarded, is accommodating, and has reasonable rates.
      4. **Hannah Nolte:** February 6th is before students are supposed to be back, so it might affect accessibility for graduate students.
         1. **Yasha Duggal:** We considered that, but wanted to offer a date early since most grad students do seem to be back in the area.
   7. **Discussion**
      1. **Claire Kelling:** This is not $100 per hour because there’s so many hours that gets put in toward editing and sending people their images. This is a very reasonable rate.

**BILL 70-13 PASSES 35-0-0(See Appendix II)**

1. Reports
   1. Speaker of the Assembly – Yasha Duggal
      1. Had a great semester last fall and put on a lot of events in spite of COVID-19 and pandemic restrictions.
      2. Lots of new events planned for this semester and think that we’ll do a great job.
      3. Reminder moving forward that committee chairs should announce their meeting dates and times.
      4. Please find a proxy if you will be absent and let Yasha know if you need to leave early or have Zoom issues.
   2. Advocacy and Diversity – Diego Hernandez
      1. Committee meetings are Wednesdays at 5 PM before Assembly
      2. Three projects
         1. Survey on mental health being sent out tonight or tomorrow – please complete and pass on to constituents.
         2. Broad response to insurrection at the Capitol and then looking at bringing this response to a more local level.
            1. Demanding discussion of safety
            2. Investigation of faculty, staff, and students that potentially participated in the Capitol riot
            3. Asking for answers about racist and homophobic vandalism in Bellefonte
   3. Professional Development – Farhan Sadique
      1. Meet every other Thursday at 5 PM
      2. Discussed Writing Boot Camp – starts next week (Jan. 25th)
      3. Promoting LinkedIn professional workshop to educate students on how to present themselves on LinkedIn.
      4. Working on a few other things as well
   4. Programming – Lauren Katch (subbing for Jocelyn Delgado)
      1. Meetings are biweekly on Mondays from 1-2 PM
   5. Community Outreach – Corey Hoydic (subbing for Katy Gerace)
      1. No meeting yet this semester
      2. Putting together diversity night with speakers from different countries to learn about different cultures.
      3. Clearwater conservancy; looking to see if they need volunteers in the spring.
      4. Meetings will start January 28th and will pass on Zoom info on Slack
   6. Internal Development – Steven Baksa
      1. Had a very busy Fall 2020 semester
      2. Following up with Danny Shaha about anonymous reporting mechanism on the GPSA website.
      3. In discussions with Damon Sims about compensation for Exec Board members (President and VP).
      4. Taking on some new initiatives
         1. Outlining a process in the by-laws for delegate resignation (no current procedure)
         2. Look at the process for appointing people to positions in GPSA, whether delegate or Borough Council.
      5. First meeting will be on Monday, January 25th from 6-7 PM
      6. **Discussion**
         1. **Claire Kelling:** Happy to field suggestions and ideas for revising the nomination/appointment process in GPSA.
2. Liasion Reports
3. Judiciary – The Honorable Emily Lesher (subbing for Schonn Franklin)
   1. Nothing to report
4. Student Truestee – Bryan Culler
5. Advisor – Adam Christensen
   1. Nothing to report, but good to see you all
   2. Know you’ll do good work in the remaining few months
6. Comments for the Good of the Order
   1. **Kade Crittenden:** The NAGPS Northeastern region will be having its conference in February (theme is “Community”).
      1. Looking for speakers and if you’re interested in talking there, let Kade know, he is a representative to the Northeastern NAGPS chapter.
   2. **Yasha Duggal:** For the Climate Action Subcommittee, if you’re interested in joining, let me know today or tomorrow. First meeting is tomorrow at noon.
7. Meeting adjourend at 8:52 PM

**Appendix I**

U= Unexcused Absence E= Excused Absence P= Present L= Late

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Office** | **Name** | **1/20/21** |
| **Executive Board** |  |  |
| President | Alex Zhao | P |
| Vice President | Julia Kelliher | P |
| Secretary | Katie Warczak | P |
| Treasurer | Matthew Billups | P |
| Faculty Senator (Graduate School) | Artemio Cardenas | P |
| Faculty Senator (GPSA Appointed) | Star Sharp | U |
| **Judiciary** |  |  |
| Chief Justice | Schonn Franklin | E |
| Associate Justice | Emily Lesher | P |
| Associate Justice |  |  |
| **Graduate Council** |  |  |
| Graduate Council | Claire Kelling (Science) | P |
| Graduate Council | Arghajeet Saha (Ag. Sci.) | L |
| Graduate Council | Hannah Nolte (Engineering) | P |
| Graduate Council | Nathaniel Schermerhorn (Liberal Arts) | P |
| Graduate Council |  |  |
| **Assembly** |  |  |
| Agricultural Sciences | Mandy Burton | P (Proxy - Artemio Cardenas) |
| Agricultural Sciences | Terry Torres Cruz | P |
| Art & Architecture | Izzy Healey | P |
| Communications | Ashley Smalls | P |
| Earth and Mineral Sciences | Corey Hoydic | P |
| Earth and Mineral Sciences |  |  |
| Eberly College of Science | Lan-Nhi Phung | P |
| Eberly College of Science | Yasha Duggal | P |
| Eberly College of Science | Nico Terry | P |
| Education | Farhan Sadique | P |
| Education | Ali Watts | P |
| Education | Kade Crittenden | P |
| Engineering | Sam Altland | P |
| Engineering |  |  |
| Engineering | Will Searight | P |
| Engineering | Sandeep Krishnakumar | P |
| Engineering | Lauren Katch | P |
| Health and Human Development | Rachel Park | P |
| Health and Human Development | Brooke Mattern | P |
| Information Sciences and Technology | Matt McGee | P |
| Inter-Collegiate Degree Program | Jocelyn Delgado | P |
| Inter-Collegiate Degree Program | Katy Gerace | P |
| Liberal Arts | Lyana Sun Han Chang | P |
| Liberal Arts | Michael Duncan | P |
| Liberal Arts | Diego Hernandez | P |
| Nursing | Sanga Jung | L |
| School of International Affairs | Emefa Abena Yengbe | P |
| School of Law | Emory Robertson | P |
| School of Law | Melanie Ouma | U |
| School of Law | Eli Fields | P |
| Smeal College of Business |  |  |
| At-Large Delegate | Steven Baksa (IGDP) | P |
| At-Large Delegate | Joseph Sengeh (IGDP) | P |
| At-Large Delegate | Ama Agyapong (IGDP) | P |
| At-Large Delegate | Maureen Kahiu (Ag Sciences) | P |
| At-Large Delegate | Niladri Sekhar Mandal | P |
|  | Number of voters in Assembly: | 36 |

**Appendix II**

U= Unexpected Absence E= Excused Absence A= Abstain Y=Yes N= No

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Office** | **Name** | **New Delegate Confirmation** | **Bill 70-12** | **Bill 70-13** |
| **Graduate Council** |  |  |  |  |
| Graduate Council | Claire Kelling (Science) | Y | Y | Y |
| Graduate Council | Arghajeet Saha (Ag. Sci.) | - | - | - |
| Graduate Council | Hannah Nolte (Engineering) | Y | Y | Y |
| Graduate Council | Nathaniel Schermerhorn (Liberal Arts) | Y | Y | Y |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Assembly** |  |  |  |  |
| Agricultural Sciences | Mandy Burton | A | Y | Y |
| Agricultural Sciences | Terry Torres Cruz | Y | Y | Y |
| Art & Architecture | Izzy Healey | Y | Y | Y |
| Communications | Ashley Smalls | Y | Y | Y |
| Earth and Mineral Sciences | Corey Hoydic | Y | Y | Y |
| Earth and Mineral Sciences |  |  |  |  |
| Eberly College of Science | Lan-Nhi Phung | A | Y | Y |
| Eberly College of Science | Yasha Duggal | Y | Y | Y |
| Eberly College of Science | Nico Terry | Y | Y | Y |
| Education | Farhan Sadique | Y | Y | Y |
| Education | Ali Watts | Y | Y | Y |
| Education | Kade Crittenden | Y | Y | Y |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Engineering | Sam Altland | Y | Y | Y |
| Engineering |  |  |  |  |
| Engineering | Will Searight | Y | Y | Y |
| Engineering | Sandeep Krishnakumar | Y | Y | Y |
|  | Lauren Katch | Y | Y | Y |
| Health and Human Development | Rachel Park | A | Y | Y |
| Health and Human Development | Brooke Mattern | N | Y | Y |
| Information Sciences and Technology | Matt McGee | Y | Y | Y |
| Inter-Collegiate Degree Program | Jocelyn Delgado | Y | Y | Y |
| Inter-Collegiate Degree Program | Katy Gerace | Y | - | - |
| Liberal Arts | Lyana Sun Han Chang | A | Y | Y |
| Liberal Arts | Michael Duncan | Y | Y | Y |
| Liberal Arts | Diego Hernandez | N | Y | Y |
| Nursing | Sanga Jung | Y | Y | Y |
| School of International Affairs | Emefa Abena Yengbe | Y | Y | Y |
| School of Law | Emory Robertson | N | Y | Y |
| School of Law | Melanie Ouma | - | - | - |
| School of Law | Eli Fields | N | Y | Y |
| Smeal College of Business | Bristol Gunderson | - | Y | Y |
| At-Large Delegate | Steven Baksa (IGDP) | A | Y | Y |
| At-Large Delegate | Joseph Sengeh (IGDP) | A | Y | Y |
| At-Large Delegate | Ama Agyapong (IGDP) | A | Y | Y |
| At-Large Delegate | Maureen Kahiu (Ag Sciences) | Y | Y | Y |
| At-Large Delegate | Niladri Sekhar Mandal | Y | Y | Y |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Number of voters in Assembly: | 24 | 35 | 35 |
|  | Quorum: | 4 | 0 | 0 |
|  |  | 7 | 0 | 0 |