Graduate and Professional Student Association

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| GPSA 70th Assembly Meeting | Wednesday, February 17, 2021 | 6:00 pm | Zoom meeting |

**Actions Items:**

* The President’s Commission on Racism, Bias, and Community Safety is looking for volunteers for three subcommittees focused on the truth and reconciliation process, anti-racist research, the recruitment and retention of diverse Penn Staters, and accountability for diversity and inclusion initiatives; let Alex Zhao or Damon Sims know if you are interested in being on one of these subcommittees.
* Let Star Sharp or Artemio Cardenas know if there are any issues that should be brought before the Faculty Senate next month.
* The Advocacy and Diversity committee is looking for ways to let incoming graduate assistants know about their rights; contact Eli Fields if you have ideas or suggestions.
* Please share the Graduate Alliance for Diversity and Inclusion (GADI) Stipend Survey (<https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3qIEBYkz64WXdit>) with your constituents; it will be open for another month.
* The GPSA Judiciary Board is considering hosting an informational meeting for those interested in running for GPSA delegate positions on March 4th at 6 PM; let Schonn Franklin know what you would like covered in this meeting.
* The Board of Trustees is meeting on February 18th and 19th; let Bryan Culler know if there are any concerns that should be brought before the Board.
* If you are uncomfortable appearing on the GPSA videos and recordings, let Alex Zhao know.

**Legislation Passed:**

* Bill 70-17: Bangladesh Night 2021 Co-Sponsorship
* Bill 70-18: Writing Bootcamp, Part 2
* Resolution 70-22: Bylaws Amendment (Resignation Process)

**Agenda**

1. Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM
2. Roll Call – See Appendix I
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes from February 3, 2021: Approved
5. Open Student Forum
6. Special Presentation: Dan Murphy, Director, Student Orientation and Transition Programs
   1. Update on Wellness Days Work
      1. Dan and two colleagues are focused on the supportive programming for the individual Wellness Days.
         1. Two remaining days are Thursday, March 11th and Wednesday, April 7th.
      2. Wellness Days designed to approximate the benefits of a break, not replace spring break.
         1. Students, faculty, and staff encouraged to pause to support health and wellness.
         2. Programming offered to create opportunity, not expectation, for participation.
         3. Non-instructional days with the exception of a few programs and classes.
            1. Alternate days of wellness supposed to take place if class activities held on Wellness Days.
      3. University is still open on Wellness Days; some offices busier on Wellness Days because students have time to visit offices.
         1. Staff wanting off have to utilize vacation time
         2. Grad students engaged in research included in Wellness Days
   2. Wellness Days Programming
      1. February 9th focused on financial and occupational wellness
         1. Live sessions recored and archived at wellnessdays.psu.edu
         2. Participation in live events exceeded expectations
      2. March 11th focused on Intellectual and Spiritual Wellness
         1. Asian Religious Responses to COVID-19 panel (Abington)
         2. Anxiety Project (Dr. Bill Doan)
      3. April 7th focused on Physical and Environmental Wellness
         1. Walk Across Pennsylvania (Penn State Extension)
      4. Emotional and Social Wellness foundational themes throughout the spring
      5. Students also encouraged to “do you” on Wellness Days to support their own individual wellness (you know yourselves best).
   3. Supporting Wellness Days
      1. Cancel nonessential meetings
      2. Don’t replace classes with recorded lectures
      3. Additional assignments should not replace canceled class meetings
      4. Major projects/assignments should not be due on or immediately after Wellness Days.
      5. If a Wellness Day can’t be honored, find an alternate date for a Wellness Day.
   4. Reporting info available at wellnessdays.psu.edu if a professor is non-compliant with the Wellness Days schedule.
   5. **Questions and Comments**
      1. **Matt Billups:** How are you planning on getting student feedback from the first Wellness Day?
         1. No plans at the moment, but that’s something I’ll take back to our planning team so we can collect insights moving forward.
      2. **Niladri Sekhar Mandal:** Can Wellness Days encourage students to step away from their computers on these days? Also, I understand the wellnessdays.psu.edu is useful, but could the university communicate more effectively about what students can do on Wellness Days?
         1. Don’t have examples of non-virtual engagement yet because the first Wellness Day took place during the virtual learning period, but we do hope to encourage students to get away from technology in March and April.
         2. In terms of communication, we’ll continue exploring ways we can share announcements – communicated through Canvas, PennStateGo, Penn State Today, and similar outlets last month, but can explore other options.
7. Executive Officer Reports
   1. President – Alex Zhao
      1. Zoombombings during Penn State Events
         1. Generally disappointed that these racist incidents have happened (three total, two in the last week).
         2. Have asked President and Vice President of Student Affairs what they are going to do.
            1. Problem is that it’s far too easy to disrupt these meetings.
            2. University currently investigating all these Zoombombings, but the investigations will take 60-90 days.
      2. Meeting with Board of Trustees Leaders and President Barron
         1. Carbon Taskforce – Corey Hoydic nominated to serve on this committee.
         2. Brought up Resolutions 70-19 and 70-20 from last meeting
            1. PSU not going to interfere with the FBI investigation, but will pass on names and tips; university punishment will only occur after legal proceedings are done.
            2. Severing ties with Jake Corman and Scott Perry unlikely; President Barron said the line in the sand was formal legal challenges.

It’s not in the interest of Penn State to take a side on this issue and/or terminate relationships according to Barron and the Board of Trustees.

Understand the demand, but not going to sever ties.

* + - * 1. Supportive on the homophobic resolution; no place at Penn State for these types of discriminatory Zoombombings.

No indication that PSU students involved, but if they’re found to be involved, the new Student Code of Conduct will be tested.

Damon Sims says there will be more information and statements on these Zoombombings forthcoming.

* + 1. Deans of Graduate School Meeting
       1. Family and Medical Leave Policy
          1. Changes will go into effect at the end of the semester; parental leave policy still being circulated and discussed.
       2. No real updates of interest – nothing on stipends, COVID-19 vaccines, or plans for next semester.
       3. Graduate Exhibition is open for registration and is virtual this year.
    2. LionCash Gift Card Program and Student Emergency Fund
       1. The Student Emergency Fund has distributed about 1300 grants thus far; LionCash program not widely utilized, but will be more publicized going forward.
    3. Student Leadership Roundtable
       1. Zoombombings being investigated by the police; have formal statements from Barron and Sims.
          1. Penn State is tired of these Zoombombings, problem with most recent event ws that it was open to more community members, which increases the risk of Zoombombing.
          2. If your event is intended to be open to the public, recommend scheduling virtual events as webinars to reduce the possibility of Zoombombings.
       2. Update on President’s Commission on Racism, Bias, and Community Safety
          1. Four main recommendations: truth and reconciliation process, anti-racist research/dissemination (scholarly center?), attract and retain diverse Penn Staters, create more accountability in diversity and inclusion initiatives.
          2. Three subcommittees focused on this work – Damon Sims looking for committee volunteers; if you’re interested in being on one of these committees reach out to Alex Zhao or Damon Sims.
       3. President’s Task Froce for Student Code of Conduct
          1. Proposing required conduct modules (anti-racism, anti-discrimination)
          2. Restorative justice process
          3. Code of Conduct revised heavily to address discrimination issues.
  1. Vice President – Julia Kelliher
     1. Review of Code of Conduct – also want to outline public reporting processes that will be published soon.
     2. Two reps from CAPS on mindfulness at next Assembly meeting to address the stress that we are all feeling.
     3. **Questions and Comments**
        1. **Schonn Franklin:** They’re working on revising the Code of Conduct to include restorative justice – who is “they”?
           1. There is a task force on the Board of Trustees tasked with reviewing the Code of Conduct.
  2. Treasurer – Matt Billups
     1. For Bill 70-12 – Virtual Cooking Class; postage for mailing was not included, so Exec Board will cover $22 expense.
        1. Try to include postage costs in future bills
     2. $33,000 still available for events this fiscal year; some bills upcoming that will decrease this amount, but continue hosting great events in virtual settings so we can support students and use our funds appropriately.
  3. 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 newswire tomorrow, please submit any event announcements or graphics by noon.
  4. Faculty Senate – Star Sharp
     1. No updates, will not meet until March.
     2. Let Star or Artemio know if there are any issues that should be brought before the Faculty Senate next month.
  5. Graduate Council – Claire Kelling
     1. Grad Council met today
     2. Graduate Student Faculty Issues Committee
        1. Ombudsprogram will get started; the application for ombudspositions will go out in a few weeks.
           1. Encourage faculty who are good grad student allies to apply for these positions.
        2. Will likely see more flexibility in remote exams when things go back to normal; something this committee is exploring.
        3. Doing some benchmarking for family leave polices both at Penn State and other schools.
           1. 4 weeks is the standard, but most on the committee see that as too little; elsewhere 6 weeks seems to be the standard.
     3. Dean of Graduate School condemned the Zoombombing
     4. Graduate Exhibition applications now open
     5. Academic Policies
        1. Qualifying exam retakes – determined by departments, not the Grad School
     6. Updates to Professional Master’s Program
        1. Will post in Professional Student Caucus Slack channel
        2. Up for discussion this month and voted on next month, so student feedback is needed
     7. **Questions and Comments**
        1. **Alex Zhao:** What’s going on with the qualifying exam retakes?
           1. Now retake timelines have to be included in handbooks; timelines have to be documented publicly, which was not the case beforehand.

1. Bill 70-17: Bangladesh Night 2021 Co-Sponsorship
   1. The Bangladesh Student Association (BSA) is the Penn State organization officially representing Bangladeshi students at the university and has hosted an annual Bangladesh Night for six years.
      1. Bangladesh Night is a celebration of Bangladeshi culture through a night of music, dance, poetry, drama, and Bangladeshi food. This event will have pre-recorded and live professional artist’s performances.
   2. To attend Bangladesh Night and eat food, attendees will need to pre-register.
      1. Food will be delivered from Ghorer Khabar in Virginia (no local Bangladeshi food options)
   3. Grad students will be invited to volunteer to perform and/or deliver food door to door.
   4. This bill would make GPSA a co-sponsor of Bangladesh Night.
   5. This bill requests $3,000 for covering the cost of food and the artist honorarium.
   6. **Questions** 
      1. **Claire Kelling:** Have you gone to UPAC for funds?
         1. Yes, yes we have, but to get UPAC funding we would need to delay the event 2-3 weeks; if we can’t get the funding, we’ll cancel the event this year.
      2. **Claire Kelling:** If we didn’t fund the artist honorarium, do you have the funds for that?
         1. We don’t have a lot of funds as a group, so probably not, but have some volunteers that can take the place of the artist.
      3. **Claire Kelling:** How is the organization currently planning on funding the portion of the honoraria that they’re covering?
         1. Usually sell tickets, but since it’s online this year, not sure if will sell enough tickets to pay for it; in which case, the artist wouldn’t come.
      4. **Claire Kelling:** Will there still be performances even if an artist doesn’t perform live?
         1. Yes, there was a recorded program last year and we can do that this year using volunteers as well.
   7. **Discussion**
      1. **Claire Kelling:** Concerned about this organization coming to GPSA for honoraria funds since this is what UPAC is designed to cover; GPSA is supposed to be supplementary, not primary. Concerned about the precedent this would set. UPAC can’t cover food, so happy to cover that, but think the honoraria portion should have been funded by UPAC, not GPSA. My opinion is that this artist honorarium should be struck from this bill, especially since there are altnerate entertainment options.
      2. Motion made to strike artist honorarium for the bill; seconded; withdrawn.
      3. Motion made to adjust the total amount of money requested from GPSA.
         1. Total amount requested from GPSA reduced to $2450
      4. **Niladri Sekhar Mandal:** Because of COVID-19 and because of funding difficulties, could we consider an exception?
      5. **Alex Zhao:** You mentioned the Bangladesh Student Association had a few thousand in funds, but would you still be able to get the artist because we wouldn’t have fully funded the honoraria even if it was kept on the bill?
         1. **Farhan Sadique:** $1200 a lot of money for BSA, so don’t think they’d be able to pay for the whole thing; could pay $650 toward the honoraria, but want to keep some in savings.
      6. **Sanga Jung:** I think it’s a great event that would bring more diversity to State College and University Park, but I’m not sure if artist honoraria is that pertinent to this event, especially since it’s happning virtually. Feel this artist budget is pretty significant given what the event is.
      7. **Nico Terry:** Move to change the amount specified in line 6 to match the amount specified in line 15; seconded.
         1. Line 7 also deleted to remove mention of artist honorarium.
      8. **Yasha Duggal:** Do we need to change the amount in the co-sponsorship form too?
         1. **Alex Zhao:** I think that’s a supplemental form, right Schonn?
         2. **Schonn Franklin:** Yes

**BILL 70-17 PASSES 34-0-0 (See Appendix II)**

1. Bill 70-18: Writing Bootcamp, Part 2
   1. Previously the Assembly passed Bill 70-10 to fund lunch for 20 participants during each week of the writing bootcamp; however, this event has been more successful than anticipated. Bill 70-18 increases the number of slots from 20 participants to 60 per weekly session and provides funds for lunch for them.
   2. List of restaurants expanded as well because many businesses have reduced hours due to COVID-19.
      1. Week 1 Catered by Little Szechuan, $15 per lunch
      2. Week 2 Catered by BRGR, $15 per lunch
      3. Week 3 Catered by Karma, $15 per lunch
      4. Week 4 Catered by Cozy Thai, $15 per lunch
      5. Week 5 Catered by Indian Pavilion, $15 per lunch
      6. Week 6 Catered by Café Alina, $15 per lunch
      7. Alternative restaurant: Irving, Snaps Pizza.
   3. Total of $3,600 requested.
   4. **Questions** 
      1. **Alex Zhao:** What is the 40 additional spaces based on? Demand? People reaching out? And is it going to be in one big Zoom room? It feels like it will be harder to keep the small session feel with 60 people.
         1. Initial plan is to have all 60 people together for the speakers. We’re opening the bootcamp to more people based on demand and how many people we were turning away.
         2. Could potentially split the sessions into two 30-people spaces.
   5. **Discussion**
      1. **Claire Kelling:** Should think about this event in a larger student fee spending context – total spending about $7500, which is about 12.4% of budget and doesn’t impact a huge amount of people (per student cost about $90).
         1. Take-out event got a lot of criticism for not benefiting students; total amount of spending about the same, but take-out days benefited about 350 students compared to Bootcamp’s 80 students.
         2. Virtual nature of event fundamentally changes the bootcamp; also having food takes away from the event because participants have to leave home to get food and return.
            1. Food takes away from writing
         3. Already funded 20 people for the next session, doesn’t mean that additional 40 people can’t come, just not get the food.
         4. No rush to get through the GPSA budget since we can use it in better ways or return it to the Student Fee Board.
         5. Would recommend encouraging more people to participate, but without the food since the writing rather than the eating is the point of this event.
      2. **Yasha Duggal:** I understand what you’re saying, but we didn’t do this in the fall, so this opens up opportunities for people who couldn’t attend in the fall. I think having food is a good perk; we’re advertising the writing and the speakers, not the food. And who criticized the take-out nights?
         1. **Claire Kelling:** Got a lot of criticism on social media and in our Gmail; more than I’d ever seen.
      3. **Argha Saha:** Agree with Claire that the point of this event is to have writing time; also, these places are expensive with a $15 order minimum. Maybe redirect money to restaurants with lower costs.
      4. **Alex Zhao:** Per lunch quantity amount is roughly in line with what we’ve spent in previous years (last year spent $12, but working exclusively with Irving’s and they were delivering to only one place).
         1. Metric of students impacted on a per dollar basis not the best one for determining value.
         2. Have reached dozens if not hundreds of students with low cost events.
         3. Bootcamps in previous years have been high cost; used to charge a registration fee, but came to see the fee as unnecessary.
            1. GPSA has increasingly taken on the burden of cost for this event.
         4. Have concerns about putting everyone in a single Zoom room, but cost is in line with what we’ve spent in the past.
      5. **Claire Kelling:** The interest without food is significant, that means people want the Bootcamp without the lunch.
         1. Don’t think the not hosting during the fall really factors in; virtual event is very different.
         2. In previous years, there was a benefit of offering food becuase no one wants to sit in the library for four hours without food.
         3. Let’s have those 40 people come, but don’t provide $90 per student for lunch, it’s not responsible spending.
      6. **Steven Baksa:** Two points:
         1. We can’t spend money on students because impact is so low, but if we felt that, we wouldn’t have approved food in the first place and in the first bill.
         2. If truly concerned about the price of the meals, maybe we can look at alternatives.
      7. **Farhan Sadique:** Many restaurants are out of business or have odd hours due to COVID-19, so tried to stick with local restaurants as much as possible. If there are recommendations, we’ll take them!
         1. Lots of people showed interest and it showed a good motivation for people, so wanted to put everyone under the same umbrella, but can go with some people getting the food and others not getting the food.
      8. **Ali Watts:** Agree it may not be fiscally responsible, but life is pretty miserable right now and many people feel like the university doesn’t care about them. This could be a gesture of institutional caring that could be meaningful for some folks. In some ways, not just a meal, also a recognition and instance of being seen by the university and GPSA.
      9. **Izzy Healey:** People have brought up good points, but maybe a compromise is offering lunch during certain weeks (Week #3 and #6), so participants get that moral and motivation, but also decrease the cost.
      10. **Alex Zhao:** If it came to it, could you split the sessions so that one is on Tuesday and the other on Monday or something? Easy to get lost in the crowd in a 60-person session. Would also help people unable to come on Monday because of class or other commitments.
          1. **Farhan Sadique:** We have a great team and am sure we’d be able to run two sessions.
      11. **Ama Agyapong:** An assumption being made is that people are leaving their homes to purchase their food; but because most of these restaurants are on GrubHub, what if students got food via this service?
          1. **Farhan Sadique:** Delivery is an extra cost and we wanted to work directly with local businesses.
      12. **Ama Agyapong:** Maybe this goes back to the restaurants on the list, perhaps we could factor in a delivery option so participants don’t have to take time away from writing to go get food.
      13. **Claire Kelling:** When it’s in person, food is a good motivator to come, but that motivation clearly isn’t needed here. As for a gesture of institutional caring, I’m all for that and if people want to do that, let’s do more takeout nights so more students benefit from the funds and writing isn’t interrupted.
          1. Funding every other week would also be a good option for the bootcamp since it would decrease the cost while still showing care and providing incentive.
      14. **Argha Saha:** Izzy’s point is a really good one and GrubHub changes its delivery costs for each restaurant, so that is hard to calculate. Strongly in support of Izzy’s suggestion.
      15. **Nico Terry:** Don’t quite see how having a food option implies people are using bootcamp time to get food; if they have a voucher or gift card, they can get food whenever, not during the event.
      16. **Steven Baksa:** Someone made the point about how if we spend money here, we can’t spend money on take-out nights, which is a false choice. I think we can do both.
      17. **Artemio Cardenas:** We can do both, engagement right now is really difficult. This is an easy way to engage with students and show care via the bootcamp.
      18. **Farhan Sadique:** Don’t know if we want to go to GrubHub or Yelp or the like because then the money goes straight to those companies rather than the local businesses. Plus, GrubHub gift card minimum is $25, which is a problem.
      19. **Claire Kelling:** So with the first session, has any communication about weekly meals taken place?
          1. **Farhan Sadique:** For session #1, told them that meal was provided, but haven’t said anything about food for session #2.
      20. **Claire Kelling:** Motion to cut the spending in half and provide food every other week; seconded.
          1. “every week” changed to “every other week” on line 4. No changes to restaurant list.
          2. Objection to changing the bill at all.
             1. 2/3 vote needed to override the motion
             2. **OBJECTION OVERRIDEN 9-18-3 (See Appendix II)**
      21. **Nico Terry:** No longer clear how vouchers will be distributed or what restaurant the vouchers are for.
      22. **Julia Kelliher:** Claire had said half the people could get Week #1 restaurant and the other half Week #2.
      23. **Nico Terry:** Propose the weeks be split into options
          1. “Participants can choose between the following options for vouchers for Session 2:”
          2. Line 18 changed to “40 participants, six weeks, one day per alternating week”
          3. Line added between “Week 6” and “Alternative restaurants”
      24. **Steven Baksa:** Object based on the wording of the bill depriving the 40 students of potential meals.
      25. **Julia Kelliher:** Cost reduction previously occurred under Claire’s motion, so you are objecting to the wording?
          1. Objection withdrawn.
      26. **Sandeep Krishnakumar:** Should we also be changing the wording on line 12?
          1. **Alex Zhao:** Each week will technically start with a lunch, but it will be different people getting the lunch.
      27. **Niladri Sekhar Mandal:** Is it awkward to have GPSA fund 20 lunches and then 40 lunches?
          1. **Farhan Sadique:** 20-person bill has already passed, but with this 40-person bill can do 20 people one week and 20 for another week.

**BILL 70-18 PASSES 32-2-0 (See Appendix II)**

1. Resolution 70-21: Bylaws Amendment (Recording and Publicizing of Meetings)
   1. Given that an increasing number of meetings are being held over Zoom and both the Judiciary and Exec Board have policies and powers for publicizing meetings, but there is no equivalent for the General Assembly.
   2. Recommended that Article VIII, Sections A-D of the GPSA Bylaws be revised.
      1. Current Section B deleted and changed to “Assembly meetings shall be recorded and made open to the public, except for interviews, discussions, and votes for presidential nominations. The Assembly, with two-thirds majority vote, may move specific sections of the meeting into closed executive session.”
      2. “two (2) academic days” notice in Section C changed to “48 hours.”
   3. **Questions**
      1. **Nico Terry:** What’s going on with the extra space between “policies” and “and”?
         1. **Steven Baksa:** That’s a typo.
      2. **Bristol Gunderson:** How long will these meetings be available online?
         1. **Steven Baksa:** That’s a good question, we don’t have that policy outlined, but we could make a change to be more specific.
      3. **Claire Kelling:** So we will record meetings even once we go back to in-person?
         1. **Steven Baksa:** Possibly
         2. **Alex Zhao:** I think UPUA records their meetings and they pay a decent amount for professional recording.
         3. **Yasha Duggal:** Can always rent a camera from the library.
      4. **Matt Billups:** This doesn’t specify the removal process of certain sections in the video, would that be an editing thing and who is responsible?
         1. **Steven Baksa:** Not specified, but something to discuss.
      5. **Bristol Gunderson:** I knew our meetings were being recorded, but didn’t realize our meetings were posted publicly, what is the purpose of recording and what elements of our meeting need to be disclosed?
         1. **Alex Zhao:** The main aim is transparency, I’ve resorted to posting the entire video, but if this passes, I would task Natalie DeSouza with editing out portions of the meeting.
            1. I will make sure current recordings are consistent with this policy too, if it passes.
      6. **Katie Warczak:** How do meeting minutes facotr into this? Are those of concern or is this irrelevant?
         1. **Alex Zhao:** During closed executive session, no notes taken or recordings taken.
      7. **Bristol Gunderson:** Is this a response to COVID-19? This seems like a more significant shift compared to past policy since recording hadn’t previously been considered.
         1. **Alex Zhao:** Just became a default policy to post the meetings for transparency purposes, but even if we don’t record every meeting, this specification about the closed executive session, minutes, and recordings is still useful.
      8. **Claire Kelling:** Started to record the special presentations right before COVID-19; recording is something that has been considered
      9. **Hannah Nolte:** How do we accommodate people who can’t be recorded for personal or legal reasons?
         1. **Alex Zhao:** Can you clarify what you mean?
         2. **Hannah Nolte:** Some people don’t like being recorded or are in Witness Protection and shouldn’t be recorded, how do we allow these people to continue participating in GPSA?
         3. **Yasha Duggal:** Recording going forward a good idea for transparency reasons and could ask for consent at the beginning of delegates’ terms or just have the video focused on the Exec Board.
      10. **Sandeep Krishnakumar:** There are ways besides recording to increase GPSA’s transparency; UPUA works with *Onward State* so they publish an article after each UPUA meeting, so if the aim is to increase transparency, there are other more practical and accessible ways to do it since we have meetings that last hours and it’s unlikely people will sit down and watch our whole video.
   4. **Discussion**
      1. **Claire Kelling:** There’s still a lot to figure out about this, so until we figure this out, maybe we should take down the YouTube videos currently posted if there’s not a conflict.
      2. **Motion to table this until the next meeting; seconded.**
         1. **Objection**
         2. **Steven Baksa:** Can’t we introduce amendments to make this bill better? Bring motions to change the bill, don’t send it back to committee.
         3. **Claire Kelling:** I think there are so many concerns here, including legal concerns, that I think it’stoo much to handle in this meeting, especially since we are 2.5 hours in.
         4. **OBJECTION OVERRIDEN 30-2-2 (See Appendix II)**

**RESOLUTION 70-21 TABLED UNTIL NEXT MEETING**

1. Resolution 70-22: Bylaws Amendment (Resignation Process)
   1. The GPSA does not currently have a formal resignation process outlined in its governing documents and this Bylaws Amendment would implement one.
      1. Article I, Section L added to read “In order to resign, a member of the GPSA should notify the President in addition to the Speaker, Chief Justice, or the Graduate Council Student Caucus Chair for assembly delegates, judiciary members and Graduate Council Student Caucus members, respectively. The resignation should be timely, in writing, and specify when the member is resigning. Resignations should be announced at the next assembly meeting.”
   2. **Questions**
      1. **Niladri Sekhar Mandal:** So do you have to notify everyone on that list if you’re resigning?
         1. **Claire Kelling:** No, just the people associated with your position.
      2. **Steven Baksa:** Do we need to relabel the sections?
         1. **Claire Kelling:** No, “L” is the last section.
   3. **Discussion**
      1. **Alex Zhao:** I asked Internal Development about this; people resign from GPSA, but sometimes they don’t tell you until you ask if they’re coming to the next meeting, say nothing at all, or do something else. This is to formalize the process so we know when resignations occur.
      2. **Ali Watts:** What happens if the Speaker, Chief Justice, or other leaders resign?
         1. **Claire Kelling:** Not clear, but should notify the president. Can add that in.
      3. **Niladri Sekhar Mandal:** What about a timeline for resignation?
         1. **Claire Kelling:** Unfortunately, none of this is enforceable, so we left it to be pretty broad.
      4. **Alex Zhao:** By the structure of the first sentence, if you’re one of the leaders, you inform yourself and the President if you’re resigning. Basically, you can notify yourself of your resignation if you’re one of the leaders specified in the resolution.

**RESOLUTION 70-22 PASSES 34-0-0 (See Appendix II)**

1. Reports
   1. Speaker of the Assembly – Yasha Duggal
      1. Three Assembly meetings left in our terms and seems like we’re going to end on a very positive note.
      2. Try to find a proxy if you know you can’t come or will be late.
      3. Advertise events to constituencies
   2. Advocacy and Diversity – Diego Hernandez (Eli Fields)
      1. Working on a resolution for the Zoombombings and the university’s response.
      2. Talking about what we can do beyond passing resolutions for building support for our peers.
      3. Discussing how we can better serve students with disabilities.
         1. Reached out and talked to Student Disability Resources
         2. Looking for ways to let incoming graduate assistants about their rights.
            1. If ideas, email Eli at [emf5608@psu.edu](mailto:emf5608@psu.edu)
   3. Professional Development – Farhan Sadique
      1. New bill for Professional Headshots because first bill has filled up; looking to hire some more photography students and propose a new bill.
      2. Working on a mentoring porgram
      3. New support for post-Ph.D. students
   4. Programming - Jocelyn Delgado (Lan-Nhi Phung)
      1. In the process of registering people for Grad Cup, Pottery Night, and Coffee Hour
      2. Please spread the word about these events; up on social media, so share that way as well as through email.
      3. Working on trivia and mocktail night bills to present to the Assembly soon.
   5. Community Outreach – Katy Gerace
      1. Nothing to report
      2. Looking to partner and perhaps do a take-out night, so there might be some legislation on that.
      3. **Questions and Comments**
         1. **John Luc Legrand:** Is there a way to more easily distribute our information about events to constituents?
            1. **Alex Zhao:** I’ll add you to our newsletter mailing list.
   6. Internal Development – Steven Baksa
      1. After talking with Adam Christensen and Danny Shaha about the available reporting mechanisms, circulated the UW template, and conversations will go forward.
      2. Still looking into executive compensation and funding sources.
      3. Newsletter finalized and will be distributed soon.
      4. Will continue fine-tuning the by-laws about recording meetings and Constitutional amendments for nominating delegates.
      5. Working on formalizing the Climate Action Subcommittee as either a subcommittee or a standalone committee.
2. Liasion Reports
   1. Lyana Sun Han Chang – Graduate Alliance for Diversity and Inclusion
      1. Launched stipend survey last month to advocate for transparency and equity in grad student funding; will produce a report afterward.
      2. Hoping this report will help students advocate for themslevs and provide recommnedations to departments.
      3. Will be open for another month – please share widely
   2. Alex Zhao – Student Transportation Committee
      1. ZipCar replaced Enterprise Rideshare
      2. Trying to replace bikes with a micromobility platform; pushed back as a result of the pandemic.
      3. STORM fund from excess student parking fees to finance micromobility initiatives.
3. Judiciary – The Honorable Schonn Franklin
   1. Nothing to report other than election dates this year will be April 5th and 6th
   2. Intent to run form opens on March 8th
   3. Judiciary Board considering hosting an interest meeting on March 4th at 6 PM – looking for input on what people would like covered
      1. Talk about different positions, committees, events
4. Student Trustee – Bryan Culler
   1. Board of Trustees meeting tomorrow and Friday, so if there are any concerns you would like brought before the Board, get in touch with Bryan.
   2. Student Trustee Selection
      1. Selection Committee chosen; full group will be participating in anti-bias and discrimination training tomorrow.
      2. Student Trustee applications close on Friday
   3. Board of Trustees 2025 Diversity Goal
      1. Misunderstanding a few weeks ago, the Board of Trustees is still striving for that goal, and will hopefully have updates after this next meeting.
5. Advisor – Adam Christensen
   1. Know there are some feelings of frustration and want to expand on this because I don’t think I said enough at the last meeting.
      1. Tried to get Damon Sims to speak tonight, but didn’t work in his schedule (hopefully he can come in before the end of the Assembly).
      2. Administration does pay attention to GPSA resolutions; sometimes administrators ask Adam about resolutions before he has told them about the resolutions.
      3. Your conversations are extremely important to the university
      4. There will be frustrating times, and we’re in one now, so hang in there; you’re listened to and there are individuals who support you and your demands.
         1. The administration isn’t a monolith.
         2. Run for an Exec Board or delegate position if you’re considering it; what you’re doing is essential work in spite of feelings of frustration and discouragement.
      5. Please be encouraged and stay engaged and hopefully I’ll see some familiar faces in the next Assembly.
6. Comments for the Good of the Order
   1. **Niladri Sekhar Mandal:** Some of the recorded meetings are on YouTube and there are others on the GPSA website.
      1. **Alex Zhao:** There are some videos on the Facebook page that I don’t know how to remove, but I’ll ask Natalie to double check and remove meeting videos.
         1. **Natalie DeSouza** made the YouTube videos private already.
         2. If you’re uncomfortable being on video, please let Alex know, but he would like our specieal presentations to be online.
   2. **Niladri Sekhar Mandal:** The links are also on our GPSA page though.
      1. **Alex Zhao:** Yes, but those link to the YouTube videos, which are set to private.
7. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM

**Appendix I**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Office** | **Name** | **2/17/21** |
| **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 | P |
| **Judiciary** |  |  |
| Chief Justice | Schonn Franklin | P |
| Associate Justice | Emily Lesher | P |
| Associate Justice |  |  |
| **Graduate Council** |  |  |
| Graduate Council | Claire Kelling (Science) | P |
| Graduate Council | Arghajeet Saha (Ag. Sci.) | P |
| Graduate Council | Hannah Nolte (Engineering) | P |
| Graduate Council | Nathaniel Schermerhorn (Liberal Arts) | P |
| Graduate Council | Ali Watts | P |
| **Assembly** |  |  |
| Agricultural Sciences | Mandy Burton | E |
| 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 |  |  |
| Education | Kade Crittenden | E |
| 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 | E |
| Inter-Collegiate Degree Program | Katy Gerace | P |
| Liberal Arts | Lyana Sun Han Chang | P |
| Liberal Arts | Michael Duncan | P |
| Liberal Arts | Diego Hernandez | P (Proxy) |
| Nursing | Sanga Jung | P |
| School of International Affairs | Emefa Abena Yengbe | P |
| School of Law | Emory Robertson | P |
| School of Law | John Luc Legrand | L |
| School of Law | Eli Fields | P |
| Smeal College of Business | Bristol Gunderson | P |
| 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: | 35 |

**Appendix II**

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Bill 70-17 | Bill 70-18 Objection | Bill 70-18 | Resolution 70-21 Objection | Resolution 70-21 | Resolution 70-22 |
| **Graduate Council** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Graduate Council | Claire Kelling (Science) | Y | N | Y | Y | TABLED | Y |
| Graduate Council | Arghajeet Saha (Ag. Sci.) | Y | N | Y | Y |  | Y |
| Graduate Council | Hannah Nolte (Engineering) | Y | E | E | Y |  | Y |
| Graduate Council | Nathaniel Schermerhorn (Liberal Arts) | Y | N | Y | Y |  | Y |
| Graduate Council | Ali Watts | Y | N | Y | Y |  | Y |
| **Assembly** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Agricultural Sciences | Mandy Burton | E | E | E | E |  | E |
| Agricultural Sciences | Terry Torres Cruz | Y | N | Y | Y |  | Y |
| Art & Architecture | Izzy Healey | Y | N | Y | Y |  | Y |
| Communications | Ashley Smalls | Y | N | Y | Y |  | Y |
| Earth and Mineral Sciences | Corey Hoydic | Y | N | Y | Y |  | Y |
| Earth and Mineral Sciences |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Eberly College of Science | Lan-Nhi Phung | Y | N | Y | Y |  | Y |
| Eberly College of Science | Yasha Duggal | Y | N | Y | Y |  | Y |
| Eberly College of Science | Nico Terry | Y | N | Y | Y |  | Y |
| Education | Farhan Sadique | Y | Y | Y | A |  | Y |
| Education |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Education | Kade Crittenden | E | E | E | E |  | E |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Engineering | Sam Altland | Y | Y | N | N |  | Y |
| Engineering |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Engineering | Will Searight | Y | A | Y | Y |  | Y |
| Engineering | Sandeep Krishnakumar | Y | N | Y | Y |  | Y |
|  | Lauren Katch | Y | N | Y | Y |  | Y |
| Health and Human Development | Rachel Park | Y | U | Y | Y |  | Y |
| Health and Human Development | Brooke Mattern | Y | N | Y | Y |  | Y |
| Information Sciences and Technology | Matt McGee | Y | Y | Y | Y |  | Y |
| Inter-Collegiate Degree Program | Jocelyn Delgado | E | E | E | E |  | E |
| Inter-Collegiate Degree Program | Katy Gerace | Y | Y | Y | Y |  | Y |
| Liberal Arts | Lyana Sun Han Chang | Y | N | Y | Y |  | Y |
| Liberal Arts | Michael Duncan | Y | N | Y | Y |  | Y |
| Liberal Arts | Diego Hernandez | Y | A | Y | A |  | Y |
| Nursing | Sanga Jung | Y | U | Y | Y |  | Y |
| School of International Affairs | Emefa Abena Yengbe | Y | Y | Y | Y |  | Y |
| School of Law | Emory Robertson | Y | N | Y | E |  | E |
| School of Law | Eli Fields | Y | A | Y | Y |  | Y |
| School of Law | John Luc Legrand | U | U | Y | Y |  | Y |
| Smeal College of Business | Bristol Gunderson | Y | N | Y | Y |  | Y |
| At-Large Delegate | Steven Baksa (IGDP) | Y | Y | N | N |  | Y |
| At-Large Delegate | Joseph Sengeh (IGDP) | Y | Y | Y | Y |  | Y |
| At-Large Delegate | Ama Agyapong (IGDP) | Y | N | Y | Y |  | Y |
| At-Large Delegate | Maureen Kahiu (Ag Sciences) | Y | Y | Y | Y |  | Y |
| At-Large Delegate | Niladri Sekhar Mandal | Y | Y | Y | Y |  | Y |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Yes | 34 | 9 | 32 | 30 |  | 34 |
|  | No | 0 | 18 | 2 | 2 |  | 0 |
|  | Abstain | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 |  | 0 |