Graduate and Professional Student Association

The Pennsylvania State University 315 HUB-Robeson Center University Park, PA 16802 Email: gpsaoffice@gmail.com

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

**Action Items:**

* Complete the 71st GPSA Assembly [Intent-to-Run Form](https://gpsa.psu.edu/elections/) by March 26th if you want to be part of the next Assembly. Also encourage other graduate and professional students to run for delegate and representative positions.
* Let President Alex Zhao know if there are any issues that should be brought up in his March 18th meeting with Dr. Ades.
* Contact Star Sharp and Claire Kelling if you have suggestions for the 2021-22 Graduate Council agenda.
* Let Claire Kelling know if the Graduate Council’s proposed plan for dual-title and graduate minor credits would affect you or your constituents.

 **Legislation Passed:**

* Sam Altland confirmed as new Associate Justice
* Bill 70-24: Remote Chocolate Tasting
* Resolution 70-27: Bylaws Amendment (Climate Action Subcommittee)

**Agenda**

1. Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM
2. Roll Call – See Appendix I
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes from March 3, 2021: Approved
5. Open Student Forum
6. Special Presentation: Marcus Whitehurst, Vice Provost, Office of Educational Equity
	1. History
		1. Established at PSU in 1990 as a response to student demonstrations in 1988; members of student governments and Black Caucus took over the Communications builiding and asked for an office to promote equity and inclusion on campus.
		2. Goal is to serve as a catalyst and advocate for Penn State’s diversity and inclusion initiatives.
	2. Current Projects
		1. Works with the Office of Veterans Programs, Student Disability Resources, and the Multicultural Resource Center to provide resources and outreach.
			1. Also hve a scholars program dedicated to recruiting both graduate and undergraduate students to the university with full academic scholarships; designed to supplement the diverse student body.
		2. Works. with President Barron on his equity commissions for women, LGBTQ+ communities, and racial inclusion.
		3. Have faculty mentors at the office who bring experience in supporting diverse faculty; provide resources and outreach for junior faculty negotiating the tenure-track process.
			1. Also have some funds to support faculty’s scholarship efforts (conferences and similar trips).
		4. Works closely with the Graduate School to provide resources and outreach to graduate and professional students.
			1. Offer graduate assistantships in the office and affiliated programs.
		5. **Questions**
			1. **Eli Fields:** In the interest of making sure the university is a welcoming place for all students, are there any sensitivity or inclusion trainings we could point our colleagues to?
				1. In the process of looking into a university-wide training on implicit bias.

President Barron has tasked the office with looking into this type of training and to find suitable options.

Hopefully, will have more concrete information to report in the months to come.

* + - 1. **Nico Terry:** Is there any particular approach your office has found effective since the people who most need the trainings are also the least likely to attend them?
				1. That’s a great point, so want to take this initiative seriously because there are a number of employees at the university who would not attend a training on bias.
				2. Want to look at orientation and onboarding of employees, we think there’s room for us to add in some of that type of training there.
				3. Also looking at implementing such trainings when a person is interested in serving on a search committee.
				4. Considering a training module in the required compliance training session.

In the annual review, could potentially look at issues or results from a training module.

* + - * 1. Also need to consider the unique circumstances of the STEM departments.
1. Executive Officer Reports
	1. President – Alex Zhao
		1. If you intend to continue being part of GPSA’s 71st Assembly, you need to declare your intention to run by the end of next week.
			1. Please also encourage other graduate and professional students to run.
			2. Going to need a lot of student voices and advocacy next year, especially as the university works to re-open in the fall.
		2. Meeting with Dr. Ades
			1. Meeting tomorrow, let Alex know if there are issues that should be brought to her.
		3. Professional Student Committee
			1. Had a productive meeting on Monday about addressing professional students’ concerns.
		4. **Questions**
			1. **Hannah Nolte:** I’ve heard from some of my constituents that PSU is vaccinating TAs, do we have additional information on this?
				1. As stated by Penn State itself, TAs are considered part of Phase 1B, we’re classifed as education workers. My understanding is that Pennsylvania is trying to get all of Phase 1A scheduled for vaccines by March 31st.
				2. Educational workers can register for vaccines at <https://www.pennstatehealth.org/coronavirus/vaccine>.
				3. Hoping that in April, vaccinations will arrive.
			2. **Lan-Nhi Phung:** Just want to clarify the role of TAs since I have a lot of constituents who aren’t currently TAs, but will be in the fall, so how do we deal with that?
				1. Not sure, guessing anyone who will be working with students can be treated as TAs.
				2. Will try to get more guidance from the Graduate School.
			3. **Nico Terry:** My understanding of the guidelines is that they’re intentionally phased so that if you won’t have student contact until May you won’t be a vaccination priority; skirting that intent seems questionable.
				1. Will get clarification either way.
			4. **Claire Kelling:** Worst case, I think everyone should be eligible by May 1st and therefore would be vaccinated by the Fall.Quote from PSU: "Education workers who are in contact with students would be eligible in phase 1B, including faculty and staff members who are in contact with students, as well as undergraduate and graduate students who help provide instructional, health-related or other services to students." If they are RAs that advise undergrad students, I think they are eligible.
	2. Vice President – Julia Kelliher
		1. Penn State didn’t seem aware of TAs getting vaccinated.
			1. **Claire Kelling:** Yes, they were available via Penn State Health, but that was a blip.
		2. Mental Health Taskforce Workgroup
			1. Met with Dr. Ades and CAPS to discuss options and suggestion to pass on to the administration.
			2. Overall theme is that graduate and professional students are experiencing isolation, depression, anxiety, and feeling overworked.
				1. Expressed a desire for faculty to have more sensitivity training, empathy, oversight for milestone exams, more counselors of color, and closer parking.
			3. Dr. Ades interested in using seed money to implement mental health and wellness initiatives in grad programs.
			4. Ades also holding training sessions with faculty; not a large gropu, but can hopefully be expanded.
				1. Also interested in mentee training.
		3. Meeting with University Leadership
			1. Carbon Neutrality Taskforce selection is ongoing
		4. Sexual Misconduct Survey from 2018 results being discussed; results about the same as 2015; major offenses down, minor ones up.
		5. Fall 2021
			1. In-person instruction dependent on the 6-foot distancing measure being relaxed by the state, otherwise not enough space.
			2. Provost Jones and President Barron said all of Resolution 70-24: Response to Racist Attack Towards Black Student Caucus’s asks were being implemented.
			3. No clear word on town hall, but will continue pushing with Provost Jones.
			4. Hoping to make a dashboard to report racial incidents in real time; already reported annually.
		6. Penn State President Search
			1. 1-2 grad students will be on the search committee, at least one will be from GPSA.
		7. **Questions**
			1. **Star Sharp:** Is Dr. Ades offering any of these workshops for grad students that want to be more abreast of best practices when teaching undergraduate?
				1. Didn’t specifically mention mentoring undergraduates for graduate students, but something to look into.
			2. **Nico Terry:** Clarification, the serious offenses decreased from 2015 to 2018 and the minor offenses increased, or vice versa?
				1. Yes, the major offenses decreased and the minor ones increased; **Adam Christensen** can speak more to this in his report if he wants.
			3. **Ali Watts:** The mentoring webinars are available here if anyone wants to watch: <https://keepteaching.psu.edu/webinars/recorded/>.
	3. Treasurer – Matt Billups
		1. Some back-up at the ASA office, but Bootcamp, Irving’s, and Coffee Hour invoices have been proceesed.
	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 newswire tomorrow, please submit any event announcements or graphics by noon.
	5. Faculty Senate – Star Sharp
		1. University Planning Committee discussed a lot, more information to come.
		2. Faculty Senate went more or less back to normal yesterday, discussed a lot of housekeeping items.
		3. One big item was the Grad Council agenda for the next year, so if you have ideas about what the Grad Council should address, let Star know.
	6. Faculty Senate – Artemio Cardenas
		1. In relation to COVID-19 testing, there was a question about departure testing and currently the university has no intention to do this testing. If needed, they can implement it quickly, but no intention of doing so at this time.
			1. Ideally, students will be sent home vaccinated.
		2. Climate and Equity Committee
			1. Faculty asked if the climate survey could be done sooner since so much has changed since 2018-19, but since it takes so long to process the data, it would be logistically challenging to do so.
	7. Graduate Council – Claire Kelling
		1. Dual-Title and Graduate Minors
			1. New policy proposed that a minimum of 9 credits be unique (not double counted) to the dual-title program for Ph.Ds; and 6 credits be unique in MA programs.
			2. If the policy would affect you, please let Claire know.
			3. Graduate minor credits cannot be double-counted with the graduate major; again, if this would cause issues for you or constituents, let Claire know.
		2. Let Claire know if you have agenda items for next year’s Graduate Council.
		3. Finishing up the Parental Leave policy – 6 weeks minimum – and it will be brought to a vote by the end of the year.
		4. Accelerate to Industry programs for graduate and professional students being looked into.
		5. Advocating for vacation leave to be included on the Graduate Council agenda for next year.
		6. All events funded by GPSA must be open to *all* students, both graduate and undergraduate students per Student Fee Board requirements.
		7. **Questions and Comments**
			1. **Niladri Sekhar Mandal:** In one of my schools, my understanding is that you can double-count credits toward majors and minors because some of the programs are pretty credit heavy. Not sure if it’s practical to do this without double counting.
				1. If they implement this, don’t think it would be fair for people currently enrolled in these degree programs to be subjected to a new requirement.
				2. **Claire Kelling:** Asked about this and they said current students likely wouldn’t be subjected to these new rules.
			2. **Steven Baksa:** To Niladri’s point, I’m doing the computational sciences minor and we were told that when the double-counting measure was implemented, the new rule wouldn’t apply to current students, just incoming ones.
				1. **Claire Kelling:** If your department has said something to the contrary, I’m sure the new rule wouldn’t interfere with that.
			3. **Niladri Sekhar Mandal:** If this is implemented, we should be notified when it goes into effect and should get clarification of who it applies to; ideally 2021-22 onwards and not retroactively.
			4. **Claire Kelling:** Apparently already can’t double count for graduate minors and that’s university wide unless you have an exception. The dual-title policy is not in stone yet, just being discussed.
2. New Associate Justice Confirmation
	1. Nominating Sam Altland, Engineering delegate, for the position; he has already been helping to run the current slate of GPSA elections.
	2. **Sam Altland:** Have served on the Internal Development committee and been an Engineering delegate for the last year.
		1. Volunteered to help with the elections this year and enjoyed working with the Judiciary.
		2. Will likely be graduating in December, so wouldn’t be able to fill a full delegate term, but would like to continue being involved in the Judiciary process.
	3. **Questions**
		1. **Claire Kelling:** Can you clarify when you’re graduating?
			1. **Sam Altland:** December 2021, 9 months from now.
	4. **Discussion**
		1. **Alex Zhao:** Part of the reason I’m nominating Sam is because we’ve had this open position since Michelle left at the beginning of the semester and it’s hard to onboard someone to Judiciary at this point.
			1. Schonn and I have also interviewed Sam for the position and it would be beneficial for a Judiciary member to have delegate experience as well as knowledge of the Judiciary.
			2. Also want to make sure we have a functioning Judiciary once Emily graduates at the end of this academic year.

**NEW ASSOCIATE JUSTICE CONFIRMED 29-2-3 (See Appendix II)**

1. Bill 70-24: Remote Chocolate Tasting
	1. Previously, GPSA has collaborated with specific colleges as well as individuals to provide cooking programs to graduate and professional students and these events have historically been successful.
	2. This bill proposes a virtual chocolate tasting event that will allow up to 40 participants to explore a varity of facets of chocolate, including the labor and wealth inequality associated with the production of chocolate, as well as its taste.
	3. Takes advantage of cacao and chocolate expertise availalbe through Penn State’s College of Food Science.
	4. Each participant will receive five pieces of chocolate (25 grams), access to digital tasting sheets, and a link to the virtual tasting event.
		1. Participants can only receive chocolate once, but can participate in multiple tastings.
	5. This bill would authorize the Programming committee to purchase $700-$800 worth of craft chocolate for the months of March, April, and possibly May; this would produce 100-150 kits.
	6. Total cost of bill: $1000
		1. $700-$800 for chocolate
		2. $200-$300 for professional chocolate tasters’ time (3-4.5 hours at $100 per 90-minute tasting).
	7. **Questions**
		1. **Alex Zhao:** If Allison Brown isn’t involved in the tasting, is someone going to replace her?
			1. **Nico Terry:** Allison was going to give an introductory talk and we’ve discussed chocolate extensively. I’m not as qualified as Allison or someone getting a Ph.D. in chocolate, but I have extensive experience with it.
			2. **Alex Zhao:** Can Allison be involved even if she is graduating?
				1. **Nico Terry:** She might be able to provide me with the slides since she had those prepped for another event.
		2. **Claire Kelling:** Would you be paid the $200-$300 if you took over then?
			1. **Nico Terry:** No, that would be amended. Would still be good to compensate her for the slides, but I’ll leave that up to the Assembly.
		3. **Argha Saha:** Would it be like some of the sessions we attended together? Would chocolate be delivered and, if so, ahave you thought through the logistics?
			1. **Nico Terry:** Yes, the plan right now is to order several hundred bars from Missouri (have a good unit price; a bit over 80 cents per bar plus shipping). Fortunately and unfortunately, to guarantee a particular type of chocolate, we’d have to increase the budget substantially, but everyone should get a good portion of chocolate.
		4. **Argha Saha:** So will you set up a form where people put in their address?
			1. **Nico Terry:** Yes, now realizing that we’ll need to add the cost of postage to the bill as well. Some things can fit easily into a standard envelope, but others might not.
		5. **Ali Watts:** How many sessions are you planning to run? One each month for the rest of the semester?
			1. **Nico Terry:** Yes, given the shipping times and back and forth on COVID-19 safety measures, wanted to do one per month. If I placed an order tonight, the product would likely arrive in late March, which means one in late March, another in April, and another in May.
		6. **Ali Watts:** So participation would be capped at 40 people per session and people would only taste chocolate once?
			1. **Nico Terry:** Yes, nothing stopping someone from using half their chocolate for one testing and saving the rest for another.
				1. This also presumes no chocolate left over, but I’m confident these slots can be filled easily.
		7. **Ali Watts:** Is each session different or is it the same each month?
			1. **Nico Terry:** The first introductory talk will be more or less the same each time, but since it’s a hybrid lecture/discussion model, what gets talked about afterward is up to the attendees.
		8. **Sandeep Krishnakumar:** On line 31, it says “$7-$800,” should it be “$700-$800”?
			1. **Nico Terry:** I wanted to leave some room for the Assembly to determine the number of participants as well as options for what chocolate is ordered. There should be some wiggle room because it’s not clear how many identical slates of chocolate can be acquired; it’s dependent on supplies and suppliers.
		9. **Julia Kelliher:** Is any or all the chocolate gluten free?
			1. **Nico Terry:** No, that’s not something this would be able to offer due to cost; that’s why all the offered chocolate is dark chocolate.
				1. Using dark chocolate, the only people excluded are those who don’t want to attend or who dislike dark chocolate.
	8. **Discussion**
		1. **Nico Terry:** Move to amend line 6 on the second page to “Using materials provided by soon to be Dr. Brown, we will introduce participants to the world of craft chocolate.” (Seconded)
		2. **Nico Terry:** What do other members believe is an appropriate compensation for Allison’s preparation of the slides?
			1. **Claire Kelling:** Do the materials already exist?
				1. **Nico Terry:** In some format, but not sure if they’re targeted at a lay audience. We’d be paying Allison to develop these slides for our audience.
			2. **Claire Kelling:** Don’t know why we’re compensating anyone for something they’ve already made. Nico, would your presentation work here?
				1. **Nico Terry:** They could work, but they wouldn’t be as detailed or professional.
			3. **Claire Kelling:** So, ideally, we’d pay Brown to develop materials, but could also use what you have, Nico?
				1. **Nico Terry:** I don’t currently have slides and since Brown had to recuse herself because of time, not paying her seems unlikely to get us these resources.
			4. **Claire Kelling:** Are you willing to make a presentation for this workshop?
				1. **Nico Terry:** I’m planning on having a presentation, but I don’t have slides and I’ve found slides and material specifically targeted to the event make it more educational and meaningful.
		3. **Mandy Burton:** So Brown has already made the slides?
			1. **Nico Terry:** In some form, yes.
			2. **Mandy Burton:** So we would be paying a usage fee?
			3. **Nico Terry:** Partially, one of the things that is usually present at chocolate tastings are materials specific to that tasting.
		4. **Mandy Burton**: Motion to strike line 37
			1. **Eli Fields**: Object on the grounds that this sounds like a meaningful experience and the cost is worth it.
			2. **Nico Terry**:Well, we do have to amend that line since we don’t have to pay Brown for her time.
		5. **Nico Terry:** Motion to add “$75 for shipping costs of the individual servings to attendees” on line 38. (Seconded)
		6. **Yasha Duggal:** Want to make a motion to amend line 37 to “1-2 hours of soon to be Dr. Allison Brown’s time prepping the slides at $15/hour”; it’s important to properly compensate them, especially since graduate assistants aren’t often compensated for their labor.
			1. **Nico Terry:** Objection, since $15/hour is less than what other contract positions are paid at Penn State and it’s not comparable to a wage that would be paid for in a commercial context. Should pay at least $25.
		7. **Yasha Duggal:** Motion to change $15/hour on line 37 to “$25/hour” (Seconded)
		8. **Claire Kelling:** Motion to amend line 33 to read “purchase up to $800” (Seconded)
		9. **Claire Kelling:** Motion to amend line 36 to read “for a total of up to 150 kits.” (Seconded)
		10. **Claire Kelling:** On line 37, change it to “Up to 2 hours” (Seconded)
		11. **Ali Watts:** Do you have to order 150 kits?
			1. **Nico Terry:** Depends on the supplier and the origins offered.
		12. **Ali Watts:** But you have to make an order at a certain price point, right?
			1. **Nico Terry:** We can order mini boxes one at a time, which would increase the shipping cost; we can open registration almost immediately after this bill passes.
		13. **Katie Warczak:** Based on the amount of chocolate I’ve eaten during this conversation, I think we can get enough people to sign up to order 150 kits.

**BILL 70-24 PASSES 33-0-1 (See Appendix II)**

1. Resolution 70-25: Constitutional Amendment (Meeting Minutes and Special Presentations)
	1. GPSA already posts meeting minutes to its website and in the year before the COVID-19 pandemic had begun recording the Assembly meetings’ special presentations and publicizing them.
		1. This resolution seeks to formalize these currently informal GPSA policies.
	2. Proposed that Article VII, Section E of the GPSA Constitution will now read:

SECTION E. Powers and Responsibility of the Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for the management of the GPSA office and distribution of materials from the office. The Secretary or their designee shall maintain the GPSA’s official communications, administer formal communications to the graduate and professional student body, facilitate essential communications with the three bodies of the GPSA, ~~and take~~ **record and publicize special presentations, and take and publicize** minutes for all Assembly and Executive Board meetings.

* 1. Can’t vote on this resolution this meeting, but can at the next Assembly meeting.
1. **Questions**
	* 1. **Katie Warczak:** What is the logic of publicizing the Executive Board meetings?
			1. **Steven Baksa:** Adding transparency by posting them on the GPSA website.
2. **Discussion**
	* 1. **Claire Kelling:** Would like the wording of the bill to reflect the ability to post special presentations that have been recorded in the past.
			1. **Alex Zhao:** Is that currently prohibited by the bill?
			2. **Claire Kelling:** I don’t think anything should be posted until this passes and it would be good to make the posting parameters clear. We shouldn’t assume things are backward-looking, we need to specifically state it.
		2. **Nico Terry:** The publicizing needs to be backwards-looking since we need to be retroactive in publicizing past meeting minutes.
		3. **Claire Kelling:** Maybe we should consult the Judiciary on this.
		4. **Alex Zhao:** I know Schonn isn’t here tonight, but do the current Judiciary members have anything to say?
		5. **Emily Lesher:** Don’t currently see a problem, but can bring this before Schonn to make sure we’re not misinterpreting anything.

**RESOLUTION TABLED UNTIL THE NEXT ASSEMBLY MEETING**

1. Resolution 70-26: Constitutional Amendment (Removal Proceedings)
	1. The GPSA Constitution and Bylaws are currently not in agreement over removal proceedings in the Assembly.
		1. Article X, Section C of the GPSA Constitution says Assembly members can only be removed with a ¾ majority vote from the Assembly.
		2. Article VII, Section E of the GPSA Bylaws only requires a simple majority vote to remove a member of the Assembly due to absenteeism.
			1. Removal due to absenteeism is initiated when the Secretary notifies the Judiciary, while removal for other reasons is initiated when a bill for removal is submitted for approval
		3. Proposed that Article X, Section C of the GPSA Constitution will now read:

SECTION C. Removal

Delegates, Executive Officers, the University Faculty Senators, and Justices may be removed by a 3/4 vote of present and voting members of the Assembly for failure to fulfill the duties of office, violation of University policies, failure to follow the will of the Assembly, and other reasonable grounds **outside of absenteeism. Removal procedures due to absenteeism are outlined in the Bylaws.**

* 1. **Questions**
		1. **Alex Zhao:** I can’t make this motion, but would someone be willing to propose a friendly amendment to change line 12 on the second page from “are outlined” to “shall be outlined.”
			1. **Steven Baksa** willing to make this amendment.
		2. **Nico Terry:** If we need to make amendments now and approve at the next meeting, then wouldn’t we need to alter the previous resolution to how we want to pass it tonight rather than waiting two weeks? Do the Bylaws amendments and Constitution amendments have to undergo the same approval process at two meetings?
		3. **Alex Zhao:** Can Judiciary check whether we need to make all the changes to the amendments at the first meeting or can changes be made at the second meeting as well?
			1. **Emily Lesher:** Will check on this and get back to you.
			2. **Julia Kelliher:** Only Constitutional amendments need to be considered at two Assembly meetings.
		4. **Alex Zhao:** Based on relevant wording, it sounds like Constitutional amendments need to be considered at two meetings and Bylaws only at one. Also seems like amendments can be changed at any meeting.
			1. **Emily Lesher:** Yes, the first part is correct, but changes to Constitutional amendments can only be made at the first meeting.
			2. **Julia Kelliher:** We have not been following that rule in this Assembly.
			3. **Claire Kelling:** We didn’t follow that in the last Assembly either.
			4. **Emily Lesher:** I’m sorry, I misspoke, you *can* amend Constitutional amendments at the second meeting.
	2. **Discussion**
		1. **Claire Kelling:** Motion to change line 12 on the second page from “are outlined” to “shall be outlined.” (Seconded)
		2. **Claire Kelling:** Just checking that Constitutional amendments can be changed at any time as long as it’s presented at two subsequent Assembly meetings.
			1. **Julia Kelliher:** Yes.

**RESOLUTION TABLED UNTIL THE NEXT ASSEMBLY MEETING**

1. Resolution 70-27: Bylaws Amendment (Climate Action Subcommittee)
	1. Human activity is a leading cause of climate change and in Resolution 70-15, GPSA recognized climate change is negatively impacting the Penn State community, Pennsylvania as a whole, and outlined preliminary steps the University can take against climate change.
	2. As a result of discussions around Resolution 70-15, the Climate Action Subcommittee formed to ensure GPSA activities follow sustainable initiatives, promote climate change education throughout the graduate and professional student body, and work with administration and other student bodies to create a cleaner Penn State.
	3. This resolution recommends making the Climate Action Subcommittee a formal subcommittee housed under the Community Outreach committee and proposes the following amendment to the Bylaws:

ARTICLE IV – SELECTION AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

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

**Section D: The following shall be the standing Subcommittees: Climate Action**

**Section I: The Climate Action Subcommittee shall be tasked with fulfilling GPSA’s mission as it relates to promoting sustainability initiatives, educating the graduate and professional student body about climate change, and working with the Penn State administration and other student bodies to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all as outlined in the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This Subcommittee shall be housed under the Community Outreach Committee.**

* 1. **Questions**
		1. **Nico Terry:** Just want to make sure the suggestion made in the document was implemented.
			1. **Claire Kelling:** Yes, it was.
	2. **Discussion**

**RESOLUTION 70-27 PASSES 33-0-0 (See Appendix II)**

1. Reports
	1. Speaker of the Assembly – Yasha Duggal
		1. Our next Assembly meeting is our last one, so take that into account when submitting bills.
			1. If you’re passing bills for events to take place after March 31st, make sure you’re either staying on to run that event or that there’s someone in the next Assembly to take up the work.
		2. Good work to everyone, especially Programming, whose events have been extremely well attended.
		3. Programming, specifically Jocelyn Delgado, will be presenting a co-sponsorship bill for a Huck Life Sciences event in need of food. Official notification will be posted in Slack one week before the meeting.
	2. Advocacy and Diversity – Diego Hernandez (presented by Eli Fields)
		1. Didn’t meet today, but still have some updates
			1. Hate crimes in Georgia against Asian Americans are despicable; we care about our Asian American students and support you. Please reach out if we can help in any way.
				1. Brief resource list posted in the Slack channel, please distribute widely to constituents.
			2. State College resident reported to be the one who sprayed a Capitol officer in January; it’s disconcerting we haven’t seen a lot of action from the university administration.
				1. In light of this, it might be worth having another conversation the with administration, so please raise the resolution with them again.
		2. Will be presenting a resolution on disability accommodations at the next meeting
			1. Would require that all Zoom classes have closed captioning.
			2. Want the university to highlight process for getting accommodations in entry material.
			3. Want to prevent professors from asking students to disclose diagnoses or other personal medical information.
		3. For future Executive Boards, if it would be possible to leave a virtual option open for delegates to attend Assembly meetings, that would be great.
	3. Professional Development – Farhan Sadique (presented by Niladri Sekhar Mandal)
		1. Met last week and have a few updates
			1. Hosted an Adobe Illustrator workshop with about 30 participants.
			2. Have 50 registrants for the new round of headshots.
			3. Continuing with the Bootcamp and asking presenters to talk specifically about writing, so the information is applicable to the attendees.
				1. Also trying to solicit feedback about speakers from participants and incorporate that feedback.
			4. LinkedIn Workshop coming up on March 26th.
	4. Programming - Jocelyn Delgado
		1. Many events ongoing
			1. Coffee Hour sign-ups still happening
			2. Had second Pottery event
			3. Craft night and Trivia Night coming up
			4. Grad Cup finishing at the end of the month
		2. Keep up with us on social media and on your listservs.
		3. **Questions and Comments**
			1. **Julia Kelliher:** I attended the first coffee hour and wanted to say good job to Bristol for organizing that; it was fun and not awkward at all, which is hard on Zoom.
	5. Community Outreach – Katy Gerace
		1. Working on Irving’s takeout event; Corey and Joseph have been working on the sign-up sheet and will be sending info to the participants tomorrow.
	6. Internal Development – Steven Baksa
		1. Glad the Climate Action Subcommittee was formalized and look forward to the Constitutional amendments being passed next time.
		2. Want to echo Yasha and encourage us to finish strong.
		3. **Questions and Comments**
			1. **Alex Zhao:** Are you going to do anyting for transition materials and processes for the next Assembly meeting?
				1. Yes, we’ll be focusing on that at our next Committee meeting.
2. Liasion Reports
	1. **Kade Crittenden – HUB-Robeson Center Advisory Board**
		1. Chick-Fil-A to be changed to Chicken Slim since the former are not going to continue offering accommodations.
	2. Student Life Committee (Faculty Senate) – Yasha Duggal
		1. Some students required to do work on Wellness Days; if being asked to violate Wellness Days policies, please submit an anonymous report to Tim Robicheaux.
			1. Tim Robicheaux's email is trr10@psu.edu and you can also reach out to him through reddit and his username there is u/FacSenateStudentLife.

**Star Sharp:** That is *totally* against the rules. You can also let me know if you’re being asked to work on Wellness Days since I am on the Wellness Days committee and I will put this forward as well.

* 1. Library Advisory Board – Mandy Burton
		1. For the last year, we’ve been able to have office delivery, but it hasn’t been well used.
			1. Can request to have your library books delivered to your office, which is awesome.
	2. Transportation Committee – Alex Zhao
		1. Penn State has officially partnered with ZipCar
		2. Penn State named a Gold Bicycle university.
		3. Transportation Services is going to start checking cars based on license plates; will get a warning on your first offense and a $10 fine thereafter.
	3. Office of Sexual Misconduct Advisory Group – Julia Kelliher
		1. Had its first introductory meeting today, but no content besides that.
1. Judiciary – The Honorable Schonn Franklin (presented by Emily Lesher)
	1. Congratulations to Sam Altland and please fill out your intent-to-run forms if you’d like to be part of the 71st Assembly.
2. Student Truestee – Bryan Culler
3. Advisor – Adam Christensen
	1. Sexual misconduct data is coming soon; we’re working on how we’re going to publicly roll out that information.
	2. I know there’s still some frustration about the administration, but Damon Sims is coming to talk at the next Assembly meeting, and the inability to clearly act on things frustrates the administration too.
		1. Penn State can’t do anything about the two State College residents who were present at the Capitol insurrection.
		2. Keep pushing administration, but be mindful that there is only so much the university can do.
		3. Try to do your best to work collaboratively with the administration.
4. Comments for the Good of the Order
	1. **Alex Zhao:** Make sure to attend the last Assembly meeting both for the usual reasons and because we’ll be handing out awards.
	2. **Yasha Duggal:** Be sure to fill out the Attendance form and find a proxy if you won’t be at the next Assembly meeting.
5. Meeting adjourend at 8:38 PM

**Appendix I**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Office** | **Name** | **3/17/21** |
| **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 | E |
| Associate Justice | Emily Lesher | P |
| Associate Justice | Sam Altland | P |
| **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 | P |
| 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 | U |
| Education |  |  |
| Education | Kade Crittenden | P |
| Engineering |  |  |
| 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 | L |
| Liberal Arts | Diego Hernandez | U |
| Nursing | Sanga Jung  | L |
| School of International Affairs | Emefa Abena Yengbe | L |
| School of Law | Emory Robertson | P |
| School of Law | John Luc Legrand | U |
| 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 (Proxy) |
| At-Large Delegate | Ama Agyapong (IGDP) | P |
| At-Large Delegate | Maureen Kahiu (Ag Sciences)  | L |
| At-Large Delegate | Niladri Sekhar Mandal  | P |
|  | Number of voters in Assembly: | 34 |

**Appendix II**

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | New Associate Justice Confirmation | Bill 70-24 | Resolution 70-27 |
| **Graduate Council** |  |  |  |  |
| Graduate Council | Claire Kelling (Science) | N | Y | Y |
| Graduate Council | Arghajeet Saha (Ag. Sci.) | Y | Y | Y |
| Graduate Council | Hannah Nolte (Engineering) | Y | Y | Y |
| Graduate Council | Nathaniel Schermerhorn (Liberal Arts) | Y | Y | U |
| Graduate Council | Ali Watts | 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 | Y | Y | Y |
| Eberly College of Science | Yasha Duggal | Y | Y | Y |
| Eberly College of Science | Nico Terry  | Y | Y | Y |
| Education | Farhan Sadique | U | U | U |
| Education |  |  |  |  |
| Education | Kade Crittenden | Y | Y | Y |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Engineering | Sam Altland | - | - | - |
| Engineering |  |  |  |  |
| Engineering | Will Searight | A | Y | Y |
| Engineering | Sandeep Krishnakumar | Y | Y | Y |
|  | Lauren Katch | Y | Y | Y |
| Health and Human Development | Rachel Park | Y | Y | Y |
| Health and Human Development | Brooke Mattern | Y | Y | Y |
| Information Sciences and Technology | Matt McGee | Y | Y | Y |
| Inter-Collegiate Degree Program | Jocelyn Delgado | Y | A | Y |
| Inter-Collegiate Degree Program | Katy Gerace | Y | Y | Y |
| Liberal Arts | Lyana Sun Han Chang | Y | Y | Y |
| Liberal Arts | Michael Duncan | Y | Y | Y |
| Liberal Arts | Diego Hernandez | U | U | U |
| 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 | Eli Fields | Y | Y | Y |
| School of Law | John Luc Legrand | U | U | U |
| Smeal College of Business | Bristol Gunderson | A | Y | Y |
| At-Large Delegate | Steven Baksa (IGDP) | Y | Y | Y |
| At-Large Delegate | Joseph Sengeh (IGDP) | Y | Y | Y |
| At-Large Delegate | Ama Agyapong (IGDP) | Y | 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: | 29 | 33 | 33 |
|  | Quorum: | 2 | 0 | 0 |
|  |  | 3 | 1 | 0 |