Graduate and Professional Student Association

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| GPSA 70th Assembly Meeting | Wednesday, March 31, 2021 | 6:00 pm | Zoom meeting |

**Action Items:**

* If you won a GPSA Award, please get in touch with Alex Zhao on Slack so he can send you your tumblers.
* If you have thoughts on what to look for in a new Penn State President, contact Nico Terry.
* Contact Alex Zhao if you have issues or ideas to be brought before the Transportation Committee.
* Contact Lan-Nhi Phung if you have issues or ideas to be brought before the Student Insurance Advisory Board.
* If you or your constituents are being asked to work on Wellness Days, please reach out to Tim Robicheaux at [trr10@psu.edu](mailto:trr10@psu.edu).

**Legislation Passed:**

* Resolution 70-25: Constitutional Amendment (Meeting Minutes and Special Presentations)
* Resolution 70-26: Constitutional Amendment (Removal Proceedings)
* Bill 70-25: Volunteering with Clearwater Conservancy
* Bill 70-26: Personal Herb Planting Kits
* Bill 70-27: Huck Life Sciences Symposium Co-Sponsorship
* Resolution 70-28: Disability Accommodations

**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 17, 2021: Approved
5. Open Student Forum
   1. **Eli Fields:** Please share this bystander intervention information with your constituents:
      1. <https://www.ihollaback.org/bystanderintervention/>
      2. <https://www.advancingjustice-chicago.org/what-we-do/>
6. Special Presentation: Perry Dripps, Program Coordinator for Sustainability Engagement, Sustainability Institute; Damon Sims, Vice President of Student Affairs
   1. Perry Dripps, Sustainability Institute
      1. Want to acknowledge I’m in State College and this meeting is taking place on Susquehannock and Lenape land.
      2. Indigenous people have been living on and maintaining this land for thousands of years and it’s important to acknowledge and respect that.
      3. Appreciates GPSA’s sustainability work, it’s something that a lot of student government organizations are working on right now, which is great.
         1. Also excited about support for the racial justice resolutions.
      4. Growing up in a coastal environment, noticed a lot of changes in the environment, which helped inspire me to get involved with sustainability efforts.
         1. Our current existence and dependence on fossil fuels is not sustainable.
      5. Sustainability involves our ability to sustain ourselves, our environments, our economies, forests, oceans, etc. indefinitely into the future.
         1. Have to think about it in terms of people, animals, and the environment all working together.
      6. Sustainable development goals: A set of interconnected global challenges aimed at ensuring human health and happiness, environmental quality, and economic well-being for current and future generations.
      7. Have to move beyond thinking about recycling and the like – how do we address inequality, poverty, and similar larger social issues?
      8. Penn State starting to integrate some sustainability goals, but have a long way to go, especially in terms of infrastructure and transportation.
      9. GPSA has focusued on a number of sustainable development goals, but can still do more.
         1. Continue with advocacy and legislation
         2. Get involved with the Sustainability Institute (lots of April events)
         3. Join the Environmental Justice Student Group to help fight environmental racism.
         4. Advocate for zero waste and become involved with other organizations and institutes advocating for zero waste.
         5. Hold the university accountable; a sustainability survey is coneducted every three years and PSU is compared to other universities.
         6. Get involved with sustainability-related research and encourage more university funding for sustainability initiatives.
      10. Get in touch with Perry ([pfd5199@psu.edu](mailto:pfd5199@psu.edu)) if interested in working on sustainability practices or talking further.
      11. **Questions** 
          1. **Nico Terry:** Is there a way to do a broader orientation module on sustainable practices? My department has been going back and forth over sustainability practices, but if each department is doing that, that’s a lot of the same work being repeated over and over again.
             1. Reaching out to a lot of people individually takes time, which we don’t have, so something we’re pushing for is a literacy survey to see what students know about sustainability. Also looking into an “S” designation to indicate that a course deals with sustainability.
             2. Co-curricularly, lots of opportunities for students to educate one another.

UPUA is interested in doing some archiving of sustainability issues and solutions at Penn State.

* + - * 1. Trickier with student organization sustainability requirements because there’s a lot of those already.
  1. Damon Sims, Vice President of Student Affairs
     1. Happy to hear from Perry, the Sustainability Institute is doing great work.
     2. Appreciate GPSA and the work you’re doing for the university; my work now was born out of my own student government organization experiences at another university.
        1. Thanks in particular to Alex and Julia, who I have more regular contact with; they are impactful advocates.
     3. Student Government Impact
        1. Many student government representatives, and students in general, disappointed in their leadership role experiences because of the hard year that we’ve all had.
        2. Your organizations are vitally important to the university; we have many entities that influence Penn State, but no constituencies matter more than faculty, staff, and students.
        3. Student voices are critically important to the individual governments as well as the university overall.
           1. Pleased with various channels through which voices can be heard – resolutions, media coverage, interactions with senior administrators, Board of Trustees, connections with faculty, and other channels.
           2. Make sure you effectively use these channels.
        4. Damon can do a better job of amplifying GPSA’s voice, especially in terms of responding to resolutions and the like.
           1. Responses often happen orally, but perhaps a more formal institutional response is warranted in regards to some of the resolutions.
           2. Would like to implement a practice of responding formally so there’s an acknowledgement of hearing GPSA and the possibility of entering into a dialogue about these resolutions and ideas.
     4. Search for Next PSU President
        1. None of us will feel we have the level of involvement or influence that we believe is necessary.
        2. Nico Terry is already involved in NextGen, so is familiar with this process a bit.
        3. GPSA could issue some statements to the search committee about what kinds of things the committee should be searching for; where are the possibilities, gaps, and threats?
        4. Would like graduate and professional student input on what the next president should bring to this institution.
     5. **Questions**
        1. **Claire Kelling:** If you have to pick 1-2 things related to the transition back to in-person learning, where could graduate and professional students offer some useful input?
           1. Lots of anxiety about this process, need to achieve confidence before we return and if we could get insights on what would make you as graduate and professional students comfortable returning that would be extremely useful. We need to know how to increase confidence and decrease anxiety. It will be a hard road, but I’m hoping we can get there.
        2. **Nico Terry:** Anyone who has ideas of specific GPSA framings for the new president, please let me know. Thank you, Damon, too for the invitation to provide input. What else can graduate and professional students do to get involved in the search process?
           1. Board of Trustees is in charge of the search and their committee is full, but I appreciate your offering to hear and share people’s thoughts about the search. You can provide the committee insights and you, in turn, can provide insights to GPSA and help them form an effective statement or the like.
        3. **Star Sharp:** Thank you for recognizing the work GPSA has done and that it’s important to hear our voices because oftentimes it feels like graduate and professional student voices are on the margins.

1. Executive Officer Reports
   1. President – Alex Zhao
      1. Student Affairs Senior Leadership Meeting
         1. Fall 2021
            1. Practical elements of being able to operate and book rooms for meetings is still up in the air.
            2. Federal legislation providing COVID-19 relief; Penn State won’t limit this relief and the university will reach out to FAFSA recipients during the first round and in the second round, individuals have to reach out to request relief.
            3. Student Disability Resources Recommendations – generally supportive and made some suggestions as to who to reach out to about implementing these measures.
         2. Team G Meeting
            1. Focused on re-opening for Fall 2021, specifically in relation to curriculum and instruction.
            2. Alternate grade procedure in place for Spring 2021 will continue in Fall 2021 (still case-by-case basis).
            3. Exemptions for Grad School requirements, such as in-person exams will extend through the summer, but they will move to case-by-case exemptions once in-person learning resumes.
         3. Grad School Society Board of Directors
            1. Outlined strategic goals for the upcoming year
         4. Student Trustee Selection Committee
            1. Has concluded, now up to the Board of Trustees
         5. Several transition meetings with administrators happening over the next few years.
         6. Vaccine timeline has changed in Pennsylvania; vaccinations will now be open to those in 1B on April 5th, 1C on April 12th, and everyone on April 19th.
         7. Closing comments
            1. This was the 70th Assembly, which is a long time for any student government to operate.
            2. Tomorrow is the anniversary of the GPSA shifting to online meetings and the pivot to helping graduate and professional students make it through the pandemic.
            3. We budgeted money for 1875 participants over all our events, which is a significant proportion of the graduate and professional student body.
            4. Want to thank Advocacy & Diversity Committee, will continue bringing up issues and advocating for graduate and professional students.
            5. Want to thank Community Outreach, Programming, and Professional Development for offering so many good events this year.
            6. Internal Development did a great job with cleaning up GPSA’s constitution and by-laws, which sets us up well for the future.
            7. Want to thank Exec Board and committee chairs for making GPSA run.
            8. Want to thank Natalie DeSouza for designing all our graphics, keeping our social media up to date, and introducing us to Instagram.
            9. Thank you to the Assembly delegates for all the hard work you’ve done this year.
            10. If you receive an award, please send me your address in Slack so I can get you the physical award.
      2. **Questions** 
         1. **Matt Billups:** Will GPSA be putting out a summary or some kind of information that helps students find a waitlist and/or appointment for vaccinations?
            1. Yes, currently not on the main tab because of the election focus, but there is a vaccination help tab on the GPSA website. Need to update that with current information.
         2. **Niladri Sekhar Mandal:** Even though everyone becomes eligible on April 19th, do RAs fall into the 1B category?
            1. Yes, educational workers are eligible under 1B, so while it’s a little ambiguous, if you’re in a teaching or instructional role, you definitely qualify, or if you’re supervising undergraduates in your RA work, that’s the same, but if students aren’t involved in your work, you might have to wait a few weeks.
         3. **Niladri Sekhar Mandal:** So do you have to provide proof of qualifications that you are in a particular category?
            1. There are some screening questions, but those should disappear by the middle of next month.
         4. **Nico Terry:** Can you make sure that resources pointing people to leftover vaccinations and the like is in a consolidated, easy-to-access place?
            1. Yes, I know Mt. Nittany has a text system for vaccines, and I think the Penn State Health one is more general. CVS is also offering some vaccines if they have spare doses at the end of the day.
         5. **Sandeep Krishnakumar:** CVIM also has a waitlist – <https://cvim.net/covid-vaccination/>. This is also helpful - <https://vaccinefinder.org/search/>.
         6. **Star Sharp:** Weis is the same way, at the end of the day if they have spare doses, they will allow others to take them. Geisinger in Lewistown is also doing this.
            1. Good to know, I will update our COVID-19 page with all this information.
   2. Vice President – Julia Kelliher
      1. Team G Involvement
         1. Looking for volunteers to join this group; so far Eli Fields has volunteered.
         2. Looking for 6-10 graduate and professional students
         3. More of a task for the next Assembly, but still looking for input here because there’s not yet much representation.
      2. Sexual Misconduct Survey
         1. Town Hall hosted by President Barron will take place in April 2021.
         2. Next survey conducted in Spring 2022
      3. Student Leader Roundtable
         1. Food and Housing Insecurity
            1. Over 30% of Penn State students experience food insecurity.
            2. Many recommendatiosn for addressing this

Participate in #realcollegesurvey

Create three new positions to help students in need

Food Pantry coordinator

Looking to add sustainable and refrigeratable food options.

Centralized process for Student Emergency Fund

Looking into housing scholarships and emergency vouchers for room and board.

* + - 1. Policy Work at both the state and federal level
      2. Police body cams
         1. Will be used at initation of a call for service that is investigative or involves enforcement.
         2. Recordings retained for 180 days and then deleted if not determined retainable.
         3. Mid-May 2021 rollout
      3. CAPS Advisory Board
         1. Ginger provided online counseling this year and it hasn’t been as successful as hoped; about 50% of people directed to Ginger make an appointment, but leave after the first appointment.
         2. Mantra Health has about a 90% success rate
         3. Looking to improve the way Ginger is used in the future; looking to keep it, but use it differently.
         4. Staff going back to offices soon, but remote options will still be available.
         5. WellTrack will likely be discontinued
         6. Looking into peer counseling that has oversight by counselors.
      4. Student Affairs Leadership Meeting
         1. Receptive to disability resolution, one bit of feedback was that making accommodations clear through acceptance letters might be difficult since those are at the department level.
         2. Zoom would not be available for all classes once in-person instruction resumes.
         3. Chief of police at University Park retiring
         4. New Director for Student Conduct search to start soon.
      5. Privilege to serve as vice president this year, thank you for all your work, it really does matter. Best of luck to everyone graduating or not continuing into the next Assembly.
    1. **Questions**
       1. **Alex Zhao:** Thank you for all your work this year and jumping into this position!
       2. **Claire Kelling:** Julia, you did such an incredible job jumping into the position! Thank you for your leadership in these meetings.
  1. Treasurer – Matt Billups
     1. Thanks to everyone in the Assembly for their efforts, especially the work that went into hosting successful virtual events and putting up wih my emails.
     2. Total available funding is $24,000 for the remainder of the fiscal year.
        1. Total remaining events will cost approximately $30,000
        2. Will keep working on the open issues until I continue or a transition occurs.
        3. Bills are still being sent out, so keep an eye out for communications.
  2. Secretary – Katie Warczak
     1. Thank you everyone for your hard work and thoughtful, thorough debate; it’s been a hard year, but the conversation has never waned.
     2. Please let me know if mispronouncing delegates’ names or if delegates enter the meeting after attendance has been taken.
     3. Committee chairs please send her final attendance records for the 70th Assembly.
     4. Sending out the newswire tomorrow, please submit any event announcements or graphics by noon.
  3. Faculty Senate – Star Sharp
     1. Not quite rid of me yet, since there’s one more Faculty Senate meeting this year, and I’ll send an update after that next meeting.
     2. Can already tell you there will be significant debates and conversations about the return to in-person instruction and sustainability.
     3. Thank you for your work, it’s been an honor to serve as your Faculty Senator for the last two years.
  4. Graduate Council – Claire Kelling
     1. Like Star, I’ll be around for the rest of the academic year serving on Grad Council.
     2. Dual-title Update
        1. Lots of negative feedback about the dual-title requirements, so there will be more conversation and a committee formed.
        2. Earliest a decision would be made is Fall 2021.
        3. Thank you all for your input, that really helped!
     3. Thank you for all your work, this has been a hard year academically and personally, and I appreciate all the work you’ve done here.
     4. **Questions and Comments**
        1. **Nico Terry:** So would the earliest decision come Fall 2021 or Fall 2022?
           1. Fall 2021, but haven’t gotten a strong answer about whether people would be grandfathered in.
        2. **Niladri Sekhar Mandal:** Have there been any updates on the minor measure?
           1. Could be voted on as early as the next meeting; I’ve passed on all your comments, but haven’t heard back. Will definitely need a strong voice in the Academic Standards Committee.

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. **Questions**
   * 1. **Alex Zhao:** This has to be retroactive to a degree since the minutes and recordings have to be publicized after meetings are done, so how far back would this measure go? Just this year or further?
        1. **Schönn Franklin:** Yes, we could go back and post the special sessions we recorded during this academic year.
     2. **Ali Watts:** Have we gotten permission from the folks giving the special presentations to post their talks?
        1. **Schönn Franklin:** The answer that I got from the administration was that if they consent to be recorded in the meeting, that we are in the clear for posting publicly.
     3. **Ali Watts:** I understand that, but I wonder if that’s a precedent we want to set or if we want to make this measure forward-looking and specifically ask for consent from presenters going forward?
        1. **Schönn Franklin:** I’ll let Steven handle that since that’s a question of substance rather than legality.
        2. **Steven Baksa:** That is a good point, we are legally in the clear, but it’s still good to consider whether we want to do something like this.
2. **Discussion**
   * 1. **Niladri Sekhar Mandal:** I think letting the presenters know that what they’re saying will be shared via social media would be good because social media tends to get a wider viewership than our usual audience. Think we can ask future presenters and maybe some of our past ones to consent to having their presentations published on social media.
     2. **Nico Terry:** Might propose an amendment to incorporate something noting that for past presentations, an effort will be made to contact those in the past recordings who are presenting.
        1. **Alex Zhao:** The policy outlined by Niladri about going back and asking presenters’ for permission would be good and should continue that practice going forward. I also think that, generally speaking, most who are presenting to GPSA want the information they’re sharing to reach a wider audience.
        2. **Julia Kelliher:** The GPSA vice president could just ask for permission when they are scheduling speakers.
     3. **Ali Watts:** Propose that on the second line of the second page, it read “record and publicize the special presentations (with permission of the presenters)”
     4. **Nico Terry:** Propose that on the second line of the second page, it read “record and publicize the special presentations (with permission of the presenters and, if retroactive, attendees)” – Seconded
     5. **Alex Zhao:** With retroactive attendees, does that mean everyone in the meeting or just those who appeared in the video?
        1. **Nico Terry:** My understanding is that only if one speaks do they appear on Zoom.
        2. **Alex Zhao:** But that’s only for this year, eventually we’ll be back in person.
        3. **Nico Terry:** Well, the camera would be pointed mostly at the presenter and we could get permission from anyone in the shot.
     6. **Ali Watts:** Want more discussion about the language of “retroactive attendees” since it seems to imply that *all* attendees must give their consent to a special presentation being posted. I think “attendees” opens a can of worms that’s hard to deal with.
     7. **Nico Terry:** Motion to change the second line on the second page to “record and publicize special presentations (with permisson of those recorded)” – Seconded.
     8. **Steven Baksa:** For the sake of consistency, should we make a similar change to lines eight and nine on the first page?
        1. **Alex Zhao:** I think if we make it a Constitutional change, that would cover those past narratives, unless the Chief Justice has a correction.
        2. **Schönn Franklin:** I don’t have anything substantive to add.
        3. **Nico Terry:** The recommended course of action part is not the amendment.
     9. **Yasha Duggal:** Think it should be specified that the permission is “prior” and can retract permission at any time.
        1. Motion that line two on the second page should read “with prior and continuing permission” – Seconded
     10. **Claire Kelling:** If it’s prior permission, does that mean we can’t post this year’s special presentations?
         1. **Yasha Duggal:** We can still ask those special presenters if thery’re willing to have that information posted.
         2. **Claire Kelling:** Does “prior” mean prior to the meeting or prior to recording? That opens up a lot of questions about what “prior” means.
            1. **Yasha Duggal:** I was thinking prior to the meeting.
     11. **Nico Terry:** Objection to the new wording.
     12. **Yasha Duggal:** I do not withdraw the motion

**OBJECTION SUSTAINED 6-13-12** **(See Appendix II)**

* + 1. **Alex Zhao:** Understand concerns about permission, and I think the current wording allows people to provide permission or deny it. The vice president can just ask if they have permission to post the presentation.
    2. **Claire Kelling:** I think everyone who gives a special presentation to GPSA wants the information to be communicated, so not a concern about permission, and we want to make sure that information is widely distributed.
    3. **Nico Terry:** Can also always cut out part that is objectionable in the posted social media recording.

**RESOLUTION 70-25 PASSES 31-0-1 (See Appendix II)**

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**
  2. **Discussion**

**RESOLUTION PASSES 31-0-1 (See Appendix II)**

1. Bill 70-25: Volunteering with Clearwater Conservancy
   1. With the change in weather, graduate and professional students can now participate in outdoor activities as long as they continue to follow COVID-19 safety guidelines.
   2. This bill would allow up to 10 students to aid in watershed and habitat conservation by participating in spring planting at one of Clearwater Conservancy’s properties on Saturday, April 17th.
      1. Event is capped at 10 participans per both University and Clearwater policy.
   3. This bill would fund up to 10 $25 Lyft vouchers to allow students without transportation to access this event.
      1. The exact number of vouchers needed would be determined through a sign-up sheet circulated before the event.
   4. Total amount requested: up to $250 ($25x10)
   5. **Questions**
      1. **Nico Terry:** I understand funding is limited to students, but if it’s first-come, first-serve, it’s not hard to get 10 people.
         1. **Corey Hoydic:** Yes, when sending out the questionnaire, can clarify the participants’ status.
      2. **Nico Terry:** What’s the ordering priority?
         1. **Corey Hoydic:** Was going to prioritize students, but open to other suggestions.
         2. **Nico Terry:** No, that’s exactly what I was hoping to hear.
      3. **Matt Billups:** Need to make sure the Lyft codes are used by students, but how do we ensure that only students are using those codes?
         1. **Corey Hoydic:** Can possibly ask for student IDs, what have we done in the past?
         2. **Alex Zhao:** Can either provide a unique code or a coupon code, but we can make this very targeted.
         3. **Jocelyn Delgado:** Can also verify their student status by searching them in the directory.
         4. **Claire Kelling:** Yeah, don’t want to ask for students’ nine-digit ID numbers.
   6. **Discussion**
      1. **Nico Terry:** My understanding is also that we can restrict codes to be used only that day and to that particular location.
         1. **Alex Zhao:** More or less, yes.

**BILL 70-25 PASSES 32-0-1 (See Appendix II)**

1. Bill 70-26: Personal Herb Planting Kits
   1. The Climate Action Subcommittee aims to promote sustainable behavior among graduate and professional students; gardening both promotes well-being and sustainable behavior.
   2. This bill would provide the funds for purchasing and distributing herb planting kits which would consist of a terracotta clay pot, dehydrated potting mix, and a packet of seeds.
      1. Pots will be sourced from Jamali Garden, a wholesale pottery supplier and family-owned business based in New York.
      2. Soil and seeds will be sourced from Gardener’s Supply Company, a 100%-employee owned business based in Vermont.
      3. Going out of state because local businesses did not have the necessary supplies.
   3. Total amount requested: $891
      1. 80 x $1.99 terracotta clay pots = $159.20
      2. 16 x $13.75 kitchen herb seed packets = $220
      3. 80 x $5 Eco-co Coir Potting Mix = $400
      4. Shipping costs: $111.80
   4. **Questions**
      1. **Matt Billups:** Is the shipping cost to send the supplies to every individual participating?
         1. **Sandeep Krishnakumar:** No, it’s the cost to send the supplies, the distribution will be in-person outdoors and we’ll ask all those picking up supplies to follow COVID-19 safety protocols.
      2. **Ali Watts:** Could you speak to the reasoning behind using the New York and Vermont suppliers, especially since this is a sustainable event and shipping would add to the carbon footprint?
         1. **Sandeep Krishnakumar:** We spoke to three businesses in the area and there’s a weird shortage of pots at the moment, not sure what the reason is, but it doesn’t sound like the supplies will be arriving soon. With the soil too, it would be easier if we gave people individual packets instead of asking them to take it from a big bag of soil because it is not essentially COVID-19 safe. And the businesses we went with are, at least, on the East Coast.
   5. **Discussion**
      1. **Yasha Duggal:** Additionally while it will be a one time increased carbon cost, the committee chose seeds that would be easy to grow so people will be encouraged to make long term sustainable gardening efforts.
      2. **Nico Terry:** Carbon offsets are imperfect but available and fairly cheap; bulk delivery versus individual packaging and shipping or having attendees purchase using gift cards can also make up for it in part. We can make up for some of these emissions pretty easily.
      3. **Sandeep Krishnakumar:** Motion to amend line 11 on page two – change “13” to “16.” – Seconded
      4. **Nico Terry:** Motion to amend lines 10 to 11 on page one – modify the lines to read “kits will be made available at one or more locations in Centre County to be determined based on the geographic preferences and distribution of registrants” – Seconded

**BILL 70-26 PASSES 32-0-0 (See Appendix II)**

1. Bill 70-27: Huck Life Sciences Symposium Co-Sponsorship
   1. This bill would make GPSA a co-sponsor of the Huck Life Science Symposium alongside the Huck Graduate Student Advisory Committee (HGSAC), which acts as a voice to promote the interests of, and advocate for, the graduate student body inside and outside the Huck Institutes.
   2. Life Science Symposium (LSS) is a student-oriented conference aimed to promote collaboration between the various branches of life science research at Penn State; the event will be virtual and will feature keynote speakers, oral/poster presentations, a “my research” video contest, cash prizes for presentation awards and gift giveaways for attendees.
   3. Co-sponsorship would allow for the purchase of gift cards to local restaurants to provide food for 100 LSS attendees (estimate based on past attendance).
   4. Total amount requested: $1,500 ($15 x 100 gift cards)
   5. **Questions**
      1. **Claire Kelling:** So this is only available to students?
         1. **Jocelyn Delgado:** Yes, no faculty can get these gift cards, just graduate students.
         2. **Claire Kelling:** What about undergraduates? Can they participate and use the gift cards?
         3. **Jocelyn Delgado:** Yes.
      2. **Matt Billups:** We can only cover a certain portion of the event’s cost, can’t be more than 90%, so are there other costs besides the food?
         1. **Jocelyn Delgado:** Yes, the total cost of the event is about $4,000 and takes into account the platform it’s hosted on and the cost of prizes.
      3. **Steven Baksa:** Was there appropriate notification of this co-sponsorship beforehand?
         1. **Jocelyn Delgado:** Yes, Yasha mentioned it at the last Assembly meeting.
         2. **Alex Zhao:** Yasha also posted a notice in Slack on March 25th.
      4. **Nico Terry:** Have we co-sponsored this event in the past?
         1. **Jocelyn Delgado:** I don’t believe so, no.
         2. **Yasha Duggal:** Yes, I highlighed that section to make it clear we’re only partnering as a co-host for this year.
   6. **Discussion**
      1. **Yasha Duggal:** I didn’t change the number at the top, can we change that to “Bill #70-27” – Seconded

**BILL 70-27 PASSES 32-0-0 (See Appendix II)**

1. Resolution 70-28: Disability Accommodations
   1. Graduate and professional students with disabilities face a number of institutional obstacles, including problems acquiring accommodations and professors and instructors asking students to disclose their disabilities.
   2. Many online classes do not provide simple accommodations such as closed captioning.
   3. Recommended course of action:
      1. Require all Zoom classes offered by Penn State to have closed captioning to benefit deaf and hard of hearing students.
      2. Ensure students are informed of the disability accommodations process with time to spare; asking that the administration work with Student Disability Resources (SDR) to include information on the availability of accommodations in every acceptance and offer letter sent out to graduate students. This would ideally be implemented with undergraduate students as well.
      3. Provide better, required, training to instructors on interacting with those with disabilities. Specifically, instructors should be made aware that asking students for the nature of their disability, despite having information on accommodations from the Student Disability Resources Office, puts students in an uncomfortable position. This specific training can be done through the annual compliance training which is compulsory for all University employees and already has a section on working with disabled students. Furthermore, we call on the University to make a blanket policy forbidding professors from inquiring about the nature of a student’s disability.
         1. Damon Sims suggested that including disability accommodation information in acceptance letters might be difficult since different departments have different policies.
   4. **Questions**
   5. **Discussion**
      1. **Nico Terry:** Can confirm the duration of that process since I reached out about an accommodation on February 15th and only got an answer today, so it’s a slow process. Not everyone knows the system well and encouraging a meeting early on can have a significant impact on students’ educational experiences.
      2. **Hannah Nolte:** I know some professors ask out of goodwill, would this blanket statement prevent those instructors from doing so?
         1. **Eli Fields:** As a disabled student, it can be very awkward and uncomfortable for professors to ask, especially since students might feel it’s necessary to disclose.
      3. **Nico Terry:** Professors also aren’t legally allowed to request a diagnosis under HIPAA and FERPA.
         1. This training offered to TAs, but not always to professors.
      4. **Alex Zhao:** It’s really up to the students to disclose or not disclose and Eli’s framing professors’ asking how they can accommodate rather than asking for a diagnosis promotes the right kind of conversation.
      5. **Sandeep Krishnakumar:** Compliance training does not include information about asking students about the nature of their disabilities as far as I know.
         1. **Nico Terry:** Ah, okay, I was remembering dinner table conversations, then.
      6. **Eli Fields:** Sandeep helped a lot with this resolution, so he definitely deserves to be considered a co-author.
      7. **Sandeep Krishnakumar:** Yes, this is aimed at helping students since asking for a diagnosis or what disability a particular individual has is not a helpful conversation. Future trainings should be aimed at helping students as well; students can disclose if they want, but they shouldn’t be expected to do so.
      8. **Nico Terry:** I’m wondering if we can amend this to make accessibility the default.
         1. **Eli Fields**: I think that’s a good idea, Advocacy & Diversity is working on a new resolution for the next Assembly about accessibility more generally.
      9. **Nico Terry:** Motion to add “and to encourage faculty to provide all available accessibility options as a defult policy rather than an exception” to lines 30 and 31 on the second page.
      10. **Yasha Duggal:** Motion to amend the amendment to “to encourage all teaching personnel” – Seconded.

**RESOLUTION 70-28 PASSES 31-0-0 (See Appendix II)**

1. Presentation of Awards
   1. Four different awards, embodied in 20 oz. engraved tumblers
   2. Advocate for the Arts Award – Lan-Nhi Phung
   3. George Atherton Outstanding Dedication to Penn State Award – Emory Robertson
   4. Kenneth Martin GPSA Exemplary Service Award – Ali Watts
   5. Delegate of the Year – Jocelyn Delgado
   6. Award winners’ names also engraved on the plaques in the GPSA office.
2. Reports
   1. Speaker of the Assembly – Yasha Duggal
      1. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone for staying on this long.
      2. A few events still happening under the stewardship of our current Assembly, so advertise those to your constituents.
      3. Thank you all for your hard work, this year hasn’t gone in any way we’ve expected, not only bcause of COVID-19, but because of social unrest and you’ve all fought hard for your constituents this year.
      4. Know we’ve felt discouraged by the administrative response, but we’ve done a lot of great work and many have reached out to express positive feedback on our events.
      5. For the next Assembly, make sure to fill out the absence form for our next Speaker.
      6. **Questions**
         1. **Alex Zhao:** Want to thank Yasha for all her work this year, Speaker of the Assembly takes a lot of work and effort.
   2. Advocacy and Diversity – Diego Hernandez (presented by Eli Fields)
      1. Tied up loose ends at today’s meeting and worked to set an agenda for the next committee.
         1. One bill on mental health resources that didn’t get finished in time, so will hit you with that in the 71st Assembly.
         2. Talked a bit about the disability resolution and got some useful contacts to get the ball rolling.
         3. Plan on crafting some more general disability legislation.
         4. Trans healthcare issues in our insurance will be addressed in the next Assembly.
         5. Racial bias and issues also a concern, no specific plans in that area, but still on the committee’s radar.
         6. Finals are during Ramadan this year; students should be able to get accommodations for that, so please spread the word therein.
         7. Also still paying attention to COVID-19 issues.
         8. Need a stonger framework for addressing instances of bias.
            1. Nazi apologist in the law school only offered a restorative justice roundtable that would put the burden of assistance on underrepresented groups.
      2. **Questions**
         1. **Nico Terry:** Is the roundtable exclusive to graduate students because I have a grandmother and great-grandmother who survived the Holocaust.
            1. **Eli Fields:** Think only graduate students, but I can inquire.
            2. **Nico Terry:** Thanks, regardless, I’ll pass along some materials.
            3. **Schönn Franklin:** Does his speech have anything to do with campus? If it’s on campus, then it qualifies as discriminatory harassment, so I’d pass that along to be mindful.
            4. **Ali Watts:** The new code of conduct addresses some of the off-campus/social media based issues too. Not sure how well it's been tested yet, though.
   3. Professional Development – Farhan Sadique
      1. Great Professional Development team and some of our programming is still ongoing.
      2. Working on wrapping up ongoing programming, such as Writing Bootcamp.
   4. Programming - Jocelyn Delgado
      1. Thanks to everyone on the committee!
      2. Still have a few events coming up, so keep an eye out for things and pass them along.
      3. **Comments**
         1. **Alex Zhao:** Thank you for running Grad Cup this year! The sweaters are very nice.
         2. **Nico Terry:** Chocolate tasting registration will be on social media in the next day or two; form can go out by Slack tonight.
   5. Community Outreach – Katy Gerace
      1. Will be finishing up our year with the Clearwater Conservancy event
      2. Thank you so much to the committee members!
   6. Internal Development – Steven Baksa
      1. This committee has done some incredible work in the past year, we’ve passed a record number of legislative pieces.
      2. If you’re an outgoing member, remember to complete your transition materials and get those to me by Friday.
3. Liasion Reports
   1. Student Insurance Advisory Board and Transportation Committee – Alex Zhao
      1. Will be meeting between this Assembly and the next so get in touch with me (Transportation) or Lan-Nhi (Student Insurance Advisory Board) about things that need to be brought up.
   2. Team G Student Advisory Meeting – Schön Franklin
      1. Concern about students who are disabled and how they are more easily accommodated remotely than in person; the administration needs suggestions about how to balance this out
      2. The university may ask students who are unable to get to campus in Fall 2021 to move to World Campus because accreditation requires certain in-person hours. Certain grants also require students to be in person.
         1. Unclear whether this applies to graduate as well as undergraduate students.
      3. Not clear about grading systems and scales moving forward, see no alternative grading options in the future.
   3. Wellness Days – Yasha Duggal
      1. Concerns that graduate and professional students were required to do non-essential work during the last two Wellness Days.
      2. Tim Robicheaux has not gotten a good response from graduate students, so if your constituents are having issues with that, please have them reach out to him at [trr10@psu.edu](mailto:trr10@psu.edu).
4. Judiciary – The Honorable Schönn Franklin
   1. Emphasize that elections start on Monday and end on Tuesday, so make sure you spread the word and encourage people to vote.
   2. There appears to be quite a few vacancies that won’t be filled with elections, so consider who could fill those positions in the next Assembly.
5. Student Truestee – Bryan Culler
6. Advisor – Adam Christensen
   1. Thank you to the Exec Board and Assembly members for an amazing year, you have done an incredible job of engaging and advocating for graduate and professioanl students.
   2. Given the circumstances, it’s incredible how much you’ve accomplished.
   3. Good luck to those in the elections and if your seat is going to be vacant, do some outreach so we can make sure we have a full Assembly.
7. Comments for the Good of the Order
8. Meeting adjourend at 9:20 PM

**Appendix I**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Office** | **Name** | **3/31/21** |
| **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 | L |
| **Judiciary** |  |  |
| Chief Justice | Schonn Franklin | P |
| Associate Justice | Emily Lesher | P |
| Associate Justice | Sam Altland | P |
| **Graduate Council** |  |  |
| Graduate Council | Claire Kelling (Science) | P |
| Graduate Council | Arghajeet Saha (Ag. Sci.) | A |
| 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 | L |
| Education |  |  |
| Education | Kade Crittenden | A |
| Engineering |  |  |
| Engineering |  |  |
| Engineering | Will Searight | A |
| 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 | A |
| Nursing | Sanga Jung | L |
| School of International Affairs | Emefa Abena Yengbe | L |
| School of Law | Emory Robertson | P |
| School of Law | John Luc Legrand | A |
| 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: | 32 |

**Appendix II**

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Office** | **Name** | **Resolution 70-25 Objection Vote** | **Resolution 70-25** | **Resolution 70-26** | **Bill 70-25** | **Bill 70-26** | **Bill 70-27** | **Resolution 70-28** |
| **Graduate Council** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Graduate Council | Claire Kelling (Science) | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Graduate Council | Arghajeet Saha (Ag. Sci.) | U | U | U | U | U | U | U |
| Graduate Council | Hannah Nolte (Engineering) | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Graduate Council | Nathaniel Schermerhorn (Liberal Arts) | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Graduate Council | Ali Watts | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| **Assembly** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Agricultural Sciences | Mandy Burton | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Agricultural Sciences | Terry Torres Cruz | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Art & Architecture | Izzy Healey | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Communications | Ashley Smalls | A | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Earth and Mineral Sciences | Corey Hoydic | A | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Earth and Mineral Sciences |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Eberly College of Science | Lan-Nhi Phung | A | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Eberly College of Science | Yasha Duggal | Y | A | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Eberly College of Science | Nico Terry | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Education | Farhan Sadique | A | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Education |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Education | Kade Crittenden | U | U | U | U | U | U | U |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Engineering |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Engineering |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Engineering | Will Searight | U | U | U | U | U | U | U |
| Engineering | Sandeep Krishnakumar | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
|  | Lauren Katch | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Health and Human Development | Rachel Park | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Health and Human Development | Brooke Mattern | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Information Sciences and Technology | Matt McGee | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Inter-Collegiate Degree Program | Jocelyn Delgado | A | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Inter-Collegiate Degree Program | Katy Gerace | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Liberal Arts | Lyana Sun Han Chang | A | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Liberal Arts | Michael Duncan | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Liberal Arts | Diego Hernandez | U | U | U | U | U | U | U |
| Nursing | Sanga Jung | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | U |
| School of International Affairs | Emefa Abena Yengbe | A | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| School of Law | Emory Robertson | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| School of Law | Eli Fields | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| School of Law | John Luc Legrand | U | U | U | U | U | U | U |
| Smeal College of Business | Bristol Gunderson | A | Y | A | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| At-Large Delegate | Steven Baksa (IGDP) | A | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| At-Large Delegate | Joseph Sengeh (IGDP) | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| At-Large Delegate | Ama Agyapong (IGDP) | A | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| At-Large Delegate | Maureen Kahiu (Ag Sciences) | A | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| At-Large Delegate | Niladri Sekhar Mandal | A | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Yes | 6 | 31 | 31 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 31 |
|  | No | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | Abstain | 12 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |