



Graduate and Professional Student Association

The Pennsylvania State University
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| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|------------------|
| GPSA 71st Assembly Meeting | Wednesday, October 13th, 2021 | 6:00 PM | Willard 162/Zoom |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|------------------|

Action Items:

- Reach out to Matt Billups about funding events, especially if you require an outside vendor
- Reach out to Alex Zhao about name mispronunciations, recording permissions, and events for the newswire
- Fill out attendance forms and please make sure to follow GPSA's attendance policy

Business Conducted:

- Resolution 71-05: Presidential Veto Powers, was approved. This legislation aligned the procedures around vetoing Constitutional Amendments listed in the GPSA ByLaws and Constitution by stating in the Constitution that Constitutional Amendments cannot be vetoed
- Annie Everett was confirmed as a Graduate Council Student Caucus Delegate from the College of Education
- Arnab Chatterjee was confirmed as a Delegate for the College of Engineering
- Bill 71-12: Grad Cup was passed, which authorized funding for supplies for GPSA's annual Grad Cup event that will be held in November 2020
- Resolution 71-07: Collaboration with Smeal College of Business was passed, which authorized GPSA collaboration with the Smeal College of Business on the event "Business Careers for Non-Business Graduate and Professional Students"

Agenda

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM
- II. Roll Call – See Appendix I
- III. Adoption of the Agenda
- IV. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes from 09/29/2021: Approved
- V. Open Student Forum
- VI. Executive Board Reports
 - a. President – **Schönn Franklin**
 - i. Meetings
 1. Student Governance and DEI Staff
 - a. Brian Patchowski AVP DEI in Student Affairs
 - b. Discussed 3rd for HUB renovation for collaborative DEI space
 2. IOGEEP Luncheon
 - a. Dr. Preston, Assoc Dean GEE
 - b. Discussed regular meetings to collaborate on DEI programs for all grad & prof students

3. Univ Sr leadership Meeting
 - a. Discussed adding Grad/Prof Student Trustee
 - b. Spoke w/ some
 - c. Willing to share rotating seat with CCSG
 - d. Other SGs supportive (we have not finalized anything)
 4. Alumni Council Weekend
 - a. Reception (9/30)
 - b. Meeting (10/1) 10:30-7
 - c. Discussed how to increase engagement with diverse groups and to increase URM
 - d. Discussed how to get better engaged with graduate students and GPSA
 5. CCSG Meeting (10/1)
 - a. Gave report on GPSA Activities
 6. Student Leadership Retreat (10/3)
 - a. Damon Sims (Higher Ed Credibility)
 - b. Danny Shaha (Discipline processes for orgs and leaders)
 7. Meeting w/ Sarah Ades (10/5)
 - a. Prep meeting for Dr. Younkin
 - b. Gave update on GPSA
 8. Emailed meeting requests w/ College Student Councils and Orgs for greater collaboration
 9. Private Dinner w/ DEI deans/dirs in grad (10/6)
 10. GSAS Meetings (10/8) 9-4:30
 - a. Meeting to discuss updates from GPSA, Grad Dean, OGEEP, and GSAS updates
- b. Vice President – **Jalen Jeter**
- i. Student Advisory board meeting with the Office of Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response
 1. Working upon the informal educational toolkit
 2. Used for students who have been involved within an incident/ offense
 3. Working on more efficient ways to keep students engaged within the toolkit after they've been involved
 4. Analyze how their decisions, beliefs and actions have shaped their personal experiences
 - ii. **Questions and Comments**
 1. **Claire** – why is there no special presentation today?
 - a. **Schonn** – requested presentation from Chief Sustainability Officer but no reply was received
- c. Treasurer – **Matt Billups**
- i. As of October 11, 2021:
 1. The chocolate tasting event Bill 70-24, which was a carry-over from the 70th assembly, had allotted \$925. The final cost ended up being \$1179.71, which is \$254.71 over budget. This was due to the increased postage required to send the chocolates to participants, the second round of chocolates were not distributed in person as was originally intended. Don't hesitate to reach out during event planning, especially

when it involves a vendor to provide a service, as that takes weeks to get finalized.

2. Don't hesitate to reach out during event planning, especially when it involves a vendor to provide a service, as that takes weeks to get finalized.

ii. **Questions and Comments**

1. **Claire** – was the over budget an exec expense?
 - a. Yes

d. Secretary – **Alex Zhao**

- i. Please let me know if I am mispronouncing your name or if you came in late
- ii. Committee chairs, please send me your attendance info
- iii. Please submit any events or announcements for the newswire by tomorrow at noon
- iv. Let me know if you want to be excluded from our public recordings
- v. Everyone, please follow the attendance policy for both Assembly and committee meetings, and if you can't attend, please let chairs/Sandeep know so it's excused. If you do any of the following and don't get an excused absence, you're subject to removal:
 1. Miss a consecutive committee and Assembly meeting, or
 2. Miss two consecutive Assembly meetings, or
 3. Miss two consecutive committee meetings

e. Faculty Senate – **Lillian Schaeffer**

- i. Nothing to report

f. Graduate Council – **Claire Kelling**

- i. Nothing to report, next Graduate Council meeting is October 20th

g. Speaker of the Assembly – **Sandeep Krishnakumar**

- i. Please remember to fill out the attendance form if you cannot attend the meeting or will be late. If you need a proxy, please let me know, and remember that another delegate cannot be your proxy.
- ii. I also want to re-emphasize the importance of participation within your assigned committee. It is important that all delegates check their slack regularly and respond to messages and requests from committee chairs. It is imperative that we avoid situations where a lot of work ends up on one person's plate and causes burnout, so please make sure that you are contributing and doing your share. Thanks everyone!

h. Chief Justice – The Honorable **Samuel Altland**

- i. Bylaws updated in accordance with R71-06, and the amended version is currently available on the drive. The corresponding updated track-changes log will be available by the end of the week (Con. XVI-E).
- ii. Please be sure to copy our new associate justice Kena Gomalo as well as myself to inquiries to the judiciary.
- iii. **Questions and Comments**
 1. **Alex** – can you convey to Kena that if he can't attend meetings to inform us?
 - a. Yes

VII. Resolution 71-05: Presidential Veto Powers

- a. **Schonn** - Resolves a discrepancy with how amendments are perfected, specifically bringing the Constitution in-line with the ByLaws

- b. **Discussion**
 - i. **Claire** motion to roll call vote, **Frankie** second
- c. **Resolution Passed 21-0-0, see Appendix II for details**
- VIII. Confirmation of Presidential Appointment: Annie Everett (Education, Graduate Council)
 - a. 1st year PhD student in Higher Education, found my way to GPSA in order to get involved, have been involved with other graduate organizations but want to get more involved within student government
 - b. Grad Council – want to engage in the decisions being made about our education, a lot of the times it feels like students have policies being decided about and for us, but not without us
 - c. Want to get a deeper understanding about how that policy-making functions
 - d. BA and MA in history, 3 years in administrative capacity at Vanderbilt, worked out of Texas State in admin during the pandemic, focused on policy as am in the department of educational policy studies
 - e. **Questions**
 - i. **Claire** – committee remaining for GC member is joint curricular committee from 9-noon on Thursday, are you available and interested in this?
 - 1. I have a class at that time but the focus and interest in this committee is perfect, as this will align with my intended dissertation focus
 - ii. **Niladri** – for **Claire**, is the availability conflict, can she still be on that committee?
 - 1. **Claire** – I don't think it's ideal, but a 3 hour meeting is kind of a long ask, but it's not a dealbreaker
 - 2. **Schonn** – we talk about her other availability and she is available for both Assembly and Graduate Council meetings, the class conflict is a minor issue
 - f. **Discussion**
 - i. **Ali** – Annie is wonderful, and also there are not that many committee meetings left in this semester and her schedule won't have that conflict next semester, so at most this affects 2 committee meetings
 - ii. **Katie** – For the joint curricular committee, there are often faculty who also need to leave early and can leave their comments with others, so she wouldn't be the only one with that problem
 - iii. **Claire** – an hour is not a problem, I think she seems great and her expertise seems relevant, motion to approve by roll call, **Sandeep** second
 - g. **Appointment Confirmed 20-0-1, see Appendix II for details**
- IX. Confirmation of Presidential Appointment: Arnab Chatterjee (Engineering)
 - a. 3rd year PhD student in engineering science and mechanics, from India with experience in various committees back in undergrad
 - b. Want to be part of the professional development committee because this is something that everyone needs to pass through
 - c. Want to help people overcome their fears and achieve their professional goals
 - d. Have previous experience that is relevant to being a delegate and working on this committee
 - e. **Questions**
 - i. **Sandeep** – for **Schonn**, could you explain your decision to nominate him?

1. **Schonn** – chose to nominate Arnab for Engineering because he has experience putting on events for groups in the college of engineering and also has experience in undergrad working to resolve conflicts between faculty and students
- ii. **Alex** – for **Schonn**, does he have any secondary preferences for committees?
 1. **Schonn** - Community outreach, but is fine working on any committee
- f. **Discussion**
 - i. **Sandeep** – we have one more position in the college of engineering, and as of now all of our current engineering delegates identify as male, we should avoid all the delegates from engineering being male. If you know anyone in engineering who is interested, please ask them to apply
 1. **Schonn** – I agree, I want to thank **Hannah** for bringing diverse candidates to be interviewed for engineering, but if you have other candidates please bring them my way, message me before the end of next week
 - ii. Eli motioned, Sandeep seconded
- g. **Appointment Confirmed 21-0-1, see Appendix II for details**
- X. Bill 71-12: Grad Cup
 - a. **Nora** – we’re following the type of Grad Cup that was done last year, it will be virtual with virtual wellness events, budgeting for 150 people in teams of 5
 - b. Event will be 3 weeks instead of 4 weeks, will have game nights that will both include an in-person and virtual option depending on comfort level
 - c. Funds will be used to provide sweatshirts and gift cards for top 3 teams to local restaurants (\$50, \$35, \$20), and also \$25 gift cards for game night winners
 - d. **Discussion**
 - i. **Eli** motion to approve, **Sandeep** second
 - e. **Bill Passed 22-0-0, see Appendix II for details**
- XI. Resolution 71-07: Collaboration with Smeal College of Business
 - a. **David** – We have been in contact with the Smeal College of Business about hosting an event that will expose current graduate students in non-business related fields to roles in business, specifically consulting
 - b. Event will give information about the qualifications for these roles and how to translate our research abilities to the business world
 - c. Smeal will provide food (no financial commitment from GPSA), will also have a Zoom link
 - d. **Discussion**
 - i. **Claire** – motion to add “and professional” to several lines of the bill so that the phrasing is changed from “graduate students” to “graduate and professional students” throughout
 1. **Matt** – can we change the title of the event if it’s Smeal’s event?
 - a. **David** – we have been in conversation with them about the name, there should be no problem to change the name
 2. **Sandeep** seconds
 - ii. **Claire** motion to adopt, **Sandeep** seconds
 - e. **Resolution Passed 23-0-0, see Appendix II for details**

XII. Reports

a. Advocacy and Diversity – **Shah Soligné**

- i. PRIDE Brunch has been moved to October 30th at 12PM due to logistical conflicts in Sunset Park
- ii. Presidential Selection Committee – Julie Ann Potts rejected our requests for more student involvement in the presidential selection process during the recent Student Leadership Roundtable
 1. **Schonn** requested being able to more further participate via signing an NDA, but this request was rejected
- iii. A&D will have a meeting tomorrow at 3PM
- iv. **Questions and Comments**

1. **Matt** – what is our involvement in the presidential selection committee right now?
 - a. **Schonn** – nothing right now, glad that A&D is bringing this issue up, in February there was a larger committee to determine what we want from a president, then a smaller committee that interviewed and narrowed down the candidates (down to 5 now) with the process having begun in June
 - i. In May, we had mentioned that it was important for the graduate and professional student body to be involved, but we were rejected
 - ii. In July, we asked again to be included in the process with the Chair of the BoT but it was rejected because it was mid process
 - iii. Have mentioned to members of the selection committee that we would be willing to do a confidential debrief or otherwise have meetings with candidates
 - iv. Anyone who wants to help with the A&D committee please reach out, we want to have a draft by the October 27th meeting
 - b. **Matt** – follow up, who represents the student's interest right now?
 - i. **Schonn** – the selection committee only has one member that is a student (UPUA President)
 - ii. No direct involvement of the graduate school
2. **Ali** – this is an issue that has been brought up with Faculty Senate, it would be worthwhile to reach out to other groups that feel like they have been excluded from this process
 - a. **Shah** – agreed, have reached out to groups on campus that have felt like they have been excluded with this process, have not yet reached out to faculty but it is something we can work on
 - b. **Schonn** – there was a discussion about in November having a select faculty group meet with candidates

b. Professional Development – **Niladri Sekhar Mandal**

- i. Have two more sessions of writing bootcamp left, first session of the professional headshots today, second tomorrow
- ii. Working with Smeal to organize the business event

- iii. Also working with EPICC to organize some workshops for graduate and professional students
 - iv. **Questions and Comments**
 - 1. **Schonn** – The professional development committee has been recognized by GSAS and the Graduate Dean’s office for their hard work
 - a. **Niladri** – Want to thank all the members of the PD committee for their help planning these events, especially **David** with our Smeal collaboration, want to also thank **Matt** for the contracts process, we have had a lot of help from the GPSA and are thankful for the support
 - 2. **Jalen** – what were the final numbers for the amount of students who could get headshots?
 - a. We have 108 slots, will update with those who showed up
 - c. Programming – **Sandeep**
 - i. Grad Cup will take place in a few weeks, posters for the pottery and coffee hour events are also online, please share it as much as you can
 - ii. Next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday
 - d. Community Outreach – **Sandeep**
 - i. Community Outreach will have its next meeting either this or next week, nothing to report
 - ii. **Questions and Comments**
 - e. Internal Development – **Frankie Urrutia-Smith**
 - i. Nothing to report right now
 - ii. **Questions and Comments**
 - 1. **Schonn** – make sure Travis gives the Zoom link to be included to the calendar
- XIII. Liaison Reports
 - a. **Katie** – Center for Performing Arts Student Advisory Council
 - i. First meeting has happened, currently only graduate representative, reaching out to others but also looking for suggestions for more representatives from the graduate and professional student body, also for suggestions and feedback for programming for the CPA for subsequent years
 - b. **Claire** – Student Fee Board (SFB)
 - i. Currently going through the process of determining new facilities projects that will utilize the facilities portion of the fee
 - ii. All students (grad + prof too) are paying the fee, so we (**Claire, Schonn, Megan**) looking for feedback about what facilities projects are upcoming
 - iii. **Schonn** – SFB is vitally important, check out and get involved through public comment, the Facebook and Instagram account, and through meeting attendance
- XIV. Student Trustee – Janiyah Davis
 - a. Not in attendance
- XV. Advisor – Adam Christensen
 - a. Nothing to report
- XVI. Comments for the Good of the Order
 - a. **Schonn** – this meeting went much faster, which is great. If there is anything you liked or didn’t like about how we did exec reports, please give us feedback
- XVII. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM

Appendix I

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

| Position | Name | 10/13/21 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| Executive Board | | |
| President | Schönn Franklin | P |
| Vice President | Jalen Jeter | P |
| Secretary | Alex Zhao | P |
| Treasurer | Matthew Billups | P |
| Faculty Senator (Graduate School) | Ali Watts | P |
| Faculty Senator (GPSA Appointed) | Lillian Schaeffer | P |
| Judiciary | | |
| Chief Justice | Sam Altland | P |
| Associate Justice | Kena Gomalo | E |
| Graduate Council | | |
| Graduate Council | Claire Kelling (Science) | P |
| Graduate Council | Katie Warczak (Liberal Arts) | P |
| Graduate Council | Hannah Nolte (Engineering) | Proxy |
| Graduate Council | Suparna Dutta (SIA) | P |
| Graduate Council | Annie Everett (Education) | L |
| Assembly | | |
| Agricultural Sciences | Travis Russell | U |
| Agricultural Sciences | Ram Neupane | P |
| Communications | Ashley Smalls | P |
| Education | Seongryeong Yu | P |
| Education | Farhan Sadique | E |
| Education | Yun-Chen Yen | P |
| Engineering | Sandeep Krishnakumar | P |
| Engineering | Niladri Sekhar Mandal | L |
| Engineering | Tanveer Ahmed | E |
| Engineering | Arnab Chatterjee | L |
| Health and Human Development | Brooke Mattern | P |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Health and Human Development | David Desmet | P |
| Liberal Arts | Nora Tucker | P |
| Liberal Arts | Frankie Urrutia-Smith | P |
| Nursing | Sherif Olanrewaju | P |
| School of International Affairs | Shaheed Soligné | P |
| School of Law | Megan Minnich | P |
| School of Law | Eli Fields | P |
| Smeal College of Business | Caitlyn Martin | E |
| At-Large Delegate | Ama Agyapong (IGDP) | P |
| At-Large Delegate | Yuki Takahashi (SIA) | P |
| At-Large Delegate | Shakhzoda Tuychieva (Law) | P |

Appendix II

Y=Yes | N= No | A = Abstain | Blank Cell = No Vote

| Office | Name | Attendance | Resolution 71-05 | Annie Everett (Graduate Council) Confirmation | Arnab Chatterjee (Engineering Delegate) Confirmation | Bill 71-12 | Resolution 71-07 |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------|------------------|---|--|------------|------------------|
| Graduate Council | | | | | | | |
| Graduate Council | Claire Kelling (Science) | P | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Graduate Council | Katie Warczak (Liberal Arts) | P | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Graduate Council | Hannah Nolte (Engineering) | Proxy | Y | A | A | Y | Y |
| Graduate Council | Suparna Dutta (SIA) | P | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Graduate Council | Annie Everett (Education) | L | | | Y | Y | Y |
| Assembly | | | | | | | |
| Agricultural Sciences | Ram Neupane | P | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Communications | Ashley Smalls | P | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Education | Seongryeong Yu | P | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Education | | | | | | | |
| Education | Yun-Chen Yen | P | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Engineering | Sandeep Krishnakumar | P | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Engineering | Niladri Sekhar Mandal | L | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Engineering | Arnab Chatterjee | L | | | | Y | Y |
| Health and Human Development | Brooke Mattern | P | Y | Y | Y | | Y |
| Health and Human Development | David Desmet | P | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Liberal Arts | Nora Tucker | P | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Liberal Arts | Frankie Urrutia-Smith | P | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Liberal Arts | | | | | | | |
| Nursing | Sherif Olanrewaju | P | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| School of International Affairs | Shaheed Soligné (Shah) | P | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| School of Law | Megan Minnich | P | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| School of Law | Eli Fields | P | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| At-Large Delegate | Ama Agyapong | P | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| At-Large Delegate | Yuki Takahashi | P | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| At-Large Delegate | Shakhzoda Tuychieva | P | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Number of voters in Assembly: | 23 | Yes (Y) | 21 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| Number of voters present: | 23 | No (N) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | Abstain (A) | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

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|--|--|------|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | Veto | No | No | No | No | No |
|--|--|------|----|----|----|----|----|