



Graduate and Professional Student Association

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

GPSA 71st Assembly Meeting	Wednesday, October 27th, 2021	6:00 PM	HUB 134/Zoom
----------------------------	-------------------------------	---------	--------------

Action Items:

- Graduate and professional students interested in hearing from and asking questions of the candidates for Graduate Dean should attend town halls that are open to all students. An in-person component will be held in Foster Auditorium in Paterno Library. Please advertise the information for these town halls, which can be found in our #newswire channel

Business Conducted:

- Penn State Board of Trustees Chair Matthew Schuyler, Co-Chair of the Presidential Recruitment and Selection Committee David Kleppinger, and Student Representative of the Committee Erin Boas came to give an overview of the presidential search and selection process, and to answer questions from GPSA Delegates and members
- GPSA President Schönn Franklin is working with other student government leaders and University administration to both enhance the Love is Louder event in opposition to the invitation of Milo Yiannopoulos next week and ensuring that students and counterprotestors remain safe
- Bill 71-13 (IGSA Co-Sponsorship) was passed, which authorizes the GPSA to co-sponsor the Indian Graduate Student Association's Bollywood Dance Night to be held on November 13th, 2022
- Bill 71-14 (The 5th Annual Criminal Justice Reform Conference) was passed, which authorizes the GPSA to co-sponsor the Penn State Criminal Law Society's 5th annual Criminal Justice Reform Conference, to be held on February 12th, 2022

Agenda

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM
- II. Roll Call – See Appendix I
- III. Adoption of the Agenda
- IV. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes from 10/13/2021: Approved
- V. Open Student Forum
- VI. Special Presentation: Overview of Presidential Recruitment and Selection Committee by Board of Trustees Chair Matthew Schuyler, Board of Trustees Vice Chair and Committee Co-chair David Kleppinger, and UPUA President and Committee Student Representative Erin Boas
 - a. Search process began last November when the committee was formed
 - b. Began with a formation of an advisory group to help define where the university will need to head in its next generation
 - i. Used this framework to develop position description
 - ii. Worked with search firm partner to conduct comprehensive candidate outreach and research
 - c. Process for the criteria was very vast and involved many members of the community

- i. Over 15,000 pieces of input went into formulating search specifications
 - ii. Using this input we created a broad series of targets for the person we would be seeking
- d. Seeking a broad canvas of candidates from academia, business, nominations from PSU community and making sure the talent was diverse
- e. Canvas for candidates
 - i. Started with over 4000
 - ii. Narrowed to 120 prospects, 80 met
 - iii. 50 targets evaluated by committee
 - iv. 11 candidates selected for round 1 interview
- f. Vetting process
 - i. Pre-round 1 interviews
 - ii. Round 1 interviews in September and October
 - 1. Big part of our lens through which we looked through the search is through the eyes of the students
 - 2. Erin has done an excellent job of representing student interests
 - a. Views of student life, academic equity, students in general, outlook on future of student interaction model
- g. Next steps: round 2 interviews with search committee
 - i. Potential informal meetings with small groups of PRSC
 - ii. Also sessions with faculty and full board
- h. Universally candidates express as a primary focal point a focus on the students, DEI, and sustainability
- i. Concerns are blanket across the entire student body but there are many niche concerns that graduate students face, being a faculty member while also being a student
- j. **Questions and Comments**
 - i. **Alex** – how have graduate and professional student concerns been conveyed and will there be a chance for graduate and professional students to convey their feedback to future candidates
 - 1. **Matt Schuyler** – each of the candidate finalists have a lot of experience dealing with graduate student organizations as well as the concerns raised specifically about graduate and professional students, currently behavioral interview about how they have dealt with these issues in the past and contemporary thinking on how they would address these issues going forward
 - a. Students are a major priority and a lens through which we view this search
 - b. We are confident that the candidates understand the issues, have experience with taking them on, and their viewpoints in general on higher education
 - c. Each of them have pointed out they are quite comfortable in their current position, so we are trying to be very confidential
 - 2. **David Kleppinger** - we have 3 faculty members on the committee who are well versed in issues faced by graduate and professional students due to their work, each candidate had an opportunity to tell us where their institution was when they got there in terms of research excellence/student satisfaction and how it changed during their tenure, only really position with previous university president experience

- ii. **Schonn** – do these candidates have experience with fundraising for assistantships for all students, and do they have experience with positive relationships with faculty senate?
 - 1. **Matt Schuyler** - yes on both, challenges notwithstanding but these candidates have experience navigating through said challenges
- iii. **Ama** - have any of these candidates been affiliated with a partisan government entity?
 - 1. **Matt Schuyler** – no, they are coming out of the academy, but they have experience with relations with the government from the academic perspective, no politicians
 - 2. **David Kleppinger** – each candidate was questioned about their relationships with state/local/fed government and the impact it has on their universities
- iv. **Katie** – have any candidates that have progressed this far have any experience working with graduate student labor unions/unionization?
 - 1. **Matt Schuyler** – all have experience with unionization efforts, don't know exact number that have experience with unions but at least two have experience interacting with graduate student unions

VII. Executive Board Reports

a. President – **Schönn Franklin**

i. Meetings

- 1. Meeting w/ Dean Vasilatos-Younkin (Grad School)
 - a. Discussed need for a Development Officer for the Grad School, Potential renovations in Kern
- 2. Meeting w/ Dean Houck (Penn State Law)
 - a. Gave overview of the GPSA's mission, values, and general structure
 - b. Connected with Penn State Law SBA and SIA's SGA
- 3. Meeting w/ Cox-State Department Fellows
 - a. Discussed grad school life at Penn State and Charles B. Rangel State Department Fellowship
- 4. Meeting w/ Alumni Association's Awards Committee
 - a. Selected the finalists for the Alumni Association Legislative award and Friend of Penn State Award
- 5. Meeting w/ Student Government Execs and Advisors
 - a. Will discuss opportunities for collaboration between the four student governments

ii. Comments

- 1. The GPSA's exec board will meet with the four finalists for Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School privately this week
- 2. The Graduate School will provide townhalls for all candidates this week as well

iii. Questions and Comments

- 1. **Sandeep** – can you update us on the speaker coming in next week?
 - a. **Schonn** – Milo Yiannopoulos, a self avowed ex-gay speaker is coming to campus next week
 - i. University general counsel has advised that we cannot stop this particular event for legal reasons

- ii. My focus is not on stopping this event but enhancing the Love is Louder event and also making sure that there is protection outside of Thomas and outside of HUB in case of the need to deescalate
 - iii. Speaking to CAPS, if we determine that there has been harm to individuals due to this event there will be events for them to attend
 - iv. I hear from all of you that this is an event that the University shouldn't have but we cannot for legal reasons
 - b. **Travis** – we know Love is Louder is expected 300-400 but how many are expected for the Milo event?
 - i. **Schonn** – I have requested that we get an accurate count of who has bought tickets to know where it is, have been trying to make sure that a counter protest against the event stays safe
 - c. **Sandeep** – what is the plan if there is a conflict between groups that will show up?
 - i. **Schonn** – contingency plans through University police, deescalation task force, and through Penn State DEI administrators are checking to make sure nothing leads to violence
 - d. **Matt** – are those plans accessible to the students who could be on campus?
 - i. **Schonn** – closer to November 3rd they will release more information, but also looking to release information about “if you do protest, here are your rights”, do not want counter protestors to get in trouble for counterprotesting
 - e. **Travis** – has the student organization hosting the event been forthcoming and cooperative with the University administration?
 - i. **Schonn** – they are being cooperate but not open, they did not post the speaker in 25live and had posters said “Penn State hosts Milo” instead of “Uncensored America”, also moved the posters which were a slap in the face
 - f. **Ali** – Are they receiving University funding?
 - i. **Schonn** – Yes they are receiving UPAC funding, we knew there was going to be a speaker, the advisor of UPAC knew but their 25Live sheet was not completely filled out
- b. Vice President – **Jalen Jeter**
- i. Office of Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response
 - 1. Ways to engage the student by revamping the student toolkit
 - ii. Student Fee Board round table
 - 1. Talk about the options for funding different campus expansions in the coming years

2. 6 options for funding future projects on campus
 - a. HUB Expansion
 - b. Wellbeing Building
 - c. HUB Affinity Group Space
 - d. Fisher Hall
 - e. Stone Valley
 - f. Natatorium
- iii. Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School Search Interviews
- c. Treasurer – **Matt Billups**
 - i. Got our SIF funding officially transferred to account
 - ii. Reach out before making purchases for events to handle any particular issues
- d. Secretary – **Alex Zhao**
 - i. Please notify if mispronouncing delegates' names or if delegates enter the meeting after attendance has been taken.
 - ii. Committee chairs please send attendance records after each committee meeting.
 - iii. Sending out the newswire tomorrow, please submit any event announcements or graphics by noon.
 - iv. Please notify if you want to be excluded from our public recordings
- e. Faculty Senate – **Lillian Schaeffer**
 - i. Met with Educational Equity committee
 1. Working on providing more student access resources with Title IX
 - ii. Student Caucus meeting about making election day as a day off for students
 1. Facing pushback but still pretty determined about it
 - iii. Faculty Senate meeting passed revisions to bylaws
 - iv. **Questions and Comments**
- f. Graduate Council – **Claire Kelling**
 - i. The Graduate Student Faculty Issues (GSFI) committee of Graduate Council is discussing vacation time. It seems as though 10 days is pretty standard at other universities, in addition to university holidays (11 days at Penn State.)
 - ii. There will be town halls that are open to all students for the Graduate Dean candidates. They are in the newswire channel. These have not been well advertised to students, please help spread the word! Information on livestreams will be announced soon but dates are in #newswire Slack. There is an in-person session as well.
 - iii. All graduate and professional students paid by the university (wage, payroll, assistants) need to be vaccinated.
 - iv. I delivered a report from the School Psychology students, and the Dean responded that the decision to close School Psychology program was made about a decade ago. This program also had the lowest rating from students in the exit surveys in the college and the decision is based on enrollment, application numbers, and cost of programs, so it is difficult to find an avenue for student feedback.
 - v. Next meeting: November 17th
- 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. Once again, make sure to keep checking your Slack, keeping up to date with the happenings of your committee, and being active in it.
 - iii. Also try to help out other committees as much as you can when they need it because everyone is spread quite thin.
 - h. Chief Justice – The Honorable **Samuel Altland**
 - i. Constitution updated in accordance with R71-05, and the amended version is currently available on the drive. The corresponding updated track-changes is also available.
- VIII. Bill 71-13: IGSA Co-sponsorship
 - a. Approached by Indian Graduate Student Association (IGSA) on co-sponsoring event that they're organizing on the 13th of November. They had approached UPAC at first but there was a misunderstanding and couldn't get the funding for their event.
 - b. Event also being co-sponsored and funded by the North American Association of Indian Students (NAAIS)
 - c. Requesting funding for venue + equipment, merchandise to be given as gifts, printouts/banners, and decorations
 - d. Rest funded by NAAIS (food, prizes, photobooth)
 - e. **Questions**
 - i. **Matt Billups** - for the printouts and banners, would the material reflect GPSA logo?
 - 1. We can incorporate that
 - ii. **Alex Zhao** – will likely also need Student Fee Board logo, can you reach out?
 - 1. Yes
 - iii. **Travis** – for Matt Billups, with the current balance, we're okay with funding these for future events we have planned?
 - 1. **Matt** – for this year we have allotted a little over \$42k (about \$10k is from last year), free funds remaining is about \$23k, this also including bills that are in progress but if an event comes in under budget leftovers will go back into budget
 - f. **Discussion**
 - i. **Sandeep** - motion to approve by roll call, Travis second
 - g. **Bill Passed 23-0-1, see Appendix II for details**
- IX. Bill 71-14: The 5th Annual Criminal Justice Reform Conference
 - a. Co-sponsorship request from Criminal Law Society from the Law School, originally approached about co-sponsor during May/June
 - b. Bill is to fund their annual criminal justice reform conference
 - i. Specific topic areas covered death penalty, police reform, immigration, mental health and disability as well as juvenile issues
 - ii. This will be open to all students instead of previous years where it was open to only Law School students
 - c. Funding sources for non-students will come from elsewhere
 - d. Small fee charged for raising money for fellowship for those who want to work an

unpaid internship in criminal justice reform

e. **Questions**

- i. **Travis** - \$30 per person, it seems a little pricey, what does that entail and are there potential options?
 1. Specifically funding for the banquet dinner portion, SBA is funding lunch and breakfast
 2. This is actually \$10 off the price, they're specifically using the Penn Stater's catering and accommodating dietary restrictions, but this is as low as they could get
- ii. **Travis** – is there any way to advertise GPSA is co-sponsoring and endorsing this conference?
 1. Shouldn't be a problem, there will be several decorations and we can include GPSA logo in those and the promotional materials
- iii. **Alex** - can you also include SFB logo on promotional events?
 1. Yes

f. **Discussion**

- i. Motion to approve by roll call by Megan, second by Ama

g. **Bill Passed 23-0-1, see Appendix II for details**

X. Reports

- a. Advocacy and Diversity – **Megan Minnich**
 - i. Meeting tomorrow at 3PM over Zoom, might reevaluate the meeting times afterwards
- b. Professional Development – **David Desmet**
 - i. Writing bootcamp completed this week, attendance was good, professional headshot event went well and photos are being released now, have our event with Smeal College of Business next week, appreciate help promoting event
 - ii. Niladri met with GSAS today, discussing alumni mentorship program (pairing graduate students with alumni for their program), targeting next year pilot with engineering, discussed Academia to Industry event they will host over the summer and would like our input
- c. Programming – **Ama Agyapong**
 - i. Working on tie dye event for Nov 4 and Grad Cup starting Nov 1 (weekly challenges + online game nights and in-person events), if you would like to help with planning and facilitating events, contact me on Slack
- d. Community Outreach – **Ram Neupane**
 - i. Met for first time last week for introduction, meeting on Friday of this week so we will be discussing an event that we can do this semester
- e. Internal Development – **Travis Russell**
 - i. Have not met recently, we are hopefully able to schedule a meeting next week

XI. Liaison Reports

- a. **Alex** – Graduate Exhibition Committee met last week, looking to do a virtual exhibition but also looking at tools like Gather.town to provide live and synchronous feedback
- b. **Farhan** – Campus Rec is discussing monthly programs, including improving transportation services out to Stone Valley, let me know if there are specific graduate and professional needs that you want to convey

XII. Student Trustee – Janiyah Davis

- a. Not in attendance
- XIII. Advisor – Adam Christensen
 - a. Nothing to report
- XIV. Comments for the Good of the Order
 - a. **Travis** - any talk with University administration about CATA shortages? Severe problems even getting on buses and will become an issue especially in the winter
 - i. **Sandeep** – we launched a survey about transportation and will be closing it this week, many have expressed this is an issue, university is aware
 - ii. **Alex** – will bring up survey and CATA shortages to Transportation Services Student Advisory Board
- XV. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM

Appendix I

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

Position	Name	10/27/21
Executive Board		
President	Schönn Franklin	P
Vice President	Jalen Jeter	L
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)	E
Graduate Council	Katie Warczak (Liberal Arts)	P
Graduate Council	Hannah Nolte (Engineering)	P
Graduate Council	Suparna Dutta (SIA)	P
Graduate Council	Annie Everett (Education)	P
Assembly		
Agricultural Sciences	Travis Russell	P

Agricultural Sciences	Ram Neupane	L
Communications	Ashley Smalls	P
Education	Seongryeong Yu	P
Education	Farhan Sadique	P
Education	Yun-Chen Yen	P
Engineering	Sandeep Krishnakumar	P
Engineering	Niladri Sekhar Mandal	Proxy
Engineering	Tanveer Ahmed	P
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 Law	Megan Minnich	P
School of Law	Eli Fields	P
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	Bill 71-13	Bill 71-14
Graduate Council				
Graduate Council	Katie Warczak (Liberal Arts)	P	Y	Y
Graduate Council	Hannah Nolte (Engineering)	P	Y	Y
Graduate Council	Suparna Dutta (SIA)	P	Y	Y
Graduate Council	Annie Everett (Education)	P	Y	Y
Assembly				
Agricultural Sciences	Travis Russell	P	Y	Y
Agricultural Sciences	Ram Neupane	L	Y	Y

Communications	Ashley Smalls	P	Y	Y
Education	Seongryeong Yu	P	Y	Y
Education	Farhan Sadique	P	Y	Y
Education	Yun-Chen Yen	P	Y	Y
Engineering	Sandeep Krishnakumar	P	Y	Y
Engineering	Niladri Sekhar Mandal	Proxy	A	A
Engineering	Tanveer Ahmed	P	Y	Y
Engineering	Arnab Chatterjee	L	Y	Y
Health and Human Development	Brooke Mattern	P	Y	Y
Health and Human Development	David Desmet	P	Y	Y
Liberal Arts	Nora Tucker	P	Y	Y
Liberal Arts	Frankie Urrutia-Smith	P	Y	Y
Liberal Arts				
Nursing	Sherif Olanrewaju	P	Y	Y
School of International Affairs				
School of Law	Megan Minnich	P	Y	Y
School of Law	Eli Fields	P	Y	Y
At-Large Delegate	Ama Agyapong (IGDP)	P	Y	Y
At-Large Delegate	Yuki Takahashi (SIA)	P	Y	Y
At-Large Delegate	Shakhzoda Tuychieva	P	Y	Y
Number of voters in Assembly:	24	Yes (Y)	23	23
Number of voters present:	24	No (N)	0	0
		Abstain (A)	1	1
		Veto	No	No