

Bill # 71-17

**The Graduate and Professional Student Association
(GPSA)
The Pennsylvania State University**



of the 71st Assembly
December 8th, 2021

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

GWIS Empower Conference Co-Sponsorship
Funding for honoraria for the Empower Conference, a conference hosted by the
Graduate Women in Science (GWIS), Penn State Chapter
(Decided: [Y / N / A])

Nature of the Situation:

The Graduate and Professional Student Association supports groups on campus that host relevant and enriching events. One such event is the Empower Conference, formerly known as Voices, hosted by the Graduate Women in Science (GWIS), Penn State Chapter; it has been held since 2005. The Empower Conference is attended by 100-150 graduate, professional, undergraduate and now high school students, by all genders and across various departments. The conference will take place February 5, 2022 via Zoom. The event runs from 8:30am - 5:00 pm. This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Alexis Gambis, French-Venezuelan biologist and filmmaker. GWIS will also have session speakers Dr. Michael Blakey, Director of the Institute for Historical Biology at William and Mary and Dr. Mona Minkara, an Assistant Professor of Bioengineering at Northeastern University and a self-proclaimed Blind Scientist. Additionally, there will be 2 breakout sessions focused on science communication led by Dr. Asia Murphy, ecologist, photographer, and Penn State Ecology graduate and Dr. Paula Croxson, neuroscientist and storyteller. The conference also includes a yoga/meditation break led by Penn State Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Ph.D. Candidate Latisha Franklin, also a certified yoga instructor at Penn State and at Yoga Lab. GWIS will also be hosting a diversity, equity, and inclusion workshop centered on intersectionality.

1
2 GWIS obtains funding from sources such as the University Park Allocation Committee (UPAC),
3 and the American Association of University Women (AAUW). These sources cover honoraria
4 and participant/speaker gifts. However, GWIS needs additional funding to help cover the
5 honoraria for speakers. GPSA will be recognized for their contribution in recruitment emails,
6 programs distributed to all attendees, and verbally at the conference.

7
8 **Recommended Course of Action:**

9
10 The Graduate and Professional Student Association authorizes financial support of \$2,500 to go
11 towards co-sponsoring the Empower Conference through the following line items:

12
13 \$2,500: Honorarium for Dr. Mona Minkara

14
15 **Total: \$2,500**

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Kelling
Graduate Council Student Caucus Chair

President _____ Veto Affirm

The Graduate and Professional Student Association