



## Graduate and Professional Student Association

The Pennsylvania State University  
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|                            |                             |         |      |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|------|
| GPSA 71st Assembly Meeting | Wednesday, February 9, 2022 | 6:00 PM | Zoom |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|------|

### Action Items:

- Please publicize the GPSA elections website: <https://gpsa.psu.edu/elections>
- Schonn will post proposed resolutions to change the structure of the GPSA, please provide your opinion and feedback so we can discuss these changes

### Business Conducted:

- GPSA Intent to Run form for 2022 elections is now open

### Agenda

- I. Meeting called to order at 6 PM
- II. Roll Call – See Appendix I
- III. Adoption of the Agenda
- IV. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes from 1/26/2022: Approved
- V. Open Student Forum
- VI. Executive Board Reports
  - a. President – **Schönn Franklin**
    - i. Had meeting with Damon Sims and other student government presidents, discussed on different initiatives that the student governments were working on
      1. UPUA – working on literacy tests to assist community, working with Days for Girls to ensure that menstrual products are available in Penn State bathrooms (paying for it out of funds, seeking permanent funding)
    - ii. GPSA – working on graduate school development officer, still working with interim dean and VP of external relations to finalize criteria, leaving some flexibility for incoming graduate dean
    - iii. Final round of interviews for assistant/associate deans for well being and professional development at the graduate school
    - iv. Graduate Dean search has not yet restarted yet
    - v. Board of Trustees meeting is upcoming in 9 days
  - b. Vice President – **Jalen Jeter**
    - i. Excused absence from meeting
  - c. Treasurer – **Matt Billups**
    - i. Available funds is \$29,000
    - ii. Indian Graduate Student Association co-sponsorship complete
    - iii. GWIS conference co-sponsorship complete with good feedback
    - iv. Reached out to committee chairs about the rest of the fiscal year's budget, gave template for them to fill out about remaining events until the end of June

1. Goal is to be able to compile anticipated budget expenditures until the end of the fiscal year
  - v. GPSA is allowed to contribute funds towards election campaigning (up to \$2000)
    1. Can be spent by candidates on election materials
      - a. We could set reimbursement limit, require a funding proposal, also approval of materials
    2. Can also be spent by GPSA for recruitment for election purposes
    3. Up to our discretion how to spend this amount, can split between the two purposes
  - vi. **Questions and Comments**
    1. **Alex** – Given the low number of candidates that often run, I'd be in favor of mostly spending the money on recruitment
  - 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 meeting.
    - iii. Sending out the newswire tomorrow, please submit any event announcements or graphics by noon.
    - iv. Elections page will be up after this meeting, including intent to run form, please publicize and/or fill out the form
  - e. Faculty Senate – **Lillian Schaeffer**
    - i. Nothing new to report
    - ii. **Ali** – forum on the 22nd will be on how elections will work for faculty senators, with a focus on the UPUA/student senators, including about how to increase participation and recruitment
  - f. Graduate Council – **Claire Kelling**
    - i. Graduate Council meets again next Wednesday:
      1. Dual title policy for graduate minors and degrees is coming up, which has a much more generous policy than graduate minors for double counting, potentially some changes will be made
      2. Policy on concurrent degrees that will be discussed
    - ii. **Questions and Comments**
  - g. Speaker of the Assembly – **Sandeep Krishnakumar**
    - i. Wants to echo Matt's point that we have a large remaining balance of funds so it is important for us to best utilize this effectively by planning for events, keeping me, Jalen, and Matt in the loop, especially for any budget related issues
  - h. Chief Justice – The Honorable **Ian Tennison**
    - i. Intent to run form on the GPSA website and also on Slack
      1. Have until a week before March 30th to submit forms
      2. New version of bylaws is now available on the shared drive
- VII. Reports
- a. Advocacy and Diversity – **Megan Minnich**
    - i. Two Sundays ago we hosted the PRIDE Brunch, want to thank Ali Wats and Eli Fields who came to help moderate the discussions
    - ii. Continuing working on a town hall type of event, working with Jalen to discuss possible ideas
    - iii. Sponsoring two more events, more information to come
  - b. Professional Development – **Niladri Sekhar Mandal**

- i. Graduate School is having a series of professional development events through February that we looking to promote
  - ii. Writing Boot Camp planned to start by early March
  - iii. Working on a consultancy workshop
  - iv. Committee is thinking about events that would not overlap with existing Career Services offerings (professional headshots for example). One example is a graduate/professional student focused event on how for international students to conduct a job search (while DISSA puts on such an event this one would be more graduate focused)
- c. Student Engagement – **Ama Agyapong, Ram Neupane**
  - i. Ama and Ram elected co-chairs going forward
  - ii. Outreach events being planned
    - 1. Hosting a blood drive
    - 2. Bicycle helmet giveaway
      - a. Bill is finished, waiting to hear from UPUA to finalize the date
  - iii. Social events
    - 1. Student talent showcase
    - 2. Game nights
    - 3. Smaller events will be sprinkled throughout the months as well
  - iv. **Questions and Comments**
    - 1. **Matt** – For the bike safety event, how are we collaborating with UPUA?
      - a. **Ram** – we are sponsoring 50 bike helmets to giveaway, UPUA also sponsoring 50 helmets, looking to see if additional funding from transportation department can be provided, volunteers from both organizations will be there
    - 2. **Matt** – any consideration of the fact that we are sponsoring the same number of helmets but the undergraduate population is much larger?
      - a. **Ram** – a similar event happened in 2020 so we are following that as a model, but we can keep this in mind when we finalize the whole collaborate model
      - b. **Claire** – for context, last time this program happened GPSA took the lead and we asked UPUA to contribute and participate, hence the 50/50
- d. Internal Development – **Travis Russell**
  - i. Nothing to report
- e. Liaison Reports
  - i. **Noah Schiro (CCSG)** – wanted to introduce myself as the executive liaison for CCSG, will provide email if you want to collaborate, CCSG Council this weekend included a sustainability summit, 3 pieces of legislation:
    - a. Support of Pell Grant Preservation and Expansion Act
    - b. Support of OER and OAER signifiers and terminology in line with past class searches
    - c. In support of housing and food services providing electronic receipts from student affairs
  - 2. Event that happened at Harrisburg as well as 3 other Commonwealth campuses where an uninvited speaker showed up, speaker was racist, homophobic, generally espoused hate speech, CCSG is looking to have a unified response with the other student governments on this issue

3. **Matt** – what was the response from the university?
    - a. **Noah** – their response was similar to previous incidents where they repeated similar defenses via the First Amendment, but my personal opinion is that this speech is borderline harassment, administration was aware of the event
    - b. **Schonn** – would like to note that while they want to see if there are ways to lessen the likelihood of these events happening, there are legal ramifications for stepping in
  - f. Student Trustee – Janiyah Davis
    - i. Not in attendance
  - g. Advisor – Adam Christensen
    - i. April 4th will be the launch date for the sexual misconduct climate survey
- VIII. Comments for the Good of the Order
- a. **Schonn** – will send out the second round of changes to the GPSA organization resolution, looking for everyone to get involved and participate in discussion and suggesting edits, please provide your opinion so we can have a dialogue about these ideas
- IX. Meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM

### Appendix I

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

| Position                          | Name                         | 2/9/22 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Executive Board</b>            |                              |        |
| President                         | Schönn Franklin              | P      |
| Vice President                    | Jalen Jeter                  | E      |
| Secretary                         | Alex Zhao                    | P      |
| Treasurer                         | Matthew Billups              | P      |
| Faculty Senator (Graduate School) | Ali Watts                    | P      |
| Faculty Senator (GPSA Appointed)  | Lillian Schaeffer            | P      |
| <b>Judiciary</b>                  |                              |        |
| Chief Justice                     | Ian Tennison                 | P      |
| Associate Justice                 | Drake Broussard              | P      |
| Associate Justice                 | Sam Altland                  | P      |
| <b>Graduate Council</b>           |                              |        |
| Graduate Council                  | Claire Kelling (Science)     | P      |
| Graduate Council                  | Katie Warczak (Liberal Arts) | P      |
| Graduate Council                  | Hannah Nolte (Engineering)   | P      |

|                                 |                                   |       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Graduate Council                | Annie Everett (Education)         | P     |
| <b>Assembly</b>                 |                                   |       |
| Agricultural Sciences           | Travis Russell                    | U     |
| Agricultural Sciences           | Ram Neupane                       | P     |
| Communications                  | Ashley Smalls                     | P     |
| Education                       | Seongryeong Yu                    | P     |
| Education                       | Farhan Sadique                    | P     |
| Education                       | Yun-Chen Yen                      | P     |
| Engineering                     | Sandeep Krishnakumar              | A     |
| Engineering                     | Niladri Sekhar Mandal             | P     |
| Engineering                     | Tanveer Ahmed                     | P     |
| Engineering                     | Arnab Chatterjee                  | L     |
| Engineering                     |                                   |       |
| Health and Human Development    | Brooke Mattern                    | P     |
| Health and Human Development    | David Desmet                      | P     |
| Liberal Arts                    | Nora Tucker                       | P     |
| Nursing                         | Sherif Olanrewaju                 | P     |
| School of International Affairs | Gerren Graham                     | Proxy |
| School of Law                   | Megan Minnich                     | P     |
| School of Law                   | Eli Fields                        | P     |
| School of Law                   | Ava McCartin                      | P     |
| Smeal College of Business       |                                   |       |
| At-Large Delegate               | Ama Agyapong (IGDP)               | P     |
| At-Large Delegate               | Yuki Takahashi (SIA)              | P     |
| At-Large Delegate               | Shakhzoda Tuychieva (Law)         | P     |
| At-Large Delegate               | Sara Albrecht Soto (Liberal Arts) | P     |
| At-Large Delegate               | Rola Tarek (Education)            | P     |