



Graduate and Professional Student Association

The Pennsylvania State University
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 University Park, PA 16802
 Email: gpsaoffice@gmail.com

GPSA 71st Assembly Meeting	Wednesday, February 23, 2022	6:00 PM	Zoom
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Action Items:

- Fill out the intent to run form for the next GPSA Assembly term elections: <https://tinyurl.com/gpsaintenttorun>
- Spread the word about the 2022 US Trans Survey: <https://www.ustranssurvey.org/>

Business Conducted:

- Bill 71-19: Bike Safety Event was passed, which authorized the GPSA to spend \$2,500 to purchase bike helmets for a bike safety event to be put on with UPUA
- Bill 71-20: Talents Hobbies Identities Showcase (T.H.I.S.) was passed, which authorizes the GPSA to spend up to \$5,135 to put on a talent showcase of graduate and professional students
- Bill 71-21: Co-sponsorship for Indian Graduate Student Association (previously 71-23) was passed, which authorizes the GPSA to work with the Indian Graduate Student Association on their 'Jashn' event on March 25th, 2022, and to cover food and props costs totaling \$1,500
- Bill 71-22: Co-Sponsorship for the Student Bar Association's Law & Equity Committee's Diversity Banquet (previously 71-24) was passed, which authorizes the GPSA to work with the Penn State Law Student Bar Association's Law & Equity Committee to plan and put on their annual Diversity Banquet, and to cover food costs totaling \$3,500
- Bill 71-23: Bangladesh Student Association (BSA) Co-Sponsorship (previously 71-25) was passed, which authorizes the GPSA to work with the BSA to put on their annual Bangladesh Night, expressing the rich culture and heritage of Bangladesh to the Penn State and State College community, and to cover the costs of food totaling \$3,380
- Resolution 71-12: Reorganization of the GPSA Executive Branch was introduced, which proposes changes to the structure of the executive branch of the GPSA, and will be voted on in the next Assembly as it is a constitutional amendment

Agenda

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM
- II. Roll Call – See Appendix I
- III. Adoption of the Agenda
 - a. **Sandeep** – motion to remove Bill 71-22 (Co-sponsorship of the Jewish Law Students Association)
 - i. The event that we are co-sponsoring is held at a 21+ only restaurant so it would not be open to all Penn State students which is against Fee Board rules
 - ii. Jewish Law Students Association has withdrawn their co-sponsorship request as a result

- iii. Seconded by **Eli**, no objections and so motion passes unanimously
- IV. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes from 2/9/2022: Approved
- V. Open Student Forum
- VI. Special Presentation: Sarah Hamrick, Clinical Services Provider, Counseling and Psychological Services
 - a. There are several different psychological services on campus
 - i. Her clinic (in the Cedar building run by supervised master's students)
 - ii. Psychological clinic out of the Moore building which is more community based
 - iii. CAPS
 - b. We have 3 different locations
 - i. Student Health Center
 - ii. Bank of America Building
 - iii. Downtown in the Allenway building
 - iv. 50 staff spread out over 3 locations
 - c. Offer different services:
 - i. CAPS Chat – virtual at multiple days/times – sign up for 30 minute slots: opportunity to connect with a therapist about a quick concern (a little more than a phone call but not quite a full therapist concern)
 - ii. Skills based clinics on varying topics – 4 session clinics on a range of topics (perfectionism, anxiety), run for 4 consecutive weeks
 - iii. Ongoing semester long process groups for all types (graduate student focused groups, eating disorders, empowerment groups, sexual assault survivors)
 - iv. Short term individual counseling (teletherapy or in-person) – there is often a wait for individual counseling if you don't call right at the beginning of the semester
 - v. Case management services – helping students find a long term provider in the community
 - vi. Urgent appointments
 - vii. Psychiatric Services – call for more information, need to do an evaluation first and most people would need to be in counseling with CAPS first
 - d. Reaching CAPS
 - i. Call 814-863-0395 to schedule a screening call (8-5pm Mon-Fri)
 - ii. 24/7 Penn State call-in Crisis Line: 877-229-6400
 - iii. Crisis Textline – text LIONS to 741741
 - iv. Caps Website – <https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling>
 - e. Can consult with CAPS, most services start with a screening call, responses within 24 hours unless emergency (response would be immediate)
 - f. Also want to mention resources for faculty, staff, family and friends of students in crisis: <https://redfolder.psu.edu>
 - g. Related services
 - i. Welltrack App (psu.welltrack.com)
 - ii. <https://you.psu.edu>
 - iii. Ginger – behavioral health coaching (3 months of 24/7 available text based coaching) – <https://www.ginger.io/roots>
 - iv. Self help videos on CAPS website
 - h. **Questions and Comments**
 - i. **Matt Billups** – what does CAPS do to communicate its resources with faculty on campus, especially to faculty that have graduate student advisees or students

working in their labs, is there any sort of annual communication to faculty advisors about the mental health of students, graduate and professional students specifically, and signs to look out for in student behavior?

1. **Sarah** - As far as I know the red folders are given out every year, truthfully beyond that I don't know of any other sort of communication, we do have a monthly newsletter that people can sign up for, we are talking about overhauling our outreach to proactively start talking to anyone who is interacting with students
 2. **Matt Billups** – oftentimes students might not even realize what's going on, might think that the stress is normal, faculty advisors might be able to tell changes in work patterns or common behavior that would allow them to identify students who need help even before they themselves realize, this is something that could be really beneficial to the students and there's a unique opportunity here, perhaps some kind of annual introduction to the red folder and resources for professors so that they're able to identify patterns and take steps
 3. **Sarah** – these are good suggestions, it's something we've been talking about for a while, the other thing to note is that sometimes we get calls from professors who want us to reach out to students which we normally don't outside of safety situations, but we will help faculty in terms of figuring out how to reach out or practice having a conversation
- ii. **Schonn** – wanted to emphasize several points you made: the first is the usage of the red folder, this takes the guesswork out of how to help students which is very helpful when you're trying to help people, I also want to mention that I sought out counseling services and there was no wait time for me
1. **Sarah** – Would like to mention that CAPS services are free, the first six sessions of counseling are free but we're able to extend a little bit longer for a copay, psychiatric services are generally \$30 but are covered under student insurance or most other insurances, if you have the student health insurance they offer on-demand counseling and psychiatric services called Healthiest You

VII. Executive Board Reports

a. President – **Schönn Franklin**

- i. We're almost done with the 71st Assembly, we have one more meeting after this one
 1. Very happy with the work that we have done so far, excited to see what we'll continue to do
 2. Thank yous to Claire, Ama, Ram, and members of the student engagement committee for your robust agenda for the rest of the year, want to thank Sandeep for his work in getting things done for initiatives and programming for the Assembly, want to thank Ian for stepping up to be Chief Justice, thanks to Drake for stepping up to lead the judiciary's election efforts, thanks also to the Faculty Senators and Graduate Council Student Caucus members for the amount of work that you've done for your bodies and their meetings
- ii. No new meetings outside of a meeting with the interim Graduate Dean and 2 associate deans of the Graduate School

- iii. Interim Dean has decided that she wants to wait to do the official search for the graduate development officer
 - 1. We are encouragin a temporary position or person to start doing some of the work because waiting until August or whenever the new Graduate Dean will be announced is going to be a little too late
 - iv. Election Intent to Run forms are up, consider running for and joining the 72nd Assembly
 - 1. Having people with experience with leading events, participating in committees or serving on the executive board, makes the GPSA run much more efficiently
 - 2. Consider running for positions if you have the capacity for next year
 - v. Will be introducing a constitutional amendment for reorganizing the GPSA executive branch, which will be voted on next meeting, will be soliciting recommendations or motions to amend the resolution as well
 - vi. Regarding co-sponsorships – we need to start doing a better job overall with co-sponsorships
- b. Vice President – **Jalen Jeter**
- i. Had meetings with the Office of Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response
 - 1. Finalizing some of the mechanisms being put into place for formal investigation requests for students when a complaint is filed
 - 2. Board of Trustees meeting this past week
 - a. Legal and compliance, we have a new Ethics and Compliance Chief Office (from the University of California), will be starting at the same time President Barron transitions
 - 3. Graduate School has given about 2600 offers of admission for Fall 2022, up 12.3% compared to 2020, seeing similar rates of acceptances as prior in the Graduate School
 - 4. Town hall meeting planning with Megan and Advocacy and Diversity Committee
- c. Treasurer – **Matt Billups**
- i. Wanted to give an update on where our financial situation stands
 - 1. 45% of our total allocation is still available
 - 2. Co-sponsorships so far have been about \$5000 or about 8% of our total amount
 - 3. Looking at our current proposed bills (including removing the Jewish Law Students Association co-sponsorship) our available funds would go to about \$3000, with co-sponsorships going up to about 23% of our total spend for this fiscal year
 - ii. Also wanted to split out potential co-sponsorships by student organizations
 - 1. Would end up spending about \$15k
 - iii. I think it could have been done better by me and others about how the co-sponsorships should have been framed
 - 1. We are not an allocating body so our job is not just to fund events
 - 2. Our role is to partner with organizations and be able to put on events in a co-organized ways, and our co-sponsorships is a mechanicms for us to do that

3. We should also consider what organizations and how much of our funding that's allocated to us that we will be contributed to these events and to other organizations
4. Want to start a larger discussion about how comfortable we are with co-sponsorships and the level of spend and involvement we have for these events
- iv. There is a poll on how potentially we should allocate campaign finance funds, will put it in the chat, please fill it out so we can act on it going forward
- 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. Please notify if you want to be excluded from public recordings.
 - v. Quick reminder that if you want to be a delegate or on the executive board next year to fill out the intent to run, strongly encourage people to do so
- e. Faculty Senate – **Lillian Schaeffer**
 - i. Senate met yesterday
 - ii. Conversation came down to how to change elections of student undergraduate faculty senators, some of it might bleed into our faculty senators
 - iii. Optional meeting as well focused on the faculty and professional side of things to more efficiently run their elections
 - iv. Upcoming non-instructional election day bill
 - v. I've found it really meaningful to do the work that I have on the Faculty Senate, if anyone is interested in learning about this position reach out to Ali or myself
- f. Graduate Council – **Ali Watts (Proxy for Claire Kelling)**
 - i. Applications for graduate admissions are about the same as last year, admission rates are lagging a bit but it's compared to a rushed year so it's not seen as problematic
 - ii. Grad Council currently considering a policy about benchmark exams that could make things more flexible for partially or fully virtual exams moving forward post-COVID, will be going back to committee for more consideration
 1. Conversation about centering students' preferences for remote or in-person exams
 - iii. Continuing a discussion on double counting that was cut off due to time concerns
 1. Double counting policies might need to be included in proposals for dual title programs, but the default is that double counting would be allowed
 2. Graduate Minor double counting policy was delayed because there is conversation about making sure it's consistent with the dual title program policy
- g. Speaker of the Assembly – **Sandeep Krishnakumar**
 - i. One more final GPSA Assembly meeting on March 23 – please fill out the attendance form and try your best to attend or find a proxy if you cannot attend, your proxy cannot be another delegate, but you can ask another graduate student like a friend or classmate or peer

- ii. Wanted to mention my appreciate for all of the committees for all of their hard work this year, and also thanks to the chairs of the committees for sending in their planned expenditures
 - iii. Wanted to appreciate Matt for all the information he just gave in his report, and I want to ask all the delegates to please consider all of the information when voting on the co-sponsorships tonight
 - h. Chief Justice – The Honorable **Ian Tennison**
 - i. Want to reiterate what was said about elections, make sure that we’re passing the intent to run form around so that we’re encouraging a wide and diverse group of students
 - ii. Most people excluding the judiciary will have to run again for the next Assembly if they want to continue working in their current roles
 - iii. Someone had raised the question of whether bills or motions could be changed between meetings, the ruling is that we can only make amendments to legislation during the meetings themselves
- VIII. Bill 71-19: Bike Safety Event – presented by Ram Neupane
- a. Student Engagement committee proposes that we put on a bike safety event where graduate and professional students can learn about bike safety and receive a free helmet (one size fits all)
 - b. Helmets will be purchased from The Bicycle Shop, we will be partnering with UPUA for this event, who will also pass legislation to fund this event
 - c. We hope to partner with other campus offices and community resources such as Centre Bikes, we hope that this event will encourage graduate and professional students to learn more about bike safety and resources
 - d. **Questions**
 - i. **Ali** – From Claire, is the 50/50 split a good fit or should the GPSA contribute a smaller amount?
 - 1. **Ram** – We discussed this with the UPUA representative, while there are fewer graduate and professional students on campus, what matters is the relative participation rate
 - 2. **Ali** – do you have the participation rates from last time
 - 3. **Ram** – no
 - ii. **Ali** – would it be possible to have the color of the helmets be more neutral, which would encourage their use
 - 1. **Ram** – I’m not sure if they’re able to provide a specific color
 - iii. **Matt** – does this mean you’re not sure if you can get the bike helmets by the end of the month?
 - 1. **Ram** – they can get the bike helmets but it’s not clear if they can provide the color we want
 - 2. **Matt** – given the amount, it would be preferable if we could actually get the bikes that we’d want
 - e. **Discussion**
 - i. **Alex** – last time 30 out of 78 people who received bike helmets from the sign up were graduate/professional students
 - ii. **Ram** – I think we can advertise the event to graduate channels to increase the

graduate participation in the event

iii. Motion to approve by roll call, seconded

f. **Bill Passed 22-0-0, see Appendix II for details**

IX. Bill 71-20: Talents Hobbies Identities Showcase (T.H.I.S.) – presented by Ama Agyapong

- a. Due to COVID-19 we weren't able to have our annual graduate student gala for the past two years
- b. In place of that we want to host an event where we can showcase the talents, identities, and hobbies of graduate and professional students
- c. One of the biggest points of this event is because graduate and professional students tend to forget that we're more than just what we do in the lab or classrooms beyond academics, so this is a great opportunity for graduate and professional students to be able to show a different aspect of themselves and of their characters
- d. Hoping to have students perform, and this event encourages equity, diversity, and make it a festive event to bring joy
- e. **Questions**
 - i. **Ali** – what's the plan if there are very few people signing up or volunteer? What kind of pre-work has been done to see if there's an interest or desire for this event?
 1. **Ama** – We did not have pre-work to see if there's interest but we do believe that there is interest, the event is set up so that we can scale it down, capped at 10 performances for 10 minutes each for 2-3 hours
 - ii. **Ali** – if the event should be for 2-3 hours, why is the budget for 11 hours?
 1. **Ama** – this was to accommodate external vendors time to set up and also for rehearsal time in this space, but one of the things that works with this event due to the timeline, we can clarify what external vendors need to be done so we can properly scale the event
 - iii. **Ali** – would it be better to just go digital with the event programs versus printing?
 1. **Ama** – we want to eliminate as much screentime as possible and so going the traditional route reduces the temptation of browsing on your phone
 - iv. **Ali** – is there a plan for the leftover memorabilia in case participation is lower than anticipated?
 1. **Ama** – from the time of submission of the number of performances until the time of performances we have enough time to order just how many mugs we need
 2. **Ali** – who will be getting the mugs?
 3. **Ama** – participants will be the only ones getting mugs
 - v. **Matt** – this is a great idea, in terms of what are the eligible performances, will there be any limitations?
 1. **Ama** – will be clearer after meeting with the program coordinator for the flex theater, but if we will try to rework events that fit our goals if they are outside the bounds of the flex theater
 2. **Ama** – we will be using the application process to help get a better sense of our needs, will be asking participants to send in a video

beforehand

3. **Matt** – one person in the chat had mentioned potentially submitting a video if the performance can't work in the flex theater
4. **Ama** – this is definitely a possibility, along with livestreaming the event if possible
- vi. **Sandeep** – given that the cash is coming from our allocation from the Student Fee Board, we can't restrict performing to graduate and professional students exactly, so if an undergraduate did want to showcase their talents we can't say no right?
- vii. **Ama** – are we allowed to advertise just for graduate and professional students?
 1. **Alex** – we cannot exclude undergraduates but we can advertise it towards graduate and professional students primarily

f. **Discussion**

- i. **Ali** – What if you get proposals that are potentially harmful, what is an acceptable performance for this space?
 1. **Ama** – We're screening the performances ahead of time, and we can have them sign a pledge ahead of time to promise them that they will not have their performance be harmful
- ii. **Schonn** – I think Ali's point is well taken, but we cannot step in to remove or reject for free speech, we can screen them beforehand but if say somebody started with juggling and started spouting hate speech we can't stop it
- iii. **Matt** – we could potentially include a clause to make sure that the acts performing will be similar to their submitted videos
- iv. **Schonn** – I don't want my last point to appear as fearmongering, but I do want to make sure that after passing this bill we'd have a conversation to make sure that we're acting in good faith but not outside of the university's policy
- v. Motion to approve by roll call, seconded

g. **Bill Passed 22-0-0, see Appendix II for details**

X. Bill 71-21: Spring Welcome Dinner – presented by Schonn

- a. Put together this bill after talking with some people within GPSA and also from graduate and professional students
- b. One thing they agree is that they would like some in-person component to the end of our Assembly, as we weren't able to do our annual winter gala and would like some kind of in person component to end our Assembly
- c. This would provide some of the physical interactions that we would have with our graduate and professional community, and could increase our sense of community
- d. This would complement a spring welcome dinner or banquet, this would allow us to give a farewell to exiting members and a welcome to new members, also allows us to give superlatives and to reiterate who won awards
- e. Open to discussion with how this event can be changed or scaled down, knowing that we have a tight budget for the rest of the year

f. **Questions**

- i. **Ian** – could this be moved to a COVID friendly space outdoors?
 1. **Schonn** – we would have to change the venue and different catering source

g. **Discussion**

- i. **Schonn** – I will be leading on this bill but I have some people willing to help out as needed, this will not be put on the plate of the Student Engagement committee
- ii. **Matt** – Nothing against the Penn Stater, but as mentioned before perhaps a picnic type atmosphere would be the look we'd want to demonstrate and also might appear more open and available for people to attend
- iii. **Ali** – I second Matt's comments, particularly since this happens the night before the talent showcase, it would be good to make one of them available to a different audience (those who might not be comfortable going indoors)
- iv. **Jalen** – great idea, a lot of us haven't gotten the chance to meet each other in a physical space yet, it would be wonderful to do so, potentially at the Arboretum?
- v. **Schonn** – I do want to make sure we are getting an environment that is social, if someone could make a motion to table the bill so we can start working on other options
- vi. Motion to table the bill at this time, seconded, no objections, bill is tabled

h. **Bill Is Tabled**

XI. ~~Bill 71-23~~: Bill 71-21: Co-sponsorship for the Indian Graduate Student Association – presented by Sandeep

- a. Approached by the Indian Graduate Student Association at the end of March called Jashn, a showcase of Indian performing arts, including dance and some other performances
- b. Not a member of the organization, but will be involved in the planning of this event if the bill passes
- c. Also had a good Zoom call with IGSA representative from the previous week, will be attending the standing meetings and getting updates from them via email, and will be giving them my feedback
- d. Funding for this co-sponsorship will go towards food and props
- e. **Discussion**
 - i. **Ali** – motion for edit to correct typo on page 1 line 13 for auditorium
 - ii. **Ali** – should we be looking towards just one member working so heavily with an organization or are we looking towards a more general involvement from the Assembly

1. **Sandeep** – unfortunately, we don't really have a framework right now for what constitutes a "good" co-sponsorship, in previous collaborations we've mostly just paid for food and asked them to keep us in the loop; would like to end that kind of precedent in the GPSA because in the future how we approach co-sponsorships is more than just paying for the food, it is hard to be critical of sponsorships in this Assembly because what we have already co-sponsored, but I do understand the issues with how we approach these, and as we will see with the reorganization the person in charge of co-sponsorships specifically will be asked to be more critical about co-sponsorship requests; hoping that if we co-sponsor this that the organizers do give a short speech about the GPSA (who we are, what we do), because if we are co-sponsoring

this it should also be a platform for GPSA to publicize about who we are

2. **Ali** – I think it might be interesting to see it go the other direction, so if event planners and organizations were also coming here and talking, and we were making sure we pushed it out in the Assembly and got GPSA representation
 - iii. **Alex** – in the past we had members of the organizations seeking co-sponsorship come and speak, also can we get a change in the bill number to 71-21?
 1. Motion to change bill number and seconded
 - iv. **Katie** – are there any stricter guidelines for co-sponsorships?
 1. **Alex** – those would come from the Fee Board requiring us to be involved in co-sponsorships
 2. **Sandeep** – in the past, the GPSA representative who sponsored the bill was also part of the organization as well so there was some overlap there, but this was mostly a matter of convenience and coincidence; the trick is when the sponsoring delegate is not part of the organization so there's extra work there
 - v. **Farhan** – I like the discussion but I do want to mention that one of the missions of the GPSA is to promote a sense of community, and so where there is community involvement, the GPSA should look towards building that community
 - vi. **Matt** – Just wanted the Assembly to be aware that we have also co-sponsored a previous IGSA event for \$718
 - vii. **Schonn** – While co-sponsorships are great, we do need to make sure that we are within the guidelines of what the university has established, we need to have a larger conversation of what is and is not a good co-sponsorship that we might need to start in ID
 - viii. Motion to approve by roll call vote, seconded
- f. **Bill Passed 22-0-0, see Appendix II for details**
- XII. ~~Bill 71-24~~: Bill 71-22: Co-sponsorship for the Student Bar Association's Law & Equity Committee – presented by Eli
- a. Bill is for the annual Diversity Banquet put on by the SBA's Law and Equity committee, I am a member of this committee and have been heavily involved in the planning of this event
 - b. For every student it will be the first time they will have a chance to attend in-person
 - c. Will be held at the Toftrees Golf Resort, purpose of this event is to bring together diverse members of our community to get to know each other, reflect on diversity and what our identities mean to ourselves and our community, and to recognize contributions made by members of the Penn State community to DEI
 - d. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Dwayne Kwaysee Wright, who is a triple Penn State alumni and a big advocate for DEI
 - e. Members of the committee have been working with Toftrees to ensure that there will be a wide range of dietary options to ensure that a diverse audience is able to attend
 - f. This event will be open to all members of the Penn State community
 - g. **Questions**
 - i. **Ali** – from Claire, would it be possible to fund a smaller portion of the banquet?
 1. **Eli** – definitely possible

- ii. **Ali** – from Claire, how are you planning to advertise to broaden up attendance?
 - 1. **Eli** – part of the plan is to contact other parts of the Graduate School and other groups on campus for advertising
- iii. **Sandeep** – Does the amount per student just for food?
 - 1. **Eli** – we’ve been working with several of the other organizations, no school funds will be used towards the bartender

h. **Discussion**

- i. **Eli** – motion to renumber the bill to 71-22, seconded
- ii. **Eli** – motion to change requested from GPSA to \$35 per student so that the total amount is \$3500 instead of \$4500
- iii. **Ali** – motion to change page 1 line 13 to “graduate and professional student life”, seconded
- iv. **Ali** – want to surface concern about whether a single GPSA delegate being involved is sufficient for the Assembly to be considered to be involved
 - 1. **Eli** – I’m not the only Assembly member involved also with SBA, so I’m not the only member, there’s also possibility for more input from other Assembly members which I would be very interested in
- v. **Sandeep** – to echo what Ali just said, I do believe there should be more involvement from the Assembly, but we shouldn’t be unconsciously giving more preference to certain organizations just because members of GPSA are also part of those organizations, we want to make sure that in the future groups approaching the GPSA for co-sponsorship aren’t at a disadvantage if they don’t have members in the GPSA

i. **Bill Passed 22-0-0, see Appendix II for details**

- XIII. **Bill 71-25** Bill 71-23: Co-sponsorship for the Bangladesh Student Association (BSA) – presented by Tanveer
- a. BSA has approached for co-sponsorship for Bangladesh Night, their premier event to highlight the rich culture and heritage of Bangladesh students and other members of the community
 - b. The BSA has seen a large number of enrollment (120 graduate students), and could not hold this event in-person last year, we are expecting 260 attendees
 - c. There will be a variety of events that will have members of the Bangladesh Student Association including recitals, singing, dancing, fashion shows, a Bangladeshi corner game show
 - d. We can expect around 200 graduate students, around 10 faculty members, and maybe around 20-30 community members
 - e. We have already gotten about half of our funding from UPAC
 - f. We have worked with this food vendor previously, they are willing to cater again, food will be in takeaway boxes to be COVID compliant and will have a lot of different dietary accommodations
 - g. I have been sitting in on their meetings from the beginning from the planning phase, GPSA has been proposed as a potential co-sponsor, and so it has been well acknowledged by the members of the community
 - h. GPSA has also co-sponsored this event before, the president of BSA is here and able to answer any questions
 - i. **Questions**

- i. **Alex** – would it be a problem if we reduced some funding in terms of your ticket prices?
 - 1. **Tanveer** – it wouldn't be a problem, we could increase the ticket amount to some nominal figure
 - ii. **Ali** – can you tell us about why you chose the caterer that you did, in light of the GPSA's priorities of funding locally?
 - 1. **Fahim (President of BSA)** – We ourselves have searched a lot in the local community, but we couldn't find a caterer that could adhere to the ethnic Bangladeshi food that we are looking to; in past programs food has been an integral part of the total program, so we very much still want to go with that kind of food?
 - 2. **Ali** – is it the same caterer as last year?
 - 3. **Fahim** – yes
 - 4. **Sandeep** – last year after this conversation, Diego (then chair of the Advocacy and Diversity committee) reviewed the caterer along with a few other people from the A&D, and they did say they aligned with GPSA's values
 - j. **Discussion**
 - i. **Eli** – motion to update bill to 71-23, fix spelling error of Bangladeshi on page 1, seconded to first but objection to second part, second part withdrawn
 - ii. **Tanveer** – motion to fix another spelling mistake, seconded
 - iii. **Sandeep** – potential reduction but I'll leave that up to Tanveer
 - iv. **Tanveer** – motion to reduce total amount by \$500 (13.08 per person)
 - 1. **Sandeep** – objection to change to round per person number of \$13, previous motion withdraw and **Tanveer** new motion to change number to \$13 per person, seconded so that total amount is \$3380
 - v. **Sandeep** – motion to change total amount to \$10,000, seconded, no objections
 - vi. **Eli** – motion to correct additional typos
 - vii. Motion to approve by roll call vote, seconded
 - k. **Bill Passed 22-0-0, see Appendix II for details**
- XIV. Resolution 71-12: Reorganization of the GPSA Executive Branch – presented by Schonn
 - a. Because this is a constitutional amendment, it has to go through two meetings, so we won't vote on this today
 - b. Changes will be done at the next meeting
 - c. Currently the GPSA has a board of executives, this reorganizes it towards more of a branch/department model, combined we are responsible for ensuring the administrative component of the GPSA is taken care of and executing the Assembly's will
 - d. Currently we lack depth, we have one person in charge of finances, one in charge of communications, one in charge of liaisons, and there isn't a lot of depth
 - e. This also allows us to get people involved who can't otherwise make the 6PM Assembly meeting
 - f. Changes
 - i. Renaming from Board to Branch

- ii. Allow us to have members of one branch be part of another as long as they don't have voting power in the other branch
- iii. Treasurer will now have a department of finance with the authority to have staff
- iv. Secretary will now have a department of communications with the authority to have staff
- v. New department: department of external affairs
 - 1. Responsible for maintaining our relationships with outside offices that are graduate facing
 - 2. Also responsible for liaison relationships and for finding out ways to develop relationships with offices and units to better the graduate and professional experience
- vi. Vice President is now Chief of Staff, managing day to day of the executive branch and departments
- vii. President no longer has voting power in executive board
- viii. New process for selection of executive directors, instead of just having the president do the nominations and interviews
 - 1. President solicit nominations, steering committee interview, undergo approval by steering committee
 - 2. Process for approving staff members

g. Discussion

- i. **Ali** – there might be value in having a town hall so that people can discuss this more
- ii. **Ali** – from Claire, concerned about the role of the Vice President, changing it from Chief of Staff makes it go from a relatively manageable position to something that would be a huge responsibility (potentially double the workload), potentially worth considering chief of staff as a separate position
- iii. **Ali** – from Claire, some redundancy/lack of clarity with the executive branch – on Page 2 it mentions the President oversees the executive branch but this is also the VP's role as chief of staff
- iv. **Ali** – from Claire, potentially steering committee selecting candidates to be approved by the Assembly in the general Assembly
- v. **Schonn** – Ali and Claire made a lot of good points, I do want to clarify a few things:
 - 1. The way that it is written is that it's the president's responsibility to make sure everything gets done, the VP is responsible for making sure that the executive directors are working, much like how the Speaker works with the committee chairs to make sure things are coordinated properly
 - 2. Can agree with the sentiment about approving candidates through the Assembly, something that we can have ready by next meeting
 - 3. Jalen and I had a conversation, being able to rely on the VP as that kind of chief of staff is good (inward facing vs president outward facing), having a separate chief of staff would be lacking in capacity and potentially not appropriate
- vi. **Katie** – would it present an issue with labor distribution in the Assemblies? Would this necessitate more delegates?

1. **Schonn** – the GPSA has an issue with retention, one of the benefits of an expanded executive branch is that we can get people who can't make the 6PM meetings involved through work on the executive branch; once we are able to get the hang of operating efficiently, having less pressure on delegates to complete everything would help
 - vii. **Alex** – VP is already kind of a chief of staff, director of external relations is key because it would greatly help our liaison system out
 1. **Schonn** – agree with comments, would just like to point out that the liaison is not just there to fill a spot, it's a representative so that we can have a method for collaboration and working with those offices; it is a hard job to get done effectively, having a department responsible for this would be helpful
 - h. **Constitutional Amendment, will be discussed and voted on in the next meeting**
- XV. Reports
- a. Advocacy and Diversity – **Eli Fields**
 - i. 2022 US Trans Survey is being conducted, would appreciate it this survey could be shared around
 - b. Professional Development – **Niladri Sekhar Mandal**
 - i. Haven't met yet this week
 - c. Student Engagement – **Ama Agyapong, Ram Neupane**
 - i. Meeting last week and next week, working on the different bills that were submitted today, next phase to move ahead with these events
 - ii. Bike helmets, blood drive, some game nights
 - iii. **Questions and Comments**
 1. **Matt** – wanted to follow up on the virtual at home pottery event, allocated 6k but still have 4700 open, will there be further pottery events or should we consider that event complete?
 - a. **Ama** – will discuss with committee and will get back to you next Thursday
 - d. Internal Development – **Travis Russell**
 - i. No report
 - e. Liaison Reports
 - f. Student Trustee – Janiyah Davis
 - i. Not in attendance
 - g. Advisor – Adam Christensen
 - i. Encourage people to run for election if you're able, this has been a great Assembly and I hope to see some of the same faces around next Assembly
- XVI. Comments for the Good of the Order
- a. **Matt** – thank all the committee members and delegates for helping their chairs get their individual committee budgets sent over before this meeting
- XVII. Meeting adjourned at 9:24 PM

Appendix I

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

Position	Name	2/23/22
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	Ian Tennison	P
Associate Justice	Drake Broussard	P
Associate Justice	Sam Altland	U
Graduate Council		
Graduate Council	Claire Kelling (Science)	Proxy
Graduate Council	Katie Warczak (Liberal Arts)	P
Graduate Council	Hannah Nolte (Engineering)	E
Graduate Council	Annie Everett (Education)	P
Assembly		
Agricultural Sciences	Travis Russell	E
Agricultural Sciences	Ram Neupane	P
Art & Architecture		
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	E
Engineering	Tanveer Ahmed	P
Engineering	Arnab Chatterjee	L
Health and Human Development	Brooke Mattern	U
Health and Human Development	David Desmet	P
Liberal Arts	Nora Tucker	P
Nursing	Sherif Olanrewaju	P

School of International Affairs	Gerren Graham	P
School of Law	Megan Minnich	E
School of Law	Eli Fields	P
School of Law	Ava McCartin	P
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

Appendix II

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

Office	Name	Attendance	Bill 71-19	Bill 71-20	Bill 71-21	Bill 71-22	Bill 71-23
Graduate Council							
Graduate Council	Claire Kelling (Science)	Proxy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Graduate Council	Katie Warczak (Liberal Arts)	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Graduate Council	Hannah Nolte (Engineering)	E					
Graduate Council	Annie Everett (Education)	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Assembly							
Agricultural Sciences	Travis Russell	E					
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	Farhan Sadique	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Education	Yun-Chen Yen	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Engineering	Sandeep Krishnakumar	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Engineering	Niladri Sekhar Mandal	E					
Engineering	Tanveer Ahmed	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Engineering	Arnab Chatterjee	L	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Health and Human Development	Brooke Mattern	U					
Health and Human Development	David Desmet	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Liberal Arts	Nora Tucker	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nursing	Sherif Olanrewaju	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
School of International Affairs	Gerren Graham	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
School of Law	Megan Minnich	E					
School of Law	Eli Fields	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
School of Law	Ava McCartin	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
At-Large Delegate	Ama Agyapong (IGDP)	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
At-Large Delegate	Yuki Takahashi (SIA)	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
At-Large Delegate	Shakhzoda Tuychieva (Law)	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
At-Large Delegate	Sara Albrecht Soto (Liberal Arts)	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
At-Large Delegate	Rola Tarek	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Number of voters in Assembly:	27	Yes (Y)	22	22	22	22	22
Number of voters present:	22	No (N)	0	0	0	0	0
	DID I MISS ANYONE?	Abstain (A)	0	0	0	0	0
		Veto	No	No	No	No	No