

Resolution # 71-14

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



of the 71st Assembly
March 23rd, 2022

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

Amending the Duties of the Assembly in the By-Laws
Adding efforts towards outreach to delegate duties
(Decided: [Y / N / A])

1 **Nature of the Situation:**

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3 It is crucial that every member of the assembly of the Graduate and Professional Student
4 Association (GPSA) is equally responsible for engaging with their constituents. This ensures that
5 information about the GPSA and important resources for graduate and professional students are
6 disseminated among the student body, and that responsibilities are distributed equally among
7 GPSA delegates.

8

9 Every fall semester, the GPSA attempts to have representatives speak at the Graduate School
10 Orientation, International Student Orientation, and various individual department orientations.
11 However, as it stands, there is a lack of structure with regards to how orientation responsibilities
12 are assigned within the assembly. In the past few years, the Speaker of the Assembly has been
13 in-charge of reaching out to the various graduate programs at Penn State, scheduling times for
14 GPSA delegates to speak at departmental orientations, and soliciting volunteers from the
15 assembly to speak at orientations. However, Speakers of the Assembly in the past have reported
16 that this results in a considerable amount of work on one individual, particularly when there is a
17 lack of volunteers within the assembly, and if the Speaker has academic or personal commitments
18 during the week of orientation.

19

20 Further, it is important that the graduate and professional student body is aware of the various
21 open positions within the GPSA during election cycles. Active outreach efforts during election
22 cycles ensure diversity among nominees and competitive elections. However, the governing

1 documents of the GPSA do not outline if, and how, delegates are responsible for engaging with
2 their constituents to raise awareness about the GPSA and the work it does for the graduate and
3 professional student body.

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5 **Recommended Course of Action:**

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7 The Graduate and Professional Student Association proposes an amendment to the by-laws of
8 the GPSA to incorporate outreach efforts into the duties of all delegates. More specifically, this
9 resolution proposes the following changes, indicated in bold, to Article II (Duties of the Assembly)
10 of the GPSA by-laws:

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12 **ARTICLE II - DUTIES OF THE ASSEMBLY**

- 13
14 A. The Assembly shall be responsible for establishing the direction of the organization and
15 speaking on behalf of the graduate and professional student body.
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17 **B. All delegates are required to work with staff from graduate and professional**
18 **programs in their respective colleges to have a GPSA representative present at**
19 **department orientations. Delegates are required to speak at the orientations within**
20 **their college. Volunteers may be solicited from the Assembly if delegates from a**
21 **specific college are unavailable. The Members of the Executive Branch may provide**
22 **assistance as and when needed. The Speaker of the Assembly shall coordinate the**
23 **efforts of the Assembly during orientations, and will prepare the necessary**
24 **materials, including but not limited to, GPSA merchandise, presentations, and any**
25 **printed material.**
26
27 **C. Delegates are required to work with staff from graduate and professional programs**
28 **in their respective colleges to solicit nominees for open positions within the GPSA**
29 **during election cycles.**
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31 D. Delegates are required to attend all Assembly meetings. Delegates are also required to
32 join and participate in at least one GPSA standing or ad hoc committee. Delegates are
33 also required to disseminate information about GPSA activities among their constituents.
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35
36 E. Graduate Council Student Caucus Delegates shall work to establish general policies and
37 procedures pertaining to graduate programs and research within the University. Graduate
38 Council Student Caucus Delegates shall in a timely fashion report back on issues that
39 come up within the Graduate Council to the Assembly and Executive Board of the GPSA.
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42 F. The Speaker shall be responsible for distributing and setting the Assembly agenda,
43 monitoring all standing and ad hoc committees, and representing the properly legislated
44 voice of the Assembly to the University, among all other defined duties assigned in these
45 Bylaws and the Constitution.
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Respectfully submitted,

48 **Sandeep Krishnakumar**
49 Speaker of the Assembly

1 Delegate, College of Engineering

President _____

Affirm

Veto

The Graduate and Professional Student Association