Meeting Summary

- First meeting of the 2018-2019 year, informing the AB of our actions this summer, and the next year’s proposed budget.

Attendance

**GPSG Executive Board Officers:**
- Rachel Coombs (President)
- Jennifer Enriquez (VP of Committees)
- Crystal Taylor (VP of Communications)
- Spencer Edelstein (VP of Finance)
- Amanda Leifson (GSA)

**GPSG Assembly Board Members:**
- Arts & Sciences 1
- Biomedical
- Dental
- Education
- Engineering
- GSPIA
- Katz (Part Time)
- Law
- Medicine
- Pharmacy (PharmD)
- Public Health
- Social Work
- ANKUR
- CSSA
- ISA
- TASA

**Absent:**
- Arts & Sciences 2
- Arts & Sciences 3
- SCI
- Katz (Full Time)
- Nursing
- Pharmacy (PhD)
- SHRS
- GOSECA

1. **Call to Order**
   - President Coombs called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm

2. **Approval of Minutes**
   - Motion to approve May minutes. *Minutes approved. None opposed.*

3. **Old Business**
   - New AB Meeting Time/Date
   - GPSG Website
   - Discussion Topics
     - University-wide Orientation
     - Legal Services
     - Student Health Center
     - GPSG Sponsored Events
     - Travel Grants
     - SAGE Coalition Fall Summit Participation
     - GPSG voice in university matters
     - Defined graduate student space (networking, socialization)
     - Peer mentoring programs
     - Communications avenues

4. **Reports**
   - President’s Report
     - President Updates
       - Legal Assistance
         - We did not use all the spots last year, but cannot recuperate the costs
       - Health Center/GPSG Partnership
         - Time slots with mental health professionals, but hours better for grad students
         - Mental Health First Aid Certification
i. Class for recognizing signs of anxiety, mental issues; recognizing symptoms of mental stress/illness, and what to do
ii. 8 hours, 20 people (2 4-hour blocks), no costs to students
iii. School of Ed might be extremely interested in that for those who want to go into academia

c. Expanding group therapy for students
   i. Hired some new therapists, trying to expand, but same resources as undergrads

• SAGE Coalition
  a. Fall Summit – 2 people
     i. Austin, TX
     ii. October 5th & 6th
     iii. SAGE advocate -- At the fall summit, they vote on a platform
     iv. Email Rachel by September 10th
        1. Rachel will send out reminders, email with links
  b. Spring Day on the Hill – 3 people
     i. Washington D.C.
     ii. End of April
     iii. The platform that you determine in the fall is what is taken to the day on the hill
  c. GPSG will help pay, Provost is interested in making sure someone from our school is there

• Board of Trustee
  a. Several committees that graduate students are not on
     i. There are undergrads, but no grad students
        1. Audit, Budget, Research committees
     ii. Communicating with administration to see about getting graduate student representation

• Student Issue Committee (discussed by VP of Committees)

• Attendance Record
  a. Last Year Attendance record given to students
  b. Change of the Bylaws for more stringent attendance requirements
  c. Now the delinquency rule is you miss one, you get a reminder from President, more than that your funds are frozen (supplemental funds/travel grants)
  d. You need to tell us who is coming to the meeting – if it isn’t the permanent representative, you should have an alternative, you need to let EA know

• Communication Plans
  a. Need a plan how you communicate with your students
  b. Who is the president
  c. Forms will be sent out in the next week or so, to collect the information before the next AB meeting

  o Budget Discussion
    • No paying for Orientation, Provost office taking more control moving forward
    • Continued discussion by VP of Finance

• Committees’ Report
  o Student Issue Committee
    • Big issues, like Union (disability accommodations for grad students, sexual harassment, campus culture, mental health issues)
      a. EB would like to have the committee identify what the issues are
      b. Not taking a position, but an information collecting body
      c. Chair the committee, open to the AB
d. We want a voice at the table, the union is making the university listen to us and we should take advantage of the opportunity

e. Email VP of Committees if interested

o University Committees
  • 10 positions open
  • Website is updated, asking AB to distribute link to the student body

• Communications’ Report
  o GPSG Calendar Event Requests
    • Form for submitting to GPSG Calendar
      a. Under “Upcoming Events”, link on GPSG Facebook Page (forthcoming)
      b. Link for request form:
        https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSjQPbyDSNDG0kcX8Wj1PbNlPoku
        GdtKL_NpyItOW8uQpHGyg/viewform
      c. Not checking every day, but checked the last week of the month (fill out a month beforehand)
      d. Open to a variety of events (only caveat is no political events)

  o GPSG Emails – how often?
    • Once a month
      a. Biomedical, too many listservs – combined it into one monthly email
      b. Nathan Urban’s email
        a. Provost v. GPSG is reaching a different audience

• Finance’s Report
  o Budget Outline
    • Voting on the budget next month
    • Good roll over from last year, but we are down $40,000 (fewer students)
    • Required Costs
      a. GPSG Office Space
        i. Pitt Union – maintenance
      b. Legal Services
        i. Tax services (workshops?)
    • Allocate money for SAGE, Professional Development/Advocacy grants
    • No money to Pitt Arts, Pitt Council
      a. SURVEY – who is using it, who wants to keep it going
        i. Presentations by the SGB
      b. Both are asking for substantial increase
      c. Not particularly exclude grad students – can they really do so?
        i. Pitt Arts – can’t keep us out
        ii. Pitt Council – could keep us out
      d. It’s more of a discussion of where funding is coming from, not that it will get funded
        i. Pitt Arts website – says undergrads only
        ii. Possible solution -- reserve spots for graduate students?

  o Travel Grant Process Changes
    • Reduced the amount to $400 (down from $500)
    • Cap to 10 grants per month
    • More difficult getting Travel Grants moving forward (more competitive)

  o Grad Student Lounge
    • Swipe card access to a graduate student space
    • Cost $5-10K
    • Library is giving us space on 4th floor – where dissertation space was
      a. Grad students
      b. Quite Space
c. Minus Law & Medical students?

- **Programming’s Report**
  - VP of Programming Special Election
    - Call for candidates will go out
    - Not campus vote, AB vote at next meeting

- **Executive Administrator’s Report**
  - Rave Guardian
  - Dietary Concerns for AB members
    - Will try to accommodate as best as I can
    - The Venn Diagram that covers deliverable options, that take Panther Funds, and are under $200 is very small

- **Assembly Board Member Reports**
  - **Arts & Sciences**
    - No report
  - **Biomedical**
    - No report
  - **Dental Medicine**
    - Welcome week for D1 students
    - Steel City Conference
      - Wyndham Hotel
      - School wide (400 people)
  - **Education**
    - Pitt Seed Grant awarded
  - **Engineering**
    - Welcome events in departments
  - **GSPIA**
    - Orientation was successful
  - **School of Computing & Information**
    - No report
  - **Katz (Full Time)**
    - No report
  - **Katz (Part Time)**
    - Partnering with Full time students, reception before Pitt/Penn Game
  - **Law**
    - Welcomed New Dean, looks to be a good relationship
  - **Medicine**
    - Welcome new class
    - Question –
      - Student Executive Council wants to be recognized as a government by university
      - Want to get around SORC – but it may not be possible to get around them
        - Clarification on the rules that regard graduate student organizations
      - Treasurer and Finance committee
  - **Nursing**
    - No report
  - **Pharmacy (PharmD)**
    - Primary Care Progress
      - For Health Sciences
      - More involvement from more schools
      - Integrate professionalism into the curriculum
        - Trying to normalize schedule – fill out form
  - **Pharmacy (PhD)**
    - No report
- **Public Health**
  - First event on Thursday

- **School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences**
  - No report

- **Social Work**
  - Successful orientation
  - Welcome new dean – looks to be a great relationship
  - School is paying for December graduation, extra $5,000 budget

- **ANKUR**
  - Social event – September 15th

- **CSSA**
  - Orientation, welcome BBQ

- **ISA**
  - Picnic September 16th
  - Concert December 15th
  - Weekly meeting
    a. Key available at the front desk from the Union to get into the room

- **GOSECA**
  - No report

- **TASA**
  - Welcome dinner during the first week of September
  - Happy Hour – with CMU for Turkish Students
  - Turkish student organization at CMU – Turkish movie at film festival

5. **Committee Reports**
   - See full reports on website ([www.gpsg.pitt.edu](http://www.gpsg.pitt.edu))

6. **New Business**
   - GOSECA – haven’t been present for the last little bit
     o Reaching out to them to make sure that there aren’t any questions

7. **Announcements**
   - Next meeting: **Monday, September 17th at 6:00pm Langley Hall A219B**

Meeting Adjourned at 7:08 pm