Meeting Summary

- First AB meeting of the new Executive Board, where they introduced themselves and some of their ideas for the new year.

Attendance

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

**GPSC Assembly Board Members:**
- ANKUR
- CSSA
- GOSECA
- ISA
- Dental
- Education
- Engineering
- GSPIA
- Katz (Part Time)
- Pharmacy (PharmD)
- Pharmacy (PhD)
- Social Work

Absent:
- Public Health
- Biomedical
- Arts & Science 2
- Arts & Science 3
- Health & Rehab Science
- Computing & Information
- Katz (Full Time)
- Law
- Medicine
- Nursing
- TASA

1. **Call to Order**
   - President Coombs called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm

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

3. **Old Business**

4. **Introductions**
   - New Executive Board Member introductions

5. **Reports**
   - President’s Report
     - AB/EB Role
     - Parran EB Update
       - Committee is in the process of writing their report, it will be completed soon
     - Travel Grants
       - EB is looking to revamp the travel grants, hoping for the AB to weigh in to help make sure it works well for all students
       - ISA sent some thoughts, Spencer wants to look at the budget
       - Committee to look at revamping the process?
       - EB plans to have a written plan by July 31st
       - If AB wants to have a conversation we can have it
     - Budget
       - We’ll email out the budget once VP Finance gets access to the email account
       - Last year we were under by $20,000
       - Understand some students were frustrated about the underspending on Travel Grants
     - EB Retreat – we will have a meeting, to look at the long-range goals
Unionization

- Students have submitted their cards; next step would be to allow students to move forward with the vote
- University has spent 4 million dollars to retain the law firm that helped Penn State
- According to Dr. Urban/University Senate, the university has a case to say that graduate students can be seen as only students and what we do is for our own scholastic improvement
- Creating a special committee about union information, we have never had a vote as the AB; we should have someone following the conversation to bring back information to the AB
- About the committee – not representing a particular position, just be clear that it is a messenger/informational benefit
- It is important to communicate to students that the GPSG is not taking a stand on the issue
- Questions to address in the future
  a. Should we have a similar vote on the AB level to whether the GPSG will support the union effort?
  b. How do we take into account the different types of students? (professional v. students)
- Three goals of the GPSG:
  a. Focus more on the conversation about whether or not we let the students get a vote, not whether or not about unionization;
  b. Focusing on what the university is doing against the union and that vote
  c. Information
- The representatives are representing the students of their schools, it would be helpful if the representatives had some indication about what the students in their schools want
- Students don’t know what is going on, maybe have the information committee first, and be able to provide more information
- *This conversation is bringing up a lot of graduate student issues, so regardless of if we get to unionize or not, we have a lot of momentum to discuss these issues with the administration and should capitalize that momentum*

Committees’ Report

- Open Committee Spots
  - Still getting orientated about what positions are open/up
  - This weekend, hope to have the number of seats open
  - If interested, email Jen to let her know before she gets ready to look for people

Communications’ Report

- GPSG Website
  - The previous AB had discussed about how to make it more interactive
  - Before we advertised only GPSG events, but we want to represent the 14 schools and help everyone stay in the loop
  - Networking opportunity
  - Creating a separate tab, submitting separate events
  - Want to make sure that we don’t become controversial, so having a form where you can apply to have your event advertised
  - Desires to reach out (especially for international students) and want to connect across schools

Finance’s Report

- No report, need access to email account
  - Email budget at a later date
- Intends to look at the travel grant process
• Programming’s Report
  o No report
• Executive Administrator’s Report
  o Activity Pass
    • Conference Room Reservations
    • Cultural Group Offices
• Assembly Board Member Reports
  o Arts & Sciences
    • A&S GSO committee for Diversity and Inclusion, about to send out their Inclusion Survey; be on the lookout for the survey
  o Biomedical
    • No report
  o Dental Medicine
    • No report
  o Education
    • No report
  o Engineering
    • Looking forward to work & networking with other schools
  o GSPIA
    • No report
  o School of Computing & Information
    • No report
  o Katz (Full Time)
    • No report
  o Katz (Part Time)
    • No report
  o Law
    • No report
  o Medicine
    • No report
  o Nursing
    • No report
  o Pharmacy (PharmD)
    • No report
  o Pharmacy (PhD)
    • No report
  o Public Health
    • No report
  o School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
    • No report
  o Social Work
    • No report
  o ANKUR
    • No report
  o CSSA
    • No report
  o ISA
    • No report
  o GOSECA
    • No report
  o TASA
    • No report
6. Committee Reports
   - See full reports on website (www.gpsg.pitt.edu)

7. New Business
   - New AB Meeting Time/Date – 3rd Tuesdays during the Fall semester
   - GPSG Website
   - Discussion Topics
     - University-wide Orientation
       - GPSG is looking to not pay for the event
       - Provost office wants us to do it, dictates the agenda
       - August 21st Alumni Hall
     - Legal Services
       - 50 students used it last year (out of 10,000)
       - What needs are not being meet?
       - Asking us to pay more, but we may not be addressing many concerns
     - Student Health Center
       - What is working, what do you want to see more of?
     - GPSG Sponsored Events
       - Specific event for international students
       - Specific events for mental health
       - Events you would like to see (trivia)
       - Not doing Fall dance, just the spring dance
     - Travel Grants
     - SAGE Coalition Fall Summit Participation
     - GPSG voice in university matters
     - Defined graduate student space (networking, socialization)
       - Brown has given specific access to graduate students
       - Social Work graduate student lost a lot of space (master students)
       - Pharmacy is under renovation, 2 years, will be needing some space
       - Library space is still under renovation, dissertation space has a wait list that people have been on and graduated before getting into the space
     - Peer mentoring programs
       - Provost, Dean of A&S wanting to help networking on a larger university level
       - International students having difficulty writing, connecting international students across the university to help; mentoring to help with that and putting all the schools together to help with cultures and languages match-ups
       - Administration v. graduate student organizations?
     - Communications avenues
       - Unlimited access to email without oversight – we should have access to that platform
       - The ability to send out emails to everyone (all graduate students)
       - We’ll know by August whether we have that ability, but should have some ground rules
       - Monthly newsletter (like school of Medicine, etc.)
       - What boundaries would we want to have? Would AB like some oversight over that, include something in the bylaws, or do we want to give that power to the president?
     - ISA: Event on June 9th, this is on 2017 fiscal year
     - Committee created for the Union issue
       - Motion for the Union committee Information, 2 against, 16 for forming

8. Announcements
   - Next meeting: **Monday, August 27th at 6:00pm**

Meeting Adjourned at 5:59pm