

Graduate and Professional Student Government

Assembly Board Meeting Minutes

University of Pittsburgh, 4500 Posvar Hall

May 23rd, 2018



Meeting Summary

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

Attendance

GPSG 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)

GPSG 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 Hall 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
 - No report
- Executive Administrator's Report
 - Activity Pass
 - Conference Room Reservations
 - Cultural Group Offices
- Assembly Board Member Reports
 - *Arts & Sciences*
 - A&S GSO committee for Diversity and Inclusion, about to send out their Inclusion Survey; be on the lookout for the survey
 - *Biomedical*
 - No report
 - *Dental Medicine*
 - No report
 - *Education*
 - No report
 - *Engineering*
 - Looking forward to work & networking with other schools
 - *GSPIA*
 - No report
 - *School of Computing & Information*
 - No report
 - *Katz (Full Time)*
 - No report
 - *Katz (Part Time)*
 - No report
 - *Law*
 - No report
 - *Medicine*
 - No report
 - *Nursing*
 - No report
 - *Pharmacy (PharmD)*
 - No report
 - *Pharmacy (PhD)*
 - No report
 - *Public Health*
 - No report
 - *School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences*
 - No report
 - *Social Work*
 - No report
 - *ANKUR*
 - No report
 - *CSSA*
 - No report
 - *ISA*
 - No report
 - *GOSECA*
 - No report
 - *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