

Graduate and Professional Student Government

Assembly Board Meeting Minutes

University of Pittsburgh, Langley Hall A219B

October 15th, 2018



Meeting Summary

- A conversation with Provost Cudd and Vice Provost Urban, and reports from our experience at SAGE this month

Attendance

GPSG Executive Board Officers:

- Rachel Coombs (President)
- Jennifer Enriquez (VP of Committees)
- Crystal Taylor (VP of Communications)
- Spencer Edelstein (VP of Finance)
- J. Stephanie Rose (VP of Programming)
- Amanda Leifson (GSA)

Administration

- Dr. Ann Cudd (Provost)
- Dr. Nathan Urban (Vice Provost)
- Jen Walker (GPSG Supervisor)

GPSG Assembly Board Members:

- ANKUR
- CSSA
- ISA
- TASA
- Arts & Sciences 1
- Arts & Sciences 2

- Biomedical
- Dental
- Education
- Engineering
- GSPIA
- SHRS
- SCI
- Katz (Professional)
- Katz (Full-Time)
- Law
- Medicine
- Pharmacy (PharmD)
- Public Health

Absent:

- GOSECA
- Nursing
- Pharmacy (PhD)
- Social Work

1. Call to Order

- President Coombs called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

2. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve September minutes. *Minutes approved. None opposed.*

3. Old Business

- 2018-2019 Budget Discussion & Vote
- VP of Programming Position
- Pitt Bike Co-op
- Change of Gym Hours

4. Reports

President's Report

- Union email discussion – apologize for the response that was sent to the AB, misunderstanding over intent
 - Engineering GSO wants to stay neutral, held two events (one by the university, one by the union) but had experiences with their communications with their own students and wanted to share that experience with the EB about ensuring neutrality
 - a. In the end, the letter by Jenn was neutral and a great version to send to students
 - b. Make sure AB has the ability to comment in the future
 - Meeting after the AB meeting about sending out the information that Rachel is receiving from both sides to the AB and to the graduate students (Ad-hoc Information Committee)
- SAGE Conference (VP of Committees, Executive Administrator)
 - Pitt is co-chairing 2 out of the 7 working groups (Student Health & Wellness, Sexual Harassment & Misconduct)
 - a. We want to send a couple of people to Day on the Hill (we will find ways to fund students to go)

- Robert's Rules – information to the reps about the rules that dictate AB meetings
 - We'll send a report to the AB about our experiences at SAGE
- Legislative report
 - 115th Congress proposed bills, that impact graduate students
 - State and federal level – advocacy and have an impact
 - a. *Higher Education Mental Health Act* – PA senator proposed it
- Committees' Report
 - Bylaws Committee
 - Will meet when ideas are brought forth by the EB or AB regarding changes they'd want considered in the bylaws
 - 2 committees looking for feedback from students
 - *Mental Health Task Force, Senate Research*
 - GPSG Reps
 - Inviting the reps to the AB meetings, to facilitate communication between reps and the general student body
 - a. *Shanshan Luan – Human Relations*
 - b. *Matt Borrelli – Teaching Awards, Athletics & Recreation*
 - c. *Oliver Beale – University Council on Graduate Studies, Community Relations*
 - Rachel sits on the Senate Council, so if there are any concerns let Rachel know and she can bring it to their attention
- Communications' Report
 - Event Photos
 - Under "Upcoming Events" tab on the website, people can submit photos to be uploaded of our events. To add your photos, email Crystal
 - Ring Ceremony Representative
 - Still looking for a graduate student to serve on the committee
 - Meetings are November 8th from 4-5 pm
 - Looking for ways to incorporate graduate students, at the moment it is being advertised to the undergraduates (junior, seniors)
 - a. Any suggestions, let Crystal know
- Finance's Report
 - October Expense Report
 - Apply for Supplemental Funding
- Programming's Report
 - Halloween Event
 - Social, Sunday October 28th 7-11:30 pm
 - Tickets on sale now (Eventbrite)
 - Office Hours – Tuesdays 4-5pm
 - Looking for the year of events
 - Mental Health Panel
 - *November 1, 2018 5-7pm*
- Executive Administrator's Report
 - No report
- Assembly Board Member Reports
 - *Arts & Sciences*
 - New President (Anthony from Linguistics)
 - Committee for Diversity and Inclusion
 - a. 2nd survey this summer, getting the report out by next month
 - b. Help determine what the committee will do based on the concerns raised
 - Survey done by a larger group through Arts & Sciences
 - a. Next month or so, internal to A&S, faculty, staff & graduate students

- b. Strategic plan based on that information
 - Collaborate with GPSG Title IX forms in other languages than English
- *Biomedical*
 - New President, new board
 - Next Wednesday, Biomedical research symposium
 - a. Poster sessions open to Pitt students
- *Dental Medicine*
 - Annual snowball dance
 - a. Submitted to supplemental funding
- *Education*
 - Brainstorm stage – no education minor, don't have classes for graduate students to teach
 - a. Working with the center for teaching and learning, doctoral students who want to teach courses, any suggestions would be appreciated
 - b. Dean on board
- *Engineering*
 - Mentorship program, not just on academic but on the professional/life side as well
 - a. Report back how that goes
 - Internship program
 - a. Resources for doctoral, but no internship programs
 - Annual survey for feedback
 - a. Professional needs, international needs
 - Global Links – volunteer opportunity
- *GSPIA*
 - Holding elections for executive board next month
 - New AB in December?
 - Jacob Garcia -- student survey in interest in energy and environment courses
 - a. Dean wants to gauge interest outside of GSPIA
 - i. Njl30@pitt.edu or jag292@pitt.edu
- *School of Computing & Information*
 - Questions about elections for officers
 - a. Learn from other programs how they deal with short term (2 year) students
- *Katz (Full Time)*
 - Elections since last meeting, 6 new members (total 10)
 - Friendsgiving November 30th, chance for international students to share their customs with other students
- *Katz (Part Time)*
 - Talking about personal finance workshop for business students
 - a. Opening to other schools?
 - b. Workshop courses (not credit – difficult to get across departments)
- *Law*
 - Planning barrister's prom, Carnegie science center in January
 - Public interest fund to raise 20,000 for students who are interested in unpaid positions
 - a. Don't find law school supportive of those types of programs
 - b. \$25 student fee to fund it
 - c. Lots of professor and administrative support, now need student support
 - d. Donations from alumni? Not have been able to really get it going
 - e. 44 people applied, only able to help 11 people
 - f. They've done survey – big need, big desire
 - g. Hoping that students stepping up, that the administration steps up as well
 - i. Hopefully \$60,000 by the end
- *Medicine*

- 2nd years – fundraising Halloween event
- 1st years elected officers
- *Nursing*
 - No report
- *Pharmacy (PharmD)*
 - October is American Pharmacists Month
 - October 3rd was Pharmacist day
 - Association meeting in Baltimore in the next 3 weeks
- *Pharmacy (PhD)*
 - No report
- *Public Health*
 - No report
- *School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences*
 - No report
- *Social Work*
 - No report
- *ANKUR*
 - No report
- *CSSA*
 - Autumn Festival at Alumni Hall
 - a. 200 students
 - Halloween Party on the 26th
- *ISA*
 - No report
- *GOSECA*
 - No report
- *TASA*
 - Preparing for celebration of the Republic
 - a. Dinner at La Mont on November 4th 6:30pm, everyone welcome, \$20 for students

5. Committee Reports

- See full reports on website (www.gpsg.pitt.edu)

6. New Business

- Provost Ann Cudd, Vice Provost Nathan Urban, & Jen Walker will attend from 6-6:15 pm to meet with the Assembly Board
 - *Provost Cudd*
 - Introductions, chief academic officer
 - Looking for the interests, needs, and concerns of graduate and professional students
 - *Vice Provost Urban*
 - Oversight of graduate and professional programs across the university (new program approval, helping develop programs)
 - High priorities: professional development, mental health initiative
 - a. Mental Health Panel (November 1, 5-7pm)
 - *Jennifer Walker*
 - Introductions
 - *Q&A's*
 - Law – swipe access to building, study space is taken over by undergrads, have not been able to get anywhere with the Dean
 - a. *Look into the issue, talk with new dean*

- ISA – political issues with the travel ban, meet with the Provost office about how it would impact incoming graduate students, it had an impact this year (only 1 student came from Iran this year)
 - a. *Encourage international students, high priority for Provost Cudd; how to deal with the political climate; stand for free exchange of information; how to have the conversation with PI's, faculty who may not invite international students because of the climate*
 - b. *Information from Office of International Students – is that information getting to students?*
- What does the University do to ensure that PIs treat their grad students fairly? What can we do for those graduate students (provide services?)-National Center for Faculty Development had 32 faculty participate this year, and they're responsible for helping their colleagues
- Graduate students are evaluated by PI's, by undergrads, but how can graduate students provide feedback in order to impact the culture with PI's? When it is so impactful on how happy you are in your graduate program
 - a. *Small group of PI's, how to keep anonymity, think creatively (exit interviews)*
- Learning Disability Graduate Students – differences between graduate and undergraduate students, how to hold graduate programs/departments accountable, seeing that they occupy a different space than undergraduates
 - a. *How to better understand how it's worked well and when it hasn't worked well, it's a new issue; it's more complicated when it is talking outside of the classroom (undergraduate student experience)*
- Office hours for Vice Provost, is there going to be office hours for Provost?
 - a. *Yes, starting in November; email: provost@pitt.edu*
- New Grad Study Lounge in Hillman
 - To access, send your 2P number on the following link -- <https://www.library.pitt.edu/graduate-study-room>
 - Law school – do all graduate students access? Professional students?
 - GPSG is willing to go to bat for all graduate students
 - Graduate specific space – approx. 10 schools? (at the moment)
 - a. Swipe access (3)
 - b. Study Space graduate (3), Social space (4)
 - Give swipe access to all graduate spaces for all graduate spaces?
 - Jen and Urban seem open to ideas (opt in vs. all access)
 - a. More specific plans seem to go over better with administration rather than general asks
 - Disseminating information
 - a. Urban Email, GPSG email
- PhD Writing Space in Hillman
 - New space, with plenty of room for those who are working on writing their dissertation
 - To apply -- <https://www.library.pitt.edu/get-phd-carrel>
 - Medical and law school restrictions?
 - *Still the carrels are PhD at the moment*
- Professional and Advocacy Grants
 - How to target, language let us know, Groups v. students
 - We want something coming back to community
 - November meeting to have it roll out for January start

7. Announcements

- Next meeting: **Monday, November 19th at 6:00pm**

Meeting Adjourned at 7:18 pm