



# University of Pittsburgh

*Graduate & Professional Student Government*

*Office of the President*

**Rachel Coombs**

President

825 William Pitt Union

3959 Fifth Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15260

412-648-7844

Email: [president.gpsg@pitt.edu](mailto:president.gpsg@pitt.edu)

Website: [gpsg.pitt.edu](http://gpsg.pitt.edu)

## GPSG Spring Updates 2019:

The mission of the 2018-2019 GPSG Executive Board (EB) is to improve the way we represent graduate student interests and better understand the concerns of graduate and professional students at Pitt.

### **Graduate Health and wellness and Community building:**

**Mental Health First Aid:** GPSG and Student Health Services were able to provide a mental health first aid courses to graduate and professional students. (This is a free 8-hour course that will give you the skills to help someone who is experiencing a mental health crisis. This course provides participants with a 3-year certification).

**Dedicated graduate student space:** We have a new study room in the Hillman Library that is a quiet space for Graduate students. Students with a valid Pitt ID submit their 2P number and have card access. We are currently working to create a graduate student lounge as well.

**Events:** Thus far, GPSG has successfully planned and executed seven events. In total we plan to offer 13 events for academic year 2018-2019. Each new academic year we begin the our Hofbrauhaus welcome back which is typically highly anticipated and sells out each year – last year was no exception. New activities that were provided this year included but are not limited to more holiday activities such as Halloween, Gradsgiving, and a holiday happy hour. Due to funding, we needed to decrease or completely cancel traditional GPSG activities such as recurring professional headshots and the annual fall formal – as well as our partnerships with the Pitt Program Council. Our events range from social happy hours/game nights to coffee hours with professional development components.

### **Professional development and Advocacy:**

**SAGE:** GPSG is working with other Graduate and Professional Student Governments at other Universities to advocate for Graduate Education on a state and national level. We are active members in the Student Advocates for Graduate Education (SAGE) Coalition. We sent 3 delegates to the SAGE fall summit, are interested in sending a Pitt delegation to the SAGE Day on the Hill to advocate for the following issues:

Working group topics: Student Finance, Immigration, Gender Equity and Sexual, Harassment, Research Funding, Student Health, and Data and Security. GPSG has representation in the immigration and Student Health working groups and is chairing the gender equity and sexual harassment group.

**Title IX:** GPSG hosted an information session to inform for the title IX comment period. We were also the primary author of the comment submitted for SAGE and circulated to all SAGE coalition schools.

**Grants:** From May 2018-February 2019 GSPG has had 157 students apply and we have been able to offer funding to 119, totaling \$47,619.44. This year, GPSG created a new advocacy and professional development grant. The Goal of these grants is to: 1) provide advocacy opportunities to graduate students or 2) further the professional or academic development for students at Pitt. Students must submit a grant narrative, a letter institutional support, and letters of recommendation.