Meeting Summary

• Last meeting of the academic year, discussing union issues and providing election results

Attendance

GPSSG Executive Board Officers:

• Jennifer Enriquez (VP of Committees)
• Crystal Taylor (VP of Communications)
• Yashar Aucie (VP of Finance)
• J. Stephanie Rose (VP of Programming)
• Amanda Leifson (GSA)

GPSSG Assembly Board Members:

• ANKUR
• Arts & Sciences 1
• Arts & Sciences 2
• Arts & Sciences 3
• Biomedical
• Dental
• Engineering
• SCI
• Katz (Part Time)
• Law

Absent:

• Pharmacy (PharmD)
• Social Work
• GOSECA
• ISA
• TASA
• Medicine

• Rachel Coombs (President)
• Education
• GSPIA
• Katz (Full Time)
• Nursing
• Pharmacy (PhD)
• Public Health
• CSSA
• SHRS

1. Call to Order

• VP Committees Enriquez called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm

2. Approval of Minutes

• Motion to approve March minutes. Minutes approved. None opposed.

3. Old Business

4. Reports

• President’s Report (president.gpsg@pitt.edu)

  o Graduate Student Union

    • There have been a lot of questions about GPSG and its function after the vote
    • Executive Board has written a statement, wants to distribute to the student body
      a. Would like AB input for any possible changes
      b. For all students, not just those in the union

• VP of Committees’ Report (committees.gpsg@pitt.edu)

  o Bylaws Discussion

    • Section E. Filling Office Vacancies
      a. the call will go out about vacancy within 48 hours instead of the next regularly scheduled GPSG AB meeting
      b. communication is the role of EB, not just the EA
      c. clarity about Section 6.4
      d. clarify regarding forfeiture of candidacy if not present at the meeting
      e. VOTE: 14 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain

• Section F. Appointing Interim Positions

  a. proposal of this section addresses issues related to when a vacancy occurs
there were two vacancies this year (Programming and Finance)—filling a position takes about one or two months depending on when the vacancy occurred in the month

according to the current bylaws, it is not clear who is able to fulfill the obligations of the vacant position in that span of one to two months

b. NOTE: under this proposal, VP of Committees assumes Presidency if the President vacates their office

i. office of Committees would need to be filled, instead of the President

ii. reasoning behind proposal: to ensure office of President would be easily filled with a member who was voted into their office by the whole student body

c. VOTE: 15 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain

**Section D. GSA Representatives**

a. removing Pan African GPSG since they have not been active for the past few years

b. changing name of Persian Panthers to ISA

c. VOTE: 15 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain

**Article VI. Finances & Administration — Section C. GSAs**

a. changing from three years to two years

i. lessens the barriers to prospective GSAs who would like to be a member of the AB

ii. becoming a member of the AB would allow them guaranteed funds to support their programming

b. VOTE: 15 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain

**Section D. Lottery of Temporary AB Membership of GSAs**

a. allow prospective GSAs to be a temporary voting member of the AB

b. particularly important if there are special issues for a given year related to certain affinity groups

c. does not guarantee them any funding—temporary GSA AB members would still need to apply for supplementary funding

d. VOTE: No Vote occurred

**VP of Communication’s Report** ([communications.gpsg@pitt.edu](mailto:communications.gpsg@pitt.edu))

- Follow GPSG on Eventbrite

  - Communicate about our events for students who may not have access to social media

  - [https://www.eventbrite.com/o/graduate-and-professional-student-government-2911276273](https://www.eventbrite.com/o/graduate-and-professional-student-government-2911276273)

- Unionization Information Session

  - GPSG – April 9th 4:30-6:30 pm, Wyndham Hotel

  - EGSO – April 9th 6:30-7:30 pm

**VP of Finance’s Report** ([finance.gpsg@pitt.edu](mailto:finance.gpsg@pitt.edu))

- April Finance Report

  - Programming expenses (Spring Fling) and Supplemental Funds need to be updated

**VP of Programming’s Report** ([events.gpsg@pitt.edu](mailto:events.gpsg@pitt.edu))

- National Grad Appreciation Week

  - Professional Development Panel (under attended)

    a. Want to do it again, but because it was under attended, we want to make sure that we are providing events to students

    b. Group Calendar – let groups let others know when events are being planned

      i. Communications/Programming

      ii. Hard within schools with multiple organizations

      iii. Providing information to a large group vs. GPSG

        1. Google Calendar

        2. Upcoming Events Request Form
3. Open events – Communication
4. Specific events – Programming
iv. Semi/Annual information to new representatives
   1. Information to new representatives/duties/responsibilities

- **Executive Administrator’s Report** ([gpsg@pitt.edu](mailto:gpsg@pitt.edu))
  o GPSG 2019-2020 Executive Board Results
    • Optional Fill in for School information for next year?
      a. To know which schools are participating in the GPSG Elections, due to our low numbers in turnout

- **Assembly Board Member Reports**
  o **Arts & Sciences**
    • No report
  o **Biomedical**
    • Hosting Spring Semi Formal, Spirits Brewery May 9th
    • Rep for Health and Sciences meeting after AB meeting
  o **Dental Medicine**
    • Event school wide picnic May 10th
  o **Education**
    • No report
  o **Engineering**
    • No report
  o **GSPIA**
    • No report
  o **School of Computing & Information**
    • Election Nominations, Process is ongoing
  o **Katz (Full Time)**
    • No report
  o **Katz (Part Time)**
    • Spring fling on March 30th
      a. Best turnout in years, 200 guests
      b. Mattress Factory
    • Elections happened
      a. 2 new, 6 returning
    • Professional MBAs –
      a. As of Fall you can complete the whole degree with hybrid program
      b. Testing out virtual townhall, livestream then on online
  o **Law**
    • Elections happened
  o **Medicine**
    • No report
  o **Nursing**
    • No report
  o **Pharmacy (PharmD)**
    • End of the year party April 26th
  o **Pharmacy (PhD)**
    • No report
  o **Public Health**
    • No report
  o **School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences**
    • No report
  o **Social Work**
    • Few events, due to the latest court case
• Student walk out, responding to the community concerns
• Partnering with community organizations
  a. Send resources to GPSG to send out to AB
• Social at the end of the year
  o ANKUR
    • Forming new committee, next event in August
  o CSSA
    • No report
  o ISA
    • March 23rd – Persian New Year
      a. 400 happy guests
  o GOSECA
    • Spring Happy Hour April 22nd, at the Porch
    • Officer elections then
  o TASA
    • Happy Hour in March
    • Planning another one before the semester ends
    • Picnic for national sovereignty day

5. Committee Reports
• See full reports on website (www.gpsg.pitt.edu)

6. New Business
• Dr. Darlene Zellers – Center for Doctoral and Post-Doctoral students
  o Career panel last week, talking about issues
  o Career development = job search, only think about at the end of your program
  o Talking about a longer-term mindset, thinking about career development throughout your time at the university
  o Things are unpredictable, not everything is offered all the time which makes things difficult
  o Proposing from the Center – on demand offerings
    • Feedback from students wanted
      a. Professional seminar (very few students attend) – so now proposing 15 min seminars
        i. Interpersonal skills are hard to introduce over the computer
      b. Variable schedule – so now proposing a fixed schedule
        i. 8 topics always presented
        ii. GPSG, schools could then build around this general offering with specific offerings for their unique issues
      c. Getting students to know about the center, difficult to get students to engage with the offerings
  o Virtual Center – online
  o Academia vs. Industry
    • Variety of job information for students
    • Doctoral-Alumni in residency, former students who represent the spectrum of positions to help students (read cover letters, mock interviews)
    • Making sure not to redo efforts from schools

7. Announcements
• Next meeting: August 2019

Meeting Adjourned at 7:10 pm