

Graduate and Professional Student Government

Assembly Board Meeting Minutes

University of Pittsburgh, 837 WPU

August 26, 2019



Meeting Summary

- First meeting of the academic year, introduced new AB members to the process and responsibilities of the AB

Attendance

GPSG Executive Board Officers:

- Rachel Coombs (President)
- Yashar Aucie (VP of Finance)
- J. Stephanie Rose (VP of Programming)
- Amanda Leifson (GSA)

GPSG Assembly Board Members:

- ANKUR
- GOSECA
- ISA
- TASA
- A&S 1
- A&S 2
- A&S 3
- Biomedical
- Dental
- Engineering
- GSPIA

- SHRS
- SCI
- Katz (Professional)
- Katz (Full Time)
- Law
- Medicine
- Social Work

Absent:

- Christy Taylor (VP of Committees)
- Crystal Taylor (VP of Communications)
- Education
- Nursing
- Pharmacy (PharmD)
- Pharmacy (PhD)
- Public Health
- CSSA

1. Call to Order

- President Coombs called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm

2. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve April 2019 minutes. *Minutes approved. None opposed.*

3. Old Business

4. Reports

• President's Report

- Fierce negotiations about getting our Graduate Student Lounge built
 - Trying to up the costs for us, Dean of Students weighing in
 - Once decided, it will be 5/6 weeks
 - Only for graduate students
- Provost Office focus this year is looking into Mentoring
 - If you are having problems meeting with your deans, etc – let Rachel know and she'll help facilitate those conversations

• Committees' Report

- Committee Representative Form:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScxWyTQPCMaMTY53SmsRIDKc--aFEz0VJ9naLbsmc7FDqowlg/viewform>

• Communications' Report

- Upcoming events
 - If an AB member or someone from their school wants us to advertise an event on Facebook and add it to our calendar, they can either send an email or fill out the "Upcoming Events Request Form"

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfjQPbyDSNDG0kcX8Wj1PbNIPokuGdtKL_NpyltOW8uQpHGyg/viewform

- Information on Events
 - There is a link for students to follow us on Eventbrite (located in the “Upcoming Events Page”; <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/graduate-and-professional-student-government-2911276273>) as another way to stay up to date on GPSG events if they do not use social media or check it often
- Finance’s Report
 - August Finance Report
 - Finance Committee
 - Intention is to have more regular, and more structured meetings
- Programming’s Report
 - Welcome Back Happy Hour – Hofbräuhaus (2705 S. Water Street Pittsburgh, PA 15203)
 - 3 September 2019, 7:00 pm – 11:59 pm
 - Tickets: \$10
 - GPSG Coffee Hour – William Pitt Union (Lower Lounge)
 - 9 September 2019, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
 - Tickets: \$5 to hold reservation (will be returned upon sign in to the event, not showing up is a forfeiture of funds)
 - Event per month for October, November, & December
 - Looking for members of Programming Committee
 - Email Steph
- Executive Administrator’s Report
 - Assembly Board Representative Expectations
 - Communicating is a big goal this year; communicating with students, with each other, and with the EB board
 - Please send in monthly reports with your information for the agenda
 - Food Allergies
- Assembly Board Member Reports
 - *Arts & Sciences*
 - Looking for new VP
 - First meeting is mid-September
 - *Biomedical*
 - Summer lecture series
 - Welcome back picnic
 - Elections this September
 - October 2nd – Annual Student Conferences, where students present their research
 - a. The posters are only for biomedical students, but all students can see the posters
 - *Dental Medicine*
 - September 6-8th: Leadership Retreat
 - 1st – Steel City Conference
 - October 5th – semi-formal event on the Gateway Clipper
 - *Education*
 - No report
 - *Engineering*
 - Leadership hand over June/July
 - Social events over the summer
 - Helped Administration with orientation, combined with all the departments
 - Launch Student/Student mentorship program
 - *GSPIA*
 - Scavenger Hunt (Sept 15) for new students

- *School of Computing & Information*
 - **Events:**
 - a. Information session at the Orientation (8/22) to introduce ourselves to the new graduate and recruit volunteers to join our team.
 - b. SCI Kennywood Day, Sunday 8/25.
 - c. Social hour once a month
 - d. ISO is planning to hold a Bowling Night event in early October
 - e. Collaboratively, a Fall Picnic which is mainly hosted by CS-GSO will be on 10/11
 - f. ISO also proposes a tentative schedule of professional lectures: a) Orientation to library resources (September), and b) English writing seminar with a specific focus on technical writing (Late October).
 - **Communication Amongst Sub Organizations:** How to ensure better communication, collaboration with organizations/departments that fall under the main organization?
 - **Communication with Students:** How to best reach students, email vs. social media
 - Orientation session – successful
 - Two organizations
 - a. October Events
 - Annual day at Kennywood (200 attendees)
 - Next Friday is 1st Social Event of the school year
- *Katz (Full Time)*
 - Transition for both boards
 - a. Mid September
 - Welcome Picnic – had about 70 people
 - National Black (MBA conference, last week of September)
- *Katz (Part Time)*
 - Transition for both boards
 - Looking at bylaws, how to better engage and serve professional students
 - First official event tonight (7:30)
- *Law*
 - Hosting elections for their 1L representatives – Sept 6th
 - a. Adding several reps
- *Medicine*
 - Research Fair – September 16th for those who did summer research
- *Nursing*
 - No report
- *Pharmacy (PharmD)*
 - No report
- *Pharmacy (PhD)*
 - No report
- *Public Health*
 - No report
- *School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences*
 - PA – upgrade to department
 - Night at the museum Sept 5th
 - Brand new elections – several programs over the summer
 - SAB revamping to better work with the 14 programs that fall underneath the SAB umbrella
- *Social Work*
 - Worked with Admin over new student orientation, felt it worked better this year
 - Extended orientation series, event going on every week, help new students become adjusted to school
 - Lots of upcoming events during the Fall semester

- ANKUR
 - Change of organization for the board
 - Helped with Indian Independence Day on August 8th
 - Planning for a few events in Fall (large & small)
 - Budget – issues, proposals
 - Helped a lot of international students, airport pickup
- CSSA
 - No report
- ISA
 - First meeting September 1st, plan to introduce organization to new students, missing some key role members
 - Plan ISA picnic day
- GOSECA
 - First meeting next week
- TASA
 - Picnic with Turkish language table
 - Plan welcome dinner for mid-September

5. Committee Reports

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

6. New Business

- Budget
 - Travel Grants
 - National Advocacy (SAGE)
 - Professional Development/Advocacy Grant
 - Travel Grants are a little limiting (academic conferences)
 - a. Dental school – leadership conference
 - i. Attending the leadership conference does not make them eligible for travel grants, but they could apply for the Professional Development grant
 - b. Katz – competitions
 - i. Competition conferences, as long as the individual is participating in the conference, would be eligible for the traditional travel grant. We could update the bylaws/clarify the bylaws to make that clearer
 - Supplemental Funds
 - Purpose of supplemental funds: Increase the quality of the event, add food
 - a. All SORC registered organizations are eligible to apply
 - ANKUR – question about how GSA budgets are handled
 - a. GSA submitted proposals, EB makes decisions based off those proposals and the GSA's compliance to the expectations/bylaws
 - b. ANKUR's new board has a new proposal
- Changing times for AB meetings
 - Difficult for professional students, students who are still taking classes
- Changes to Bylaws
 - There is a built-in process to change/clarify things in our bylaws
 - Changes are proposed by AB members, then can be voted on during the next month

7. Announcements

- Next meeting: **Monday, September 23rd at 6:00pm**

Meeting Adjourned at 6:55 pm