

# Graduate and Professional Student Government

## Assembly Board Meeting Minutes

University of Pittsburgh, 527 WPU

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020



### Meeting Summary

- Announcing call for 2020-2021 EB elections and celebrating the opening of the new Grad Student Lounge

### Attendance

#### GPSG Executive Board Officers:

- Rachel Coombs (President)
- Christy Taylor (VP of Committees)
- Crystal Taylor (VP of Communications)
- Yashar Aucie (VP of Finance)
- J. Stephanie Rose (VP of Programming)
- Amanda Leifson (GSA)

#### GPSG Assembly Board Members:

- AKNUR
- CSSA
- GOSECA
- Arts & Sciences 1
- Arts & Sciences 2
- Biomedical
- SCI
- Dental
- Education
- Engineering

- GSPIA
- SHRS
- Katz (Full-Time)
- Katz (Part-Time)
- Law
- Medicine
- Pharmacy (PharmD)
- Social Work

#### Absent:

- TASA
- ISA
- Arts & Science 3
- Public Health
- Nursing
- Pharmacy (PhD)

#### Guest

- LAGOS

### 1. Call to Order

- President Coombs called the meeting to order at 5:59 pm

### 2. Approval of Minutes

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

### 3. Old Business

### 4. Reports

- President's Report ([president.gpsg@pitt.edu](mailto:president.gpsg@pitt.edu))
  - Student Lounge is open
    - Currently still working on the lock mechanism, but more information will be coming soon
  - LAGOS Representative present
    - Hoping to incorporate them into the Assembly Board
    - After a year of participating they can be funded like the other cultural groups
    - Bylaws do not explicitly say anything about vote, but if anyone wants to discuss this either as an Assembly Board or with Rachel, please let us know
- VP of Committees' Report ([committees.gpsg@pitt.edu](mailto:committees.gpsg@pitt.edu))
  - Available Committee Position
    - University Council on Graduate Studies
      - a. 2-year appointment, meetings once a month on Tuesday afternoons
    - Sexual Assault Task Force
      - a. Meeting times TBD, but will be bi-weekly until April
    - Email Christy with inquires: [committees.gpsg@pitt.edu](mailto:committees.gpsg@pitt.edu)
  - Mental Health Task Force

- Discussions surrounding awareness and general environment (or lack thereof) in graduate programs related to mental health, seeking treatment and utilization of counseling center
  - a. This is an ongoing discussion and feedback is welcome from students at varying levels across all schools
  - b. If interested in sharing experiences, please contact Dominic DiSanto ([jdd65@pitt.edu](mailto:jdd65@pitt.edu))
- Community Relations
  - Renovations to Bigelow Boulevard and William Pitt Union will take place beginning mid-November and will last until August 2020
    - a. Renovations include limiting Bigelow to two lanes (currently four), adding in medians and small green space on the road, and improving pedestrian flow
    - b. William Pitt Union will have driveway removed, and places for more room for student groups, activities, free space, etc.
- VP of Communication's Report ([communications.gpsg@pitt.edu](mailto:communications.gpsg@pitt.edu))
  - Update Leadership Information
    - As you hold elections for new positions, please send an email to Crystal with the updated information so we can keep our website up to date
- VP of Finance's Report ([finance.gpsg@pitt.edu](mailto:finance.gpsg@pitt.edu))
  - January 2020 Finance Report
    - Two new supplemental funding applications are being reviewed by the Finance Committee
    - In January, there were 13 Travel Grants and they are currently being reviewed by the Finance Committee
- VP of Programming's Report ([events.gpsg@pitt.edu](mailto:events.gpsg@pitt.edu))
  - Upcoming Events
    - March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 -- Mega Grad Collab (Pointe Park, Chatham, Duquesne)
    - Grad Appreciation Week *TENTATIVE SCHEDULE*
      - a. April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Movies @ Rowhouse
      - b. April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – The Factory @ Warhol
      - c. April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 -- Pirates Game @ Skull Bar
      - d. April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Wine Tasting @ Dreadnought
      - e. April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Game Night @ Victory Pointe
      - f. April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 -- Spring Fling
- Executive Administrator's Report ([gpsg@pitt.edu](mailto:gpsg@pitt.edu))
  - SAGE Day on the Hill
    - March 29<sup>th</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup>, Washington DC
    - Information coming shortly for students who are interested in attending
  - Tax Information
    - Provost Office is providing two resources this year (Vita, OIS Tax Treaty Information)
  - EB Elections
    - Call for Candidates until February 17<sup>th</sup> (8 pm)
      - a. Information Session: January 28, 2020
    - Candidate Campaigning: February 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>
    - Executive Board Elections: March 1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> (Election Results: March 16<sup>th</sup>)
    - Transition
      - a. March 26<sup>th</sup>: Transition & Recognition Dinner
      - b. March 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>: Training
    - Information is available on the GPSG website: <http://gpsg.pitt.edu/elections>
  - EA Hiring
    - Call for Candidates until February 21<sup>st</sup> (8 pm)
    - Information will be made available on: <http://gpsg.pitt.edu/aa-position/>

- Assembly Board Member Reports
  - *Arts & Sciences*
    - No report
  - *Biomedical*
    - Instagram account: @BGSA\_at\_Pitt
    - Currently updating their website
    - Interview weekends (2 already happened, 1 coming in February)
    - Ann Taylor Loft event for clothing (plus a discount)
      - a. If people are interested in running similar events, they had a good experience with the event and would recommend it
    - 1<sup>st</sup> year students helped run an end of semester Happy Hour
    - Non-Traditional Grad student panel
      - a. Students who had to change labs, didn't pass comps, took time off spoke with students
    - Currently planning their Spring Formal event
  - *Dental Medicine*
    - Transitioning the EB – new members will be attending the AB meetings
    - Snowball this weekend
    - District conference with ASDA conference, networked with other schools and dental students
  - *Education*
    - Starting a podcast – 1 episode so far
      - a. Student government does, what opportunities for funding
      - b. Mental health training
  - *Engineering*
    - Continuing to work on successful collaborations with other grad programs
      - a. Katz school last semester, looking to work with other schools
    - Election season is officially open – changes will happen 1 Jun 2020
    - International Student VISA event for STEM (January 28<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>)
      - a. The EGSO would like to share an event that our awesome Rep for International Students put together with the broader grad student STEM community. This session will present information specific to STEM students. There are two sessions, same information at each. Food provided!
      - b. <https://forms.gle/o6gMu7dTYaqGN8sU9>
        - i. Here's a flyer and the registration link (very important, PLEASE RSPV) the event is free, but we need to know who's coming and seating is limited. For questions, contact Anisha Suri, [ANS368@pitt.edu](mailto:ANS368@pitt.edu).
    - Wellness program with Pitt Police and Pitt Rec in full swing
  - *GSPIA*
    - New board
    - Social Hour this semester
    - Thinking of having a student organization fair – want to advertise other groups outside of GSPIA
  - *School of Computing & Information*
    - Starting joint Happy Hours with corporate partners to help students network in the industry
    - Working on upcoming elections – new team will be introduced in April
      - a. Looking to coordinate with child-organizations so that they can share resources and improve student engagement
    - Previous Event: December Social Hour – nearly 250 students, faculty, staff, and family; January event – 100 students attended
    - Upcoming Event:

- a. ISO Ski Trip: Event by International Student Organization (ISO) on 2/15
  - b. February Social Hour – Lantern Festival
    - i. To Celebrate Chinese Lantern Festival, mainly hosted by CS-GSP
- *Katz (Full Time)*
  - Friday – Karaoke charity event, Top 5 performers
  - Starting student led activities about networking
- *Katz (Part Time)*
  - Social event at Mario’s
- *Law*
  - Create diverse working space in the Law school
    - a. No date yet for the opening, but once the Dean is back and available we will have it
  - February 6<sup>th</sup> – Auction open to students \$10, pizza, adult beverages, 7pm, Table on the main floor of the Law building where you can buy tickets
  - February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Barrister Ball
- *Medicine*
  - Transition for their new Executive Board
- *Nursing*
  - No report
- *Pharmacy (PharmD)*
  - March – Medical Marijuana panel, geared to health professional schools
  - Transition for their new Executive Board
- *Pharmacy (PhD)*
  - No report
- *Public Health*
  - No report
- *School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences*
  - Professional Conference for the 14 schools in SHRS
- *Social Work*
  - New Executive Board started this January
  - Meet and greet breakfast at the Student Lounge
  - February 4<sup>th</sup> – townhall for the EB, let students know about goals for the new EB
  - Happy Hour at the end of February
  - Faculty Meet and greet soon
- *ANKUR*
  - 1/26 – Indian Republic Independence Day, fundraiser in Benedum Hall
  - Holy Festival – 3/29 or 4/15 (tentative dates) with CMU – Cathedral Lawn
- *CSSA*
  - New Year Lunar New Year – dinner and free show
- *ISA*
  - No report
- *GOSECA*
  - 17<sup>th</sup> Grad student conference at the end of February
- *TASA*
  - No report

## 5. Committee Reports

- See full reports on website ([www.gpsg.pitt.edu](http://www.gpsg.pitt.edu))

## 6. New Business

- LAGOS
  - Mentoring initiative for faculty working with Latinx students
  - February 4<sup>th</sup>

- Sending out a survey with graduate students to share experiences
- Flyers for VP of Programming events – forthcoming
- ANKUR
  - Tax Information
    - The Provost Office is trying to roll out significant programs related to tax season
    - Suggestion -- could you provide short videos to give more information to international students to give some information about taxes?
      - a. We'll pass it along to the Provost Office

## 7. Announcements

- Next Meeting: ***Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:30 pm (Dining Room B, WPU)***
  - Provost Ann Cudd & Vice Provost Dr. Nathan Urban will be attending for a Townhall discussion
  - If you have any questions, please email GPSG ([gpsg@pitt.edu](mailto:gpsg@pitt.edu))
- March AB Meeting: March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6-7:30 pm (Dining Room B, WPU)
- April AB Meeting: TBD
- May AB Meeting: (New Executive Board) TBD

Meeting Adjourned at 6:34 pm