

# Graduate and Professional Student Government

## Assembly Board Meeting Minutes

University of Pittsburgh, 837 WPU

September 23, 2019



### Meeting Summary

- Discussion and vote on the 2019-2020 budget for GPSG

### Attendance

#### GPSG Executive Board Officers:

- 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:

- ANKUR
- CSSA
- GOSECA
- TASA
- Arts & Sciences 1
- Biomedical
- Dental
- Education
- Engineering
- GSPIA

- SHRS
- SCI
- Katz (Professional)
- Katz (Full Time)
- Law
- Pharmacy (PharmD)
- Public Health
- Social Work

#### Absent:

- Rachel Coombs (President)
- ISA
- Arts & Sciences 2
- Arts & Sciences 3
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Pharmacy (PhD)

### 1. Call to Order

- VP of Committees Christy Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm

### 2. Approval of Minutes

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

### 3. Old Business

- Vote on 2019-2020 Budget
  - Yay – 21; Nay – 1; Abstain – 0

### 4. Reports

- **President's Report** ([president.gpsg@pitt.edu](mailto:president.gpsg@pitt.edu))
  - President's Report
    - UCGS
    - Senate Council –
      - a. Tuition increased for university, provided more (in number and amount) to students
      - b. Mental Health Focus this year
    - Sexual Assault Task Force – Title IX put a yearly report together (publicly available), shows that for 2019 there were 247 reports and 47 investigations. This is an increase from the last two years.
    - SORC Meeting – late last year/over the summer, they hired 2 business managers. Adam Clevenger is over graduate student organizations. Because of this change and others, the SORC office is trying to get back on track and streamlining processes
  - **VP of Committees' Report** ([committees.gpsg@pitt.edu](mailto:committees.gpsg@pitt.edu))
    - Committee Representative Orientation

- Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> 4-5pm, 817 CL
  - Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> 12-1pm, 826 CL
- Most committee filled, 3 left in the university
  - Student Aid, Affairs, Admission
  - Dining Options
  - Student Recreation Advisory Board
- Board of Trustee
  - EA sent out email about the committee descriptions
  - If you think there is someone who is interested, send Rachel an email/VP of Committees
  - Student attendance is important, a little hard because we don't have the schedule in advance – we have addressed this concern to Dr. Urban, as this only the 2<sup>nd</sup> year we have had representation, we are working on making it more accessible to more students
- **VP of Communication's Report** ([communications.gpsg@pitt.edu](mailto:communications.gpsg@pitt.edu))
  - Eventbrite Link available on the website
  - AB reps that have transferred leadership, please let VP of Communications know so that we can update the website with the AB representatives and contact information for students
  - Events for fall semester have been laid out, and on our website (Upcoming Events)
    - Any events that you want other students to attend, please feel out the form found on our website, or email Crystal so we can get it up on the website
- **VP of Finance's Report** ([finance.gpsg@pitt.edu](mailto:finance.gpsg@pitt.edu))
  - September Finance Report
    - 9 Travel Grant applications
    - 2 Supplemental Fund applications
- **VP of Programming's Report** ([events.gpsg@pitt.edu](mailto:events.gpsg@pitt.edu))
  - GPSG Coffee Hour Stress Down (10/11): <https://gpsgcoffeehourmentalhealthoct2019.eventbrite.com>
    - WPU Lower Lounge & Bigelow Lawn, 12-3 pm – Free
      - a. A GPSG Coffee Hour with a TWIST! Come enjoy brunch, a massage, build your own stress ball and other activities to combat the stressors of being a grad student. We reserved this space so you can relax with your colleagues and friends. Mental health is important to us and we want to make sure you have the tools to protect your mental well-being.
  - Gradsgiving (11/27): <https://gpsgradsgiving2019.eventbrite.com>
    - a. WPU Ballroom, 5-7 pm – Free
  - Myers-Briggs Indicator Assessment (12/3 & 12/4)
    - O'Hara Student Center, 11-1 pm – Tickets \$7
      - a. The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator assessment can aid you in your academic and professional interactions. In this session, you will receive your MBTI report and learn about yourself and other indicator types.
        - i. December 3<sup>rd</sup>: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gpsg-mbti-session-i-tickets-72156015585>
        - ii. December 4<sup>th</sup>: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gpsg-mbti-session-ii-tickets-72157323497>
  - GPSG Holiday Happy Hour (12/6): <https://gpsgholidayhh2019.eventbrite.com>
    - O'Hara Student Center, 5-7 pm – Tickets \$5
- **Executive Administrator's Report** ([gpsg@pitt.edu](mailto:gpsg@pitt.edu))
  - Thank you to all the schools who submitted reports for this month's agenda!
  - SORC
    - Student Organization of the Month
      - a. Email [sorc@pitt.edu](mailto:sorc@pitt.edu) for application
    - New Handbook Forthcoming

- Assembly Board Member Reports
  - *Arts & Sciences*
    - First meeting for the A&S GSO, nothing too exciting to report
    - New people elected
    - Communications with new people
  - *Biomedical*
    - Elections – new rep (will email Crystal)
    - Career seminar series, 3 in the series
      - a. Biotech jobs
    - Orientation picnic – best turn out for the last couple of years
    - Symposium -- all day long research symposium
      - a. Biomedical programs required to attend
    - Board game night
  - *Dental Medicine*
    - Fall picnic, with students and families
    - Planning for Steel City speaker series, break-out sessions
  - *Education*
    - First meeting, nomination/election for spots not filled
    - Family friendly events
      - a. Pumpkin patch event
  - *Engineering*
    - Hilltop Urban Farms Volunteering Day, September 28<sup>th</sup>
    - If you enjoy working outdoors, making friends, learning new skills and contributing to the community. Volunteers perform a multitude of tasks including weeding, removing debris and clearing land. As the site continues to evolve, volunteers can expect to provide assistance with seeding, harvesting crops and more. No experience necessary, just a can-do attitude and a willingness to roll up your sleeves and dig in!
      - a. [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/14-00hcsfsRQ8dDwewjsfrB8xqrHdZdFRvTqkVd03Czo/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/14-00hcsfsRQ8dDwewjsfrB8xqrHdZdFRvTqkVd03Czo/viewform?edit_requested=true)
      - b. Looking to do more volunteer events, let EGSO@pitt.edu know and they can add you to the email list
    - Past Events:
      - a. Ice Cream Social (8/29), White Water Rafting (9/22), Library workshops on literature reviews and authorship (9/18, 9/19)
    - Upcoming Event:
      - a. Global Ethics Day (10/16), has been asked to put a movie night together
    - Pitt Program Council Discussion – are we permanently opting out or is it worth trying to access level of interest among graduate students?
  - *GSPIA*
    - Water is Life Forum 9/24 4-6pm 3911 Posvar Hall
      - a. Round table discussion about water sanitation and access around the world. Includes speakers from Amizade, Pine Ridge Reservation, World Aral Region Charity, and Ecosoap Bank
      - b. [gspia.pitt.edu/events/ford-institute-human-security/water-life-forum](http://gspia.pitt.edu/events/ford-institute-human-security/water-life-forum)
    - Pan American Health Organization in Cuba: The Island's Public Health System and International Partnership 9/25 2:30-4pm 4130 Posvar Hall
      - a. [www.gspia.pitt.edu](http://www.gspia.pitt.edu)
    - Gallery Crawl in the Cultural District 9/27 5:30-10pm
      - a. It's the biggest crawl of the year! The fall '19 edition, presented by UPMC and UPMC Health Plan, will feature nearly 30 crawl stops, including the return of Art in the Alley, a new pop-up installation of Los Trompos (first seen in Pittsburgh at

this summer's Dollar Bank Three Rivers Arts Festival), multiple gallery exhibition premieres, live music outdoors, food trucks, and more. More information at [crawl.trustarts.org](http://crawl.trustarts.org).

- Mascaro Center Grants: rolling monthly review, intended to support student groups who are initiating programs, activities, or events that cover the broad topics of sustainability and help advance Pitt's Sustainability Plan
- Held a Happy Hour, had lunch with the dean
- Looking to provide more events that are centered on alcohol – held a scavenger hunt for students
- *School of Computing & Information*
  - Past Events:
    - a. Kennywood Day 8/25 – great way for new students, faculty and staff to mingle
    - b. September Social Hour 9/6 – 180 students attended, really popular Get to Know you Trivia Game
  - Upcoming Events:
    - a. Fall Picnic 10/11 – CS-GSO leading the event for graduate students, faculty, staff and alumni
    - b. Bowling Night (late Oct/early Nov) – International Student Organization leading the event, working on securing the venue
    - c. Orientation on Library Resources – East Asian Library holds regular workshops on Mendeley and Endnote for international students, but still working on what the topic of the orientation will be or if presenting information/resources available across campus would be sufficient
  - Supplemental Funding Questions – discussion about policy?
- *Katz (Full Time)*
  - Elections open for six new board members – application period is open now; voting will end on 9/24
    - a. Looking for 3 MS/MAcc and 3 MBA students
    - b. Only 6 applicants – so full board
  - Preparing for National Black MBA Conference (September 24-28) – providing resources (interview prep, resume prep) and support to MBA students
  - 2019-2020 Initiatives
    - a. Katz students voting on which charity to support this year
      - i. Pittsburgh Education Partnership, Mario Lemieux Foundation, or Boys and Girls Club of Western PA
      - ii. All monetary fundraising this academic year will be donated
      - iii. Working on shared document to detail volunteer opportunities in the community
    - b. Focusing on school clubs and strengthening student engagement
      - i. Working with MS and MBA offices to inquire student interest & expectations
  - PSEB (PT) and SEB (FT) hosting joint welcome happy hour on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>
- *Katz (Part Time)*
  - Nick Koroly has information about positions for graduate in start-up companies
    - a. [nik67@pitt.edu](mailto:nik67@pitt.edu)
- *Law*
  - Upcoming events for law students
- *Medicine*
  - No report
- *Nursing*
  - No report
- *Pharmacy (PharmD)*

- Generation Rx will be hosting a Drug Take Back Day with the DEA
- October 24th from 9am-3pm at the University Pharmacy in Nordenberg Hall
  - a. You can bring in any prescriptions, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, pet medications, supplements, ointments, creams, and gels. Drug Take Back Days ensure proper disposal of medications and are an integral part to helping with the opioid epidemic and preventing drug misuse. Please consider bringing your old or expired medications!
  - b. Flyer to be sent out
- *Pharmacy (PhD)*
  - No report
- *Public Health*
  - First back to school social August 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Held a Blood Drive in the Commons area in the Public Health Building on September 11<sup>th</sup>
  - SGA Business meeting
- *School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences*
  - Fall Harvest – graduate programs to promote to undergrads
  - 14 programs – having difficulty to communicate with the various other organizations
  - Health Forum for SHRS students promote
    - a. Let undergrads know, how to relate to other medical fields
  - OTP – pledge ceremony, blood drive (Hot Metal Bridge)
  - OT approved for first white coat ceremony
- *Social Work*
  - Dean taking over December graduation, which previously the students had coordinated
    - a. Planned location and will be sending out RSVPs for Dec graduation
  - Continuing Orientation Events throughout the first 6 weeks of the semester, collaborating with the School of Social Work
  - Students have reached out in concern of raising tuition prices, encouraged student to reach out to GPSG, any other groups working on this?
    - a. Raising tuition concerns – students who may be complaining in other schools, let Social Work know as they are working to possibly mobilize students who have complaints
- *ANKUR*
  - Fall Social last week, 80 people, for new incoming students
  - New students (PhD) board members, so fewer new faces moving forward
  - Send GPSG EB invitations to events
- *CSSA*
  - First event – 300 in attendance, family friendly event
- *ISA*
  - No report
- *GOSECA*
  - First Happy hour last week
  - Currently redesigning the website
  - Planning their spring event
- *TASA*
  - No report

## 5. Committee Reports

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

## 6. New Business

- Budget
  - Travel Grants
    - Eligibility requirements for Travel Grants – have to participate at the conference

- Limits to the number we give out per month
- If you have already gotten a travel grant, lower priority
- Other sources of funds
  - a. GPSG should be the last stop for students
  - b. On the application the students should share all sources of funding and provide all receipts so we know who is paying for way
- Rollover from previous months that have not been used?
  - a. We have a limit per month to try to be fair, but we do as the year goes on try to use all the money set aside for Travel Grants
- Reimbursement system --Apply after the conference
- ANKUR – rollover from last year
  - Application
- Engineering – Pitt Program Council
  - Is it a feasible event/cost?
    - The information we were given last year is only 20-40 graduate students attend Pitt Program Council events, and at the cost of \$5,000 it was not a worthwhile cost
    - Willing to revisit it in the future if there is a lot of student complaints
- Hofbräuhaus
  - Doesn't have to be there, but it has been in the past
  - Other concerns (payment issues, food issues), so we're looking at other venues
  - Email list with AB reps
  - Don't have events the night of Jonas/big concert
    - Directly after Labor Day – might not be the best, as people might have been drinking a lot that weekend
  - Food wasted
  - Not as present on Facebook this year
    - SHRS didn't hear about
    - Printed out versions
      - a. Electronic format so that schools, if applicable can print it out to post it somewhere

## 7. Announcements

- Next meeting: **Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**

Meeting Adjourned at 7:14 pm