
State of the Association Report for AY 2018

- Initiatives Completed:
 - Constitutional amendment
 - New constitution ratified in a special election
 - 94% of votes in favor of the new constitution with a 27% voter turnout rate
 - Graduate Student Organization (GSO) status and benefits
 - System fully in place to designate status and grant benefits
 - Fundraising project
 - Raised approx. \$200
 - Might not be worth the time invested
 - Website creation
 - Opted out of OrgSync platform and created a GPSA webpage
 - Saves GPSA approximately \$10000 every 3 years
 - Proposal to allow instructors to serve on graduate thesis/dissertation committees
 - Shot down at grad council
 - Not feasible under current contract terms for instructors
 - GPSA Panels
 - At new grad student orientation, grad recruitment day, and Grad 101 events
- Initiatives being worked upon:
 - De jure health insurance for all TAs
 - Proposal did not get funded this year, will try again next year
 - Short term parental leave policy
 - Proposal being discussed at the university Graduate Council
 - Next steps: ratification in grad council and then in Faculty Senate
 - Proposal to hire a staff member for GPSA
 - We envision this to be a 20 hrs/week position
 - Widespread support from all levels of university administration
 - SHIP for student dependents
 - Currently in discussions with university's Student Health department
- Changes at the university-level
 - University is facing a \$5 million budget cut
 - CEHHS being cut by 8.2% and CNR by 7.4%
 - Photo-video media privacy policy change
 - Student privacy rights are automatically waived when in university-controlled space
 - University is moving towards a +/- grading system
 - GPSA voted not in favor, but the overall vote was in favor
 - University is considering adopting a continuous registration model
 - Will require grad students to enroll in a 'continuous registration' credit to maintain their program status
 - Will reduce leave of absence to 1 year from 5 years, but the one-year leave is renewable infinitely, as justified by need
 - Updates will be communicated as they happen

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- GPSA General Elections 2019
 - We received nominations for three positions. All three nominees won the elections
 - President – Connor Hill, from the Department of Chemical Engineering
 - Vice President – Jordan Hardy, from the Department of Mathematics
 - Secretary of Awards – Sophia Theodossiou, from Department of Biological Engineering
 - Secretaries of Finance, Affairs, and Programming remain vacant
 - Vacant positions will be duly filled by the new leadership