

GPSA Executive Board Agenda for Spring 2025

GPSA Exec Board 02/20/25 | 03:00 – 04:00pm | Zoom

- **Attendance at 03:00 PM**

- Ajay Barman
- Desmond Aboagye
- Sajjad Mahmud
- Andrew Sutherland
- Augustine Attah
- Nazua Idris
- Joseph Akowuah
- Matt Shaw
- Dr. Tammy Barry

- **Agenda items**

- Feedback on a couple of applications (Nazua)
 - Reviewed some applicants and am seeking out feedback from others. One application was rejected because the candidate applied for the presidency and did not apply with a running mate.
 - One VPLA candidate had their advisor chair signature but did not have their department chair signature. What should we do about that?
 - Joseph believes that since they did not get that second signature, they should be rejected.
 - Ajay brings up that department chairs are more for a formal element, but we can give them a grace period. Desmond brings up that this decision should be made by the election committee.
 - We received an application for a college of representative position, but they did not include the department. We have the signature and we know they come from CAS, but we are unsure if they are running for CAS or for the Graduate School.
 - Dr. Barry recommended contacting them to get some clarity.
- Ballot & Candidate Debate Slots (Nazua)
 - Nazua needs more clarity on how we should approach the debate. We have 15 minutes for the President and VP and 10 minutes for VPLA. Each college

rep should get 3 to 5 minutes. However, we are not sure about asking questions.

- Desmond made the point that it will depend on the length of the meeting.
- Ajay brings up that if President and VP are running together, then they should answer the questions together.
- Piktochart subscription renewal by Feb 25
 - Based on our previous discussion, Ajay is proposing not renewing the subscription.
 - Nazua: I make a motion to end our subscription to Piktochart subscription.
 - Sajjad: Second
 - Yes: 4
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- Best College rep award strategy
 - Each college rep will nominate 2 people, which includes a self-nomination. From the nomination, there will be a ranking with the first nomination will have a higher score than the second nomination. To keep it fairer, Ajay will share a document where each committee chair will write their accomplishments and the amount of the time they dedicated to their committee.
 - President, VP, and VPLA will tally up the scores and choose who is the winner.
- Best senator award nomination by committee chair
 - Dr. Barry, Matt, and Ajay will be on the selection committee since they are not running a committee.
 - Each committee chair can only nominate a maximum of 2 people. Representatives will need to explain why their person is considered the best senator of the year.
- **Committee updates**
 - PDI: Sajjad Uddin Mahmud
 - This week, we had our flagship event about Writing a Thesis
 - Feb 24, there will be an event with the Society of Women Engineers
 - There will also be an event on Resilience and Resource Job Search Event Feb 26

- March 18 – Nutrition Event
 - Last event will take place in April
- Awards & Scholarship: Joseph Siaw Akowuah
 - Dr. Barry and International Programs had a meeting about GPSA recommendations for giving an award for Graduate Teaching Assistant dedicated to working with culturally and diverse students.
 - Emails have been sent out about the Research Expo for searching for judges and we have informed those who have been accepted to the research expo.
 - Excellence Awards applications will end on February 28.
- Travel Grants: Austine Attah
 - We are reviewing travel grant applications and one person appealed the decision.
 - We had a subscription ended over the weekend, which helps with the application process, but we were able to get the subscription back.
- Internal Affairs: Nazua Idris
 - No Update
- Communication: Andrew Sutherland
 - Slate Announcement went out for March PDI events
 - GPSA election application announcements are done
 - GPSA Excellence Awards should continue to go out
 - Purchased the banners for the Research Expo
 - GPSA Research Expo judges search should be going out next week
 - GPSA Research Expo should go out at the beginning of March
- Budget Committee: Desmond Aboagye
 - All RSOs should have their funds.
 - Would like to provide a budget update each month.
 - Desmond would like to message to send to RSOs
 - We have received our S&A budget, which was about 4% reduction from what we have requested.
- Community Affairs: Madison Hönig
 - **Serving Spoons: Crafting Nutritious Meals on a Budget:** March 18th at 4PM in Butch's Den

- **International Women's Day Movie Event:** March 21st at 5PM in CUB 177.
- University and Student Affairs: Ajay
 - Getting a representative for SSAR
- Programming: Ajay
 - Ice Skating event: on March 21st evening,
 - Movie Night
 - March Restaurant Friday.
- Legislative Affairs: Ali Maleki
 - Organized by WSA lobbying day where we focus on childcare, housing, and graduate funding.