University of Pittsburgh

Graduate & Professional Student Assembly

2009 - 2010

Annual Report
The Assembly

The Assembly Board is the governing body for the more than ten thousand graduate & professional students at the University of Pittsburgh. It is composed of students from all 14 schools as well as recognized cross-school assembly groups.

Schools of the University

- Arts & Sciences
- Biomedical
- Biomedical Graduate School of Public & International Affairs
- Public Health
- Katz School of Business
- Dental Medicine
- Engineering
- Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
- Education
- Information Sciences
- Law
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Pharmacy PharmD
- Pharmacy PhD
- Social Work

Alexandra Oliver
Kristopher Geda
Mary Hostenske
Kim Payne
Brian Bauer, Rob Sandler
Theresa Fanelli
Clayton Youngs
Jean Zamzow
Kim Masuga
Dan McAdams
Lindsay Lee
Louis Sabina
Michael Stephen, Hassan Takabi
Michele Turbinic
Clayton Lewis
Jennifer Stewart, Kafui Agmenebu
Jennifer Bacci
Mark Donnelly
Diana Peterson, Sammie Dow

GPSA Assembly Groups

- ANKUR: Indian Graduate Student Association
- Chinese Students & Scholars Association (CSSA)
- Graduate Organization for the Study of Europe & Central Asia (GOSECA)
- Pan African Graduate & Professional Student Union
- Persian Panthers
- Turkish American Student Association (TASA)

Manik Barman
Xiong Zhang, Junming Huang
Victoria Harms
Nahom Beyene
Somayeh Nassiri, Amirezza Masouzedeh
Mehmet Ali Soytas
Officers
GPSA’s officers are students elected by the graduate & professional student body to one year terms. Officers are tasked with executing the resolutions of the Assembly and representing the student body.

Daniel Jimenez
President
Arts & Sciences, Center for Neuroscience

Marguerite Matthews
Vice President of Committees
Arts & Sciences, Center for Neuroscience

PJ Dillon
Vice President of Communications
Arts & Sciences, Computer Science

Chan Braithwaite
Vice President of Finance
School of Law, School of Business

Support
GPSA is advised by the Office of the Provost. It employs a student administrative assistant in conjunction with the Office of the Provost.

Advisor, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies
Stephanie Hoogendoorn, Assistant to the Provost
Dr. Patricia Beeson, Vice Provost for Graduate & Undergraduate Studies

GPSA Staff
David Givens, GPSA Administrative Assistant
About GPSA

The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly is the umbrella government organization of the graduate and professional student body at the University of Pittsburgh. GPSA represents over ten thousand graduate and professional students at the University of Pittsburgh comprising approximately 40% of the student body. It brings together the fourteen (14) schools of the University, each of which represent distinct educational missions and a distinct population of students.

The mission of GPSA is to:

• Establish and maintain networks of communication between graduate & professional students, student governments, and University of Pittsburgh faculty & administrators.

• Provide graduate student representation on University committees and shared governance structures.

• Serve as a resource for individual graduate and professional students, Graduate Student Organizations, and Graduate Student Governments.

• Act as an advocate for graduate and professional students.

• Administer the student activity fee.

The GPSA Assembly, or Assembly Board, is the governing body of the organization. It is comprised of at least one representative from each graduate and professional school, the executive board, and representatives from university-wide recognized assembly groups. The Executive Board executes the resolutions of the Assembly, and through the resolutions of the Assembly, sets the vision and agenda of the organization.
President’s Report

“If our times are difficult and perplexing, so are they challenging and filled with opportunity.”
- Robert F. Kennedy

2009 - 2010 was a year filled with difficulty. Amid the effects of “The Great Recession,” Pennsylvania’s state funding for higher education was endangered, the world’s leaders descended upon Pittsburgh to plan global economic fixes, and our students were threatened with a tax on education in order to save a failed municipal pension. With the help of many others, graduate & professional students at the University of Pittsburgh rose to meet each of those difficulties. This year, our students have proven not only their scholarly intelligence, but they have also shown the perseverance and courage to produce opportunity from apparent misfortune.

At the start of our term, the Graduate & Professional Student Assembly was healthy and humming. Strong leadership over the previous year had left a competent organization with robust finances, interested assembly representatives, and most of all, a potential for accomplishment. The strategic direction and themes were thus set to take advantage of the sound footing by working to increase 1) Communication, 2) Recognition, 3) Participation, and 4) Transparency.

**Increasing Communication and Participation**

Several communication initiatives were completed during the summer of 2009 (see report from the Vice President of Communications). These projects were instrumental in responding to this year’s difficulties, and also allowed a remarkable improvement in communications and participation. This successes will largely be discussed in the Vice President for Communications’ report, but it is worth noting here that communication posts, Assembly attendance, unique student event attendance, number of events, student impressions, mailing list subscriptions, Web 2.0 participation, and GPSA-focused Pitt News articles all increased by over 100% over the previous year. A truly remarkable rate of growth.

**Recognizing Student Achievement**

Graduate & Professional students at Pitt have always attained a high level of scholarly achievement. Early in the year, M.D./Ph.D. student Armen Areavian was recognized as one of Pittsburgh’s “40 under 40” for his work founding the non-profit “Open Science Initiative” designed to drive innovative research through micro-grants to graduate students and a collaborative scientific community. Kakenya Ntayia, a doctoral student in the School of Education, was named a 2010 ‘Emerging Explorer’ by National Geographic magazine for her efforts to help young girls in her hometown in Kenya through the founding of the Kakenya Center for Excellence. Two Arts & Sciences students, Boryana Dobreva and Jonathan Livengood, were awarded prestigious American Council of Learned Societies - Mellon Dissertation Completetion Fellowships. In addition, Jessica Ghilani, a doctoral candidate in the
Forbes Ave. University of Pittsburgh, night of Friday, September 25th 2010

Pitt students’ G-20 contributions have been overshadowed

American students in a demonstration of international collaboration. Prior to the summit hundreds of Pitt students came out to help “red up” Pittsburgh as part of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl’s cleaning campaign. It’s a shame that acts of a singe vandal Thursday night attracted such overwhelming and aggressive police force. Friday and temporarily overshadowed the contributions of our students.

Forbes Ave. University of Pittsburgh, night of Friday, September 25th 2010

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October 9, 2010 Letter to the Editor. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Department of Communication, was awarded a prestigious dissertation fellowship from the American Association of University Women. Students regularly receive research awards, such as National Science Foundation - Graduate Research Fellowships, National Institutes of Health - National Research Service Awards, and Department of Defense & Energy Graduate Fellowships. This year, we made an effort to recognize students’ achievements within GPSA and to encourage University administration to do the same. Several recommendations to next year’s officers center on a proposal made this year to the University Council on Graduate Studies to increase student recognition at the University level.

An old tradition, the Winter Student Appreciation Reception, was renewed as to recognize graduate & professional student achievement and service. It was highlighted by a keynote address from Chancellor Mark Nordenberg. (see report from the Vice President of Committees).

Pittsburgh Welcomes the World

September brought the G20 Economic Summit to Pittsburgh. Bilingual and international Graduate & Professional students volunteered as translators at summit hotels. Students welcomed Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, European Commission President Jose Manuel Baraoso, and Japanese first lady Miyuki Hatoyama to the University. Minor destructive events brought large numbers of police to campus and resulted in the unfitting charges against a number of students. GPSA passed a resolution in the wake of the G20 supporting law abiding students charged during the G20 and calling for a more full accounting of the overwhelming and unnecessary use of police force on the University campus. A letter to the editor to this effect was published in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette co-authored by the undergraduate student government president.

Pittsburgh Tuition Tax

Directly after Pittsburgh Mayor Ravenstahl’s re-election in November, he announced a proposed 1% tax on tuition at institutions of higher
education within the city. Students across the city immediately recoiled, and GPSA sprung into action.

Our communication expertise led us to launch an online petition & email system, which ultimately collected 2,493 signatures. Across the city over 10,000 were collected. 300 students packed City Council during a public hearing. Students staged a sit in at the Mayor’s office. GPSA was invited to give spoken comments at a City Council Post-Agenda meeting as well as a special episode of the WQED program ‘OnQ’. GPSA students gave interviews to over 15 news publications. There was extensive lobbying of City Council members by individual students. All of these efforts by GPSA and other student governments were ultimately successful, leading to the removal of consideration of the tuition tax proposal.

Following the tuition tax, the GPSA President gave comments at the Mayor’s press conference announcing the removal of the tax. A letter to the editor was published in the Pittsburgh Post Gazette, and GPSA was also invited to represent students on the Mayor’s Pension task force in order to find an alternative solution.

**Founding of the Pittsburgh Student Government Council (PGSC)**

Following the Tuition Tax, student leaders across Pittsburgh insisted on the importance of strong communication across institutions of higher learning in order to prevent similar proposals in the future. GPSA along with Carnegie Mellon’s Graduate Student Assembly, University of Pittsburgh’s Student Government Board, and Duquesne’s Student Government Association lead the creation of a collaborative group of student governments within the city. This organization has an approved constitution and is in extended discussions with the Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education and City Council.
Creation of student civic-engagement programming

This year also saw the start of extensive civic engagement programming. Our Pancakes & Politics series saw several hundred students intimately interact with elected officials. Congressman Mike Doyle, Congressman Joe Sestak, City Councilmembers Patrick Dowd, Doug Shields, & Natalia Rudiak, Pennsylvania House Representative Jake Wheatley, Pittsburgh School Board member Mark Brently, and Allegheny County Council President Rich Fitzgerald all spoke at breakfast sessions with Pitt students. Additionally we held an extensive letter writing campaign in support of the Universities state appropriation. Assisted a city council led effort to call seniors following the “Snowpacalypse”.

Representing Pittsburgh’s Students.

GPSA was asked to represent Pittsburgh’s students on the Allegheny Council on Community Development’s Accessible Workforce Working group which planned the Pittsburgh Penguins preseason “Ultimate Home Game” to encourage students to work in Pittsburgh. GPSA was also asked to sit on Mayor Luke Ravenstahls Pension Taskforce to come up with lasting solutions to the cities pension shortfall.

GPSA Major Accomplishments

1. Defeating the Tuition Tax
2. Creation of extensive and effective and communication networks
3. Founding of the Pittsburgh Student Government Council
4. Student Civic Engagement
   (Pancakes & Politics, State funding letter writing campaign, Pitt Day in Harrisburg)
5. Effective recruitment and transitioning of new Assembly members and 2010-2011 officers

Daniel Jimenez
President
Arts & Sciences,
Center for Neuroscience
As the Vice President of Committees for the GPSA, I was responsible for being a liaison between the GPSA and University-wide committees. I ensured that graduate and professional students served as representatives university-wide committees. For the 2009-2010 school year, we had 13 students in 6 Provost committees, 18 students in 16 Senate committees, and 7 students in 7 Board of Trustees committees.

As a way to familiarize newly appointed representatives with university-wide committees and how they operate, we organized Committee Orientations for each class of committees—Provost, Senate, and Board of Trustees. The orientations were not only to educate students on the importance of the university-wide committees but were also used to communicate our expectations of the representatives and encourage them to take active and effective roles in their committees. Furthermore, as a way to hold representatives accountable and to increase proper communication between committee representatives and the graduate/professional student community, and vice versa, we began utilizing a system of committee reports. Representatives completed and submitted committee reports after each scheduled meeting and we were able to keep track of representative attendance as well as be kept abreast about any pertinent information discussed in committee meetings.

To recognize graduate and professional students who provided significant service to Pitt over the past year, the GPSA hosted a Winter Student Appreciation Reception, held in the University Club on December 3, 2010. We were honored to have Chancellor Mark Nordenberg provide brief keynote remarks at the event. The students that were recognized included the GPSA representatives from each school/program, student representatives on university committees, student participants in the letter writing initiative regarding Pitt’s state appropriation, and students that made major contributions to the university community. We also acknowledged administrators, faculty, and staff who worked closely with graduate and professional students to assist in helping Pitt’s students become better leaders on campus and in the community. The event was a huge success, and all those in attendance felt appreciated and honored to know they have the support and recognition of the GPSA.

Marguerite Matthews
Vice President of Committees
Arts & Sciences, Center for Neuroscience

Student Appreciation Reception
University-wide Committees

GPSC advocates on behalf of student interest through representation within the University’s governance structure. The following are GPSA appointed student representatives to University committees:

### Provost Advisory Committees
- Information and Technology Steering
  - PJ Dillon
  - Chan Braithwaite
  - Marguerite Matthews, Erin Schaefer, Emily Bailey
  - Daniel Jimenez, PJ Dillon, Udaya Kjagadisan, Mohammad Shaqaqfeh, Mehmet Soytas, Louis Sabina
- University Planning and Budget Committee
- Provost’s Advisory Committee on Women’s Concerns
  - Patrick Mayo
  - Elisabeth Ploran
- University Council on Graduate Study
- University Research Council
- Provost’s Award for Excellence in Mentoring Selection Committee

### University Senate Standing Committees
- Admissions and Student Aid
  - Marguerite Matthews
  - Melanie Rodrigues
  - Carol Haines
- Anti-discriminatory Policies
  - Elizabeth Richey
  - Josh MacCarty
- Athletics
  - Lyda Koeser
  - Kyle Bird
  - Lauren Silva
  - PJ Dillon
- Benefits and Welfare
  - Jessica Yokley
  - Rakshita Charan
  - Nelson Totah
  - Sanchith Kandaka
- Budget Policies
- Bylaws and Procedures
- Community Relations
- Computer Usage
- Educational Policies
- Library
- Plant Utilization and Planning
- Student Affairs
- Tenure and Academic Freedom
- University Press
- Child and Dependent Care Subcommittee
  - Miranda White
  - Michele Kiraly
  - vacant
- University Senate Council
  - Daniel Jimenez, PJ Dillon, Chad Kimmel

### Board of Trustees Committees
- Health Sciences
  - Claudia Bryers
  - David Givens
  - Christy Lawson
  - Chan Braithwaite
  - Daniel Jimenez
  - PJ Dillon
  - Carol Haines
- Academic Affairs/Libraries
- Affirmative Action
- Budget
- Institutional Advancement
- Student Affairs
- Risk and Compliance

### Other Committees
- University Review Board
  - Daniel Rice, Josh McCauley, Ryan Greene, Mary Binker, Dawn Patterson
- Chancellors Distinguished Teaching Award Selection Committee
  - Emi Iwatani
- Career Services Student Advisory Board
- Conflict of Interest Committee
  - David Givens
  - Chad Eckert
  - vacant
- Parking and Transportation Committee
The VP of Communications assumes two roles for the GPSA: he or she facilitates communication from the GPSA out to the graduate and professional student body and acts as the social events planner for the GPSA.

I came into the position for the 2009-2010 school year with two goals: improve our methods of communication with graduate and professional students and develop the graduate student community.

We rolled out a new website that focused on first sharing new, important information with visitors. We created a GPSA Facebook Page, revived the GPSA Facebook Group, started one of the first Twitter accounts under the university administrative umbrella, began publishing an RSS feed, created several public Google Calendars, and formalized our email distribution lists into more user friendly Google Groups. These technologies provided a diversity of new avenues through which students could elect to receive our communication. However, with the new media also came potential new opportunities to engage graduate and professional students that haven’t yet been exploited.
Graduate & Professional Student University-wide Events 2009 - 2010

May • Pittsburgh Graduate Student Consortium End of the Year Celebration, Spring Happy Hour
• July • Harry Potter & the Half Blood Prince midnight screening, Global Links service project (w/ Nursing School), Kareoke Happy Hour (w/ Chinese Students & Scholars Association)
• August • GPSA Day at Sandcastle Waterpark
• September • Pancakes & Politics with Congressman Mike Doyle, Tailgate for Football Season Opener (w/ Engineering GSO), Alumni Association National Networking Day, GPSA Welcome Picnic, Pittsburgh G20 Oakland Clean Up
• October • Fall Happy Hour (w/ AGORA), Pittsburgh G20, Pancakes & Politics with Representative Joe Sestak, Health Care Forum with Secretary Paul O’Neill, Congressman Tim Murphy, & Congressman Jason Altmire (w/ PUMP), Health Sciences Donor Development event at BGSA Re-
search Festival • **November** • Winter Happy Hour (w/ Pan-African GPSU), National Association of Graduate & Professional Students national meeting, Tuition Tax City Council Post-Agenda meeting, Tuition Tax public hearing at Pittsburgh City Council • **December** • Winter Student Appreciation Reception, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank service project, Nutcracker Ballet, Sit in at the Pittsburgh Mayor’s office • **January** • ‘Welcome Back’ event at Hofbrauhaus (w/ CMU Graduate Student Assembly), ‘Meet GPSA’ information session • **February** • Pancakes & Politics with Pittsburgh City Council, Ski Trip • **March** • Pitt Day in Harrisburgh (w/ SGB & Governmental Relations), Masquerade dance & pubquiz, Pirates season opener, GPSA Open 2010 • **April** • Carmen, GPSA 2010-2011 Inauguration, Jorge Cham lecture, Pancakes & Politics with PA 19th Legislative District candidates, National Association of Graduate & Professional Students Northeast regional meeting (co-hosted w/ CMU Graduate Student Assembly), Pancakes & Politics with Allegheny Council President Rich Fitzgerald

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Along with the technological updates, we put a greater focus on the presentation of our communications, reducing broadly focused communications to one very long monthly, formatted, and illustrated update published to the website, email distribution lists, and linked from our various social media accounts. More focused and detailed information was then limited to our social media outlets.

Events took on three major categories: social, civic engagement, and service. Being a cross-campus organization, it was difficult to really create academic events with broad appeal (but that didn’t stop us from trying), which we typically left to the individual schools. Services events were well conceived and well intentioned but had small participation. Our civic engagement events focused on our early morning Pancakes and Politics series, conceived by our GPSA President after President Obama and the first lady sampled some of Pamela’s Pancakes here in Pittsburgh. Speakers at these events included the Pittsburgh area congressman, Mike Doyle, and several members of city council. We also held a forum addressing the healthcare debate consuming the country’s political arena in late 2009.

Social Events recognized a diversity of personas and interests among graduate and professional students. Programming involved a mixture of social mixers, cultural events, and sporting events. These were often co-hosted with graduate student governments at the various schools of the university or at other Pittsburgh area universities, or with Pittsburgh area young professional groups. We also capped off the year with a barbeque on the William Pitt Student Union Lawn.

PJ Dillon
Vice President of Communications
Arts & Sciences, Computer Science
The VP of Finance has the responsibility to present and manage the GPSA budget as well as oversee the Travel Grant and Supplemental Funding Programs. As an executive board we set goals early in our term to work closely with the assembly on establishing the budget and improving the Travel Grant and Supplemental Funding Programs.

**Setting the GPSA Budget**

The assembly came together at the beginning of the school year to discuss and vote on the proposed budget. There was a spirited discussion for the proper allocation of funds among the six assembly groups, showing the rest of the assembly how passionate and well-deserving they are as they represent the diverse associations of students at the University. The assembly group allocations were made based on student involvement, number of activities, GPSA participation, and a variety of factors before voting by the assembly ratified the budget plan.

### 2009-10 GPSA Master Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total Budgeted</th>
<th>Used To Date</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>Activity Fee Allocation</td>
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<td>Earned Forward</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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<td><strong>Projected Spending Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>OFFICE EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>$3,500.00</td>
<td>$2,116.81</td>
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<td><strong>PAYROLL</strong></td>
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<td>Office Stipend</td>
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<td>Office Assistant(s)</td>
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<td>$1,000.00</td>
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<td>Administrative Assistant</td>
<td>$10,700.00</td>
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<td><strong>PROGRAMMING</strong></td>
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<td>Travel Grants</td>
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<td>1st Funding Cycle</td>
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<td>2nd Funding Cycle</td>
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<td>4th Funding Cycle</td>
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<td>Supplemental Funds</td>
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<td><strong>Total Other Programming</strong></td>
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<td>Social Events</td>
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<td>Assembly Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>ASSEMBLY GROUPS</strong></td>
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<td>Ankur</td>
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<td>CSSA</td>
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<td>Pan African</td>
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<td>Persian Panthers</td>
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<td>TASA</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOSECA</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current through April 13, 2010

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Travel Grants

GPSA Travel Grant disbursements by School

- Arts & Sciences 45%
- Medicine (MD & PhD) 14%
- Business 10%
- Education 10%
- Information Sciences 7%
- Law 5%
- GSPIA 3%
- Health & Rehab Sciences 3%
- Engineering 3%
- Pharmacy 3%
- Public Health 2%
- Social Work 2%
- Dental Medicine 0%
- Nursing 0%

Improving the Travel Grant Program

Our early conversations with assembly members revealed a concern for the proper distribution of the micro-grants GPSA gives to graduate students that travel to present and/or attend academic conferences. Because a large portion of the budget went to the program, the assembly voted for the creation of an ad hoc committee to study and improve it.

At the suggestion of the Travel Grant Committee, the assembly made the following changes to the program at the beginning of the academic year:

- Four yearly cycles instead of three
- Students receive one grant per year and only two grants in their lifetime
- $50 max for local conferences (may be applied to registration costs only)
- $200 grants to be called Travel Awards / $100 grants still Travel Grants
- Applicants must now include an abstract of their work for the $200 level
- Pre-approval time set at two months prior to the start of a new cycle
- Increase the amount allocated for travel grants from $67,500 to $77,500

Program at a glance...

410 Awards
7.8/10 Program rating
85% Important factor in decision to attend a conference
91% Easy to Apply
At the end of the year, nearly 300 of the 410 awarded grants had been paid out. Of those grants awarded, the largest portion went to the Arts & Sciences, which has a larger number of students as the other schools and has a lot of conference-attending students. The overall distribution of grants was more diversified this year than the past as assembly representatives were encouraged to inform their constituents about the program.

Before dissolving the ad hoc Travel Grant Committee, the Committee distributed a survey to the year’s grant recipients. The survey offered insights into the program’s positive impact on students. The travel grant program is very important to graduate students, and is only one of the few resources they have to assist in attending academic conferences. Their GPSA grant generally covers between 10-50% of their total costs.

**Supplemental Funding**

The Supplemental Funding Program, too, was helpful for the groups that took advantage of it. Six groups were given up to $500 each to supplement the costs of providing new activities for their students. Supplemental funds were also given to newly formed student groups through the year to help get them off the ground and a new process for recognizing and funding student groups developed. The assembly recognized the importance of funding new groups and new activities.
GPSA holds annual elections for its student officers, which are open to candidates and voting from all of the graduate & professional students at the University of Pittsburgh. These elections are managed by the GPSA Election Committee consisting of representatives from within the GPSA Assembly, GPSA Executive Board, and students from outside of GPSA. The elections are independently administered by the University of Pittsburgh Computing Services Department (CSSD) on the my.pitt.edu portal. The GPSA bylaws describe the election process in detail and after a successful completion the 2010 elections were supported in a resolution from the GPSA Assembly Board.

The elections committee put significant effort into increasing the information communicated to the student population. This effort resulting in: 3 articles in the Pitt News, A forum with current Assembly Board representatives, and a public forum which was recorded for display on the GPSA website and web 2.0 platforms. GPSA recommends that the 2011-2012 elections committee develop an effective strategy to continue attracting a large pool of engaged and effective candidates for future years.

Ten candidates ran for four officer positions in the 2010-2011 school year. Approximately 750 graduate or professional students voted in the elections representing a 7.5% turnout (a 1% decrease from the previous year). Candidates and elected officers are pictured above.

2010 - 2011 GPSA Officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Sudipta ‘Nila’ Devanath</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President-elect</td>
<td>Dustin McDaniel</td>
<td>GSPIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other candidates</td>
<td>Joseph Pleso</td>
<td>A&amp;S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President of Committees</td>
<td>Melanie Rodrigues</td>
<td>Biomedical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP-elect</td>
<td>Qing Hu</td>
<td>GSPIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other candidates</td>
<td>Dazun Xing</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President of Finance</td>
<td>Steve Ruperto</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP-elect</td>
<td>Xiong Zhang</td>
<td>Biomedical</td>
</tr>
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<td>Other candidates</td>
<td>Brandon Mendoza</td>
<td>GSPIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hassan Takabi</td>
<td>SIS</td>
</tr>
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David Givens
2010 Elections Committee Chair and GPSA Administrative Assistant
Our recommendations to next year’s Assembly and officers are as follows:

1. Continue efforts to support & recognize exemplary student achievement. GPSA has submitted a proposal for the creation of university-wide student awards to the University Council on Graduate Studies.

2. Work to form a funded endowment for the academic success of future students. The assembly has resolved to form an endowment and this years officers have worked diligently forming relationships with Institutional Advancement and the Alumni Association.

3. Work to continue to encourage communication & engagement across the schools of the University. Engagement and communication are a constant tending process. Insignificance is never more than one class of students away.

Thank you for a wonderful challenging year filled with opportunity and success. Good luck to all of the future graduate & professional students at the University of Pittsburgh.

Reseptfully Submitted,

and

Hail to Pitt!

Daniel Jimenez
President

Marguerite Matthews
VP Committees

PJ Dillon
VP Communications

Chan Braithwaite
VP Finance