GPSA 2014-2015 Advocacy Agenda

I. Financial Aid & Funding

- Advocate for:
  - Improved research funding opportunities
  - Affordable student loan rates
  - More affordable and accessible childcare options
  - Increased options for affordable on-campus and near-campus housing for graduate students with and without families
  - Competitive pay and fair working conditions
  - Awareness of the impact of state/national budget cuts to higher education and the total cost of attendance for individual students

- Collaborate with the ASU administration and the Arizona Board of Regents to:
  - Develop innovative ways to distribute financial aid
  - Increase access to financial aid
  - Encourage increases in student services, particularly when tuition is increased

- Oppose:
  - Changes to national, state, or local funding, programs, or services that would negatively impact and/or limit academic and professional opportunities for graduate students
  - Any university or affiliate efforts to add, amend, or remove fees without consulting GPSA and the graduate and professional students at-large

II. Access & Opportunities

- Support efforts to:
  - Foster inclusive environments where diversity and social justice initiatives are welcomed and encouraged
  - Make student services, as well as other components of the ASU student experience, more accessible to students of all cultural groups on and off campus
  - Improve support services for international students
  - Reform immigration and other legislation that allows international students and DREAMers to go through the immigration system in a more efficient manner

- Collaborate with GPSA committees and programs to:
  - Create and implement new programs that support research and professional development opportunities
  - Support initiatives and legislation regarding open access to research and educational resources
III. Campus & Community Engagement

- Promote ongoing efforts to:
  - Register and educate student voters
  - Provide a safe campus for ASU students
  - Encourage graduate student mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health
  - Engage students in community service and involvement

- Collaborate with:
  - Graduate and undergraduate student governments at other universities in AZ and across the nation to address social issues relevant to college students
  - Statewide advocacy groups that support students in Arizona
  - Student advocacy groups in their support of graduate and professional students