GPSA 2013-2014 Advocacy Agenda

I. Affordability (tuition, student debt, state funding, higher education and research funding)

- Advocate for improved research funding for graduate student researchers and affordable loans for graduate and professional students.
- Collaborate with the ASU administration and the Arizona Board of Regents to develop innovative ways to distribute financial aid, to increase graduate and professional students’ access to financial aid, and to encourage increases in student services, particularly when tuition is increased.
- Oppose significant changes to graduate student funding or programs, or any university efforts to add, amend, or remove fees to be paid by graduate and professional students without consulting GPSA and the graduate and professional students at-large first.
- Support efforts to provide more child care options for children of graduate students on all ASU campuses.
- Advocate for increased options for affordable on-campus and near-campus housing for graduate students with and without families, particularly that include a renter education component.

II. Access (open access, immigration, international student issues, social justice and diversity)

- Support efforts to establish an environment where diversity (in age, gender, race, ability, socioeconomic status, sexual identity, ideology, nationality, veteran status, etc.) is appreciated and sought after and advocate for the unique dignity of each individual and group.
- Support efforts to make student services, as well as other efforts of the ASU student experience, more accessible to students of all cultural groups on and off campus.
- Continue to support initiatives to create a safe campus environment for students of all cultural groups.
- Collaborate with the International Students Committee in their work to improve support services for international students, which includes increasing: education regarding student visa process, mentoring, campus-based employment, and professional development and training.
- Continue to support comprehensive immigration reform, the DREAM Act, and other legislation to allow international students and DREAMers to go through the immigration system in a more efficient manner.
- Continue to support initiatives and legislation regarding open access to research and educational resources.
III. Awareness (collaboration, outreach, civic engagement, health and wellness, campus safety)

- Continue ongoing efforts to register students to vote. Provide voter registration forms and other voter information at the ASU Graduate Student Centers on each campus.
- Support ASA’s voter registration efforts.
- Support initiatives to provide a safe campus for ASU students.
- GPSA supports and advocates for resources to encourage graduate student mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health.
- Support efforts of the EA’s Advocacy Network.
- Continue to build awareness within the graduate student community on the impact of state/national budget cuts to higher education and the total cost of attendance for individual students.
- Support the existence and creation of statewide advocacy groups for students in Arizona.
- Support the ASA’s efforts to return to a representative model in 2014.
- Increase the effectiveness of all student advocacy groups in their support of graduate and professional students.
- Continue to collaborate with graduate and undergraduate student governments at other universities in AZ and across the nation.
- Continue to collaborate with ASU undergraduate student governments on common advocacy issues.