

**GPSA
Vice President of External Affairs
October 2013 Report**

GPSA Advocacy Agenda

- The External Affairs Committee begun to construct the new GPSA Advocacy Agenda to be completed in 3 phases: Phase 1, first draft, was completed on 10/18; Phase 2, feedback from GPSA assembly and executives, will end on 11/1; and Phase 3, final draft, will be completed on Nov 15.

National Advocacy

- GPSA's advocacy resource center is now live at <http://gpsa.asu.edu/advocacy/>. This virtual resource center allows students to register to vote online, learn more about issues that impact them, take action on those issues, and learn about advocacy resources available to them.
- Participated in the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students' Legislative Concerns Committee.
- Promoted Open Access Week workshops led by the ASU Libraries and the Writing Centers. Held viewing party of *Redefining Impact*, an Open Access event hosted by the World bank.
- Contributed to NAGPS's letter in support of the House of Representative's comprehensive immigration reform bill, HR 15.
- Will be hosting a phone banking party in partnership with FWD.us on 10/30 at the GSC in support of comprehensive immigration reform.

GPSA Advocacy Network

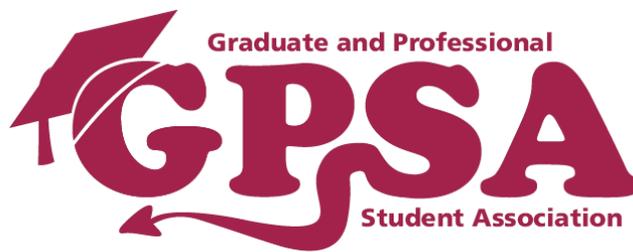
- First meeting was held on 9/21 with 9 students in attendance.
- Currently planning second meeting which will be held on 9/28 at 6pm at the GSC. The topic will be grassroots organizing.

GPSA Gradvocacy Updates and Action Alerts

- The September Gradvocacy Update was opened by 2090 students and 122 clicked on content provided.
- Currently drafting October Gradvocacy Update.
- Action alerts promoting wellness/cancer awareness events, ASA voter registration trainings, and national issues call to action have continued to be distributed as needed.

Associated Students of Arizona State University

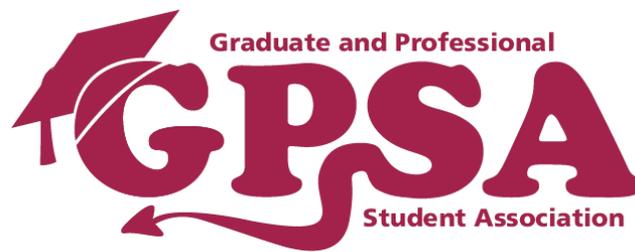
- Collaborated with USGs Vice Presidents of Policy in drafting a letter addressed to Tom Horne regarding Arizona's voter suppression laws, which impact students.



Director Reports:

Director of Legislative Affairs

- Voter Registration
 - Election Day is Nov. 5th!
 - Nothing in Tempe this year (state executive, legislative, and U.S. House races will all happen next year)
 - City council runoff election in Phoenix for voters in districts 4 and 8
 - 10 school districts that serve Phoenix students are asking voters to approve of budget overrides which provide extra funds to a district outside of the state's per-student funding formula. Property taxes provide the funds, so voters must approve the overrides.
 - My [letter to the editor](#) regarding the importance of voting appeared in the State Press online version for voter registration day (including a link to our [GPSA/EA voter registration page](#))!
- Arizona Students' Association (ASA)
 - New voter registration campaign is ongoing, about 50% of the 900 voter registration target for NVRD was achieved (UofA's campaign ended up not happening until later)
 - ASA's Organizing Director has been holding bi-weekly intern trainings at the GSC which are open to all students (this has been advertised in our action alerts and will continue to be advertised)
 - Constitution development is successful and ongoing with a new completion target of Nov. 3 (Megan Fisk, Tej Reddy, and I are in charge of this)
 - A letter entitled was submitted to our elected officials in collaboration with NAGPS and USSA to explain how the shutdown affects students and to express student frustration over the shutdown
 - Representatives of ASA are in D.C. this week to represent Arizona students
 - Representatives of ASA and GPSA (including Megan Fisk and Tej Reddy) will travel to NAGPS in Kalamazoo Nov. 7-10
- Associated Students of ASU (ASASU)
 - Submitted a letter to Attorney General Horne regarding Arizona's two-tiered voter interpretation of law (President Fisk's report may include this from the CoP standpoint)
- Two-tier voter system in Arizona
 - Current interpretation by AZ Attorney General Horne renders someone who registered with the federal form ineligible to participate in state elections unless they checked optional boxes to submit a driver's license or other proof of citizenship
 - Registering with the state form requires proof of citizenship (unlike the federal form), and the additional complexity will cost the state more to run its election and is projected to discourage voter registration and produce confusion at the polls come election time
 - Check recorder.maricopa.gov to see a picture of Helen Purcell, Maricopa County Recorder, and check your status today!
 - If/when this becomes actionable, we will send out an action alert to mobilize the students



Director of Student Advocacy

This month I've worked on:

1. Breast cancer awareness month activities

- Beat cancer: collecting stories from the grad community and creating a newsletter that will go out this week
- Collaborating with the Well Devils to have Wellness Wednesday of the first week of October be dedicated to breast cancer awareness activities - it went very well!
- Tabling events: This entire past week at the Sun Devil Fitness Complexes in Tempe and Downtown in collaboration with the Well Devils on both campuses. We had representatives from the Young Breast Cancer Survivors Support Initiative and the American Cancer Society present to help educate students and raise awareness
- Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk this weekend, Saturday, October 26th from 7:30-12:30. It's a 3 mile non-competitive walk. It's free to sign up to walk with our Fork Cancer - ASU team. We have already raised \$1600 and are hoping we can make it to our \$5000 goal. Let's join and donate!
- Policy wise: Arizona's Breast and Cervical Cancer program (part of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program) provides free pap test to women aged 21-64 and mammograms to women aged 40 to 64 who are uninsured, underinsured, and have income below 250 percent of the federal poverty level. In working with ACS CAN (American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network), we can urge policy makers to continue to fund this important program that enables many underserved women have access to healthcare that could save their lives from cancer.

Also

- Working as part of Well Devils pan-university council which will work to implement health and wellness policies and programs across all four campuses as well as the Health Advisory Board, where we can raise important issues that may affect graduate students
- Feel free to contact [Pauline](#) for more information and to get involved

Sincerely,

German Cadenas

VP of External Affairs

Adam Monroe

Director of Legislative Affairs

Pauline Venieris

Director of Student Advocacy