

GPSGA Statement Concerning Members, Representatives and Liaisons

The Graduate and Professional Student Government Association of Oklahoma State University – Stillwater Campus (GPSGA) has received many questions over the past few weeks regarding members, representatives, and liaisons. This statement is for clarification of these issues.

The first question to address is the difference in being a member of GPSGA and a member of an academic unit. This distinction is important because members from academic units with active representation in GPSGA are eligible for travel grants (Article I Clause G, By-Laws). All graduate and professional students at Oklahoma State University are considered members of GPSGA. A member of an academic unit is a student seeking a degree in that respective unit. The reason this distinction is made stems from the mission of GPSGA. GPSGA strives to represent the sole voice for every graduate and professional student on our campus. In order to reach that goal we must have active representation from every academic unit on campus with graduate and professional programs. Therefore, travel grants will only be granted to students from academic units that meet this standard.

The second question of concern is the difference between representatives and liaisons. Representatives are the members from an academic unit selected as representative to GPSGA. A person who is selected as representative for an academic unit may only represent that unit (Article I Clause D, By-Laws). This clause excludes the member from being eligible to represent any other unit or organization for GPSGA. There is one exception to this rule. Normally, an academic unit must send two representatives and student groups must send one liaison to stay eligible for GPSGA funding. If an academic unit also has a student society or organization, then it will suffice for that unit to send only two representatives to GPSGA to be eligible for travel grants and group funding. There are no other exceptions. A representative from an academic unit cannot represent another organization for GPSGA. The same rules apply to liaisons; they may only represent their respective groups (Article I Clause E, By-Laws).

One last thing, all representatives and liaisons must meet the 75% attendance threshold to stay eligible for funding from GPSGA (Article I Clause D & E, By-Laws). If a representative or liaison cannot attend a meeting, then they may send a proxy to the meeting with a signed proxy sheet that can be found at gpsga.okstate.edu. Otherwise, the absence will be counted against the respective unit or group. In the case of the unit, both representatives must have 75% attendance at meetings to stay eligible.