

## **Report to the GSO Senate on NAGPS National Conference**

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I attended the NAGPS National Conference in Columbia Missouri on November 6-9, 2014. The NAGPS National Conference is the opportunity for member institutions to have input into the upcoming year's agenda, the spending of the national board, and the legislative priorities of the upcoming year. It is also an opportunity to run for national and regional office.

In the business meetings of the National Conference both Peta Long and I advocated in the manner instructed to us by the GSO Senate, we inquired with each candidate for office what their priorities and other obligations were in the upcoming year. We also were successful in voting down a resolution that would require the national board to rotate the location of the National Conference, as our senate thought it set a bad precedent considering the past history of National Conferences. Additionally, we passed a resolution requiring the national board to send out resolutions to be considered a week ahead of national conference, giving member institutions enough time to consider the issues and make a well informed decision. We also passed a resolution asking the national board to study how to make Leadership Summit more accessible to member schools, lowering the financial burden imposed by long travel.

Also in the business meeting, Peta Long was elected Director of Communications for the National Board, and I was elected Social Justice Chair for the National Board. I look forward to an exciting year with Kristofferson Culmer, the incoming President, who I believe will be highly effective.

I also had the opportunity to participate in several sessions, including a fascinating one on data driven advocacy run by the University of Colorado at Boulder. They are currently engaged in a climate survey, and would be willing to share their data and survey with us to enable comparative analysis. I led two sessions, one on Robert's Rules that was well attended and provided information to many schools on how to efficiently run meetings, and another on Advocacy as the Core Order of a GSO, speaking to the advocacy work that has been done at Syracuse University.

The National Conference was a great experience combining education, advocacy, and networking to improve all graduate student organizations. I continue to believe in the mission of NAGPS to advocate for graduate students at the national level, and urge the Senate to send delegate to next year's national conference.