University of Pennsylvania  
Graduate & Professional Student Assembly  
Meeting of September 26, 2012  
MINUTES  

A meeting of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly was held at 6:00PM on September 26, 2012 in Houston Hall (Class of ’49).

Members in attendance: Dina Shapiro, Britney Thornton, Neyha Sheth, Marlene Walk, Nikhil Joshi, Allison Putterman, Irene Bukh, Kevin Zeng, Kelly Breen, Justine Sefcik, Jessica Morris, Steven Lin, Bhaven Sayania, Katherine France, Shyam Sundar, Qiwei Sun, Raghavendra Prasad, Rajatesh Gudibande, Rebecca Tan, Phoenix Lee, Ayinde Tate, Luyao Wang, Yixi Sun, Payal Thakkar, Will Pickering, Helen Reed, Edward Chen, Kristy Simmons, Nate Snyder, Ben Ediger, Vinita Surana, Jiayi Liang, Andy Wu, Leila Greenawald, Afreina Noor, Lara Fabian, Evelyn (Owens) Malone

Executive Committee members in attendance: James Wiley, Vera Mucaj, Sue Mello, Anthony Pratcher, Kilang Yanger, Akeesha Washington, David Bendell, Prashant Subbarao, Brian Magnuson, Tanvir Mohammed, Effie Zhou

Chair James Wiley welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. He introduced GAPSA to the new GA members.

Six workshops were conducted to introduce GA members to how GAPSA works. Two executive board members taught at each workshop. After, GA members presented the information from the individual workshops to the whole GA.

VC Updates:

Chair  
Introduction to position.

Vice Chair  
Thanks to all that helped during Gradfest. Over 2000 students participated in at least one of the events this year. Introduction of position and Deputy opportunity.

VC for Communications  
Introduction to position. Asked if all schools are receiving the Weekly Email. Told reps that it is their responsibility to make sure their constituents are receiving the Weekly Email.

VC for Equity and Access  
Introduction to position. University committees are being filled well this year by interested graduated students. 90% of positions are filled. Goal of committee is to ensure access to all members of the university.

VC for Finance  
Introduction to position. There is a lot of work to be done and a lot of money to give out. Finance committee helps to finance student groups and discretionary fund.
VC for International Affairs
Introduction to Position. Job is to uphold the tradition of taking care of international students.

VC for Operations
Introduction to position. Will be looking for a Deputy. Wants to create a Historian position to build internal memory.

VC for Professional Students
Introduction to position. Standing committee will be appointed later. Needs help to set up Lunch-ins at the Grad Schools.

VC for Research Students
Introduction to position. Explained research council. Travel grants are being processed and the fall deadline is Friday.

VC for Social Activities
Give by Chair. Introduction to the position. Mentioned MadMen formal opportunity.

VC for Student Life
Introduction to position. Works on projects such as housing for international students, GAPSA fitness challenge, and Chillax event.

VC for Student Programs
Introduction to position. Upcoming events include Terror behind the walls.

General Assembly members were given the opportunity to ask questions about committees and they ranked committee preferences.

Role was taken.

Budget Presentation:
VC for Finance presented the budget to the General Assembly. He outlined the adjustments from the previous year’s budgets and outlined the new line items Opportunity Fund and the Synergy Fund. The discussion focused on clarification of these new line items.
RESOLVED: Budget passed with clear majority.

Constitutional Amendment:
Chair presented a constitutional amendment that modified one word in the constitution regarding the duration of the Research and Professional Council Meetings.
RESOLVED: Constitutional amendment passed with 31 votes.

Discretionary Fund Votes:
One group of students came before the General Assembly requesting money from the Discretionary Fund.

Group 1:
Psychademia
(Matthew Young)
Thank you for again considering our request for GAPSA discretionary funding for the Psychademia conference. In March, we came to you with a rough plan of what Psychademia would be. Now, only 6 months later, we are three weeks from the conference becoming a reality. Psychademia will be a three-
day event at Houston Hall that will bring in scholars, professionals, and clinicians from across disciplines to discuss how new research into the medicinal use of psychedelics will change academia and culture. This topic will be addressed by neuroscientists, philosophers, anthropologists, psychologists, artists, ethicists, theologians, historians, lawyers, and journalists. Moreover, through the symposium format, this conference emphasizes audience participation in the discussion, as well as interdisciplinary collaboration. A primary thrust of this conference is to cultivate a new image of psychedelics and psychedelic experiences in culture, one that replaces old images of misuse and gluttony with one that more accurately reflects what academic research is proving to be a useful tool in personal and societal well-being. We have done our best to promote the event to the Penn Community through flyering, online presence, and advertisements in the GAPSA and Mahoney Institute for Neurological Sciences weekly emails. Additionally, we have offered very steeply reduced prices for students, and are offering free admission to a welcome event and the poster session. Included in this document is our current budget, and we have received funding from the Perelman School of Medicine, Penn Medicine Neuroscience Center, SASgov, and GAPSA. We currently have funds to cover the basic expenses to make the conference happen. We have put funds already provided by GAPSA toward coffee service during breaks (a rather expensive service for 200 people). Additional funding will go toward accommodating expenses of work exchange volunteers and making the conference more enjoyable for attendees, a la coffee breaks and a reception. Please also find the program guide included in this document. Thank you for once again considering our request.

**Discussion:** Discussion centered around the specific use of money in the event.

**RESOLVED:** By a majority vote, the Psychademia event will receive funding in the amount of $800.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM by the Chair and was followed by Research and Professional Councils.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Magnuson, GAPSA VC for Operations