A meeting of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly was held at 6:45PM on October 10, 2012 in the Law School (Gittis 214).

Members in attendance:
Deb Liu, Miriam Ishaq, Neyha Sheth, Marlene Walk, Nikhil Joshi, Allison Putterman, Irene Bukh, Kevin Zeng, Kelly Breen, Justine Sefcik, Ariana Zeno, Jessica Morris, Stacy Krieg, Steven Lin, Bhaven Sayania, Katherine France, Shyam Sundar, Qiwei Sun, Raghavendra Prasad, Rajatesh Gudibande, Jacob Berger, Frank Streller, Rebecca Yan, Alison Stolow, Ayinde Tate, Luyao Wang, Yixi Sun, Payal Thakkar, Juan Aparicio, Edward Chen, Kristy Simmons, Nate Snyder, Ben Ediger, Vinita Surana, Jiayi Liang, Quyen Le, Mrinal Todi, Michael Nechemia, Jackson Dunlap, Andy Wu, Leila Greenawald, Rachel Delgado, Afreina Noor, Carlos Santana, Lara Fabian, Laura Donnelly, Laura Donnelly, Irene Plantholt

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

Chair James Wiley welcomed the members to the General Assembly meeting. He introduced GAPSA to the GA and mentioned GAPSA’s core principles.

Minutes were approved. Role was taken on place cards at the members’ seats

VC Updates:

Chair
Introduction to IVY Summit. The IVY schools are going to share with each other governing principles.

Vice Chair
Update on President’s Award.

VC for Communications
MadMen party had a new photographer and did a great job. There was new update to the website.

VC for Equity and Access
Positions are filling up on the University committees. Members should report minutes from these meetings to help inform the rest of us.

VC for Finance
$120,000 in student group funding was applied for. There was an overwhelming demand for this and for the Discretionary fund. The finance committee is hard at work.

VC for International Affairs
Introduction. He held a meeting with ISAP and met with students of the international community.
VC for Operations
Information about the GA retreat was given, taking place of the next GAPSA meeting.

VC for Professional Students
His standing committee has been formed. Awards were given out, and the process is going well.

VC for Research Students
Introduction. Encouraged people to attend a film on research that was presented during the provost award reception. Travel grants are being dispersed.

VC for Social Activities
MadMen party occurred and was a huge success. GA will receive discounts to events from here on in. GA members should get in contact with Kim about discounts in the future. In need of a deputy. There are many upcoming events; please encourage all to come.

VC for Student Life
Introduction. Flu clinic volunteering is going well. Please come to the Jorge event.

VC for Student Programs
Introduction. Terror behind the walls is coming up. Other events as well. Ticket sales are going well.

G-APPS:
The current plan is to improve Penn Intouch interface through two main initiatives.

Took a break to get to know one another.

Discretionary Fund Votes:
Introduction to fund. Application is subjective and reimbursement based, because the process can be long. The fund has an interdisciplinary focus. Funding in the past has ranged from formals to academic events to community events.

Three groups of students came before the General Assembly requesting money from the Discretionary Fund.

Group 1:
Financial Literacy Project
Our names are Elisa Downey-Zayas and Jessica Greer Griffith. We are the co-founders of a new service group, The Penn Law Financial Literacy Project, which we hope will attract students from the law school, Wharton, and possibly other graduate schools. The aim of our project is to provide personal finance and tax assistance to those in need of assistance in Philadelphia, especially traditionally underserved urban and immigrant communities. Our project is organized into two parts. The first part organizes and trains students to volunteer with the Volunteer Income Tax-Assistance (VITA) program, in which student volunteers help individuals, couples, and families file their federal and state income tax returns for free. This program is operated in conjunction with the Campaign for Working Families, a non-partisan organization. The second part of our project involves volunteers working with community partners to provide personal finance assistance and education to indigent persons, immigrants, and other underserved populations in their communities. In addition to our service, we are hoping to provide education and
speakers to students at Penn who are interested in careers involving tax law, tax policy, and financial policy more broadly. We are applying for funding for our general info meeting that we currently have scheduled for Tuesday, October 2nd from 12:00-1:30 PM. We are hoping to receive $150 so we can buy food and drinks for this event in order to attract people to come learn about and join our organization. At this time, we are inviting both law students and graduate students at Wharton to this event. However, we are also looking into possibly inviting students from other graduate schools who may be interested as well. This project is accommodating to students from all different types of educational backgrounds who are willing to become trained to volunteer in Philadelphia. No prior knowledge or experience is needed. We are very excited about this opportunity, and feel that it is a terrific way to bring together graduate students from the Penn community and create a positive direct impact on the lives of Philadelphia residents. Thank you for your consideration; We greatly appreciate it!

Questions:
1. Can the training be obtained other places?
   a. Pretty unique and a collaborative effort between schools
2. How many Penn Students will be working
   a. 60 so far, but we expect more in January as tax season ramps up
3. Why only 400?
   a. We have other sources, but this is particular for training, but we could use more for other things.
4. How long will 400 go?
   a. Not far for transportation, but we are hoping Law School will fund that.

RESOLVED: By a majority vote, the Financial Literacy Project event will receive funding in the amount of $400.

Group 2:
Simposium
(Meridith Craven)
I’m writing on behalf of the Journal of International Law to request funding for our annual symposium. Inspired by the complex legal issues raised by decades of litigation over oil prospecting in Ecuador and a high-profile $18 billion judgment against Chevron in Ecuador, the symposium will discuss the future of international mass tort litigation in light of changing views in the U.S. and abroad on where and when corporate defendants should be vulnerable to suit. Many of our speakers are highly respected policy experts with connections to the U.S. and Ecuadorian governments and the international justice community. The event is co-sponsored by the Journal of International Law, the International Human Rights Advocates, and the Penn Chapter of the International Law Organization. The symposium appeals not only to law students, but also to students specializing in environmental and energy policy, human rights, international relations, Latin American studies, and corporate social responsibility. In order to reach out to these students, we plan to use the GAPSA network to reach out to fellow graduate students, and we will send our marketing material to professors whose students we think might be interested in the event. Admission is free for all participants, and students from all schools and the public are welcome to attend.

Questions:
1. What graduate schools have you reached out to?
   a. Wharton – business ethics and legal studies, Graduate Program in Public Health, Public Health Initiative, Political Science Department
2. Where is the food going to?
   a. Anywhere, food, lodging
3. Are you missing funding from any areas?
   a. Reached out to Alumns, but no one has given
4. Who is this event intended for?
   a. Graduate students, professors, undergraduate, all

RESOLVED: By a majority vote, the _______ event will receive funding in the amount of $750

Group 3: 
Nurses PUSH  
Nurses PUSH (Penn Understanding Sexuality in Health) and a small group of nursing students has put together a speaker series to take place Fall 2012- Spring 2013 called LGBTQ Health Justice: Conversations in the Intersections of Race, (Dis)ability, and Income. We hope to create a space for campus wide, interdisciplinary conversation and connection around health and social justice by bringing some brilliant speakers to inspire and teach us. As nursing students we have found the only way to make change within our chosen profession is to recognize that all forms of oppression (like racism, homophobia and ableism for example) intersect with each other and inform each other. Advocacy, research, organizing, health care provision, legislative work are all important parts of health justice and we have to connect across professions in order to create opportunities for transformation in health care! We have identified funding through the nursing school, Greenfield Intercultural Center, applied for funding through LGBTQ center and have approached several student groups. At this time we are trying to raise a combined $4800.00 for speaker honoraria and travel costs for 4 speakers. We would love the opportunity to speak to the General Assembly to get them excited about all of our speakers and raise money for the event. We plan to advertise the event widely within the College, Medical School, Law School, Nursing, and Social Work.

Questions:
1. Who would be getting CV credit for coming to training?
   a. Nurses, Doctors, Physical Therapists, Social Workers can get credit for the training
2. Do you have an expected attendance?
   a. Not at this point, we want 50 people
3. How many credits?
   a. Likely 3 credits
4. Will this be open to all of Penn?
   a. Most definitely

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM by the Chair and was followed by internal committees meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Magnuson, GAPSA VC for Operations