University of Pennsylvania
Graduate & Professional Student Assembly

Meeting of January 16, 2013

MINUTES

A meeting of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly was held at 7:00PM on January 16, 2013 in the Graduate Student Center.

Members in attendance:  (to be filled in by David)

Executive Committee members in attendance:  Chair, VC, Student Programs, Equity and Access, Finance, International Affairs, Professional, Social Activities, Student Life, Proxy for Communications

Missing: Student Programs

Chair James Wiley welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Spring Semester welcome.

The minutes were approved.

VC Updates:

Chair
Discussion of the Special Elections for VC for Operations and the process involves, to occur at the next GA meeting 1/30. Currently there are 5 members in running. Please email gapsa.chair@gmail.com and gapsa.research@gmail.com for any questions related to the elections or candidacy. Brief synopsis of the mid-year VC reviews were also presented. Chair discussed: Ivy Summit 2012, Preferred Name Initiative, Penn Legal Services Expansion, AVPSA Hiring Committee. Spring Semester Plans: GAPSA in Penn Law Entrepreneurship Clinic, Secure GAPSA funding through 2018, NYT in GSC, Revamp Exec Board Transition, Empower Umbrella Affinity Group

Vice Chair
Reiteration of VC responsibilities and accomplishments, including Gradfest, President’s Award, overseeing special programs like the Exec Retreat.

VC for Student Programs
Recap: $17,000+ dollars spent on 30 events over the previous semester. Cultural shows, sports, holiday dinner, Hershey Park. $24,000+ left for the academic year. Nov-April Broadway season which will continue to be advertised, Cirque Soleil to come in May. Ideas: corporate nights, ballroom dance, and possibly casino nights. Partnership with Dental’s Penn Palate for some cooking event. This is followed by the outline of the budget with more specific breakdowns. vc.sp@gmail.com

VC for Communications
Stand-in for Sue was Luyao. Positive Social Media response for the Communications department overall. Over 1000 likes on Facebook since last year. More data presented
on the achievements. 12,000+ visits to the GAPSA website, also revamped website for smartphone users. Collaboration with VC Student Life, Penn Shape Challenge, GAPSA Poster Windows, Branded Gear for GA and Raffles to occur in the spring. Fred Chen from Dental School is the winner of the Design Challenge.

**VC for Equity and Access**
Diagram display of the affinity groups and offices currently worked with and targets. Fall was about building relationships and communications. Hope to have an annual AFFINITY MIXER. Spring semester goals: continue to build relationships, spend money on event collaborations with affinity groups and affinity offices. Event collaborations with offices include: AARC - MLK Symposium, Women’s Center - Take back the Night Event.

**VC for Finance**
Discussion of student group funding ($34,000+ in previous semester). Awarded $25,000 through G12 Synergy Fund, distributed nearly $10,000 in GA Discretionary Fund. Goals are to award more than $40,000 in student group funding, possibly having round 2 of Synergy Fund, continue GA Discretionary Fund, oversee the GSC Health Project, collate G12 budgets for travel.

**VC for International Affairs**
(Missing some data slides) Collaborated with AIS to assist undergraduate international students find housing during the break. Plan out of major agenda for semester: major festivals, food card subsidies, integrated international students alum network, possible housing solution, Penn Walk-the-Talk (a reality-esque video about Penn student life), and organized trips to the PennDot (for state-approved ID verification). Budget update: amount of leftover money is substantial.

**VC for Operations**
Missing candidate - to be elected on 1/30/2013

**VC for Professional Students**
Presentation of results: 88% of both summer and fall Travel Grant applicants: $7k and $17k in total, respectively. Will be talking about grant opportunities to schools where there is still little interest in the Travel Grants. 2/2 research grant applications that were successfully applied. 2013 Plans: Career Committee, Cross-Registration Committee, solidify deputy role, more than $20k left in budget.

**VC for Research Students**
Nobody has a birthday : ( Held fall assembly for recipients of last year’s Provost’s Awards. Funded 6 academic events. Plans for 2013: administer Provost Award, disperse Travel Grants, Co-Administer the President’s Award, disperse funds for academic events, drop-out forum (support group for drop-out students), advocate for research.

**VC for Social Activities**
Presentation of survey responses for social activities. Breakdown of the spent $65,000 budget during the last semester. Leftover is $45,000 budget. Future prospective partnerships indicated.
VC for Student Life
Jorge Cham and NPR events were sold-out, overall at a cost of only $2.60 per person due to partnerships with Drexel and campus groups. 220+ came to Yin/Ying event, good ratings, split the cost with the VC for Student Programs. Penn Shape Challenge (fitness challenge that focuses on health, educational workshops, and deals with local businesses) to last until May 2013 - collaborated with VC for Communications. Student Insurance Survey advocacy project to be launched soon.

VC for Student Programs
Recent event: discounted tickets for Thanksgiving dinner at $10 for GA members

GA Opportunity Fund for Open Mic Night - Project Progress
VC for Equity and Access presents Open Mic Night, as a way to bring together various affinity groups. Each Mic Night will consists of performance competitions that will be hosted by each affinity group per night. They will not be competing, but will use this opportunity to advertise their organizations. In collaboration with VC for Social Activities.

Gradfest 2013 Potential Dates
Deputy of VC presents dates for Gradfest 2013: postponing of the event until week of the September 16, 2013 due to overlap with 9/11 and Jewish holidays. Backup week will be September 23.

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

Group 1:
AMAR Haiti (Penn Vet)

Quizzo Fundraiser. “The AMAR Haiti program mission is to provide sustainable animal health training and resources to the rural, underserved... communities of Haiti.” Will fund 13 Penn Vet students to go to Haiti in June 2013. Will raise $10,000 as a goal. Discretionary fund to be used for a quizzo fundraiser, co-sponsored with GAPSA Sips, at New Deck Tavern.

Budget: Quizzo, prizes, decorations, and promotions. Expect 100-150 people to come. Charge $10/ticket for 2 drink tickets and possibly appetizers.

Proposal of $435.

Questions (only during the Q and A, not the GA discussion that follows):
NONE

RESOLVED: By a majority vote, AMAR Haiti will receive funding, in full, in the amount of $435.
Stipulations: No.

**Group 2:**
**Philadelphia Beer Night**

Philadelphia Beer Night is co-sponsored by the Wharton Brewmaster’s Club (which will fund $700 of the total $1,400) and the Nursing School (no financial contributions thus far). Goal is to bring together around 200 students. Will feature food as well as 7 different brewers.

Proposal of $700.

**Questions (only during the Q and A, not the GA discussion that follows):**
- Q: Is Wharton government paying for this?
  - A: No, this will be entirely funded by the Wharton Brewmaster’s Club
- Q: What finances will the Nursing School Contribute?
  - A: Currently none.

**RESOLVED:** By a majority vote, **Philadelphia Beer Night** will receive funding, in full, in the amount of $700.
Stipulations: No.

**Group 3:**
**Penn Health Fair 2013**

“The mission... is to include all healthcare-related schools to provide free, comprehensive health services for the general public, focusing on underserved population in West Philadelphia.” Will occur on March 23, 2013 at the United Community Clinics. Impact should be around 500 people; contribute about >100 faculty and students. 6/12 professional schools are partnering together. Estimated total budget is ~$11,000. Already awarded $6000. Food and drinks cost ($4280) will be available to the volunteers

Proposal of $4893.50.

**Questions (only during the Q and A, not the GA discussion that follows):**
- Q: Who is paying from this?
  - A: Currently only the Nursing School is, not going to ask the other school for budget.
- Q: If you don’t get full amount...?
  - A: Will still hold the event, but may cut supplies or patient pool.
- Q: Why can’t there be more time for fundraising?
  - A: Not able to do it within the sufficient time-frame

**RESOLVED:** By a majority vote, **Penn Health Fair 2013** will receive funding in the amount of $2446.75.
Stipulations: No.

Respectfully submitted,