University of Pennsylvania
Graduate & Professional Student Assembly

Meeting of February 27, 2013

MINUTES

A meeting of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly was held at 7:00PM on February 27, 2013 at the Law School.

1. Members in attendance:
   Dina Shapiro (R)
   Britney Thornton
   Neyha Sheth (P) – proxy
   Marlene Walk (R) – proxy
   Nikhil Joshi (P)
   Allison Putterman (P)
   Lauren Ciolek
   Irene Bukh (R)
   Kevin Zeng (P)
   Kelly Breen (P)
   Justine Sefcik (R)
   Jessica Morris (P)
   Stacy Krieg (P)
   Kristy Kimball (R)
   Steven Lin (P)
   Katherine France (P)
   Frank DeSimone (P)
   Davy Huang (P)
   Esther Lee
   Simon Burger (P)
   Preeti Krishnan
   Qiwei Sun (P)
   Raghavendra Prasad (P) – proxy
   Rajatesh Gudibande (P)
   Jacob Berger (R)
   Frank Streller (R)
   Rebecca (Ying) Yan (P)
   Ayinde Tate (P)
   Luyao Wang (P)
   Yixi Sun (P)
   Payal Thakkar
   Will Pickering (P)
   Helen Reed (P) - proxy
   Edward Chen (R)
   Kristy Simmons (R)
   Nate Snyder (R)
   Ben Ediger (R)
   Jiayi Liang (P)
   Quyen Le (P)
2. **Executive Committee members in attendance:** Chair, Equity and Access, Finance, International Affairs, Operations, Professional, Research, Student Activities, Vice Chair
   - Chair James Wiley welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.
   - The minutes were approved. Mentioned the budget reallocation proposal: Budgetary amendment to approve use of $20,000 surplus from Ivy Summit

3. **VC Updates:**

   **Chair**
   - University Council: Large attendance at Open Forum. Students felt that their comments were given less credence that staff. Actions were taken to re-dress this.
   - Open Forum at University Council only allowed Council members to raise issues. Resolution was for suggestion boxed at schools to raise issues before the UC Open Forum meeting to raise issues.

   **Vice Chair**
   - Presidents Awards: Thanks to committee for reviewing applications on Sunday. Results out.

   **Equity and Access**
   - VC gained 5 lbs of muscle
   - GAPSA and Indian Students: Thanks Rajesh
   - Academy series March 12, Houston Hall
   - Yoga – Thu 11-2pm.
   - Open Mic – On Mar 18: GAPSA + BGAPSA
   - BGAPSA update: 200 students attended the BGAPSA semi-formal last week, including Law School and Med School

   **Finance**
   - VC lost 11lbs and can dunk a basketball due to PennShape
   - Student Group Funding: $10,000 awarded, $33,000 budget. Will have $25,000 to award on rolling basis
   - G12 Synergy Fund: Contact Allison for information
International Affairs
- Hosting event (broadcasted sports matches): Lots of food and drink

Operations
- Refining hospitality and drinks. Acknowledge Steven and Tim (organized Happy Hour) as deputies.
- New Deck Tavern: GAPSA GA Happy Hour
- More things to come via email

Professional
- Chemical spill happened during the week. Only Engineering students got email
- Awarded $6,000 in travel grants during week; $12,000 to award for remainder of semester.
- Jessica (Design School): Appointment pending to organized facilities. Bathrooms are finished!
- VC Prof has done lunch and learns during week; and some School Councils – Law School to work on

Research
- Oscar night party: Acknowledged travel grant recipients (Professional, Research and Presidents award)
- Please give attendance cards to VC of Operations
- Birthdays: Steven Lin, Prashant

Social Activities (Proxy)
- Oscars Night big success
- Upcoming events:
  - SIPS: Ladder 15 on Thu Feb 28 at 8pm
  - Boys event: Wed Mar 20
  - Wine Walk: Mar 22
  - Boat Cruise: Fri April 5

Student Life
- 1,000 respondents to survey on Health Insurance: Now closed
- PennShape event this week: How to Stick to an Exercise Program (Thu 5.30pm)
- Members of Student Life committee: Round of applause

Student Activities
- Oscars night: Big success
- Complete survey from VC of Operations.

Communications (proxy)
- Selling movie tickets this week
- Basketball coming up: 76s vs Celtics; 76s vs Nix
- Flyers games have been cancelled
• Cirque de Soleil tickets coming

4. **Budget Reallocation Proposal:**
- $11,992 + $50: Surplus from Ivy Summit (already gone)
- UA receives more from fees than GAPSA
- Continued Financial Commitment to funding: GAPSA to show the continued of funds
- Goal: Carrying-over $102,000 for FY13-14
- Proposal: Use surplus for G12 Synergy Fund. Example of benefits: Kevin (Nursing): $12,000 used for Health Fair by Nursing School, would have never happened without G12 Synergy Fund.
- Budget currently half of other G12 organizations – goal is to get to 100% by end of academic year. Design and Dental to come up with proposals.
- Explained constitutional amendment requirement

Questions & Answers:
- Q: Can the same schools apply?
  - A: Previous schools that applied can’t be primary sponsor. Schools can co-sponsor other schools
- Q: Is there is line item for Ivy Summit for next year?
  - A: There is no line item for next year’s Ivy Summit as Penn is not hosting
- Q: Could list be circulated for lead groups? Who is eligible
  - A: Yes: See Allison Puttermann

  **RESOLVED:** Budget amendment passes with over three-quarter vote

- Chair of GAPSA: Please clean-up to keep meetings in Law School

5. **Discretionary Fund Votes:**
Two groups of students came before the General Assembly requesting money from the Discretionary Fund.

**Group 1: 2013 Public Policy Challenge – Nationals. Sarah Besnoff (School: SAS)**
- Students compete for seed funding: All undergrads and grads
- Public Policy: Leave it completely open
- Challenge supported with GAPSA
- A number of students participated: Last year 4 schools came to Philly. This year 8 schools come to Philly: Additional opportunities and costs.
- 43 participants across 20 schools: Med/PhD
- 2 rounds: Round-Robin then Finals.

Budget requested: $3,500 donation.

**Questions (only during the Q and A, not the GA discussion that follows):**
- Q: Winner this year?
  - A: Winning team minds. Think big, smart small. Use non-profit Medicare provider to implement
- Q: What media is generated by the event?
  - A: Local and state policy makers; Philadelphia Inquirer, Policy websites
- Q: What goes into $3,500?
  - A: $2,300; Room rental + security on weekend. $1,200: Catering

  **RESOLVED:** Fund in partial amount of **$2,000**
Stipulations: Event must be advertised in GAPSA Weekly and a GAPSA representative (Rachael) to find a lower cost facility.

Group 2: Rebuild Philadelphia (Wharton & Design School)
- Started by Wharton Alum
- Repairs: Houses, Repairs: 9 Houses
- Dates: March 15, 16, 22, and 23
- Team: Wharton + Design School
- Funding: Food and safety supplies

Request: $5,000 for:
- Lunch, food, snacks, supplies

Questions (only during the Q and A, not the GA discussion that follows):
  Q: Sources of funding?
  A: Wharton and one donor
  Q: Recruiting process?
  A: From Wharton and Design School
  Q: Four different sessions?
  A: Repairs and improvements take multiple days
  Q: Break-down of budget?
  A: See Powerpoint. Food funding from GAPSA

RESOLVED: By a majority vote, Rebuild Philadelphia will receive funding, in part, in the amount of $3,000.
Stipulations: Must apply for G12 Synergy Fund

Chair:

Respectfully submitted,
Steven Mong, Deputy VC for Operations