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

1. **Members in attendance:** 52 members, including Executive Board Members with voting privileges. 40 members of the GA. For ¾ vote, 28 members must approve of the amendments for a resolution to pass

2. **Executive Committee members in attendance:** Chair, VC, Equity & Access, Professional, Research, Operations, Student Life, Student Programs, Finance
   - Chair James Wiley welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.
   - Motion to approve minutes was approved

3. **Chair and VC Updates:**

   - Chair
     Minutes approved

   - **Vice Chair for Research Students**
     - Discussion of amendment and regulations
     - Trying to pass an Ivy-wide resolution which we would then be shared with the other schools
     - Discussion of Resolution
       - **Sequestration**
         - Q: What is sequestration? Why does it need to be passed?
         - A: Mandated cuts to federal budget. Affects students. Research budgets decreased; tuition could go up.
         - Q: Is this geared only to graduate students?
         - A: No. Will affect all schools
         - Q: Where does it go from here?
         - A: Written on website; published in DP; networking with other Ivies; published in local papers
         - Q: What are the chances we will see tuition increases?
         - A: Don’t know. Tuition is decided by the Council of the Deans.
         - Q: Last line could be changed to graduate and professional students at Penn
         - A: Amenable to change. Tried to package this for all Ivies, since they don’t distinguish
         - Q: What happens if no steps are taken?
         - A: Tuition might rise. A lot of students are involved in research. What makes Penn competitive is that we are a vital research school. Only Ivy with medical campuses which are contiguous.

   - Motion: Last line changed to ‘graduate and professional students at Penn.’
Motion fails.

Q: Should it say graduate research and professional students?
A: Obvious we are targeting graduate students when you say ‘research and professional.’
Q: Will we change in all three places in amendment?
A: Yes.

Motion: ‘Graduate students’ will be changed to ‘research and professional students at Penn.’
Motion fails; 36-1. Resolution to be used as originally drafted by VC for Research.

Full text, provided by the VC for Research Students after the meeting:

"WHEREAS the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly at University of Pennsylvania is concerned that the spending cuts mandated by sequestration will have a deleterious impact on graduate student research and education across the country and

WHEREAS graduate students are vital and vulnerable stakeholders in the university community, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that GAPSA urges the Penn administration to minimize the effect of sequestration on graduate students at Penn."

James - Constitutional Amendments

1) G12 Synergy Fund

Motion made by James to accept; seconded by Katherine France. G12 has been a success in student government transparency.

- Motion made regarding Eligibility being publicized – wants to see an annual publication of who is eligible to apply. Seconded.
- Anthony: organizations have to report before, during and after the event and explain what will happen, how the event went, etc. The way this is written gives latitude to Finance Chair. In Finance VC handbook. How do we want to publicize? Don’t want to hamstring future VC Chair. Gives a straight purpose as to what should be done.
- James – want to see money allocated and distributed

Q: Why should we limit to 25K?
A: Next year GAPSA will receive another 50K in funding.
Q: More information on what money wasn’t given out. Why this is a more effective use of money.
A: GAPSA will lose nothing in next year’s budget b/c this was money left over from last year. Extra student group money left over that wasn’t claimed. Not getting the demand to spend all the money. This fund had a huge demand that wasn’t met. We did not fund in full at all – lots of applications. Anthony – seeing the strains of managing a budget of this size. FY2013
expenditures: 1.394 million. We reallocated some of these resources to G12 as a better allocation of resources.

Motion to change “finance committee” to “GA Assembly.” James said the language is part of the VC of Finance handbook. That is not something part of the amendment.

Amendment passes 36 yes votes.

Approved text:

“Henceforth, every year, GAPSA shall allocate at least $25,000 from the general fee revenue for a “G12 Synergy Fund” whose purpose shall be to enhance the academic, social, and cultural pursuits of graduate and professional student government organizations at the University of Pennsylvania. Student government eligibility for these funds will be contingent upon requirements that promote intergovernmental collaboration, and build their institutional integrity. The G12 Synergy Fund shall be administered by the VC for Finance with the approval of the Executive Board. The G12 Synergy Fund shall be administered in accordance with the relevant provision of the GAPSA VC Finance Handbook.”

2) Create committee for Pluralism and International Affairs

James - This amendment removes discretionary aspect. Creates standing committee for Select Committee on Pluralism and International Affairs. Under cognizance of VC of Equity and Access and VC of International Affairs. Collaboration of VCs and has them actively outreaching. Whereas there used to be 5 standing committees, this would now provide 7 standing committees.

Proposal has been accepted and seconded.

Motion to change lesbian and gay to LGBTQI (written out). Seconded.

David B asked which version is being voted on. James said the newer version would be voted upon.

Q: Should the term “Select” be used?
A: This was language used throughout the Constitution.

Motion to change “preference to Exec” in E&A. Reference to constitution. Seconded.

Q: What does this language mean?
A: Language in this position is that the VC of E&A will oversee the process. VC of E&A shall oversee the appointment process.
If you would like to vote Constitutional amendment as is with the inclusion of 2, but not 3. Motion fails.

If you would like to see the Constitutional amendment with the inclusion of 2 and 3. Motion passes. (See Purpose Amendment)

Approved text:

(Due to length of text, this is omitted here. Please refer to the proposal at the end of this document. Please note that Motion 2 and Motion 3 were passed together, while they failed to pass separately. Hence, they are incorporated. In addition, “students of diverse sexuality and gender identity.” was approved.)

Text approved with “as is” amendment except
- “which shall be” is eliminated
- Under Article III-B-1-a, change to:
  o “The Select Committee shall be composed of representatives from groups, organizations, and constituencies composed of graduate and professional students. These groups include, but are not limited to American racial minority groups; students of diverse sexuality and gender identity, international students, ethnic minorities, religious minorities.”

3) Purpose Statement and Non-Discrimination Statement (one amendment)

Motion to change. Seconded.

Each year the Exec Board has a retreat and we revisit the Constitution. We discuss if our events should be open to all students on the Penn campus and what it means to hold these events. Some students say they are not as inclusive as these events should be. Some people felt excluded and that should merit conversation.

PURPOSE AMENDMENT

Anthony – acknowledged Akeesha, James and Sue for winning the President’s Award. This amendment is philosophical. How do we feel about diversity and inclusion? The language as written provides guidance to Future Exec boards; important now as affirmative action is coming up in the SCOTUS; GAPSA can do better at encouraging diversity – many people this year did not know that the position of VC of E&A existed or that funding was available for diverse activities. How can we include more marginal groups on campus? Demonstrates to the Administration and affinity groups that we making efforts to include marginalized groups. Some affinity groups don’t trust us. Some steps can be taken culturally to move forward.

James is treating all grammatical changes as friendly. No debate.
Motion 1a – comma after ‘age’. Seconded.
Motion 1b – comma after disability. Seconded.

Motion 2 - to strike out “which shall be” from Purpose. Seconded.
Anthony speaks against. Feels words “which shall be” is very strong. Should VC know? Or does it leave it open to the discretion of the Vice Chair? MOTION FAILS.

Motion 3 – Strike ‘which shall be’ from Article 1, Section E. Seconded. MOTION FAILS.

Motion to pass this language as is.
Motion fails.

Motion to change lesbian and gay to ‘LGBTQIA.’
Motion fails.

Motion to change lesbian and gay to “students of diverse sexuality and gender identity.”
Motion approved.

Motion 5 – “Diverse array of events, including, but not limited to cultural, academic and social events” Seconded. MOTION PASSES.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT WITH MOTION FAILS.

CHANGES TO ARTICLE 1, SECTION E DOES NOT PASS!

NON-DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT

Motion 1 – Remove word experiences and remove apostrophe from member’s to members. Seconded.

Q: Is Nomination policies and procedures necessary as a legal disclaimer?
A: It functions beyond a legal disclaimer. It also reinforces our values for GAPSA.

Motion to pass amendment with David’s motion. Motion passes.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT WITH DAVID’S MOTION – PASSES 43-10

Approved text (inclusive of all discussed since 3))
“The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly is an inclusive organization which
derives strength from the diversity of its members. Therefore, GAPSA shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, age disability or status as a veteran or disabled person in its membership, the administration of its programs, activities, and its nomination policies and procedures.”
- Art. XI(A)

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven Lin, VC for Operations
Steven Mong, Deputy VC for Operations
Tim Hennessey, Deputy VC for Operations