A meeting of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly was held at 7:00PM on October 5th, 2011 in Houston Hall (Ben Franklin Room).


Executive Committee members in attendance: Joe Friedman, Nina Zhao, James Wiley, Maria Murray, Rachel Delgado, Shaina Oake, Jason Cantu, & Usama Mahmud

Chair Joe Friedman welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Roll Call was taken by Vice Chair of Operations, Jason Cantu, and Minutes were approved.

Budget Vote

Vice Chair for Finance, James Wiley, introduced the GAPSA budget for 2011 and welcomed comments from the General Assembly.

There was a motion from Stephanie Pasquesi (SEAS) to add the website expense as a line item - $22,000 under the Emergency fund since it is a onetime cost and not ongoing.

Stephanie noted that the budget was brought before the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and that there was disappointment that it had not been consulted during the bidding process. The question as to why the bidding process was not opened to graduate students was brought up. “GAPSA is here to serve the Grad Population and it would be good to have had an in house graduate student to do the task.”

James expressed that the budget vote was regarding the allocation of the budget and not how each chair spends their budget. The budget line item reflected what was thought to be an appropriate price for the website. GAPSA decided to go internationally because it was the best price. Hiring Penn students were considered but GAPSA decided that going with the cheapest price abroad was best.

Henry Friedman (Proxy for Mike Hore, VC for Social Affairs) noted that when GSAC merged with the Professional students, $24K was a line item on the GSAC budget for the website. It was not supposed to be spent every year.

Vice Chair for Research Students, Ben Ediger, noted that all that information was footnoted at the bottom of the Budget.
Vice Chair for Communications, Kimberly Wexler, responded to the website concerns by expressing that she did go to students to look at designing the website. GAPSA is currently working with a student that just graduated to maintain the website. He was consulted to see if hiring students was a viable option for designing the website in 2 months. Because GAPSA wanted to get it done in 2 months and we had to have bidding process done, to get a team etc., GAPSA would not have been able to have had the website done in time.

Stephanie expressed that she believes there are plenty of masters students that would have had time to work on the website and questioned why it was necessary to transition the website at all.

**RESOLVED:** that the website expense should show on the budget as a separate line item.

There was a Motion from Ben E. **to add money from the Provost’s office to our revenue section of the budget.**

Joe F. noted that we are not free to spend that as we wish since it is not part of the budget. He suggested that as precedent it might not be good idea to add it to the budget.

Henry F. expressed that since it is part of the budget every year and it shows up on the expenditure side, it should show up on the revenue side if it shows up on the expenditure side as well. “When you have the opportunity to add more information each year, please add it to the budget. It would be nice to look at the previous year’s info so that the following years can refer back.”

The Vice Chair for Student Life, Maria Murray, expressed that she did not agree with Joe and wished to point out that point GAPSA does make money. “Our tickets are subsidized. The money that comes in is to replenish that officer’s budget.”

Henry F. noted that the money he was referring to is matched by the Provost’s Office.

There was a Motion from the Vice Chair for Research Students: **Motion with friendly amendment: 1) Under revenue – we will have $20K from the provosts office with a with the sum saying that $24K comes from the GSAC legacy and should not increase proportionally every year.**

Motioned & Seconded

**RESOLVED:** that we will have $20K from the Provost’s office added under Revenue with a sum stating that $24K comes from the GSAC legacy and should not increase proportionally every year.

Abigail Pleeter (SP2) requested that the backup child care funding be clarified.

The Vice Chair for Equity and Access, Rachel Delgado, responded that the money was voted on last year and GAPSA agreed to fund it.

Maria M. added that Anita from the Graduate Student Center wanted the Child Care Pilot Program to take off. So, she went asking for money. The figure comes from Anita’s request.

A motion to pass the budget was made and was seconded.
**RESOLVED:** The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly budget for the 2011-2012 academic school year is approved by voting members of the General Assembly (Result certified by VC for Operations, Jason Cantu).

The general assembly broke for “Meet Someone New” followed by updates from all the Vice Chairs:

**VC Updates**

*Vice Chair*
GradFest was a huge success – we had about 300 people for the first event, 302 for the second, 600 for the activities fair, and about 800 at World Café. We sold a little over 400 open bar tickets.
She would like to do a post Grad Fest Survey.
She would like 3-4 people help form a committee to help.
The president’s award – deadline was September 30th – it’s a grant for 5yrs from Amy Gutmann to fund travel. GAPSA needs 3 people from research and 3 from professional to sit on the committee to determine the awards. Interested members need to sign up for – Monday October 17th (dinner provided)

*VC for Communications*
Look for your Sunday e-mails. Please encourage people you may know who would like to advertise on the student deals page of the GAPSA website.

Comment from a Wharton GA representative: There is a Wharton startup the VC for Communications could work with.

*VC for Equity and Access*
There will be an academic colloquium in the spring. Students with children need help and her committee will be reaching out to help them.

*VC for Finance*
Student group funding applications have been coming in (60 groups have applied) totaling about $84K. The deadline has passed but groups can apply again in the spring.

*VC for International Affairs*
He is looking for assistance on his committee. Help is needed for organization etc. He is thinking of organizing an international dance night.

*VC for Operations*
He has appointed a Deputy Vice Chair, Madhu Srinivasan (a General Assembly representative from Wharton), to assist him with his duties as a Vice Chair. Google groups have been created to facilitate communications and members who have not received an invite need to contact him as soon as possible. General Assembly members can also subscribe to his Google calendar for meeting dates and locations. Memory sticks with GAPSA information will be distributed at the next meeting and the GA retreat will be held on October 22nd. Also, registration forms certifying each member as a GA representative must be signed and brought to the next meeting (those will be sent via e-mail).

*VC for Professional Students*
The Steve Dubner event went very well and needs people to sign up to help with the president’s award.

**VC for Research Students**
Last week there was the Provost’s award ceremony and it went well. Research travel grant awards were due last weekend – about 92 students applied. Today research council students were discussing the drop dates and would like for those to be further discussed.

**VC for Social Activities**
There is a happy hour at City Tap House from 9-11pm Thursday October 6th. Assistance is needed for checking ID’s.  
Oct 27th – Halloween party downtown  
Nov. 11th – Black and White party  
He still needs help on the committee. Joining will be a great way to get involved. GA representatives who work a few events will get a free ticket to the boat cruise at the end of the year.

**VC for Student Life**
Discussed the Provost is funding $2,500 grant for students in Sansom Place in the past – they had advising and it was run like a dorm with counselors on every hall. This funding was cut and now there are no student services. If you hear of anyone that needs help in Sansom house, please ask them to contact Maria.  
Expressed concerns about paying for PennPark since we pay fees.  
She will be showing a movie by Ricki Lake about the monetization of giving birth.  
If you would like to volunteer to help encourage people to get flu shots, sign up.

**VC for Student Programs**
GAPSA Co-Ed volleyball tournament – registration started Monday – encourage people from your school to sign up.  
Next Tuesday is a quizzo night.  
Saturday is a Hiking Trip through Valley Forge – this was influenced by a website poll.  
October 20th is Philly Flyers.  
Also, we have terror behind the walls tickets coming up.

**General Assembly Member Formal Introductions (Medical School representatives):**

Matt Colo: 5th year medical student in his first year.

Anant Agarwalla: 2nd year medical student hoping to be in school for only 4 yrs. He went to Duke and graduated in 2010.

Alex Rosen: 1st year went to Princeton – little sister is a first year freshman at Penn.

Edward Chen: is in the Bio Medical Arm of the med school studying Pharmacology and studied at UC San Diego.

Kristy Simmons: Doing neuroscience, 5yr.

Kilang Yanger: 4th year PHD student in the Cell Molecular Biology Program. She studies the liver and cancer.
Vera Mucaj: 3rd year cancer research student and was on GAPSA last year.

**Suggestions/Questions and Closing:**

Henry F. asked how to get things put on the GAPSA agenda.

Joe F. requested that people interested in getting things put on the agenda e-mail him at least a week before each General Assembly meeting.

Committee chairs gave presentations regarding committee functions to solicit membership from the General Assembly.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38PM by the chair and was followed by internal committee meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Cantu, GAPSA VC for Operations