University of Pennsylvania
Graduate & Professional Student Assembly

Meeting of November 1, 2011

MINUTES

A meeting of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly was held at 7:00PM on November 1st, 2011 in Houston Hall (Ben Franklin Room).


Executive Committee members in attendance: Joe Friedman, Nina Zhao, James Wiley, Maria Murray, Rachel Delgado, Shaina Oake, Ben Ediger, Jason Cantu, & Seattle Wang.

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

The Vice Chair for Professional Students and Vice Chair for Research Students gave presentations regarding the duties of their positions and opportunities for their constituents.

Guest Speakers:

From Penn Administration, Brian Shaw, Director of Business Services in charge of Penn Transit, Parking Services, Penn Mail Services and the Penn Ice Rink, accompanied by Matthew Brown gave presentations to the General Assembly regarding transit services for graduate students.

VC Updates:

Chair
Ivy summit is November 4-6. Six GAPSA EC members will be in attendance to represent Penn.

Vice Chair
GradFest survey went out. You don’t have to have attended GradFest to fill it out. If you fill it out before the 9th you have a chance to win tickets for Black & White formal.
She will be giving a presentation for student life.

VC for Communications
Forward your e-mails to your schools. Facebook group to be updated.

VC for International Affairs
Will be planning international food club later.

VC for Operations
**VC for Professional Students**
Voted on two new groups.

**VC for Student Life**
PennTransit survey is ongoing. Encourage people to take it. Flu shots went well.

**VC for Student Programs**
First round of volley ball games is this weekend.
Nov 21st is the flyers game.

Special Guest:

GAPSA had a special student guest presentation from Winnie Musouni regarding Penn Connect. Kim Wexler, VC for Communications gave her introduction. How can people on GAPSA help people from Rwanda – there are graduate students applying to PennProgram. This program gets very little publicity. People don’t realize that the University Connection exists. The program is the only connection between Penn and applicants. There is no connection between students and applicants. Nina suggested we get volunteers. The students are applying to graduate programs.

General Assembly Member Formal Introductions (School of Nursing & School of Engineering):
Representatives from the School of Nursing had to leave.

School of Engineering:
Roshni 2nd yr. Materials Science
Tanvir 2nd yr. computer graphics
Stephanie 3rd year bio engineering
Sid 2nd year Electrical engineering

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

Group 1:

Gender Studies Colloquium
(Courtney)
Students are welcome to present in any format to talk with other interested students. This is the second year of doing this program and there is a good range of perspectives.

Various departments have been solicited for funding assistance. $305 for lunches is the request. Cost for each lunch is $146.10 total. Courtney needs $301.10 for this year. There are a lot of people that have contributed. However, there is still some funding needed.

Questions:
1) Which areas of the university were mainly in attendance?
   There’s a large nursing contingent however mostly from SAS. This is a huge interdisciplinary event.

2) How many people attended?
   Varies from meeting to meeting: 10-20 people. However the members rotate quite frequently.
Group 2:

Monumental
(Jessie Latig)

The Historic Preservation Dept. in the School of Design is having a symposium that starts this Friday. The purpose is to not only celebrate the recent restoration work, but also bring in information about the history but also talk about some of the myths that are true. The impetus came from a professor in the department. He is hoping to combine professional research with academic work. Many of the conservators are Penn Alums. On the academic side is a person who did his dissertation here. Mr. Heath is a junior lecturer who looked at his university to help him get here. We need funding to help him get here. They symposium opens with an address from Mayor Nutter followed by a reception and some tours. Student tickets are $25 to help facilitate networking. There are about 60 people signed up so far. The department is asking for $500 to assist with travel fees.

Question:
1) What is the student population interested in attending?
   Local Philadelphia schools have been hit as well as other east coast schools. Drexel, CHAD, and Penn students from different schools will be attendance.

2) Of the 60 signed up – 25 are early bird Penn students - about 35 total Penn students. It’s the receptions that are for invites only.

Discussion following the presentations:

Gender Studies Colloquium
RESOLVED: By a majority vote, the Gender Studies Colloquium event will receive $305.

Monumental
RESOLVED: By a majority vote, the PennDesign Monumental event will receive funding in the amount of $500.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM by the chair and was followed by internal committee meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Cantu, GAPSA VC for Operations