A meeting of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly was held at 7:00PM on November 30th, 2011 in Houston Hall (Ben Franklin Room).


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

Chair Joe Friedman welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Joe began the meeting thanking Shaina for all her hard work this past semester. Minutes from November 1 & 16 were approved.

Members of the GA who assisted in planning Ivy Summit for 2012 were thanked and there was a motion to hold next year’s summit on November 2nd.

RESOLVED: By a majority vote, Ivy Summit will be held at Penn on November 2nd -4th, 2012.

A poll was then taken to see which schools are receiving weekly e-mails from the Vice Chair for Communications:

Results:
- Annenberg - Yes
- GSE - No
- Dental - Yes
- Law - No
- SAS - No
- SEAS - No
- SP2 - Yes
- Design - Yes
- Nursing - Yes
- Med - Yes
- Wharton - Yes
- Vet - Yes

The Vice Chair then presented three GAPSA Representative Awards for Outstanding Contributions to members: Giselle Liu, Matthew Colo, and Vera Mucaj. The Chair thanked them for their excellent work and their contributions to the General Assembly and Graduate Student Body.
Roll call was taken by Vice Chair for Communications, Jason Cantu, followed by a brief presentation from the Vice Chair for Finances, James Wiley.

**Guest Speakers:**
Visiting the General Assembly were the University Chaplain, Rev. Charles Howard, and Senior Associate Director of Athletics, Mary DiStanislao.

**VC Updates:**

*Chair*
Joe received an email from a prior Chair asking him to encourage members to stay involved and stay interested. The General Assembly will reconvene on January 16. He is going to try to get GA members more involved.

*VC for Communications*
It was a great year regarding the website. Those who have more insight into how to improve the website should attend Kim’s office hours next term. Also offer suggestions regarding other services to provide.

*VC for Equity and Access*
At the 3rd meeting in the spring there will be a photographer. Please wear appropriate clothing. Tomorrow (12/1) at 6pm there is a Career Services event; talk about the job market and services for graduate students. Sharon Singer, Israeli general, will also speak at some point in the future.

*VC for Finances*
Penn Mentorship program is looking for more volunteers. Let James know if you are interested.

*VC for International Affairs*
Health Insurance for International students--new initiative
He would like to collaborate more with Vice Chairs next year.
Policy and Administrative issue associated with International Students--focus on these issues next year. Let him know if there are any people who are interested in running for his position next year.

*VC for Research Students*
Provost award is open for nominations/applications.

*VC for Social Activities*
GAPSA Nursing Happy Hour on 12/7
Tequila Tasting tickets are available – 12/8

*VC for Student Life*
Sponsoring Miss Representation movie screening
   Sponsored by Penn Women’s Center (12/7)
Transit Survey Complete
How to Eat Healthy series in January
2 Undergrad Student Health initiatives
   - No smoking on Penn’s campus
   - PNC Bank and Penn’s relationship now that PNC is involved w/ coal mining

*VC for Student Programs*
Volley Ball tournament playoffs next semester
Last Night – Night of surprise
King and I – 12/6 event

General Assembly Member Formal Introductions (School of Nursing, Law School, and School of Design):

**Nursing:**
125th anniversary of School of Nursing
450 nursing students, 10% men
70% are part-time, 1-2 year program
Doctoral program has about 60 students

**Law School:**
Majority are LLM students
Small select group of SJDs

**PennDesign:**
Has about 600 students, mainly masters students
6 different programs:
- Landscape is Ranked #1 in the World
- Historic Preservation is Ranked #1 in the US
- Architecture is Ranked #6 in the US

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

**Group 1:**

Odontoblast 2011 (Dental School Ball)

Event Space booked, sold 220 tickets so far (almost ½ the students in the dental school), biggest event of the year; no ceiling on the number of people who can attend.
Venue: National Museum of American Jewish History
DJ and Caterer already secured. Open bar all evening. Also have a photo booth.
Masquerade ball, so everyone gets a mask

Total budget is around $23-24 thousand. They want $750 from Discretionary Fund.
Tickets cost $50-65; on sale until Friday.

**Group 2:**

Wharton Crew and Rowing

They found a boat that costs $12,000.
$3542 requested from GAPSA
If they can’t raise this money, they’ll continue fundraising.

Discussion following the presentations:
Odontoblast 2011
RESOLVED: By a majority vote, PennDental will receive $\frac{1}{2}$ the amount requested.

Wharton Crew & Rowing
RESOLVED: By a majority vote, the group will receive full amount requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Cantu, GAPSA VC for Operations & Madhu Srinivasan, GAPSA Deputy Vice Chair for Operations