A meeting of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly was held at 7:00PM on January 18th, 2012 in Houston Hall (Ben Franklin Room).


Executive Committee members in attendance: Joe Friedman, Nina Zhao, James Wiley, Mike Hore, Maria Murray, Rachel Delgado, Matt Colo, Ben Ediger, Jason Cantu, Usama Mahmud, & Seattle Wang.

Chair Joe Friedman welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. He acknowledged that we have new members on the GA.

GAPSA represents 12,000 graduate students representing 12 graduate schools.

GAPSA does:
- Funding
- Advocacy
  GAPSA, through its General Assembly members, tries to find patterns among issues important to graduate students across the graduate schools
- Social & community building events

Our next meeting will be in this room and not at PennDPS.

Weekly E-mails: Kim drafts that e-mail and sends it to all the GA representatives. Each school has a different way of sending out that e-mail. This e-mail is going out to over 10,000 students. In addition to this e-mail, a university wide e-mail gets sent across the schools.

In meeting with Penn’s administration, GAPSA wrote a proposal to get more funding for graduate students. VPUL is going to supplement our student group funding through a pilot program for 2012/13 – 10K.

The chair requested volunteers for work on the GAPSA manual (new to GAPSA). He is looking for help enhancing it, please volunteer.

Minutes from November 30 were approved.

Roll call was taken by Vice Chair for Communications, Jason Cantu, followed by a brief presentation regarding the duties and responsibilities associated with his position.

Open Forum:
Caitlin Gordon (Nursing) – E-mail went to spam folder.
Akeesha Washington (Education) – Executive student do not get to fully take advantage of what Penn has to offer. How can GAPSA help facilitate executive students?
   What kind of initiatives would you like?
   She would like some events to be over the weekend so that executive students could also attend.

Executive students in her program come to class once a month.
It may be better to have a late night Friday event so that executive students can attend.
Suggestions:
   Apply for discretionary fund.
   Coordinate with all the executive programs for events.

Guest Speakers:
Visiting the General Assembly were the Director of Alumni Relations, Elise Betz. The Alumni Relations Center is a resource not just while we are in school, but once we graduate and throughout the rest of our lives.

Our alumni network clubs are worldwide. Many of the board members are graduate and professional degree holders. Once you graduate, please read the GAZETTE (the alumni relations magazine). There are close to 300,000 alumni and about 48% of these are graduate and professional school graduates.

Our on-line community is called Quakernet. There are about 200,000 alumni registered on this database. For the first time in 14yrs, the alumni relations office is undertaking an alumni census. This census will be available in July. Last, every school has a small alumni relations staff.

VC Updates:

Chair
If you are not on an internal committee and would like to be on one, contact the head of that committee.

Vice Chair
The Social Responsibility Advisory Committee is looking for GAPSA GA members. An e-mail will be sent regarding volunteering.

   Effie (GSE) – Application for the president’s award will be due at 5PM on Jan 27th. This award is available for both research and professional students. This award is for up to $2,000. This is for travel from January – April. It can be found under grants and funding on our website.

VC for Finances
GAPSA banners have been made for events we fund.
Feb 1st is the deadline for student group funding this semester.

VC for International Affairs
The international council will be meeting to talk about health insurance for international students.

VC for Operations
Tuesdays from 1-4PM – GAPSA Office Hours

**VC for Professional Students**
The professional council voted to allot some funds from the professional budget to go towards interviews and professional research.

**VC for Research Students**
The research council voted to fund two academic colloquiums.
6K summer fellowship applications are due soon.
Ben just recently joined the honorary degree committee – if you have recommendations, shoot him an e-mail.

**VC for Social Activities**
There will be a social event on January 28th from 7-10.
Phillies group tickets will be going on sale today.
Boat cruise is booked for April 27th.

**VC for Student Life**
Next Thursday, January 26th, there will be a presentation in this room on how to eat healthy on a budget.

**VC for Student Programs**
We have booked a dinner at Chima for February 6th and have secured seats for basketball games.

General Assembly Member Formal Introductions (School of Arts and Sciences & School of Education):

School of Arts & Sciences:
Scott Ordway – President of SAS GOV
Prashant Subbarao – SAS has a large student government structured like GAPSA. SAS was established in 1882.
Gabriel Sessions – 3rd year in comparative literature.
Leila Greenawald – 2nd year proxy for Candice
Luke Victory – 2nd year History student
Evelyn Owens – from the music department
Anthony Pratcher – 2nd year in the History department

School of Education:
8 divisions with 24 programs
9% are part time
¾ of the students are female
¼ of the students are international

Akesha Washington – Executive student 3rd semester
Alison Stolow – 1st year masters studying intercultural communication
Effie Zhou – is from China and in the same program as Alison
Giselle Xiaomeng Liu – From China
Maher Zamel – former chair of GAPSA & is graduating next week

Discretionary Fund Votes:
James gave a presentation regarding how the Discretionary Fund works and its goals.

Question:
Would you like to narrow or broaden discretionary funding?

Maher – funding could be done through matching or from the schools.
Will – there have been many great projects that we have seen that deserve funding.
Vera – should we have a consensus regarding school funded dances, etc.?
Jason – to help encourage students from other schools to attend, the schools can fund students from their own schools, but to open it up to the rest of campus, need extra funding.
Scott – we can suggest that social events are ok, but with the stipulation that it must include the entire graduate community.
Wes – there was an option to keep things the way they are. Should there be secondary process?
Joe – there should not be a narrowing of our process. If we want to communicate effectively and make students aware of the opportunities that we offer, we need to not exclude students and broaden our criteria to include more students. We want to include more people so that the people that are currently getting funding deserve it.

After, a group of students came before the General Assembly requesting money from the Discretionary Fund.

Greater China Club
*Modern China - A Wharton Perspective* - A Photo Exhibition, the first time introduced to Wharton
(JL & Jimmy)

Greater China Club is geared to provide Wharton community a boarder perspective of business, culture, social-economic outlook of China, and facilitate career development in Greater China region and other parts of the world. The vision is to create smooth and clear channels of communication within the school, the University of Pennsylvania, student life committee and student body, and best leverage GCC’s platform to enhance Wharton’s efforts on China.

Requesting: $450 for: School wide promotion and photo collection, photo display (printing and framing), and award setting to encourage participation.

Questions:
1) Are these student taken photographs?
   Yes. It’s a collective effort across schools and not just Wharton students for the exhibition.
2) How many submissions do you anticipate? Will there be themes in the photos?
   There will be 20-30 photos that would go into 4-5 themes.

Discussion following the presentation:

*Modern China – A Wharton Perspective*
RESOLVED: By a majority vote, the exhibition will receive full funding in the amount of $450.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Cantu, GAPSA VC for Operations