A meeting of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly was held at 7:00PM on February 1st, 2012 in Houston Hall (Ben Franklin Room).


Executive Committee members in attendance: Joe Friedman, Nina Zhao, James Wiley, 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. Minutes from January 18th were approved.

Next Thursday the EC board will be meeting with Amy Gutmann to discuss issues important to GAPSA members and the graduate community.

Joe is almost done working on the student group database. This database was created to help encourage interdisciplinary networking between schools. This database will show which groups will be open to students from all schools. The groups are organized by theme and just last couple of weeks almost 95 more groups applied to be on the list.

Roll call was taken by Vice Chair for Communications, Jason Cantu.

Vote for Vice Chair for Social Activities:
Running for Vice Chair for Social Activities were General Assembly members:
Prashant Subbarao(SAS) and Giselle Xiaomeng Liu (GSE)

RESOLVED: By a majority vote, Giselle Xiaoment Liu is the new Vice Chair for Social Activities.

Executive Board Presentation:
The Vice Chair for Communication, Kim Wexler gave a presentation regarding her position’s duties.

VC Updates:

Chair
Poll was sent to graduate students at Penn in the last University wide e-mails.
There were requests for greater integration amongst schools, more happy hours, and issues regarding classes. There were also concerns regarding PennTransit. The last concern was the gym fee – all students pay $300 (graduate students opt in while undergrads do not have a choice).
**Vice Chair**

Kilang discussed GradFest for 2012. There was discussion for three different options for the event. The issue is that a majority of students don’t arrive until mid-September. November 4th is Ivy summit, so having GradFest won’t be a problem during September. The two focus weeks are the 17th-22nd or 24th-29th.

President’s award – looking for professional student to volunteer – Feb 12th will be the meeting.

**VC for Equity and Access**

If there is anything you want addressed during her meeting with Amy Gutmann, please send her an e-mail. Also, next week there will be a photographer to take a picture of the GA – please dress accordingly.

**VC for Finances**

We have a record number of requests asking for $.

**VC for International Affairs**

There will be an international food cart week next week. There will be limited amounts of tickets. In February there will be a screening of international films.

**VC for Operations**

Tuesdays from 1-4PM, will be holding office hours. Maria and I met with a representative from the UA a few weeks ago to get more spaces for both undergraduates and graduates at Penn.

**VC for Professional Students**

There were about 19 applications for funding, about 18 will be funded. The new application for professional student research is up on the website. Groups are preferred but individuals can apply. Please volunteer to work on the president’s award.

**VC for Research Students**

The Provost’s award – needs 4 professional students – abstracts will be sent out and then volunteers will grade them and later meet to see who will get funding.

Volunteered – Akeesha, Tanvir, Amol, & Caitlin.

Just went through the spring travel grants and a number were from the professional students. Not enough student know whether or not they a professional or research student.

The professional students have broken in to subgroups: one to create a new calendar, to see how schools view group funding, & a group to look at mentee and mentor relationships.

**VC for Social Activities**

Thanks for voting for her.

**VC for Student Life**

Nutritionist came to speak (40 people showed up). There will be another talk in Feb regarding how people view their body.

**VC for Student Programs**

Had an event last week that served over 100 people with under $100 (cookies and cocoa). There are tickets for the 6rs game.

There are also tickets for the Knicks game in March.
Desperation date is on February 13th.

Guest Speakers:
Lokalty, a Wharton group presentation to talk about a new business at Wharton. The name sake comes from a combination of Local & Loyalty. Sign up for baklava. Lokalty is a rewards program for local businesses. The same way that many stores have membership cards; Lokalty uses one program (using tags or an iPhone app) to click into the business and accumulate rewards. You can pay using whatever means you want, and after you can scan your card or phone to accumulate points. To take advantage of your points, you can simply scan your card or your phone, and the vendor will know what your rewards are. As graduate students, you can take advantage of these discounts for your groups. However, you can’t double dip if you use another organization – for example, DiningIN or Campus foods. You would have to use just Lokalty or the other 3rd party service. The organization is already live, with quite a few organizations. Lokalty will also be at food trucks.

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

United Community Clinics

The United Community Clinics (UCC) is a registered student-run clinic. It provides an educational environment where students from the School of Medicine, Nursing, Social of Policy and Practice, and Dentistry, as well as undergraduates, develop their clinical skills and collaborate while providing quality health care to the East Parkside community in West Philadelphia. Each year there clinic hosts the Bike Rodeo, a large community outreach event held in April to promote healthy life choices, proper bicycle safety, and advertise the clinic’s services to the community. Staying active within the community has formed the framework of the clinic; it continues to operate out of the First African Presbyterian Church and periodically conducts community needs assessments to change how the UCC can better serve this population. This outreach event is essential for reinforcing the clinic’s mission and continuing to expand our patient base, allowing for future generations of graduate students to have this unique educational opportunity to gain clinical experience while aiding an underserved population.

The Bike Rodeo will be organized by the community outreach directors from the various graduate schools and all UCC volunteers will be encouraged to attend and gain a unique view of the population they are serving when they volunteer at the clinic. Also, we expect that this very visible public outreach event (about 200 children came last year) will reflect positively on the Penn community at large. Below are the anticipated expenses for the Bike Rodeo which will be held this year on April 21. Given the large cost to fund this event, we have also applied to the Medical Student Government to help cover half of this cost. However, in the past they have not contributed funding to this event, and have only supported UCC expenses associated with orientation and training events.

The group is requesting: $1,470

Questions:
1. Have you applied from other groups and who has funded in the past?
   Last year GAPSA funded and a church also helped out.
2. How many grad students will be involved?
   About 30 plus a group working on putting the event together.

HIV - The Past, The Future - A Night Supporting Children Orphaned by AIDS in South Africa
(Duncan Mackay)
A Night Supporting Children Orphaned by AIDS in South Africa." It will start with talks by two leaders in HIV, Beatrice Hahn from Penn who is a leader in the transition of HIV from apes to humans and Bette Korber from the National Labs at Los Alamos who will talk about developing an HIV vaccine, and finally I will give a short talk about Friends of NOAH, the non-profit I recently co-founded to help children orphaned by AIDS (read more at the bottom or at www.noahorphans.org), Duncan’s experiences in South Africa, and the plight of an orphaned generation. Following the talks there will be an African drum and dance performance, hopefully by the undergraduate group African Rhythms or a tentative backup group in the med school a cappella group who said they will sing a couple South African songs. The performance will be followed by a reception with drinks and snacks where people can chat and talk with the presenters.

The event will be open to all. I have currently talked to the global health group at the medical school who have agreed to help me advertise and I plan to contact other similar groups, especially targeting biomedical graduate students, the medical school, the nursing school, and MPH students. I also think students interested in education, non-profit work, and global health in other schools such as the business school and law school will be interested. I will be attacking on all fronts from flyering the different schools to contacting student groups and admin to send emails to interested students.

The Duncan is requesting: $510.00

Questions:

1. How is this group affiliated with Penn?
   The advertising for the event is advertised to all the schools interested in these issues. Hoping to make this an annual event at Penn.
2. How did you come to apply for retroactive funding?
   Tried in mid to late November and it didn’t get into funding until now.

Discussion following the presentation:

RESOLVED: The General Assembly voted to fund the United Community Clinics event in full.


The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM by the chair and was followed by internal committee meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Cantu, GAPSA VC for Operations