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, Kim Wexler, James Wiley, Giselle Xiaomeng Liu, Maria Murray, Rachel Delgado, Matt Colo, Ben Ediger, Jason Cantu, Usama Mahmud, & Seattle Wang.

VC for Equity and Access, Rachel Delgado, hired a photographer to take a photo of the General Assembly.

Chair Joe Friedman welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Minutes from February 1st were approved.

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

VC Updates:

Chair
The EC meeting with Amy Gutmann last week that went very well. Ivy summit plans are going well; Vera was able to secure all the rooms we needed for next year.

Vice Chair
The president’s award was completed over the weekend. All applications have been processed and nominees have been selected. We awarded funding to 14 people – total of 10K. The next deadline will be sometime on April 20th. It will be for travel over the summer.

VC for Communications
There is a housing survey underway that will be sent out soon. Merchandise will be coming in to show off our new logo.

VC for Finance
The finance committee has decided to let you know what events not to fund today. This week we got 5 applications. Akeesha has been working to put together a new program.

VC for Operations
Thumb drives are back for your events.
VC for Professional Students
Look forward to travel grants.

VC for Research Students
Susan Basala will be coming soon for an event. There is a biomedical symposium that will be happening in March. Spring 2012 travel grants came out to about 22K. Grants are moving on-line.

VC for Social Activities
3 Happy Hours coming up – Alfa this Thursday, 24th is Dental (Stoplight Party); March 1st will be at the Hyatt hotel. Please volunteer to check IDs at the Dental Happy Hour.

VC for Student Life
2 events – dual career couples next week & Susan Basala in April.

VC for Student Programs
Speed Friending was a great success. Next Saturday there are tickets to the Van Gogh exhibit. The GSC is coordinating a lecture/seminar for students who want to take advantage of attending the flower show.

Representative Introductions:
Brian – 1st year medicine. Is hoping to make it to happy hour.
Amol – 1st year medicine.
Prioty – 1st year medicine.

David – Nursing & working on healthcare. Is from southeast England.

Georgette – 1st year in SP2 getting a MSW. Works in the genetics department next door. She is from NJ.

Laura – is from SAS getting a degree in Music. Went to Michigan state.
Evelyn – in the music department studying American Pop music in the south.

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

Date a Doctor
(Zach Kern)

The Penn Vet Class of 2014 is pleased to announce the return of the annual favorite, DATE A DOCTOR. With the help of the Perelman School of Medicine and the Penn Dental School we aim to bring students from across the 12 graduate schools together for a night of entertainment. They are asking for $1,000 in co-sponsorship funds from the GAPSA Discretionary Fund to help DATE A DOCTOR reach its full potential. This money will be spent specifically on the rental fee for the venue as well as our promotional materials. The premise for DATE A DOCTOR is simple—registered audience members can bid for a date with one of 30 “auctionees” (5 males and 5 females from each of the three participating schools). Each winning bidder gets a gift certificate to a local restaurant (and someone to go with them)! DATE A DOCTOR will be at the Blockley Pourhouse on February 10th, 2012 from 6 to 9 PM. Attendance is open to any Penn student (or guest of one) age 21 and older, and we encourage you all to come as well. One of the best parts of doing this event last year was to see so many people (including members of the GAPSA Exec Board) from across campus united in one room for a night of revelry.

Tickets are $5 in advance, $7 at the door. This event’s success in the past would not have happened without GAPSA’s help, so we are very eager to work with you all again!
The group is requesting: $1,000

Questions:
1. What were your other sources for funding?
   Asked other schools for $ but didn’t come through.
2. Money made – ½ of the money goes to the school that the auctionee is from.
3. How many people at the event?
   About 250.

PennDesign Beaux Arts Ball
(Amanda Morgan)

Each year PennDesign hosts a Beaux Arts Ball, a long standing tradition in top design schools since 1931 when famous architects in New York dressed up as their buildings and celebrated architecture. Last year in response to lower ticket prices, the attendance for the ball was much higher than years prior. We are hoping to keep tickets affordable and maintain, or hopefully expand this attendance at our only social event of the year. Promotion has begun through happy hour announcements, posters, voting for themes, and a graphic contest, encouraging participation in planning and raising excitement for the event. This excitement extends beyond the school of design as well, as attendance is not limited to the PennDesign community. All students are able to purchase tickets and many PennDesign attendees bring dates, often from other graduate schools. The Beaux Arts Ball is a great time to gather together at an off campus venue for a night of getting to know people outside of our classes, departments and schools. Water Works, this year’s venue, has once again waived the $1,500 event space fee because of the number of people and corresponding cost of food and drink. Our student council budget this year is $11,500 and our estimated attendance is 300 people. With the ticket sales at $35/person, the $10,500 generated plus the budget will just cover the contract with Waterworks: food, drinks, and services. Students truly look forward to this event each spring, and we are hoping that attendance will be higher this year, but without the extra funding, ticket prices would have to increase since Water Works charges per person. The $750 from GAPSA would help to fund entertainment and food costs in hopes of having a larger number of attendees.

This group is requesting: $750.00

Questions:
1. How many DJs did you get?
   It was cheaper to get 2 DJs than 1.
2. How many people do you expect to attend?
   Hoping for more than last year.

Discussion following the presentation:

RESOLVED: The Date a Doctor event will receive funding in the amount of $750.

RESOLVED: Motion to fund the Beaux Arts Ball in full passed in the amount of $750.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM by the chair and was followed by internal committee meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Cantu, GAPSA VC for Operations