A meeting of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly was held at 7:00PM on March 28th, 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, Matt Colo, Jason Cantu, & Seattle Wang.

Chair Joseph Friedman called the meeting to order and Jason Cantu took roll. The General Assembly had a guest from Penn, Karu Kozuma, Executive Director of Office of Student Affairs, to speak about what his office can do for general assembly members and their constituents.

Following the guest speaker, Joseph Friedman addressed the assembly with year-end remarks:

- New to GAPSA, Joe took time to recognize GA members publicly for their hard work and taking time to contribute to GAPSA.
- One of the perks of being part of GAPSA is that we get to find out what each of the schools are doing.
- The new website was a major achievement for GAPSA – in the first 6 mo. alone, we got over 36,000 hits.
- The student group database is connecting students across disciplines.
- Our funding applications are now on-line and much easier to navigate.
- Meetings a few years ago used to be much less organized. Meetings this year have been much more productive.
- We are now giving out awards to outstanding GA representatives.
- We have 7 sources of funding.
- We are reaching thousands of students with our social events.
- Advocacy has increased with our attendance at university committees.
- GAPSA’s growth should continue and the best way to do this will be to maintain relationships with each of the G12 student governments.

VC Updates:

VC for Equity and Access
Monday at 12PM is the deadline to submit nominations for candidates for elections. Nominations close right before elections.
**VC for Finance**

13 applications will not get to be heard at tonight’s meeting. The committee will meet tonight to discuss final funding.

**VC for International Affairs**

International music night was at Whispers last week. There is a panel discussion next week, Paule organized. There will be another event called Cultural Games in conjunction with the GSC. The winners of the games will get prizes. The first week of April will have a food cart week.

**VC for Operations**

Sunday April 15, at 6:30PM we will have our final GA end of the year dinner at Fogo de Chao

**VC for Professional Students**

Gave research funding to 3 groups. At the suggestion of the Vice Provost, he will be getting a group together to talk about where school budgets go. Should GAPSA be asking how they are going to spend their money? All opinions are welcome. A Google time sheet will be sent for people to sign up.

**VC for Research Students**

Gave funding to a beer and cheese scavenger hunt at the museum. The research council has broken into focus groups and they have been very successful. Assessing need for navigating the grant series (wanting to get data from the GSC)

**VC for Social Activities**

First 200 guests will get tickets at off campus happy hour. Wine Walk – next Thursday (look for details in weekly e-mails). Midnight cruise April 27th – tickets are on sale $30 per person (next week will be $35)

**VC for Student Life**

Alternative career paths for PhD students - Annenberg at 4:30 tomorrow.

**VC for Student Programs**

The lemonade and lollypop event happened yesterday at the GSC. Tonight people will be going to see Westside Story. Next week there will be a wine walk and then an Italian dinner. Next Saturday everyone will be going to Six Flags. Everyone will be going on Easter Sunday to the premium outlets.

**Discretionary Fund Votes:**

Three groups came before the General Assembly requesting money from the Discretionary Fund

**Dodge ball Tournament**

(Alison)

All twelve UPenn Graduate School students will be invited to the event. I plan to place a description of the event in the weekly GAPSA e-mail, as well as contact the GAPSA representatives from each of the schools to send out an e-mail of the event to each school individually. I also plan to advertise for the event in the Penn Almanac and by placing flyers around campus and in the Graduate Student Lounge.

All of the schools will be invited and the competition will be pinning each graduate school against one another. Multiple teams from each school will be allowed to enter to round out the bracket.

The costs are as follows:

- Reserving courts at David Pottruck Health and Fitness Center: $205
- Purchase of T-shirts: $740
- Set of 12 Dodgeballs: $102
We plan to have each team of 6 people pay $50 for entry into the tournament. If a team pays $75, they will be able to add an additional member to the team. If a team pays $90, they will be able to add an additional member and will also get T-shirts. We will also be selling T-shirts for the event for $15. The funds that are raised from this event will benefit the International Veterinary Student Association (IVSA). Members of this organization will be travelling as ambassadors of the University of Pennsylvania to Thailand this June to provide care for animals that normally receive little to no treatment.

GAPSA should be excited for the event because it is going to bring members of the graduate UPenn community closer together through friendly competition. It will encourage participation across all twelve schools and it will be a fun way to bring a close to the semester. Gathering different members of the UPenn community will continue to foster positive, open, and pleasant relationships between graduate students.

The event is a first annual Dodgeball Tournament. Students from each of the 12 graduate schools will compete against each other to determine which school possesses the most skilled dodgeball athletes, and which school will reign as champions for the year.

This group is requesting: $1,047.00

Questions:
1. Can you explain the breakdown?
   $200 for the court, $700 for T-shirts.
2. What is the entry fee?
   $50
3. How many teams?
   Hoping for one from each school.

Psychedelic Conference
(Matt Young)

On behalf of my colleagues and myself, I am writing request funds to aid in the organization of the *Psychedemia* conference at the University of Pennsylvania, which, from 9/27 – 9/30/12, will bring together researchers across disciplines to explore the place of psychedelics and psychedelic experiences in academia, research, and culture. Organized by UPenn graduate students, and supported by tenured UPenn faculty, *Psychedemia* offers an approach to a psychedelic conference that follows the lead of modern progressive universities by fostering interdisciplinary communities of both developing and established researchers. By bringing together graduate students and professors across disciplines *Psychedemia* will promote an informed and progressive discussion about how research into the psychedelic experience will influence the academic and cultural landscape. This conference arises in the wake of a renaissance of academic research into psychedelic experiences and their relationships to the greater human experience. In just the past year numerous articles in widely distributed peer-reviewed and lay publications have introduced readers to a growing appreciation for the place for psychedelics in mental health, psychological development, spirituality, creativity, and human history. In the past decade, medical research groups devoted to psychedelic studies have arisen at universities across the country. Principal investigators from two of these groups have already agreed to present their research at the conference. In addition, scholars in rhetoric, religious studies, art history, anthropology, government, philosophy, comparative literature and psychology – as well as artists, filmmakers, and musicians – have signed on to present at *Psychedemia*. Some of these presenters are University of Pennsylvania students or alumni. This conference promises to bring together experts from an unprecedented array of academic disciplines to discuss research on psychedelic experiences.
Psychedemia carries on the University of Pennsylvania’s own tradition of integrating psychedelic experiences into academia (see: Dr. John Lilly), and it adopts the university’s growing emphasis on interdisciplinary academic communities. Two of UPenn’s Penn Integrates Knowledge professors have expressed their written support and are guiding the organization of Psychedemia. We are also sending out our Call for Papers to UPenn faculty and students. As the conference approaches, we intend to use funds raised to promote the conference on the University of Pennsylvania campus, and we are offering reduced registration to UPenn faculty/students, as well as special passes to attend specific parts of the conference. Having already secured space on campus, more than two-dozen presenters, and some funding to cover conference costs, we hope that GAPSA can offer its support to the success of this ambitious and culturally relevant conference, the first of its kind on the campus of an American university. Please find the attached packet of planning materials (beginning with the requested budget), which describes our current progress in making Psychedemia a reality.

The group is requesting: $1,500.

Questions:
1. Where will it be held?
   It will be held in Houston Hall.
2. What will the cost be to Penn students?
   $50

Discussion following the presentation:

RESOLVED: The Dodge ball tournament will receive funding in the amount of $1,047.00.

RESOLVED: The Psychedemia Conference event will receive funding in the amount of $1,500.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM by the chair and was followed by internal committee meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Cantu, GAPSA VC for Operations