Minutes of the General Assembly Meeting on October 20, 2010

The third regularly scheduled meeting of the GAPSA General Assembly was convened on October 20th, 2010 at 6:00 PM in the Ben Franklin Room of Houston Hall.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm.

II. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Present were Maher Zamel, Lee Solomon, Suzanne Bratt, Divya Menon, Michael Hore, Henry Friedman, Emily Joy Rothchild, Esther Yu, Maria Murray, David Pietrocola, Joseph Friedman, Sven David Udekwu, Elizabeth Roodhouse, Garth Baughman, Carla Medalia, Nate Brill, Melinda Nelson-Hurst, Cliff Mak, Raleigh Martin, Jeff Li, Amy Lynch, Kelly Nealis, Rebecca Wetzler, Seattle Wang, Thai Nguyen, Ashley Ward, Giselle Liu, Stephanie Pasquesi, Punit Gouthi, Shaina Oake, Mark Francisco, Elizabeth Feldmeier, James Wiley, Kim Wexler, Benjamin Ediger, Julie Crudele, Vera Mucaj, Sam White, Jessica Langer, Nina Zhao, Justine Sefcik, Ehriel Fannin, Carla Robinson, Tracie Husted, Tom Byrne, Sadia Kalam, Mike Baiocchi, Tony Altimore, Ian Campbell, Becca Kleinste, and Jessica Wang.

Quorum was declared.

III. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

IV. Officer Reports

Chair – Mr. Zamel stated that he attended the Ivy Summit, and was able to compare data with the other schools of the Ivy League and M.I.T. He stated that the 2011 Ivy Summit will be at M.I.T. and 2012 will be at Penn.

Vice Chair – Ms. Bratt reported that she met with President Amy Gutmann and discussed GradFest.

Finance – Mr. J. Friedman reported that half of the Finance committee’s money has been distributed to student groups.

Professional Students - Mr. Udekwu stated that his council has been awarding travel grants.
Research Students – Mr. Solomon, in response to Mr. Udekwu’s report, reported, “Same!”

Equity & Access – Mr. H. Friedman had nothing to report.

Student Life – Ms. Rothchild reported her committee helped at the Flu Clinic.

International Affairs – Ms. Menon reported that there are two events upcoming: Vouchers to food trucks and tickets for 127 Hours.

Student Programs – Ms. Murray stated that her trip to Eastern State Penitentiary has sold out. White Christmas and Jersey Boys will go on sale next week.

Social Activities – Ms. Yu stated that Distrito and the Mutter Museum Halloween event are coming up and there have been many Facebook RSVPs. The Ritz Carlton Black & White formal and Happy Hours with Law, Nursing, and GSE are upcoming.

Communications – Mr. Pietrocola reported that his committee met and is working to push the Halloween event.

Operations – Mr. Hore had nothing to report, other than that the GA would adjourn to the Team Building event at Dave & Buster’s immediately following the meeting.

V. Robert’s Rules and GAPSA General Assembly (GA) Meetings

Mr. Zamel informed the General Assembly that in order to keep GA meetings efficient, GAPSA would be strictly enforcing the use of Robert’s Rules of Order during meetings.

VI. Amendments to the GAPSA Constitution

The GA voted by a show of hands to amend the constitution to include the following amendment:

1. Henceforth, every year, GAPSA shall allocate at least $40,000 from the general fee revenue for an “Emergency Fund.” There shall be a strong presumption against reaching into the coffers of the Emergency Fund; it should only be used in the face of unforeseen events posing damaging repercussions. At least two-thirds of the General Assembly must concur before money in the Emergency Fund may be allocated.

2. Henceforth, every year, GAPSA shall allocate at least $25,000 from the general fee revenue for a “GA Discretionary Fund” to be allocated, at any time the General Assembly sees fit, for GAPSA councils or committees, groups presenting in front of the GA, or any cause the GA wishes to support. A simple majority of the General Assembly shall be required to concur before money in the GA Discretionary Fund may be allocated."

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned to Dave & Buster’s at 6:25 pm.