Minutes of the General Assembly Meeting on November 17, 2010

The fifth regularly scheduled meeting of the GAPSA General Assembly was convened on November 17th, 2010 at 6:00 PM in the Ben Franklin Room of Houston Hall.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 pm.

II. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Present were Maher Zamel, Lee Solomon, Suzanne Bratt, Divya Menon, Michael Hore, Henry Friedman, Esther Yu, Maria Murray, David Pietrocola, Joseph Friedman, Sven David Udekwu, Elizabeth Roodhouse, Garth Baughman, Carla Medalia, Nate Brill, Scott Ordway, Alison Baraty, Amy Lynch, Rebecca Wetzler, Seattle Wang, Thai Nguyen, Ashley Ward, Giselle Liu, Stephanie Pasquesi, David Conklin, Punit Gouthi, Shaina Oake, Mark Francisco, James Wiley, Kim Wexler, Benjamin Ediger, Julie Crudele, Vera Mucaj, Steve Santoro, Gina Siddiqui, Nina Zhao, Justine Sefcik, Ehriel Fannin, Carla Robinson, Tracie Husted, Tom Byrne, Sadia Kalam, Abigail Pleeter, Emma Stanley, Laura O’Sullivan, Mike Baiocchi, Tony Altimore, Matthew Verghese, Keith Motelson, and Jessica Wang.

Also present were representatives from the Graduate Student Center.

Quorum was declared.

III. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

IV. Officer Reports

Chair – Mr. Zamel stated that the next General Assembly (GA) meeting would be on December 1st in the Department of Public Safety Headquarters (4040 Chestnut St.). He reminded GA members to please let Mr. Hore know of any proxies well in advance due to increased security at DPS Headquarters.

Vice Chair – Ms. Bratt had nothing to report.
**Professional Students** – Mr. Udekwu stated that the Professional council has funded a conference at the Law School ($300) for Asian-Pacific Law Students.

**Research Students** – Mr. Solomon stated that Research council has funded an academic event for a Penn Women’s Studies colloquium.

**Finance** – Mr. J. Friedman stated that the deadline for Spring 2011 student group funding is February 6th.

**Equity & Access** – Mr. H. Friedman stated that he has been collaborating with Weigle Information Commons to provide personal response devices (“clickers”) to student groups. 65 response cards were purchased and they are available to be checked out immediately.

**Student Life** – Mr. Hore read Ms. Rothchild’s report. She reported the following: “We need volunteers to carol-bomb this coming December. If you can sing and better yet, can sing and lead, we need leaders to take groups of students into campus areas. Email Emily Joy ([gapsa.sl@gmail.com](mailto:gapsa.sl@gmail.com)) if you're interested in leading or being one of the singers. Also, we are collaborating with HR on lactation space and are organizing a nutrition talk with Student Health. We are also organizing more service events ala GAPSA Gives Back for this semester though I will spare you those details until they are finalized. If you have any suggestions, let EJ or a member of Student Life know.”

**International Affairs** – Ms. Menon reported that there will be another food cart event after Thanksgiving. There will be a screening of the Girl with the Dragon Tattoo on Monday (Nov. 22) at the GSC.

**Student Programs** – Ms. Murray reported that there are many upcoming events, including Harry Potter tickets, Cleopatra, Celtics–Sixers with Court Access, and a Thanksgiving Dinner the day after Thanksgiving at Philly Diner.

**Social Activities** – Ms. Yu stated that the Black and White Formal will be November 20th, the Law School Happy Hour November 19th, and a Nursing Happy Hour on December 8th. She stated that a Holiday Party was in planning stages, but did not have a date.

**Communications** – Mr. Pietrocola reported the winner of the GAPSA t-shirt slogan contest would be announced tonight, and that he is revamping the website.
Operations – Mr. Hore asked GA members to please submit their Certification forms.

V. Follow-up Questions on Reports

There were no questions.

VI. GSC Presentation of University Organization

Anita and DeAnna from the Graduate Student Center (GSC) discussed organization of the University, and which University leaders deal with what issues. They hope the information will be useful for GAPSA in advocating for student issues.

VII. GA Discretionary Fund Requests

The General Assembly voted to fund the Penn Med Winter Formal in the amount of $750.

VIII. GA Discretionary Fund Requests Open Forum: GA Focus Issues

The General Assembly broke off into small committees to discuss issues that were of concern to the various schools of the G12 and their constituents. Issues that arose included the Patrol Zone for Penn Safety, emergency child care, and shoveling of the Walnut & Chestnut St. bridges during inclement weather.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.