Minutes of the General Assembly Meeting on February 9th, 2010

The sixth regularly scheduled meeting of the GAPSA General Assembly was convened on February 9th, 2010 at 6:00 PM in Bodek Lounge in Houston Hall.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 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, Emily Joy Rothchild, Elizabeth Roodhouse, Carla Medalia, Nate Brill, Scott Ordway, Rachel Delgado, Ellen Kamei, Alison Baraty, Jeff Li, Amy Lynch, Jason Cantu, Rebecca Wetzler, Seattle Wang, Thai Nguyen, Giselle Liu, Stephanie Pasquesi, David Conklin, Punit Gouthi, Shaina Oake, Mark Francisco, Elizabeth Feldmeier, James Wiley, Kim Wexler, Benjamin Ediger, Julie Crudele, Vera Mucaj, Sam White, Jessica Langer, Gina Siddiqui, Nina Zhao, Justine Sefcik, Ehriel Fannin, Carla Robinson, Tracie Husted, Sadia Kalam, Emma Stanley, Laura O'Sullivan, Tony Altimore, Becac Kleinsein, Matthew Verghese.

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 Exec Board met with the Provost’s Office and that there would be good news at the end of the month regarding gym membership -- specifically no price increase. He also stated that there would be no General Assembly (GA) meeting during Penn’s Spring Break.

Vice Chair – Ms. Bratt is planning a Leadership Series and asked the GA to send her information regarding current leadership activities that they know of.
**Professional Students** – Mr. Udekwu stated that the Professional Council gave out more travel grants and academic funding, and that the President’s Award is coming along, with a deadline of February 15th.

**Research Students** – Mr. Solomon stated the Research Council gave money to a PennDesign student group for a Celebration of Design Research, and that travel grants would be processed soon.

**Finance** – Mr. J. Friedman stated that the State of Budget would be presented in the next meeting, and he would appreciate feedback for next year’s budget. Finally, he is working with Lynn Moller to have e-mail verification for any travel grant funding.

**Equity & Access** – Mr. H. Friedman stated that there is no news, but he tried for a Pluralis Council meeting in December. He would appreciate it if GA members would contact him about it if they are interested.

**Student Life** – Ms. Rothchild stated there was a Nutrition Talk last Friday (Jan 21st). It was sold-out, i.e., every seat was taken. She would like similar events for the rest of the semester.

**International Affairs** – Ms. Menon reported on two events: On Monday, a Valentine’s Day movie screening in the GSC, and on Feb 24th there will be karaoke at Mt. Fuji on Chestnut St. in Center City.

**Social Activities** – Ms. Yu stated that she has many events planned including the annual Dental School Stoplight Happy Hour, a Ritz Carlton mixology event, the Boat Cruise, and Phillies tickets.

**Student Programs** – Ms. Murray stated that Student Programs did a Knicks/76ers basketball game which sold out quickly. There will be a Comedy Show at World Cafe on Feb. 22nd, and a dinner at JG Domestics.

**Communications** – Mr. Pietrocola put several GAPSA promotional items on display for the GA including water bottles, coozies, and bottle openers. Since he has graduated, he stated that this would be his last GA meeting.

**Operations** – Mr. Hore reported nothing of great consequence, as usual, except that the post-meeting happy hour would be held at City Tap House.
V. Follow–up Questions on Reports
There were no questions.

VI. Election for Vice Chair of Communications
Punit Gouthi was elected as the replacement for David Pietrocola by a secret ballot election. He takes over the responsibilities as Vice Chair for Communications immediately.

VII. Funding Requests: VC for Student Programs
The GA voted by a simple majority to fund Student Programs for an additional $5,000 to promote more activities for the spring semester.

Also funded was was the Vet School’s Date a Doctor event in the amount of $750.

VIII. Student Group Data Gathering Initiative
Gina Siddiqui presented her initiative for fostering collaboration between various student groups on campus. She proposes that GAPSA compiles a list of organizations by name/cause/interest/etc. She asked that any GA member who is interested in assisting her in gathering and organizing data send an e-mail to gina.siddiqui@gmail.com

IX. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.