Minutes of the General Assembly Meeting on Dec. 2, 2009

The sixth regularly scheduled meeting of GAPSA General Assembly was convened on December 2nd, 2009 at 6:00 PM at the Penn Public Safety building at 4040 Chestnut St.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm.

II. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Present were: Corbett Brown, Lee Solomon, Ashley Goss, Varsha Jain, David Stein, Michelle Jacobson, Jade Palomino, Henry Friedman, David Conklin, Emily Joy Rothchild, Maher Zamel, Susan Haas, Melinda Nelson-Hurst, Suzanne Bratt, Bronwyn Wallace, Scott Ordway, Matthew Closter, Cara Bumgardner, Christie Chavez, Markus Hill, Kimberly Krasnow, David Pietrocola, Maria Murray, Swathi Madaiah, Majesh Abraham, Ria Varghese, Sven David Udekwu, Fernando P. Midence Mantilla, Jacqueline Simonet, Tammer Farid, Danish Nagda, Beth Froh, Margaret Yoho, Nicole Pasao, Rachel John, Ada Mi-Sedhi, Joanelle Hernandez, Steven Fernandez, David Bard, Shawn Kumar, Carl Lonnberg, Maneesh Nisargand, Sodany Sor. Quorum was declared.

III. Approval of the Minutes from Prior Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the General Assembly meeting on 11-18-09 was approved by a majority vote.

IV. Executive Board & Committee Reports

Due to the presentation by the Vice President for Public Safety Maureen Rush, no officer reports were given.

V. Public Safety Presentation

Vice President for Public Safety Maureen Rush gave a short presentation on campus safety. A question and answer session followed the presentation and the following topics were discussed: emergency contact information usage, RAD classes.

VI. GAPSA Awareness

Mr. Conklin inquired about the genesis for the focus issues. A discussion regarding how the GAPSA website was set up to facilitate awareness of GAPSA activities followed.
VII: Intellectual Property

Mr. Solomon reported his experience with intellectual property issues at Penn, particularly in his interaction with the Office of Tech Transfer. Ms. Chavez brought up the example of a recorded lecture uploaded to the Internet. Mr. Friedman suggested that GAPSA propose a resolution on campus-wide policy regarding intellectual property. Ms. Haas reminded the group that clarity was needed when discussing similar but independent concepts such as patents, copyrights, and other intellectual property. She also suggested forming a committee to discuss the issue and bring it back to the GA.

VIII: Community Service

Mr. Friedman wondered if it were possible to have a Civic House for graduate and professional students. Ms. Krasnow works at the Civic House and said that in her experience that working with GAPSA depended heavily on the GAPSA leadership. Mr. Friedman suggested developing a framework to ensure a closer relationship with Civic House in the future.

IX: Housing

Mr. Brown reported that renovation and other issues involving the Sansom graduate housing is being actively discussed with facilities.

X: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.