Minutes of the General Assembly Meeting on September 10, 2008

The first regularly scheduled meeting of GAPSA General Assembly was convened on September 10, 2008 at 6:10 PM in the Bodek Lounge in Houston Hall.

Welcome from Associate Provost Andy Binns

Associate Provost Andy Binns spoke to the General Assembly welcoming everyone, stating that GAPSA and graduate student government has been an important group for him to work with. Associate Provost Binns stated that he has worked with GAPSA very well in the past and there is plenty more to do as not all problems have been solved. He also stated that Anita from the Graduate Student Center has helped him understand graduate and professional student bodies’ needs and wants. Hearing from GAPSA is important as part of what student government does is ensure the administration recognizes problems and helps come up with solutions. Associate Provost Binns also emphasized the importance of having representation on various committees. He stated that he chairs the Student Health Insurance Advisory Committee (SHIAC) and the graduate student members are critical to understand student needs and views. These graduate students have helped shape policies while serving on that board and their input has been very useful. By representing graduate and professional students, GAPSA can help the faculty understand issues from a student perspective. Associate Provost Binns thanked everyone for taking time to help run student government and he looks forward to working with GAPSA in the future.

Introduction to the Executive Board

Chair

GAPSA Chair Andrew Rennekamp stated that the Chair runs the General Assembly meetings and is the liaison and main ‘go-to’ person for all of GAPSA to the administration. The Chair interacts with the administration frequently, sits on Trustee Committees, and interacts as the public face of GAPSA.

First Vice Chair

First Vice Chair Alejandro Hagan coordinates major operations including planning GradFest and the Leadership Retreat. The First Vice Chair also helps coordinate efforts with the other Vice Chairs and runs the Executive Board meetings.

Vice Chair for Communications

Vice Chair for Communications Alexandra Kotsovos runs the GAPSA website as well as coordinating public relations and GAPSA emails.

Vice Chair for Student Life

Vice Chair for Student Life Nikki Thorpe is in charge of monitoring and evaluating federal, state and university policies on non-academic issues. Such issues include housing,
transportation, and safety. Ms. Thorpe has a Student Life committee to assist her and it meets once a month to discuss student life issues.

Vice Chair for Finance

Vice Chair for Finance Christa Heyward is charged with drafting the budget and event funding. Ms. Heyward has an internal Finance Committee to assist her with these duties.

Vice Chair for Student Programs

Vice Chair for Student Programs Christina Arlt organizes recreational, community service, and cultural events for graduate and professional students. Ms. Arlt has a Student Programs committee to assist her.

Vice Chair for International Affairs

Interim Vice Chair for International Affairs Natalie Williams is in charge of running the International Council.

Vice Chair for Equity and Access

Vice Chair for Equity and Access Esther Agbaje is in charge of filling University Committees and running the Pluralism Council.

Vice Chair for Social Activities

Vice Chair for Social Activities Jessica Kim is in charge of planning social affairs such as large scale happy hours and annually occurring events such as the Annual Meet and Greet, the event at Moshulu and the Spring Boat Cruise.

Vice Chair for Professional Students

Vice Chair for Professional Students Mat Abramsky runs the Professional Student Council which represents professional students. Mr. Abramsky will be working closely with Anita from the GSC this year and focus on student recognition, student loan issues and other advocacy items.

Vice Chair for Operations

Vice Chair for Operations Sarah Smith is in charge of taking minutes and attendance, maintaining the email listserv, compiling the Certificates of Appointments and Internal Committee preferences, ordering the food, and any other administrative tasks.

Vice Chair for Research Students

GAPSA Chair Andrew Rennekamp stated that the Vice Chair for Research Students is in charge of running the Research Student Council and other advocacy items.

Icebreaker
Vice Chair for Social Activities Jessica Kim ran the General Assembly icebreaker.

**Structure of the University**

Using the provided flowchart, GAPSA Chair Andrew Rennekamp explained the central administration’s structure. One of GAPSA’s main functions is to interact with the central administration and the Trustees. The twelve graduate and professional schools have student governments that advocate at the school level. Penn is very decentralized; however, there exists a central administration which reports directly to the Trustees. The Trustees make the ultimate decisions but are only on campus every other month. Therefore the central administration is crucial to the everyday operation of the university. The central administration has four important people who oversee university operations: the President, the Executive Vice President, the Secretary and the Provost.

*The President*

The President of Penn is President Amy Guttmann and under her are many Vice Presidents. The President is in charge of public relations, ceremonial events and fundraising for the university. There is the Chief of Staff that oversees the Office of the President, the Vice President for Communications, the Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations, and the Vice President for Government and Community Affairs, which lobbies at the city and state level. There is also the Vice President for Institutional Affairs that keeps track of statistics. The General Council is a lawyer for the university and there is an entire office that deals with university legal issues. The Ombudsman is appointed by the university to advocate for anyone in the university. For example, if someone has a complaint or an issue, he or she can talk to the Ombudsman. There is also a Director of University Archived that keeps track of student records, including GAPSA notes. There is an Editor of the Almanac and the General Manager of WXPN, the radio station, under the Office of the President.

*The Executive Vice President*

The Executive Vice President of the university handles university operations. Under the Executive Vice President is the Vice President for Budget and Management Analysis, and the Vice President for Business Services, who is in charge of business, transit, dining services and retail that comes to campus. The Vice Chair of Student Life often interacts with the Office of Business Services. There is also the Vice President for the Department of Public Safety, the Vice President for Facilities and Real Estate Services, and the Treasurer and Vice President for Finance. There is also the Vice President for Human Resources who is responsible for hiring people for the university. Penn is the second largest hiring institution in PA. There is also the Vice President for Information and Systems Computing and the Chief Investment Officer, who is in charge of investing the university endowment.

*Secretary*

The Secretary runs meetings and administrative duties for the university. There is a Director for Operations and Technology, a Director for Boards and Recruitment. The Secretary ensures that the Trustee Meetings run smoothly and keeps records to be transferred to Archives. The University Council Associate Director keeps track of the University Council and takes the minutes.
The Health System

There is also somewhat separated from this administrative branch the CEO of the Health System. The Health System makes up about half of the university and has a separate CEO to run this. GAPSA does not interact much with this branch.

Provost

The Provost is in charge of the academic side of the university. All the deans report to the Provost. There is the Associate Provost for Education, the Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, and the Vice Provost for Research, who oversees material transfers and ensures that the university is compliant in research standards, and oversees patents, and technology innovations. There is also the Vice Provost for University Life who is in charge of student life, student health and the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and is someone with whom GAPSA interacts frequently. There is also the Vice Provost and Director of Libraries and the Director of Graduate Student Center, Anita Mastroieni, who will come to talk to the GA in the future. There is also the Director of International Student Scholars Program and the Director of the Office of Student Conduct to whom GAPSA will send representatives to a student’s disciplinary hearing. In addition, there is the Chaplain and the Director of Recreation and Intercollegiate Athletics, with whom the Vice Chair of Student Life frequently interacts.

GAPSA Chair Andrew Rennekamp mentioned that GA representatives may go through the Executive Board if they have issues that would like to be addressed by the university administration.

GAPSA Structure

First Vice Chair Alejandro Hagan explained that GAPSA covers every aspect of graduate student life, including the academic, social, professional, and research sides. Within GAPSA, there are professional students, masters students, PhD and doctoral students. GAPSA has both a professional and research council. There is also an international council and different policy councils and advisory councils. Members of the GAPSA Executive Board meet directly meet with the Trustees. GAPSA is mandated by the Trustees to exist as a student run body. GAPSA Chair Andrew Rennekamp added that many University committees have graduate student input. Mr. Hagan explained that a GAPSA representative can bring up issues and receive reports back from the committees. Most committee meetings’ minutes are public. It is more efficient for the University Committees representatives to report back to the associated GAPSA committee or council and then these report back to the General Assembly. However, at any time, a General Assembly member can request the University Committee representatives to directly report back to the assembly. If there is anything a General Assembly member wishes to know more about, he or she can ask to invite an administrator to speak at the meeting. The Executive Board will leave this up to the General Assembly to decide what they wish to heat about. The provided GAPSA structure chart is not a flow of power chart as the General Assembly decides what GAPSA does. The General Assembly has the power to tell the Executive Board how to act. The General Assembly sends twelve school and three Executive Board representatives to the University Council. The Executive Board representatives are GAPSA Chair Andrew Rennekamp, First Vice Chair Alejandro Hagan and Vice Chair for Professional Students Mat Abramsky. This council, which meets on Wednesdays before the GA meetings, is an important council and twelve
representatives from each of the twelve graduate and professional schools need to be appointed to sit on this council. The first meeting is in two weeks and there will be present undergraduate, faculty senate, administration, and staff representatives as well as the President, the Provost and the Secretary. During the GAPSA GA meetings, the first hour will always be devoted to the two councils, Professional and Research. The first of these council meetings will occur on September 24th.

GAPSA Handbook

GAPSA Chair Andrew Rennekamp provided a GAPSA 2008-2009 handbook for all General Assembly members. Included at the beginning are a table of contents and a welcome letter. On page 4 is an excerpt from the Statutes of the Trustees detailing the GAPSA Charter. GAPSA is mandated to exist and to have a voice on campus. On pages 5-6 there are the organization charts used at the beginning of this meeting. The GAPSA Constitution starts on page 7. It is important to understand the constitution. Mr. Rennekamp stated that if ever a General Assembly member feels that the constitution is not being followed, then he or she must let the Executive Board aware of this. The constitution is written to protect students’ rights and governing in a fair way. The constitution is a good introduction to what GAPSA does. On page 33, there is a summary guide to GAPSA General Assembly meetings, what the powers of the General Assembly are, what can a General Assembly member ask of the Executive Board, details about Robert’s Rules, etc. At the end of the handbook, there is a description of the University Committees and there will be a list of appointees’ names. In addition, there are schedules in the handbook detailing General Assembly meetings and University Council meetings. There is also a list of the Executive Board members, contact information, deputy vice chairs being appointed, a list of school government leaders, a list of professional and research council members in the future and nominees for university committees. The budget will be included in this manual once it is approved. Mr. Rennekamp also reminded everyone to list their preferences for GAPSA internal committees and to give their choices to Vice Chair for Operations Sarah Smith.

Robert’s Rules

Vice Chair for Professional Students Mat Abramsky has been appointed Parliamentarian by the GAPSA Chair this year and with the consent of the General Assembly he will help to keep meetings in order, on time. This year Robert’s Rules will be used effectively and as a learning tool members may use in the future at other meetings. At every meeting, a new Robert’s Rules concept will be introduced. If any GA member is familiar with these Rules, then he or she can help everyone learn. Mr. Abramsky detailed the history of Robert’s Rules and some major points. For example, quorum can be set by bylaws, but otherwise is a simple majority. If quorum does not exist, then the meeting is defunct. In the GAPSA Constitution, according to Article II.D.4, “A General Assembly meeting does not exist without a quorum. A quorum shall exist when at least a majority professional student School Representatives and a majority of research student School Representatives, representing at least seven schools and at least three members of the Executive Board with voting privileges are present. If a professional or research school is not able to send a School Representative, the school’s student government may abstain from filling this seat, and the unfilled seat shall not count toward quorum.” Mr. Abramsky stressed the importance of attendance at the General Assembly meetings and there is no excuse for a member’s seat to not be filled. A member may designate a proxy to attend the meeting and this may be a member from the
representative’s school. Vice Chair of Operations Sarah Smith must be notified of any absence or proxy. If no quorum exists, then a meeting can be called to order; however, the only options would be to adjourn or to recess. For the GAPSA GA meetings, the order of the meetings will be Notice, Call to Order, Roll Call/Quorum, Order of Business, and Approval of the day’s agenda. The agenda and the previous meeting’s minutes are approved at the beginning of the meeting; however, the agenda may be changed at any time. The GA can suggest any item to be put on the agenda. The agenda is only a recommendation of the Executive Board. If any member wishes to put anything on future agendas, they should email Ms. Smith. Mr. Abramsky stated that a resolution is a motion, only more formal. Matters of business brought by the Executive Board on the agenda will be in resolution format with the Executive Board member’s name beside it. The member can present his or her resolution for 2-3 minutes and then proceed with the motion. Motions can be raised during the meeting. If someone makes a motion, then the motion needs a seconder, and then a debate follows. The debate will be focused to the discussion and will be item limited with a very specific speakers list. If a member waves to Mr. Abramsky, he or she will be put on the speakers list. If the debate is contentious, then Mr. Abramsky will attempt to alternate the speakers list between positions. Members may ask questions that will be directed to GAPSA Chair Andrew Rennekamp and then he will direct the questions appropriately. Then after the debate finishes, there will be a call to question, which means voting on the motion. There are different types of voting, ways to delay motions and procedures to amend motions. On page 35-40 of the GAPSA handbook, there is a cheat sheet of Robert’s Rules. These Rules have been quite effective when used during the Executive Board meetings. Using the Rules will be trial and error but everyone will learn from them and be more engaged in the meeting. Mr. Rennekamp mentioned that if anyone is ever confused about a motion or something else, he or she can do a point of inquiry to the Chair which interrupts the current discussion. There is a glossary of Robert’s Rules terms on pages39-40 and a quick guide on pages 41-42 that prioritizes motions. A motion further up on this list can interrupt a motion lower on the list. If a motion is out of order, the Chair will state this and explain why it is out of order. A member can appeal to the decision of the Chair if the GA does not agree with a Chair’s decision. After this appeal, there will be a second, a debate, and then the Chair will defend his decision. There is an order to all proceedings. If a motion is beyond the scope of the Assembly, then the Chair will state that it is out of order. This will make meetings more efficient and help all members to have a voice. Mr. Abramsky mentioned that Robert’s Rules are meant to be malleable yet still allow meetings to run and still be impartial. Technically a member is only allowed to speak twice to any given motion. Robert’s Rules are being used to make the best of GAPSA meeting time.

New GAPSA Website

Vice Chair for Communications Alexandra Kotsovos stated that the new GAPSA website will be up and running soon on the address: www.gapsa.upenn.edu. The website will be more user friendly and easier to run. There will be a Google calendar listing meetings and events, the GAPSA Constitution, the Executive Board members list, meeting locations and times, and events. On the side will be a link to the Landlord survey which is a database of local landlords and tenant comments detailing experiences with their landlords. There will also be a gallery of pictures from every event throughout the year.

Proposed Budget Report
GAPSA Chair Andrew Rennekamp mentioned that in the GAPSA Constitution in Article VII.E.2, “The Vice Chair for Finance shall present to the Executive Board a final, detailed budgetary and expenditure report for the prior academic year no later than the first day of December in each academic year. This report shall remain on file with the Executive Board and shall be available for review by any member of the General Assembly.” In addition, the constitution states in Article VIII.A.2, “Prior to the second scheduled General Assembly meeting of the fall semester, the Vice Chair for Finance shall propose a final budget to be approved by the General Assembly. No GAPSA funds may be spent after that date without General Assembly approval of a budget.” Thus, if a budget is not approved by the second GA meeting, GAPSA cannot spend any more money.

Vice Chair for Finance Christa Heyward distributed the proposed 2008-2009 GAPSA budget. School governments receive a certain amount of money depending on how many and what types of students are in each school. Some schools, such as Nursing, SP2 and Medicine have more than one student government. The GSC line item is for funding the Navigation Series. This is a long-term agreement to run programming benefiting TAs and doctoral students. The GSC appoints an intern to monitor this. The Interdisciplinary Fellowship involves students performing interdisciplinary work. GAPSA reviews these and funds these students over the summer. The Office of the Provost matches the GAPSA contribution. Under budget allocation, the Chair/Ops budget includes general administrative costs such as food, GA happy hours, and other items to help run GAPSA. Under Communications, the costs for the website and flyers are included. Each Vice Chair has a budget. Last year, GAPSA did not spend its entire budget and the GSC came to GAPSA to ask for funding to paint the GSC and the GA last year approved this. GAPSA representative David Vafek asked the reason the School of Arts and Sciences’ budget tripled in the past year. GAPSA Chair Andrew Rennekamp explained that the type of PhD changes with how long a student was at the university. The money comes from the student General Fee. A PhD student at the university pays the full General Fee but the students attending the university for over 5 years pays one-fourth of the General Fee. In the past, SAS students at the university for more than three years did not pay anything and the numbers of these types of students is rather large in SAS. Because the university changed its policy on how to charge PhD students, the school governments will receive more or less money to reflect this. This is an important change and if any member is still confused or would like to see the hard data, he or she can email Mr. Rennekamp. The students who paid the General Fee in the past now pay less but the students that were never charged in the past now pay more. Thus, the latter types of students contribute more to the General Fee pool. GAPSA gives money back to the school governments based on how much the students of that school pay into the fee pool. Professional schools governments are seeing a decrease in their budgets as each student now individually pays less of a General Fee. Wharton receives more money since Wharton students pay more of a General Fee. GAPSA representative Pradibha Bajaj asked what the allocated budget is. Mr. Rennekamp stated that the allocated budget is based on the General Fee and the percentage of the General Fee the student is paying to the university. The dollar amount is based on what the school governments receive back from GAPSA. If anyone is concerned, do not wait until the next meeting to ask as the budget must be passed at the second GA meeting. Mr. Rennekamp stated that this is an interesting demographic study and welcomes any questions concerning this. Vice Chair for Professional Students Mat Abramsky asked the reason that the Vice Chair for Research Students’ budget is three times more than the Vice Chair for Professional Students’ budget. Mr. Rennekamp explained that this issue is related to a few years ago when there were two governments one for research students (GSAC) and one for graduate students (GAPSA). The Navigation Series funds were technically part of the Research Student budget but with the merging of the two governments,
GAPSA decided that this Series was important to fund. The Office of the Provost gives $20,000 for research student travel grants and this is not part of the GAPSA budget. GAPSA had a verbal agreement with the Office of the Provost to fund professional student travel grants but this has not happened yet. Mr. Abramsky stated that this year the Professional Council will advocate for this. Mr. Rennekamp continued, stating that the professional council is relatively new and the formation of this council was important so students can lobby for professional student-specific issues. Research students in the past had already had a government (GSAC) to lobby for them. There are historical reasons that research students receive money. Now the professional council can work with the administration to help fund professional students’ education. The administration will be more willing to help fund if GAPSA puts up money as well. The amount of professional travel grant funding doubled last year as professional students are becoming more aware of the existence of travel grants. Vice Chair for Finance Christa Heyward mentioned that neither the Professional nor the Research Council receives additional money. The money is spent on separate meetings to pay for food and this money will come out of the budget allotted to each Vice Chair. Ms. Heyward stated that the Vice Chairs can do whatever they wish with their line items as long as they stay within their budget. GAPSA representative David Vafek asked the reason the GradFest budget is being reduced. Ms. Heyward stated that two years ago GradFest funding was supposed to be from outside funding. Last year, a great deal of work went into receiving funding. The GradFest event is not sustainable for GAPSA alone to fund each year. The GradFest issue will either be sizing or more fundraising. First Vice Chair Alejandro Hagan will be attempting to institutionalize GradFest and is currently taking applications for his GradFest committee. The GAPSA surplus cannot be spent down on one yearly event. If many students from the different schools attend, then perhaps the school governments can help fund GradFest. Mr. Rennekamp stated that the GAPSA budget needs to be sustainable. GAPSA tries to keep non-sustainable events out of the budget. If the GA decides to put more money into GradFest, then they have the power to do so, but the money must come from either the surplus or from more fundraising. Ms. Heyward stated that members must think about how much money each budget line item should receive. The Chair recognized the submission of the proposed budget and thanked Ms. Heyward.

University Committee Seats and Deputy Vice Chairs

Vice Chair for Equity and Access Esther Agbaje stated that the names on the list in the GAPSA handbook are correct. There are about twenty open seats on the University Committees such as the Student Health Insurance Advisory Board, PennInTouch Advisory Board, Counseling and Psychological Services Advisory Board, etc. Everyone on the list has been notified of their pending commitment. These members will attend the council meetings and any other policy council meetings associated with it. If there are any questions or comments, email Ms Agbaje. Ms. Agbaje stated that Deputy Vice Chairs have been added to help out the Vice Chairs with their efforts. Ms. Agbaje will be sending out a list of who will fill these positions. GAPSA Chair Andrew Rennekamp stated that the Deputy Vice Chairs are approved by the General Assembly. Mr. Rennekamp also stated that some spaces on the University Committees are reserved for International Council members. The University Council has not been filled yet as well. The Chair recognized that the list of nominees has been submitted by the Vice Chair for Equity and Access and thanked Ms. Agbaje.

University Council Seats
GAPSA Chair Andrew Rennekamp stated that according to Article IX.A.1 of the GAPSA Constitution, “There are fifteen seats on the University Council reserved for graduate and professional students. All graduate and professional student representatives to the University Council shall be members of GAPSA,” and in Article IX.A.2, the Constitution states, “Ideally, one Representative from each graduate school should serve on the University Council.” Mr. Rennekamp stressed the importance of appointing representatives from each of the twelve graduate and professional schools. Mr. Rennekamp suggested that the GAPSA representatives of each school meet and self-appoint a representative to the University Council. Mr. Rennekamp stated that the representatives should meet now since the first University Council meeting is before the next regularly scheduled GA meeting. If a school is not present at this first GA meeting, a University Council representative may be selected later, but Mr. Rennekamp would like to see participation in the University Council.

Resignation of the Vice Chair for International Affairs

GAPSA Chair Andrew Rennekamp received a letter of resignations from Saurabh Madaan, the former Vice Chair for International Affairs. Mr. Madaan will no longer be a student at Penn anymore as he has graduated from his program. The Chair has accepted the letter of resignation and will be given to Vice Chair for Operations Sarah Smith for record keeping. Mr. Rennekamp stated that any student who is also an international student may be nominated for this position and nominations will be accepted up until the start of the election. According to the GAPSA Constitution, Article V.A.7 states, “The General Assembly shall be given no fewer than ten days notice of a special election to fill a vacancy on the Executive Board,” and Article V.A.8. states, “The Vice Chair for Equity and Access shall oversee the elections process and conduct an annual review of the election rules.” Vice Chair for Equity and Access Esther Agbaje will run this special election. Vice Chair for Social Activities has nominated current Interim Vice Chair for International Affairs Natalie Williams. Mr. Rennekamp stated that any graduate or professional student can give nominations and they may be emailed to Ms. Agbaje.

Resignation of the Vice Chair for Research Students

GAPSA Chair Andrew Rennekamp has also received a letter of resignation from Vicky Doan-Nguyen, the former Vice Chair for Research Students. Ms. Doan-Nguyen will no longer be a student at Penn as she is transferring to another program. The Chair has accepted the letter of resignation and will be given to Vice Chair for Operations Sarah Smith for record keeping. Mr. Rennekamp stated that both Ms. Doan-Nguyen and Mr. Madaan wished to stay at Penn and serve on the GAPSA Executive Board but their career decisions took them both in a different path. Mr. Rennekamp stated that the nominations for Vice Chair for Research Students are now open and will be accepted up until the start of the special election which will be held on October 8th, the third regularly scheduled GA meeting. Elections for both positions will occur on this day. As of this meeting, no nominations for Vice Chair for Research Students had been received.

POD Happy Hour
Vice Chair for Finance Christa Heyward distributed a flyer for the POD GA happy hour detailing what types of drinks can be ordered. This year there are more drink choices. There will be no limit on drink tickets but tickets will be needed to receive drinks.

**GAPSA Standing committees**

**Student Programs**

Vice Chair for Student Programs Christina Arlt explained that her GAPSA Student Life standing committee helps plan recreational, community service and cultural events for graduate and professional students. Tickets to these events are purchased through the Graduate Student Center. Ms. Arlt also mentioned that tickets to Vice Chair for Social Activities Jessica Kim’s events can also be purchased through the GSC. Ms. Arlt has planned a trip to an orchard where students can pick apples and pumpkins, go on a hayride and sit around a bonfire. Ms. Arlt stated that her previous event, the Schuylkill River Kayak Tour, sold out in six minutes so she may plan another event similar to this. In the past, Ms. Arlt has also planned a minigolf event and a trip to the Reading Terminal Market with a food critic. On October 3rd, there will be a trip to Terror Behind the Walls, one of the best haunted houses in the United States. Ms. Arlt currently has two Deputy Vice Chairs. Dukyoung Lee will serve as one of the Deputy Vice Chairs for Student Programs and help plan community service activities. Stephanie Wujcik will serve as another Deputy Vice Chair for Student Programs and help plan recreational events. Ms. Arlt stated that if any GA member would like to be involved in planning these types of events, including a dodgeball and volleyball tournament, and art museum trips, to join her Student Programs committee.

**Social Activities**

Vice Chair for Social Activities Jessica Kim explained that her GAPSA Social Activities committee helps plan large annual events such as the Strikes Happy Hour, the Moshulu Meet and Greet, the GAPSA Halloween party and the spring Boat Cruise. In addition, Ms. Kim helps plan the school sponsored happy hours where the school gives GAPSA space and advertises the event while GAPSA pays for the food. At most of these events, alcohol will be served, but anyone is welcome even if they do not drink. Ms. Kim also helps plan bar happy hours outside of main campus, large scale interactive activities, bowling and karaoke. Tim Shokair will serve as the Deputy Vice Chair for Social Activities. Ms. Kim stated that is anyone is interested in planning social events to join her Social Activities committee.

**Finance**

Vice Chair for Finance Christa Heyward stated that her GAPSA Finance Committee helps manage the budget and allocate money to various student groups. There is currently no Deputy Vice Chair for Finance and if anyone is interested they should contact Ms. Heyward to set up an interview.

**Communications**

Vice Chair for Communications Alexandra Kotsovos explained that her Public Relations committee helps with advertising by making and posting flyers. This committee will be small and Ms. Kotsovos stated if anyone is interested in a smaller time-commitment committee to
join her Public Relations committee. Jill Varialle will serve as the Deputy Vice Chair for Communications.

**Student Life**

Vice Chair for Student Life Nikki Thorpe explained that her GAPSA Student Life committee deals with housing and transportation issues. The committee will conduct a campus wide student analysis of what graduate and professional students’ housing needs are. The committee also helps formulate policy. Last year the committee helped start the Octobus which was a transportation initiative for graduate and professional students. However, the administration cancelled this project due to lack of ridership. Therefore, this year the committee will shift focus towards bicycling on campus, including bike safety, bike racks and sheds, and bike sharing programs. In addition, the committee will focus on sustainability, safety, and health issues. Pierre Gooding will serve as the Deputy Vice Chair for Student Life.

**Announcements**

GAPSA Chair Andrew Rennekamp announced several upcoming important events that are listed on the GAPSA website. There will be a panel discussion concerning the Russia-Georgia region and recent events in that area. There is also an orientation meeting for members of the University Committees. On October 1st, there will be the GAPSA-Provost Interdisciplinary Awards poster session. On October 4th from 2-5pm, there will be a team building event and GA outing. More details on this will be revealed in the future. On October 22nd, there will be a Townhall meeting before the scheduled GA meeting. Vice Chair for Social Activities Jessica Kim announced that the Atlantic City trip tickets have gone on sale and that the Moshulu Meet and Greet tickets will be going on sale soon.

**Adjournment**

GAPSA representative Leslie Warden motioned to adjourn. GAPSA representative Tim Shokair seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.