AGENDA FOR THE FOURTH GA MEETING OF 2015-2016

Wednesday, November 4, 2015
6:00-8:30 pm

Houston Hall
Ben Franklin Room

I. Dinner is served in Ben Franklin Room (218). 6:00 - 6:15 pm

II. Professional and Research Councils: 6:15 pm-7:15 pm
   Professional Council: Ben Franklin Room
   Research Council: Bishop White Room

III. Welcome – Chair – 7:15– 7:20 pm.
   • Welcome back, feels like we’ve been a long time since we’ve all been together
   • Thanks for coming to the GA retreat, thanks to Katie for planning a fabulous night
   • Select committee still meeting next door, they are not absent and will be joining us soon

IV. Vice Chairs stand for questions—see updates below—7:20-7:30 pm

Chair – Samantha Miller
   • Thanks to everyone who attended the GA Retreat on October 21.
   • University Council Open Forum: Wednesday, December 2, 2015
   • Second Fall 2015 PAC meeting being scheduled for late November, early December
   • So far, GAP funds have been used to support seven interdisciplinary events
   • Remind your constituencies that funding applications are now open

Vice Chair – Kelsey Van Gelder
   • Over the past few weeks, I’ve been working on finalizing GradFest payments and budgets.
   • I’ve been working with Miriam to identify a person/platform to redesign the GAPSA website.
   • I’ve also been working on the upcoming Executive Board leadership retreat (takes place biannually in January and May).
   • I’ve also been working with Penn Athletics to set up a Grad Student Mixer at a Penn Basketball game on February 19th.

VC for Communications – Miriam Archibong
   • Created GAPSA weekly
   • Updated the GAPSA Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter Pages #UPennGapsa--Please add us and encourage others to add us too
   • Met with people interested in re-creating the GAPSA website
   • Met with student photographer about GAPSA photo shoot
   • Developed ideas for We GAPSA... Do you campaign?
   • Worked on ideas for State of Campus Address
VC for Equity and Access – Justine Sefcik

VC for Finance – Paul Welfer
- Fund applications are open through 11/18/15 for the Student Group Events and Synergy funds. Discretionary and GAP funds accept rolling applications.

VC for International Affairs – Sangya Agarwal
- Attending International Student Table for Advocacy and Relations (ISTAR)* - comprised of ISAB 2 co-chairs and members, AIS President and External VP, GAPSA Vice Chair for International Affairs, and UA Student Representative (formerly known as International Student Roundtable --- for international student advocacy and a unified voice for all international students at Penn
- Preparing for the International Partners Outreach Group (IPOG) - comprised of Penn high level administrators and international student leaders on November 10, 2015
- Planning for the second Select Committee subcommittee meeting.

VC for Operations – Katherine France
- Thanks to all who came out to the GA retreat at Lucky Strike! I hope you all had fun! If you have any feedback about that event or every have feedback about meetings and related logistical questions, please don't hesitate to reach out!
- All historical GAPSA material is now housed in the University Archives where it will be organized and properly cared for
- Coming up: small group dinners with Vice Chairs! Look out for a sign up coming soon!
- We had a productive meeting with Amy Gutmann a few weeks ago in which we gave her updates on the work of each Vice Chair so far. If you are interested to learn more, please talk to someone on the executive board
- We have been continuing conversations about how to most appropriately distribute GA seats, including representing all different degree programs, and ensuring that numbers are correct based on enrollment

VC for Professional Students – Taylor Knoche
- Professional Fall Travel Grant Open (Nov. 1 - Nov. 30)
- Leadership Series - Developing a Vision
- Workshop Development/Planning
- Potentials: (Business Workshop/Certificate; Financial Aid Workshop/Panel)

VC for Research Students – Laura Bryant
- Travel Grant applications are now open

VC for Social Activities – Erica Shim

VC for Student Life – Kristian Taketomo

VC for Student Programs – Ruiyuan Ma

VCs for Equity and Access and International Affairs - Select Committee
- Any questions on vice chair updates?
- Seeing none, we will move on

V. New Business – 7:30 pm – 8:00 pm
a. Update on Sexual Violence & Harassment Prevention Taskforce

b. Discussion about the AAU Sexual Violence Survey Results

See, [http://www.upenn.edu/ir/aau-campus-climate-survey.html](http://www.upenn.edu/ir/aau-campus-climate-survey.html)

- Katie printed name tags, new meeting protocol will be when you come in, grab your name tag and that of anyone you are proxying for, you have to have submitted the proxy by the appropriate time, also please submit the name tags at the end so we don’t kill the earth every week
- Sexual assault task force- 2 people have expressed interest but it would be great to have more. At the same time, we don’t want to wait until January to get going so please tell Sam by Friday if you have interest and the task force will come together
- Question: Just GA members or also constituencies? Just GA members for now so we can figure out what we want to do and we will branch out from there
- Peter Thatcher is here to discuss the fossil fuel divestment platform
  - Last year the undergraduates submitted a platform saying that they wanted the University to divest from any fossil fuel sources they were invested in, wants to introduce it to us today so we can take it back to the schools and get feedback
  - Go over endowment information first so we’re all on the same page, but I’m sure its not new to most of you
  - Nonprofit institutions have endowments, Penn’s is 10.1 billion dollars currently invested in funds, both in direct funds and with money managers that have co-mingled funds where they invest all of their money jointly
  - Divestment is a decision to not invest in a certain area of business due to moral concerns
  - Divestment has been used in the past for example in South Africa, tobacco, Sudan, HEI hotels due to unlawful labor practices after a student lead campaign
  - Fossil fuel divestment campaign began 3-5 years ago and we are running this campaign for a lot of reasons. The main one is that there are a lot of reasons to be concerned about fossil fuels especially political at a local and global level. The idea is that if we divest then it will become less political and politicians will be less likely to take money from these companies as has happened with tobacco, South Africa, etc.
  - Around 30-40 schools have divested from fossil fuels including the New School which has divested completely, Stanford, Georgetown and other institutions. Most of these have invested in coal instead
  - When you divest, the money has to be re-invested somewhere and a lot of that is renewable energy
  - At Penn divestment is being pushed by a group called Fossil Free Penn, which has 3 goals: 1) Immediately freeze new investment 2) remove direct and co-mingled holdings in the top 200 fossil fuel companies within 5 years 3) reinvest a portion of the extricated funds into clean energy assets
  - September 2014- campaign founded
  - February 2015- undergraduate student referendum passes with 87.8% support
  - October 2015- proposal for divestment submitted to University Council Steering Committee
  - Supported by 56 alumni and figures including Noam Chomsky, 19 student/campus organizations
  - Like to open up the conversation about divestment, endowments, investments, fossil fuels
  - Question: What are Penn’s requirements to divest from something? What is being brought forward has to be a moral evil. Submitted a research proposal basing that theory, also need University-wide consensus
  - Question: timeline? Normally around 6 months, first a proposal to UC steering committee which decides whether to make an ad hoc committee to study the issue, based on that they decide to submit to the trustees and they decide
  - Question: Two years ago there was a campaign to divest from tobacco with university consensus that the trustees voted down: what lessons and what you are doing differently? Firstly, in the tobacco case the proposal was a little short, we have put more effort in. They also did not work
much with students; it was primarily faculty led, we are looking for a wider university consensus. We are aware of how high Penn’s expectations are for the proposal

- Question: Is there any other element that’s more about awareness than about divestment? If the trustees vote it down, is there a plan to continue the work? In our organizing we try to support all efforts for climate action and additionally are prepared to run the campaign in the long haul. The Apartheid campaign took 6-7 years for divestment, hopeful this will not take that long but at the same time we understand that it might

- Question: If you bring this to the trustees when prices are low they might be more willing to divest, have you taken timing into that? We cannot pay attention too much to the short term value of these investments, Penn is not supposed to look into short term value of investments anyway, and looking at the long term value that does not look good. Fossil fuel burning cannot continue if the temperatures continue to rise at the current level which is what scientific consensus supports. Multiple studies about why fossil fuel divestment does not negatively affect portfolios, saying portfolios do not perform worse and sometimes better than those that do not include fossil fuels

- Question: There exists a campus social responsibility group, last year there was a GAPSA representative on that, have you talked to them? They do not really fit into this process directly because of how the bureaucracy works, we are in touch with some of them individually but not really as a group

- Question: Is the information about the endowment open to everyone, how would we find out if they did in fact divest? If they said they had divested they would be telling the truth, they aren’t very open about the investment, we don’t know exactly how much of the endowment is invested in fossil fuels, we estimate 3% based on the companies they use for fund management but very few universities have transparent investments

- Question: Is there anyone on the board of trustees that is working in the industry? No CEOs of oil companies on the board

- Question: Isn’t the former governor on the board? He has spoken out against fossil fuel divestment in the board, but does get his money from the industry

- Question: When would you foresee a graduate student referendum if there is to be one? We don’t see it happening in the same way as with undergraduates, but I don’t think it would be worse to have one. There is something in the UA constitution saying you can have a question on the ballot that becomes an official referendum and if there are 15% turnout and over 50% support, 3,300 students voted in this case. For graduate students a referendum, survey, or motion could work well, we can talk about when would work well but we’d like to have it in the next few months so we’re in line with the bureaucratic process that would be ending at the end of the spring semester

- Question: If you were to offer a charge to people at this point, what would it be? The graduate system is not set up to have a referendum in the same way, we can do surveys and say where we did that but it wouldn’t have the same authority, we are representative of the students in all 12 schools, what would be your advice to bring back to the school? Talk to your constituents about their views, our end goal would be a resolution in favor of fossil fuel divestment, if you want to have us come in and hold an information session at each school we can. Maybe each school can tackle it in their own way if they’re interested or you could vote per school

- Question: Can we put your email in the minutes if people want to reach out? Yes, for questions please reach hapthacher@gmail.com

- Reach out to your executive boards, get more feedback to figure out if as a body we want to get more data to see how people are feeling about that, we’ll have a brief discussion in 2 weeks to see how people are feeling and if we can move forward

- Kelsey on an athletic event that will be happening in February

- Been working with Penn athletics, have been trying to get Penn students to attend Penn sporting events, they’re working hard to get our groups involved
- Working to develop a mixer before a basketball game, our team is decent, games are in the Palestra which is nice, offering to cohost a mixer either there or in the Dunning coaching house, I’m curious how to get people to go
- Free alcohol
- And food- SAS and design co-host a tailgate once a year that gets people to go to football games
- Freebies
- Penn students are free but guests are not- would that make a difference? Yes
- Warm up game with the Penn team, something that engages
- Slam dunk contest
- Penn athletics swag or GAPSA swag
- What do they do during half time? They have student groups
- Date is February 19, it’s a Friday night at 6, two student groups performing- an a capella group and a dance team
- We could have a competition with the other team’s graduate students, incentivize them to come
- 2 graduate students on the cheerleading team, we have a showcase Friday at 7, homecoming game the next day
- Lots of interest in a graduate student half time show
- Can we get tickets to Penn relays? That’s a really cool event that people actually want to attend
- Think you can get in with a Penn card
- Graduate students want to bring a spouse or a family, that’s an issue we are talking about with Penn athletics

- Break off for committees, come back at 8 to report back, encourage everyone to have someone other than the vice chair report back

VI. Committee Meetings – 8:00 pm to 8:15 pm

VII. Committee Presentations – 8:15 – 8:25 p.m.

- No communications update
- Finance- Andy Wu: Paul Welfer is out on travel, funds now open. Please encourage your constituents to apply for student group, discretionary, and G12 synergy funding
- Social- two events coming up: thanksgiving dinner and holiday party on December 5, marketing material out soon, please help spread the word
- Equity and Access- Dylan Frendt: undergraduates and graduates have one major amalgamation of environmental groups, going to figure out how to get the GAPSA logo on their business and have a permanent representative. Discussed a big focus on getting the word out, transparency, making people aware of many resources, working with communications, finding different catchy, fun, meaningful ways to get the word out about these resources. Also having a dinner soon to talk about what initiatives different people care about
- International- planning about social events, we were going to have one now going to have 3: intercultural film festival, dance party, food for international students from different cuisines
- Student life- Noelle Kaplan: going to start a grad student run club, going to make a Facebook page and send it out, going to be self organized to allow for people who are interested in running to connect and connect people when it makes sense, going to kick it off by organizing one run next week or weekend, going to wrap in a social aspect through beers or brunch. Need feedback on names if anyone has ideas you can share them now or later. Who is interested? Many in the GA.
  - As a model, could do like the November project- anyone who wants to go goes and the events are always open. They also do social events
  - Philly runner is doing free yoga on Sunday mornings
  - Wellness day/wellness week to be wrapped into finals but concerned about timing, see how that goes and if there is space at the graduate student center, figure out where there’s space and we
will have chair massages, puppies, meditation or free yoga. If you have ideas, feedback, or puppies, let us know. If we can’t get it together in time might do it after break as a cleanse

- Student programs- apple picking trip this Saturday, Daming organized a shopping mall trip on the 17th, sold all the tickets, Thanksgiving and Christmas is coming so we might have one in December or late November, also a game between the Flyers and New Jersey Devils also sold out
- Research- no additional update
- Professional- working on an initiative to understand finances and financial literacy, might be a panel, currently working on what that looks like and who is interested
- Operations- Sean McKee: pick up your name tags at the beginning of meetings and put them back at the end of meetings. If you haven’t yet, check out the sign ups for small group dinners, it’s a good way to get to know people and vice chairs
  - What is the thinking behind name tags, how does that increase accountability? Arguably it doesn’t, we need you guys to be very honest, it helps you get to know each other, helps people with names, and will help with voting
- Select committee- meeting with Provost Price, Vice Provost Beth Winklestein, Anita from GSC, they were very impressed and this group and the meeting will probably become an annual event
- Vice Chair- President Gutmann leadership award applications are open

VIII. Open Forum: -- 8:25-8:30
- Heads up: We are planning to take a picture of the GA at the next meeting if the polo shirts come in time so do whatever you have to do to be ready for that
- Open forum: none
- Email if you are interested in joining the sexual assault task force
- If you have questions about divestment email peter but make sure you talk to your constituents

IX. Adjournment.

X. Happy Hour! At City Tap House (39th and Walnut Sts)