AGENDA FOR THE FIFTH GA MEETING OF 2015-2016

Wednesday, November 18, 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.
   • Really busy agenda tonight, we’re going to try run everything efficiently so that we can cover all of the items and still get out on time
   • If you have questions about Vice Chair updates, they are in the agenda, please email the individual Vice Chairs or find them to ask questions
   • We are going to take a group picture as quickly as possible, we will remove the first row of chairs and move in from the periphery, people who are shorter please stand on chairs and executive board sit in front row, everyone else arrange in
   • We will take individual pictures of all General Assembly members during the rest of the meeting

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

Chair – Samantha Miller
   • University Council Open Forum: December 2 at 4 pm. Comments must be submitted by Monday, November 23.
   • Meeting with Provost Price on Tuesday, November 17.
   • Kelsey, Justine, and I attended the Ivy+ Summit at Dartmouth College from November 13-November 15.
   • Remind your constituencies that funding applications are now open
   • PAC Meeting being scheduled for either Friday, December 4 or Monday, December 7. Details will be finalized by the end of this week.

Vice Chair – Kelsey Van Gelder
   • Attending the Ivy+ summit at Dartmouth
• Working on identifying a strategy for the teaching load standardization effort
• President Gutmann Leadership Award is currently open for applications (closes November 30th)
• Working with Miriam on the website redesign project
• Planning executive board leadership retreat

VC for Communications – Miriam Archibong
• Planning GA Photo Shoot
• GAPSA Weekly
• Ordered GAPSA Vests for GA and EBoard
• Planning State of Campus Address
• Posted Announcements on GAPSA Facebook, Instagram and Twitter Pages (note: follow us @ UPennGAPSA)
• #UPennGapsa

VC for Equity and Access – Justine Sefcik
• Hi everyone - I'm away this week for a conference
• Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!
• As an outcome of the Select Committee Meeting with Provost Price and Graduate Student Center (GSC) Director Anita on 11/4/15 - the GSC has updated their website for easy access to information about funding available for student groups all around campus - will be updated as needed - Link: http://www.gsc.upenn.edu/resources/gradgroups.php

VC for Finance – Paul Welfer
• Evaluating fund applications.
• Processing GAP funding.
• Assessing revenue strategies and lending vehicles.

VC for International Affairs – Sangya Agarwal

VC for Operations – Katherine France
• GA dinners have been going very well, I hope those who have gone so far have enjoyed them. Please send any feedback, and if you have not signed up please refer to the google document that has been sent out - there are still a few spots available for this round! More dinners are likely to come in the new year
• Working on appropriately allocating seats for groups that have in the past been unrepresented
• Please remember to take your name tag when you come in and leave it at the end of the meeting!

VC for Professional Students – Taylor Knoche
• Financial Literacy Workshop/Panel  
• Awareness Wall at Grad Student Center  
• Fall Travel Grants  
• Potential: GAPSA Short Film Clip

VC for Research Students – Laura Bryant

VC for Social Activities – Erica Shim
• 11/25 Wednesday 7PM Thanksgiving Dinner at R2L  
• 12/4 Friday 8PM Winter Masquerade at Arts Ballroom

VC for Student Life – Kristian Taketomo
• Master calendar of fitness/wellness events  
• December or January Wellness Event at the Graduate Student Center  
• Running Club!  
• SHIAC student survey

VC for Student Programs – Ruiyuan Ma
• Tickets selling:
  (a). Orchestra: 12/17;  
  (b). 76ers: 12/1 and 12/7;  

VCs for Equity and Access and International Affairs - Select Committee Update

V. New Business – 7:30 pm – 8:00 pm
a. State of the Budget Update  
b. Discretionary Fund Presentations & Voting
• State of the Budget update and then some discretionary fund applicants are here to present  
• Pretty quick, a couple of pro forma things  
• Some deputies on finance that we want to seek the consent of the body on  
• Quick update on the state of the budget  
• We have 3 discretionary presenters, hopefully you remember our mock from earlier in the year  
• At article VI.A.12 says that you can have deputies at the consent of the body- deputies announced and approved  
• Budget as ratified at the end of September, if you need a copy say something  
• At a very high level, all in we have just over 1.5 million, year to date including the schools we have spent just over 800,000, leaving about 768,000 unspent so far, to note, G12 and GAP have been consolidated
• VC year to date: the remaining budget is 30,000, the councils have a significant amount yet, everyone else is doing well overall, finance funds closing tonight and final numbers will come from there, everyone is on or under budget
• Student group funding so far has allocated about 15k with 55k left, thanks to Carlos, examples of some groups funded
• GAP consolidated funds: synergy 25k and 142k coordinated through PAC/FAB, synergy funding applications open, hopefully more will come in, so far 5 applications and its normally a higher budget idea, 11-12 of 15 schools participating, so far several groups have coordinated, please reach out to Andy, Paul, or G12 leadership to put something together
• Discretionary: 3 presentations today, reviewed by committee and referred to the body for a vote, 25k for the year
• Seeking consent to use the procedure we used since last year: 3 minute presentation, 2 minutes for question subject to extension, 1 minute of pros and cons from finance committee, 4 minutes for debates and motions, at the very least voting on the amount that was asked as well as any other amounts motioned for
• Penn law financial literacy project:
  o Thank you, presentation by David Block, project is two fold: tax preparation services for low income groups throughout Philadelphia and an education component called the community literacy projects
  o Opportunities for law students and JD/MBAs
  o Requesting $1200 which is what we got last year, requesting for funding for travel to sites and to get some speakers in the spring semester as well as food during the presentations
  o Why GAPSA: knowledge about financial literacy will benefit graduate students and learning by doing will help graduate students, historically more law and business students but welcome volunteers from any school
  o Question: Allocation for the guest speakers vs site visits? Itemized is about $625 for transportation, same as last year, $575 is for 2 guest speakers and the lunches for those events
  o Question: what percent of student population is law vs other? Majority are law students, 15-20 JD/MBAs, open to any student who wants to join
  o Question: what parts of Philly are you going to? 2 sites in NE, working with an outside group who has sites all over
  o Pros and cons:
    ▪ Pros: modest request per impact, per-person funding is very reasonable, meaningful social impact for both Penn and the community, fairly interdisciplinary, but to a limited extent
Cons: Heavy reliance on taxis vs public transportation, but some areas may have limited SEPTA access, could be an hour plus commute

- Funded in full

- Wharton Entrepreneurship Club
  - 4th annual conference called “UNconvention” given nature of entrepreneurship and start up community, enable any students from any Penn school or any area school to attend and learn from other students and local leaders
  - Organized by Wharton Entrepreneurship, in the past and estimated this year about 45% from other schools, estimated about 250 students
  - Requesting $9338: about 45% of budget to go with 45% non Wharton attendance
  - Used for marketing, catering, venue, and other materials
  - Receiving funding from Wharton Entrepreneurship initiative as well as GAPSA student group funds and also sponsors, a lot of sponsors are eager to attend and participate but as start ups they often have limited funding, pushing for as much outside funding as possible
  - Entrepreneurship is a very multidisciplinary topic, see this as a way to bring the whole community together, we want to market it across schools and let students come together and benefit for their careers
  - Question: What is the ticket price? 40-50 per person, that’s one of the revenue sources, trying to close the gap
  - Question: is it the same for all schools? Yes
  - Question: What do you have planned for communication outside of Wharton? GAPSA communication, working with student government, reaching out to other schools, reaching out to Temple, Drexel, Villanova. Start up community in Philadelphia is growing and we’re trying to build on that
  - Question: Have you been awarded student group funding and how much? Yes, $1000
  - Question: How many? 200-250 last year, how many graduate vs undergraduate, historically mostly graduate students
  - Question: How do you plan to differentiate from other entrepreneurship initiatives? Trying to work the connections of professors, that’s different from other conferences, right now we’re planning very specific panels and workshops for Penn, not just a conference that’s more for enlightening or high level, working for a high level and trying to know how to start a company, know their limits
  - Extended for 1 minute
  - Question: How is this relevant besides Wharton, how would people going to academia benefit or how you expand this
across the schools? Entrepreneurship is not just for business students, in academia there’s a lot of movement toward academic start ups specifically, lots of money going into that space, lots of potential to help students, entrepreneurship is everywhere and doesn’t have to be specific to different types of students

- Extended for 1 minute
- Question: Why haven’t you applied to the Wharton student government? Our understanding is that there is no additional funding besides the club funding
- Question: How much did you get from Wharton?
  Entrepreneurship initiative: $6,000, trying to close the gap with ticket sales
- Question: What about membership fees? Membership dues from clubs are not really relevant and are used as a backstop
- Pros and cons
  - Pros: Highly interdisciplinary, high visibility, request well in advance of event- makes advertising easy
  - Cons: Large request- high dependence on GAPSA, contributions from other universities?
  - GAPSA has discussed partial funding by doing a bulk ticket sale for GAPSA GA members
  - Began the package funding in the spring with cash and in kind grants, can be distributed to GAPSA community, can be sold, subsidized, or distributed

- Funded in $6000: $4000 in cash and $2000 in ticket sales

- Penn Chinese Theater Fall Production: Mr. Mule
  - Founded in 2013, on-campus group of theater arts, very active and provide biannual productions annually
  - Currently about 40 members, both undergraduates and graduates, about half and half
  - Last Sunday had fall production: Mr. Mule, it’s a very famous comedy with sarcasm about education, lots of graduate students played very important roles including 3 as major cast, 1 director and 2 executive directors, as well as graduate students in stage management, finance, marketing, lighting and sound
  - Expected audience was 260, got 259 which was a great success, got a lot of positive reviews, want to improve that in the spring
  - Requesting $1200, total budget: $4517, want GAPSA to cover the sound expense
  - Funding from SPEC, Chinese department, waiting from SPEC Trum
  - Mission is to provide a platform for students and faculty to learn about Chinese culture and theater arts, trying to raise
awareness of Chinese culture and things among Penn community, also as a bridge for undergraduates and graduates as a bridge to enjoy culture together, also work with Temple and Drexel

- To reach out to other groups, tried to use Facebook page, good communication with Drexel and Temple graduate schools
- Handed out posters on locust walk, put up posters in engineering, GSE, Sansom, good connection with CSSAP, used departmental newsletters
- Among the whole audience, more than 100 were Penn graduate students, reached out to a lot, they gave a lot of positive reviews
- Question: Can you quantify some of the positive reviews? We’re a theater arts group, hard to quantify how people rate this, no film review platform or anything, everyone who came to the show enjoyed it, a lot of people came up during the reception and said they were impressed with the acting and work of the crew, we have been improving throughout the years, this is the sixth production
- Question: Have you reached out to GSE student government for funding? We haven’t because we have in the past been kindly supported by GAPSA, we appreciate it and think it’s a major factor for development from 10 students to 40 students from many schools, that’s why we keep coming back, we are also looking for other funding sources and trying to cut cost but haven’t really gotten down to the student government for education
- Question: What percentage of participants are from education? About 7-8 people
- Question: Is the show in Chinese? Yes it is, but we emphasize that we provide English subtitles, lots of audience from other cultural backgrounds, we were impressed that they would be interested, but they seem to have enjoyed it
- Question: Is PAAGSA involved in any way? Not familiar with the group, would be glad to hear about that, we are expanding audiences
- Question: How much did you get last year from GAPSA? Not sure, last semester did not successfully get funding, not sure why, that’s part of why we are in a difficult situation, need your support
- Pros and cons:
  - Inherently interdisciplinary, modest request, success in gathering alternative funding sources, revenue generation
  - Cons: GAPSA newsletter ads?
- Funded in full
VI. Committee Meetings – 8:00 pm to 8:15 pm

- Trying to get everyone’s picture taken, it’s taken some time, we will move into committee meetings, meet back at 8:35 and as you’re in committee, stop by the photographer if you have not to get your picture taken

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

- Vice Chair- working on website redesign, hopefully quickly, hoping to get it up by spring. President Gutmann leadership award is open until November 30th, please encourage people to apply, it’s a bit more competitive and the awards tend to be a larger proportion of costs
- Communications- no one appointed, if you have not had your picture taken, please get in line now
- Equity and Access- nothing to report
- Finance- A few of the funds close tonight at midnight, we encourage you to get an application in. There will be second and third rounds, but for now please see the applications on the website. GAP is designed for bridging but we’ve had some examples of outsourcing, if you have had a global event, please reach out to executive board and see if it can be done. You saw some of the strategies for in kind tickets, we are also working for revenues. We are about 48% allocated, the rest is sitting around until events happen, and we are working on how can we lend it out to groups who expect revenue later in the year
- International affairs- Meeting 2 weeks ago with US customs and border protection, social security, PennDOT meet with representatives to talk about any problems with security, driver’s licenses, its only once a year so its good to have student representation. Events: potluck in the spring semester with food from different cultures and an international film festival in the spring
- Operations- please return your name tag at the end of the meeting. I won’t be here at the next meeting, please be nice to Sean, he’s going to do a fabulous job. A few spots open in the GA dinner tomorrow at Spice 28, so if you have not been to one and want to go, please sign up. Happy hour tonight is at City Tap House.
- Professional- nothing to add
- Research- nothing to add
- Social activities- hope you got your discount code for the winter masquerade ball, go buy the tickets. We need your help promoting the Thanksgiving dinner, it’s a great value, if you have friends who are in town please get them to buy the tickets. There’s been no problem selling the masquerade tickets. Thanksgiving attendees have to be grad students, for masquerade you can bring a guest
- Student life- Penn grad running club inaugural run on Friday the 20th, come and tell your friends! Happy hour afterwards. In the spring,
going to get a running coach for anyone who wants to learn from them. Next term also funded a pilates for beginners class, if you go to 5 out of 6 you will probably get a free mat. Next term we will probably put together a calendar of wellness events happening. Students on SHIAC are going to put together a survey about the health insurance, specifically things that they think should be covered that are not, before that comes out, please talk to your friends incase we’re missing anything

- Student programs- sold out of most tickets, since Book of Mormon tickets were so popular we will create a waiting list and buy more tickets, thinking of doing a welcome back mixer or dinner next semester, stay tuned. The spurs game coming up is not sold out, please help us advertise, we’re having a group picture on the court after the game and also an exclusive happy hour, the seats are behind the basket. Book of Mormon tickets sold out in 3-4 hours, waiting list hasn’t been created yet but will be.

VIII. Open Forum: -- 8:25-8:30
- No new business
- University council is December 2 at 4pm, if you want to make a comment, we encourage that, they are due this Monday
- Our last meeting of the fall will be December 2

IX. Adjournment.

X. Happy Hour! At City Tap House