AGENDA FOR THE EIGHTH GA MEETING OF 2015-2016

Wednesday, February 24, 2016
6:00-8:30 pm
Houston Hall
Ben Franklin Room

I. Professional and Research Councils: 6:00 pm-7:00 pm
   Professional Council: Ben Franklin Room
   Research Council: Bishop White Room

II. Dinner is served in Ben Franklin Room (218). 7:00-7:15 pm

III. Welcome/Roll Call – Chair/VC Operations – 7:15–7:20 pm.

IV. Vice Chair Updates —see updates below—

Chair – Samantha Miller
- The Executive Board met with President Gutmann on Tuesday, February 23.
- University Council Open Forum Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 17. One student spoke in support of the University divesting from fossil fuels.
- Our next meeting will take place after spring break on Wednesday, March 23. This will be a new business/voting meeting. Committees will not meet within the GA meeting. Committees should plan to meet as necessary.
- GA Elections will take place on Wednesday, April 6. Please reach out to current executive board members if you are interested in learning more about their role.

Vice Chair – Kelsey Van Gelder
- Planning and executing the exec board retreat (2/21)
- Preparing the spring PGLA
- Planning and executing the mixer at the Penn Basketball game (2/19) - it went super super well!! Thanks to everyone who came.
- Working on the new website - managing contract negotiations, compiling content, etc.

VC for Communications – Miriam Archibong
• Judicial Review Board Focus Group
• GAPSA Weekly
• State of Campus Address

VC for Equity and Access – Justine Sefcik
• The E&A committee is working on planning a thank you celebration for all the graduate and professional students who have served on a University Committee this academic year

VC for Finance – Paul Welfer
• SGEF and Synergy Fund application windows open 2/15-3/14/16.
• Discretionary and GAP Fund applications are rolling.
• Assessing carryover reserve for spring allocation.
• Coordinating Heritage and Renaissance Programs.

VC for International Affairs – Sangya Agarwal
• Preparing surveys and talking points for a Town Hall Meeting discussing the climate for international students at Penn.
• Forerunner India Program in collaboration with the ISSS and affinity groups - Organizing agenda for two day pre-departure orientation in India at two locations for incoming graduate students. The initiative has been approved by Penn Global.
• Final Penngagement: International Student Discussion Series on April 22nd.

VC for Operations – Katherine France
• Working on amendments to the policy on proxies and working with Judicial Review Board
• Planning small group GA dinners
• Working on seat allocations to all degree programs (still)
• Working on end of year celebration

VC for Professional Students – Taylor Knoche
• Financial literacy workshop underway
• Successfully hosted 72 leaders across campus at our Cross Club Collaboration meeting on Friday Feb. 12
• Hosted a Happy Hour for those leaders at City Tap House Feb 12. - it was a great time!
• Professional Travel Grants are approaching open March 1, 2016. (Marketing, posters, social media updates)

VC for Research Students – Laura Bryant

VC for Social Activities – Erica Shim
VC for Student Life – Kristian Taketomo

VC for Student Programs – Ruiyuan Ma
- GAPSA Career development talk 1: How to become a Quantitative Researcher, on Feb. 23rd.
- Philadelphia Flower show and Philadelphia Zoo.

Select Committee
- The committee is discussing a name change and electing a deputy within the committee to be the liaison with the GAPSA Exec Board

V. Committee Meetings – 7:20 pm to 8:00 pm

VI. New Business – 8:00 pm – 8:25 pm
   a. Discretionary Fund Presentation & Voting (3)
      - Student group event fund and G12 synergy fund open until March 15, discretionary and GAP are rolling
      - Correction from last week: discretionary has 11k left
      - Motion to suspend the rules seen and suspended Fontaine society presents: “If I were president”
         o Bring Rosa Clemente to campus- hip hop activist, community organizer, ran for Vice President in the Green Party
         o Talk about how racial justice will matter and has mattered in this election
         o Talk about this election
         o Interdisciplinary organization
         o Funding from Latin American studies, Campaign for Community
         o Program run through the Vice Provost’s office to promote diversity
         o Very successful event last year
         o Requesting $1150 toward speakers’ fees, other funding will go to travel, hotel room, etc
         o Goal of the event is to bring people together and advance the group’s mission of diversity and racial, economic, and social justice
         o Good space for Penn students to dialogue with the Philadelphia community
         o Last year, advertised on local radio and got people from the community, Rosa Clemente can also do this
Co-sponsorship with the select committee? Have worked with BGAPSE and LaGAPSA, tying to diversity funding sources at this point, don't want to get funding from all the same sources

Vice Provost’s office suggested trying to get funding from here

Pros: interdisciplinary, modest request, mix of funding sources

Funded in 1150

Organizational dynamics- non traditional program during nights and weekends with about 12 full time students

Tend to miss a lot of social and community events and have to do their own

Four events: one very successful one last weekend, two on campus, two off campus

Asking for $2505 which is 1/4 of funding, program backs events financially as well and SASgov gave $2500

Events: International student meet and greet, knowledge sharing workshop for university resources, impression management, faculty speaker, end of semester get together

These events historically tend to attract a few students from other schools because they deal with how to function within an organization, the group welcomes anyone from any school and tries to get that out

About 280 students in the program, normally 30 students at each event and 80-100 at end of semester event

Pros: underserved part of community as non traditional students, modest part of budget, novel events

Cons: high cost per capita pending turnout, low interdisciplinarity

Rebuilding together

Looking for ways to connect to homes in West Philadelphia and connect with that community

Community service event from Wharton and design with other grad schools to build 10 houses on one weekend

Health, safety, and other major improvements for the community

Cost of the project is $8000 per home, understand that this is a large budget
Penn contributes a portion, want to be able to do more by building the base
- Recognize that they're asking for a lot at $8000, appreciate anything but this is based on the cost of the house
- Over 300 volunteers last year from a variety of schools, want to keep growing
- As part of the organization, they agree to fundraiser $26k, cost of the weekend is $61k, contributions go straight to supplies
- Rebuilding together has a staff, put an allocation to them and to contractors who help build
- On any given day last year, about 40-50 volunteers from other graduate schools which is 20-30%
- Bulk of fundraising from Wharton clubs
- Didn't apply for GAP fund given that it's a mainly Wharton and design event
- Got $400 earlier in the year but not sure which fund it was from
- Last year $4000 from discretionary
- About getting out into the community in a way that doesn't otherwise happen, responsibility is to give back
- Pros: defensibly interdisciplinary, some resources outside of Penn and gets people out
- Cons: very large ask, high staff and overhead costs
- Funded in $4000

VII. Committee Presentations -- 8:20 – 8:25 p.m.
- March 2nd and 23rd SAS and GSEG iTalks program in Levine hall at 6:30pm

VIII. Open Forum: -- 8:25-8:30

IX. Adjournment.

X. Happy Hour! At City Tap House