AGENDA FOR THE NINTH GA MEETING OF 2015-2016

Wednesday, March 23, 2016
6:00-8:30 pm
Houston Hall
Ben Franklin Room

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

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

   - Roll call taken
   - Busy night tonight, going to start with discussion of discretionary funding and review of several applications to get that done, then will talk about carryover money
   - After that we will move into debate about the proposed constitutional amendments that were distributed to all of you
   - Any questions about Vice Chair updates? None seen

4. Vice Chair Updates —see updates below—

   Chair – Samantha Miller
   - University Council Wednesday, March 23 at 4pm
   - GA Elections will take place on Wednesday, April 6. This is the next GA meeting. We will only do elections during that evening.
   - The last GA meeting of the semester will take place on April 20. This will be a transition meeting with the 15-16 and 16-17 executive boards.

   Vice Chair – Kelsey Van Gelder
   - Working on the website redesign
   - PGLA is open through March 31st!
   - Planning with Erica for the spring pub event

   VC for Communications – Miriam Archibong
   - GAPSA Weekly
   - Judicial Review Board Amendment
• UA and GAPSA State of Campus Address
• I GAPSA... Do You Campaign

VC for Equity and Access – Justine Sefcik

VC for Finance – Paul Welfer
• Compiling GA finance carryover survey and assessing carryover allocations
• Scoring SGEF and Synergy applications
• Concluding GAP reconciliation
• Evaluating Heritage Program sponsorships
• Drafting FY’16/17 provisional budget

VC for International Affairs – Sangya Agarwal
• Working on coordinating the Forerunner Program in China and India in the summer.
• Penngagement: International Student Discussion Series “Healthy Relationships”; Thursday, March 24, 4-6pm, Penn Women’s Center
• Afternoon at the Penn Museum, Friday, March 25 2:00pm

VC for Operations – Katherine France
• Wrapping up small group GA dinners- hope you all had fun, please send along any feedback!
• Proxy amendment to increase attendance and full representation
• Working with student governments in relation to members who have not been attending meetings

VC for Professional Students – Taylor Knoche
• Financial Literacy Workshop: March 21, 2016 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, catering provided by High Street Market
• Joint Professional Council / Student Programs Happy Hour
• Spring Travel Grants: 57 Applications so far!; Allocation in 2nd week of April

VC for Research Students – Laura Bryant
• Travel grants are open until 3/31/16

VC for Social Activities – Erica Shim

VC for Student Life – Kristian Taketomo

VC for Student Programs – Ruiyuan Ma
• Bus trip to Morris Arboretum
• Philadelphia Zoo tickets.
5. New Business – 7:20 pm – 8:25 pm

1. Discretionary Fund Presentation & Voting (3)
   - Updates and one procedural update
     - Deputies for finance- Vinayak graduated, Alex has been acting interim, thank you to all managers
     - Ask for the body to formally advise and consent Alex as revenue manager
     - Seconded, all in favor, approved
     - All other fund managers have made this year very productive
     - About 1.1 million spent leaving cash balance of $524k remaining, there is much that has not been processed so far so we expect to be right about at budget or slightly under by the end of the year
     - Every Vice Chair is on budget or within, everyone is plus or minus 10%, which was agreed to at the beginning of the year
     - You’ll notice some variation in the listed numbers, the Vice Chairs for Student Programs and Social Activities go up and down in their balance frequently because they get revenue from ticket sales
     - SGEF 72k allocated, thanks to subcommittee over 80 groups have been funded. There are pages and pages of groups that could be shown, but hopefully you see one that you recognize. Thanks for making that possible
     - GAP fund is independently managed, right now is underutilized, only about 142k spent. Please encourage your governments to spend it
     - Synergy fund has all been awarded. The fund just closed, congratulations to all events and those that worked on these funds
     - Discretionary- 10 groups funded by the body so far this year, 24k spent, just under 6k available. There are two groups presenting today which will include 3 minutes of presentation, questions pros and cons from finance committee, and then discussion
     - Fan will act in Rob’s absence from the subcommittee while Rob is at iTalks
     - Reminder that we at least vote on what is requested
   - Penn Shabbat Dinner
     - 14th time this event has been put on
     - Shabbat is the day of rest for Jews. The event already happened but went really well and included a full kosher meal, alcohol, sushi, and other treats. It was a great opportunity for graduate students to get together. Only graduate students could attend
     - Planned across 10 organizations from many schools
     - A lot of funding from the Lubavitch house at Penn and the Philadelphia Jewish graduate student network which works with students across Philadelphia in different schools
o Got all the money for the event but had to put a lot on credit to host it. We have gotten funding in the past and hope to again to close the gap
o This year asking for about $2534.49 because of more students and a goal to keep ticket prices low
o All together the program costs about $5700, what was not sold in tickets has been put on credit
o Wanted to keep ticket prices low to get 200 people, it was a huge success
o Organization of the event brings together student groups from across schools, leaders meet each other and form connections, as do attendees
o GAPSA gave last year and this helps a lot
o Why didn’t you reach out earlier? Due to the alternate structure of the meeting we have limited how many groups could come to the meetings. Due to this, there is a pipeline, which we will talk about later but the application was submitted well in advance
o Pros: very reasonable expense, very exact, good sponsorship, well-attended
o Funded in full

- Wharton India economic forum
  o Student run business conference focusing on India to discuss challenges and opportunities faced in India, attended by 300 students across graduate schools and students from other schools
  o To be held in the Union league on March 26
  o 20th year of the conference and the first time we have held it in two locations- Mumbai event happened over winter break and the Philadelphia event is coming up. This new structure created larger costs
  o Startup competition has geared up with more applicants
  o Want to use money to subsidize tickets for graduate students
  o Large number of students attending, diverse quality of speakers from broad ranging backgrounds including a south Indian actor and an education forum
  o Took core team to Mumbai to host the conference and the teams from Philadelphia and Mumbai learned from each other in this experience
  o Graduates and alumni coming to speak
  o Diverse range of students including undergrads, MBAs, students from other schools
  o How did you subsidize tickets? We want to, right now tickets are $20 but we’d like to lower them for all Penn graduate students
  o How would you subsidize tickets for this weekend? We’ve already raised a large amount of money
  o Need this to cover the rest of the expenses
  o Can sell a lot more tickets, often see a spike at the end and can reimburse students later
  o $5000 needed to cover expenses, need this to finish the expenses
• Price difference for undergrads and grads? Tend to attract more MBAs and we think they can afford it. MBAs don’t come unless you charge them
• About 50 graduate students have bought tickets by now, subsidies would only be for students from other schools
• Don’t know how many MBAs are in attendance, in the past close to 200 graduate students
• Pros: longstanding, experience, bold choice to have event in Mumbai, great sponsorship
• Cons: expensive venue

• Next order of business is the carryover budget
• At the last all business GA meeting we did a carryover survey, the year is closed out with a 150k carryover from last year, allocated 80+k, under the constitution 40k must be held for emergency until it is voted to be spent
• Therefore, we are releasing 100k to be spent during the rest of this year
• Results of the survey given to GA members to gauge interest in who should receive funds, 49 out of 72 surveys received, filtered out VCs
• 29 categories suggested, people took top 5 priorities and assigned points across them
• Top 10 ranked and really only select committee and finance got a large number of votes when the results are bundled by who managed the money
• Finance got 31% of the top 7 votes, Select committee for 28%, Professional council 14%, social 11%, GSC 8%, research council 7%
• These categories cover 22 of 29 categories, applied relative percentages and rounded to $250 and will give money accordingly
• We could constitutionally just do this but want to get a vote to make sure people consent
• Voted to approve this

2. Proposed Constitutional Amendments:
   • Will have an introduction to each amendment by the person who submitted it. The GA will then debate, can change the language, but if a language change is proposed and accepted by the author of the amendment, we will vote on that
   • Each amendment needs a majority vote to pass

   i. Proxy Changes/Executive Board Name Changes
      • Passed

   ii. Select Committee
      • Sections A and C passed, section B withdrawn by author

   iii. Judicial Review Board
      • Quorum reestablished
      • Tabled to next meeting

6. Carryover Budget
7. Open Forum: -- 8:25-8:30
   - No new business

8. Adjournment.

9. Happy Hour! At City Tap House