GAPSA Executive Board Reform Resolution

WHEREAS the University of Pennsylvania has expressed its desire to support a vibrant graduate and professional student community believing that such support is critical to advance the university’s mission of creating and disseminating knowledge and

WHEREAS the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) at the University of Pennsylvania plays a vital role in that by supporting graduate and professional students in academic and non-academic activities and

WHEREAS GAPSA presents the opportunity to the University to utilize its resources to address student needs through an efficient means that offers significant administrative cost savings to the University and

WHEREAS those savings are realized only when executive board members of GAPSA are doing the major portion of that work instead of full-time paid administrative staff and

WHEREAS the executive board members of GAPSA contribute significant hours of their time every week while being uncompensated for that work and

WHEREAS peer graduate student governments across the country already have paid Executive Board positions which in some universities includes a full annual living stipend and

WHEREAS graduate and professional students with particularly useful skills for student governance have not been able to participate in GAPSA Executive positions because of their familial or work responsibilities and

WHEREAS GAPSA should aim for having more diversity among its Executive Board, particularly from graduate and professional students who might not be able to participate due to other commitments and

WHEREAS those issues of participation from those students would be remedied by having GAPSA Executive Board positions be paid with a guaranteed amount so that they have adequate compensation for their time away from those commitments and

WHEREAS this will provide more desirable candidates who are accountable and provide more equal access for GAPSA Executive Board positions and thus lead to superior functioning of GAPSA to fulfill its role in the Penn graduate and professional student community, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that GAPSA Executive board positions should have fixed stipends of $5000 per academic year commencing with the new Executive board elected for the 2017-18 academic year