GAPSA General Assembly 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 the responsibilities for those functions of GAPSA are shared between the General Assembly (GA) representatives and the Executive Board and

WHEREAS the effective functioning of GAPSA requires significant requirements of time and involvement from GAPSA GA representatives and

WHEREAS a GA that is not representative of the broader student body and that is lacking in active and sustained participation in GAPSA activities will not be able to guide GAPSA to reflect the wishes of the wider graduate and professional student body in an effective manner and

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

WHEREAS GAPSA should aim for having more diversity among its General Assembly, 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 GA representative positions be paid with a guaranteed amount so that they have some form of compensation for their time away from those commitments and

WHEREAS this will provide more desirable candidates who are accountable and will provide more equal access for GAPSA GA representative 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 GA representative positions should have fixed stipends of $1000 per academic year commencing with the new Executive board elected for the 2017-18 academic year.