AGENDA FOR THE FIRST GA MEETING OF 2018 – 2019

Wednesday, September 12, 2018
6:00-8:00 pm
Irvine Auditorium
6:00-8:00 pm
Amado Recital Hall

I. Food is Served

II. General Assembly Meeting

Orientation to GAPSA
- Haley quizzed the GA on the Constitution: what is a proxy, etc.
- For the rest of this year, we will be meeting in Council and then start GA at 7 pm.
- Today’s happy hour is at Bernie’s, two weeks from now it will be at Kiwi for frozen yoghurt

Introduction to Robert’s Rules
- Make a motion, it needs to be seconded
- 2/3 majority vs. simple majority 50%
- quorum = minimum number of people; having quorum at the beginning of the meeting does not mean having quorum at the end if people leave
- Putting amendments forward: notify the GA 10 days in advance
- Friendly amendment = a minor correction accepted by the person who proposed the amendment

Why did you return to GAPSA?
- Want to be part of improving lives of graduate students
- To keep knowing what is going on in other schools
- Knowing what is happening on campus
- Because GAPSA provides resources for graduate students to interface
- Because when issues are raised here, they are actually listened to
- To hear discussions that you would not otherwise hear at all

Finance updates
- Round 1 opens 9/15-10/15 for Academic Event Fund, Student Group Event Fund, and Synergy
- GAPSA Rewards this year will reward students who participate in a lot of events.
- GradFest revenue of $16,959 is a record; we are also better collecting participants’ emails so that we can track which students are coming to the events.

Discussion of Proposed Revision of Sexual Harassment Procedures
Joann Mitchell, Senior Vice President for Institutional Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer
Wendy White, Senior Vice President and General Counsel for the University

- Revised sexual harassment procedures were handed out to the GA by Joann Mitchell.
- Major change = there is now a single point of contact if someone wants to file a complaint against any member of the Penn community (faculty, staff, student, etc.).
- Assistant VP of Equity and Diversity, Title IX Office
- Q: What would the process looks like if one of my constituents come to me asking what they should do/ whether what they experienced is sexual harassment etc.?
  A: Make sure that they understand that there are people there to support them. The student would be redirected to the AVP. The student does not have to prove anything, just describe what is happening. The AVP will supervise the investigation process with co-investigator, the report is read and finalized and delivered to both parties at the same time. If the two parties can come to a resolution then that is fine. But either party can ask for a hearing in front of a faculty panel. There may also be an appeal after that. Each party has the right to an advisor.

- Q: If the complaining student is afraid that the person they are accusing finds out about their complaint against them (fear of retaliation).
  A: If the complaining student wants a no-contact order, the accused would be brought in to be told that they cannot contact them. The no-retaliation policy will also be presented.

- Q: What is there to protect students from serial harassment? What is being done to protect the community from people like tenured professors who are repeat offenders?
  A: Recurrence impacts sanction. Sometimes repeated offenses are not brought to our attention because people aren’t filing complaints, so we are putting in place a clear procedure for filing complaints. If a professor is found responsible, there will be a sanction, and the Department Chair will know about it. The problem is, there are lots of people who are unwilling/uncomfortable testifying that something happened to them.

- Q: What kind of training will be AVP be getting?
  A: The University has already employed 2 professional people who are trained in investigating sexual harassment. The University will also employ an AVP who is trained in dealing with these issues. We are expecting to have these resources in place initially, but if not, we will look for more people.

- Q: What about vendors who are on Penn’s campus but are not “on Penn’s payroll” in the same way?
  A: The complaints will be heard, but the investigation and sanction will be dealt with in a different process.

- Questions that were not asked to Joann & Wendy due to time constraint:
- It still sounds like the issue gets sent back to the Dean; what happens if the Dean is a good friend of the professor?
- What if you are a Penn student working at Wistar, CHOP, etc. and you are complaining against a Penn-associated person who works there? Do they fall under “anyone under Penn’s payroll”?
- How are they integrating CAPS and other support systems
- What sort of evaluation systems will be put in place to evaluate the effectiveness of this new process?
- Previously dealt with by OSC = board of students + faculty. Now primarily faculty board, whose members rotate through. How do we build trust when there is so much conflict of interest?
- At other universities, the Title IX Office appears to protect the University.
- At what point do the police get involved in this procedure?
- Who would you go to if you just want the option to talk, not necessarily to file a complaint?

GAPSA Gives Back Announcement
- Events: planting trees, feeding the hungry, mostly in West Philadelphia

III. Committee Introductions 7:00-7:30 pm

Ad Hoc ways to get involved other than the standing committees: Parliamentarian, Historian, Alumni Engagement, etc.

IV. Council Meetings 7:30 - 8:00 pm

IDEAL Council: Irvine G7
Professional Council: Amado Recital Hall
Research Council: Irvine G16

V. Happy Hour 8:00 - 10:00 pm

Bernie’s Restaurant and Bar