MINUTES FROM THE FIRST GA MEETING OF 2017-2018

Wednesday, September 13, 2017
6:00-8:30 pm
Houston Hall

I. Food is served from New Delhi Restaurant
6:00 pm

II. General Assembly Meeting
Ben Franklin Room
6:00 – 7:30 pm

a. Approve Minutes from April 26
   • Minutes are approved.

b. Introduction to GAPSA
   • Questions:
     • How are committees assigned? Answer: survey of preferences.
     • How does GAPSA integrate into the University as a change agent? Answer: Proposals are brought to GA, if it passes, the Exec Board works on implementing with Admin

c. Introduction to Executive Board
   • Miles Owen [gapsa.president@gmail.com]: brief bio, and platform
   • Rebecca Umbach [gapsa.vp@gmail.com]: bio, platform, and GradFest: Helping at a GradFest event will most involve being at the event to make sure it runs smoothly/take tickets
   • Octavia Sun [gapsa.pr@gmail.com]: Communications committee: Help us get the word out about GAPSA with our weekly newsletter, social media platforms, website, photos, and designing GAPSA swag! You stand a great chance in nabbing GAPSA swag and not to mention you'll be a part of an amazing community! PS: We design the swag the GA members will wear in the photoshoot we also plan too!
   • Chris Marshall [gapsa.eachair@gmail.com]: The Committee for Equity and Access focuses on increasing student awareness of campus resources, as well as identifying areas of advocacy. The committee has worked on increasing awareness of mental health resources, sexual violence prevention resources, and open expression issues on campus. The committee also works side-by-side with the Committee for International Affairs and IDEAL Council, coordinating

5:45 pm
collaborative events and distributing information about available funding. Contact the Chair for Equity and Access to get involved!

- **Paul Welfer [gapsa.finance@gmail.com]**: [Haley speaks for Paul] Finance Committee manages a $1.6MM budget for GAPSA, G12 student governments, and affiliated groups. Help allocate funding to student groups across campus. No financial experience required. We teach you! Learn about financial management, strategic consulting, programming, and accounting. Engage in our finance leadership development series. We have open positions for the Discretionary Fund, Student Group Event Fund, Synergy Fund and GAPSA G12 Accountability Program (GAP). Cross-train for budget management, revenue and investing, GAPSA Advisory Services, or sustainable development. Build a professional network. Contribute to your community. Join us!

- **Jiayun Ji [gapsa.ia@gmail.com]**: The Committee for International Affairs focuses on advocating for international students. The committee has worked on developing a guide for international students seeking Pennsylvania State IDs, as well as driver’s licenses. The committee organizes welcome events for incoming international students, as well as various cultural celebrations throughout the year. The committee also works side-by-side with the Equity and Access Committee to support the IDEAL Committee, coordinating collaborative events and distributing information about available funding. To get involved, contact the Chair for International Affairs!

- **Dean Schmeltz [gapsa.operations@gmail.com]**: Provides overview of responsibilities. Open to help from anyone interested in becoming a Deputy.

- **Fatima Sanz [gapsa.prof@gmail.com]**: Chairs the Professional Student Council.

- **Buyan Pan [gapsa.research@gmail.com]**: Chairs the Research Student Council. Is organizing GAPSA 101.

- **Daming Shi [gapsa.sa@gmail.com]**: The Social Committee of GAPSA is responsible for the planning and execution of large and small scale social events year round – from Fall Party (MadParty), Thanksgiving Dinner, Winter Ball (Masquerade), Spring Block Party to Annual Boat Cruise, we have always been the masterminds behind all those memorable events for over 12,000 graduate students at Penn. Major events this year: Thanksgiving dinner, Winter formal (beginning of Dec), Spring party (late Feb), and Cruise Party (late April). The Social Committee strives to balance the nature of the events between social-networking types with alcoholic beverages and activity-based events by
collaborating with the Student Programs Committee to host big and small-scale events. By doing this, we hope to include more variety of students from the entire Penn graduate student body. We are also working to make all of our events affordable for all students (below $30 per student) to achieve the goal to serve greater Penn community. To get involved, contact the Chair for Student Activities!

- **Rosario Jaime [gapsa.sl@gmail.com]**: The Committee for Student Life is responsible for running the PennSHAPE program, and Wellness Days. The committee also identifies areas of advocacy with regard to student life on campus. This year, the committee has focused on promoting health and wellness on campus. Contact the Chair for Student Life to get involved!

- **Yulai Weng [gapsa.sp@gmail.com]**: Micro saloon program, and Penn entrepreneurship program. The Committee for Student Programs plans a variety of events for Penn graduate students, including: Philadelphia Orchestra; Philadelphia Flyers game; Philadelphia 76er game; Philadelphia Flower show; Apple Festival trip; Outlets shopping mall trip; Hershey’s chocolate factory trip; Career development talks; Table for six (small group dinners focused on helping students meet other students from diverse programs); and Paint night. Contact the Chair for Student Programs to get involved!

- **Brenda Salantes [gapsa.external@gmail.com]**: GAPSA’s External Affairs Committee coordinates external affairs and activities on behalf of GAPSA. These activities include building relationships with external organizations, and leading local and national political advocacy efforts concerning the well-being of our graduate student community. In addition, the External Affairs Committee is also responsible for fostering alumni relations among all graduate programs at the University of Pennsylvania. If you are concerned with graduate student interests, would like to engaging in political advocacy initiatives, or build our alumni network, please consider joining GAPSA’s External Affair Committee!

- **IDEAL Chair [not yet elected]**
  - Question on what IDEAL is [answered by President]
  - Comment from audience about letting reps know that IDEAL affinity groups are having welcome back parties

- **Overview of summer projects**
  - Constitutional revision update from Operations
  - GradFest planning underway for October 16-21
  - New GAPSA Orientation materials created
e. Exec Board updates
f. New Business
   - Union Update
   - Charlottesville/Amy Wax Statement
     - Overview of Diversity Office push over the past few years
     - Question about ensuring that ableism is specified as a form of discrimination in the version we’d be considering
     - Question as to why this is being considered now vs. at a later meeting
     - Clarification from floor about the deliberate use of censure vs censor
     - Question as to whether GAPSA could co-sign on with undergrads and others at the University
       - Collaboration with UA is generally possible but not the most common route
     - Comment about Provost Pritchett
     - The Vet school’s name has changed since signing on
     - Motion to have Exec talk to the UA and have them sign on as well
       - Passes
     - Motion to pass the statement
       - Passes
   - DACA Statement
     - Overview of recent events from people who have submitted this proposal: Akbar Hossain (akbar.hossain@fandm.edu) and Nick Tabor (nickxx29@gmail.com).
     - Two requests:
       - For Penn to create a fund for their students to be able to pay their next DACA renewal fee
         - This has already been granted by Penn
       - Create a fund for legal support for students with DACA through the University
         - Either money set aside, or there being an attorney provided for the students to focus on this support
     - Clarification that this legal support would be for the Penn students themselves, for the sake of starting somewhere, rather than their entire families
     - There is grounds to challenge this repeal, as well as a moral duty felt especially by those at the Law school who helped these very same Penn students apply for DACA initially. There were assurances under the previous U.S. Presidential admin that these DACA recipients would be protected.
- Question from Chair for E&A: Will there be blowback by providing this info on paper? [Answer: their info is already in the government’s hands]
- Question: would this apply to Temple students too? [Just Penn students]
- Question, about Penn’s statement that they wouldn’t allow ICE on campus without legal process: wouldn’t ICE always have legal process? [The University must follow the law. But this fund could ensure that anyone picked up from Penn by ICE would in fact have someone to turn to immediately]
- Recollection from a rep who was here as an undergrad, about another student whose deportation was blocked after some protest by Penn itself.
  - In response, note that Penn has 70 DACA students, so Penn couldn’t do the same for all of them what they did for that one student in that previous story.
  - Follow-up question about where the money would come from. Answer, it would probably be impossible to find out from Penn. And there are great lawyers working on this pro-bono.
- Question from rep: is there help and support from the social worker community here?
  - One of the main reasons this is being proposed here today is to make those connections.
- Question: what will happen to these Penn students when they graduate?
  - That is undefined as of now. The bigger question that is pressing at the moment is whether a fund will be set up at all.
- There will be an informational session about how to support DACA students. Tomorrow (the 14th) at 12pm in Bodek. Lunch will be served.
- Question: what other sources of funding are being looked at? [Yes.]
- Note from presenters to listen carefully when supports are being offered. “Legal supports” is not “legal representation”
• Motion to pass
  • Passes
• Chair for IDEAL Council Election
  • Mentioned
• IDEAL Council Amendment
  • Mentioned
• Grad Council of Faculties Amendment
  • Overview from Chair for Research Students
  • Clarification that this amendment would need to specify an effective date
  • A motion was passed to ask for the amendments that are being considered to be sent to the GA along with a description of the background of the issue

III. Council Meetings: 7:30 – 8:30 pm
  IDEAL Council: Morris Seitz Room (Room 313)
  Professional Council: Ben Franklin Room
  Research Council: Bishop White Room

IV. Happy Hour: 8:30 – 11:00 pm
  City Tap House