MINUTES FOR THE Second GA MEETING of 2017-2018

Wednesday, September 27, 2017
6:00-8:30 pm

I. Food is served

II. General Assembly Meeting

Ben Franklin Room

a. Approve Minutes from September 13
   • approved

b. Chair for Finance Budget Presentation
   • suspension of Robert’s Rules to approve the budget
   • [Chair for Finance presentation]
   • Exec Board members present their budgets
   • Debate:
     • Med: Suggestion to explore changing the allocation of student government funds from 50/50 to more like 70/30 with more towards the individual student governments vs GAPSA
     • Wharton: comment about promoting more collaboration
     • Vet: their students have lots of their own events to plan, and don’t tend to come to GAPSA events, so would prefer 70/30 or 60/40
     • SAS & BGAPSA: Lots of clubs do feel stretched thin, but the answer isn’t necessarily to split the pie differently, but to ask the Admin for more money. The proper question for GAPSA to ask is: how can we get more of our students to participate in GAPSA events
     • IDEAL: All groups have the same problem of not getting enough funds. The answer isn’t to take money away from GAPSA and the collaborative events they do.
     • Med: contends that their student aren’t getting their $63 contribution back from GAPSA. Thinks that student governments would be better shepherds of the money that goes to their students
     • Motion to delay the vote on the budget for two weeks until it
can be figured out how to take 20% from GAPSA budget appropriately
  • Not seconded
  • Motion to extend discussion time
    • Seconded
    • VP: pooling resources from the campus at large helps make expensive, off-campus events possible
    • IDEAL: taking time to reconfigure the budget dramatically would freeze groups who are trying to plan events
    • Request to pass budget but also make changes and amendments, to continue the conversation
    • Question: is it possible to determine how much of the GAP fund was spent last year?
      • GAP was underutilized. 55% was spent last year overall.
    • GSE: Would we be interested in passing the budget through, say, December, and forming a working group to revisit for the other half of the year?
      • Procedurally, no: events in the Spring are already being paid for.
      • So: the procedural option is to pass the budget but also pass amendments
    • Extend for another two minutes
    • Motion to pass today, form a working group, and revisit in two weeks (set of motions)
    • Motion to pass this budget:
      • Passes
    • Motion to have the sustainability committee examine this issue
      • Note that this committee should include G12 reps in addition to GAPSA people – President will extend invitation to open meetings in an email to the G12+
      • Passes
    • Motion to renew Sunshine policy.
      • Passes

c. Constitutional Amendments
  • Grad Council of Faculties
    • Question of how assignments were made to the Grad Council of Faculties already [returning members of Research Council were considered]
    • Question how the balance of research students would be represented if this change passed [choosing the best reps]
    • Statement that BGS students have very different program requirements than other research students,
and so this BGS rep is not in favor of this amendment

• SAS rep: note that there were very few meetings where all reps were present. Perhaps the different schedules of the different schools makes it unlikely that a meeting with three research reps from different schools could all meet at the same time anyway

• Suggestion about having a later amendment about having an “alternate”

• Motion to close debate
  • Passes
  • Neither of the two proposed amendments pass

• Quorum
  • tabled until further discussion

d. Executive Board Updates
e. New Business
  • Sexual Violence Information Officer Presentation
    • delayed until new policies are reconciled
  • New Enforcement of Event Observer requirement policy
    • email kahn@upenn.com – to send Natalie the names of any event observers who are known
    • The numbers of parties being shut down hasn’t increased from last year, but now those that might be shut down includes even unregistered frats and sororities
      • Question: what are the bounds of what counts as an unregistered Penn student organization. [Answer: only if the event can be associated with an organizing group – not coincidentally consisting of members from that group – then it would be susceptible to this sort of enforcement]
    • There is an open comment period at the University as of now. [Note: now closed]
  • These pre-existing rules have been newly enforced in the past few weeks
  • Presentation from “Penn Helps Puerto Rico”
    • Laura (BGS student): this is a collection effort for both monetary funds and items
    • Donations may be made via Venmo (@penn-helps-pr) and YouCaring.com
    • Email: penn4pr@gmail.com
    • There will be a second bake sale this upcoming Monday – please help promote around schools
    • There is a matching program.
    • Promise from GAPSA President to send out slides to GA
  • Office hours
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