GA Meeting Minutes 2017/11/8
Taken by: Buyan

I. Food got here at 6:13

II. General Assembly meeting

(a) Last meeting’s minutes
Minutes from last meeting were approved.

(c) Mark’s presentation
- There are 36 available seats available for GAPSA on UCouncil, we’ve only filled 13 of them
- University Council meets on Wednesdays from 4-6 pm in Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall
- There are: Committee on Academic and Related Affairs, on Campus and Community Life, on Diversity and Equity, on Open Expression, on Honorary Degrees, Committee on Committees, Financial Services Advisory Board
- Miles: FSAB revised their constitution to say that they may have a grad student rep rather than must, so that goes to show that it’s important for GAPSA to send reps

(d) Penn Violence Prevention
- Penn Violence Prevention doesn’t write the policies, but they are more of an education office. Their purpose is to engage the Penn community in conversation.
- Focus on violence, stocking, sexual violence, etc.
- A separate office was created for sexual violence. 3 full-time staff are dedicated to prevention and education.
- Nature of how we approach things decentralized but a lot of people doing really important parts of this work. Hard for students to understand how all pieces come together.
- data: AAU campus climate survey 2 years ago, better understanding of the prevalence of these issues on campus. Direct outcomes of this survey:
  - Lots of working groups were created: LGBT, grad and prof students, international student, etc.
  - separate office for sexual violence
- numbers: 20-25% Undergrad, 10-15% grad students report sexual contact. Why are the numbers lower for grad students? GA ideas:
  - grad students might not be here as long
  - grad students participate/report it less
  - grad students are older (highest risk group ~24 years old)
- Miles: what methods are you using to contact grad students to make them aware of the resources? A: Grad students access resources. Why? GA:
  - they live off campus,
- they’re in decentralized schools, vs. undergrads have programming online and through the colleges houses
- perception that these resources are for undergrads
- GA: do we have a breakdown of this data by school? By ethnicity, gender, etc.? A: The compilation of the data was done by an external company, so Penn does not control the raw data.
- Anita: some of these questions were repeated in the AAU survey that Penn does control, so the Deans have some breakdown of information by school. Institutional Services at Penn publishes that; university-wide data is publicly available online.
- Students have a right to request a no-contact order, reasonable academic and housing accommodations, ex. if they’re living with the person that they feel unsafe with, they’re taking a class with someone, etc. These can be made without a report.
- There are also offices that serve as confidential support resources. They can report to Title 9 but they aren’t obligated to. Annual Cleary Report = every U is obligated to make their crime data publicly available without identifying information.
- Offices: Special Services (DPS), Penn Women’s Center, CAPS STTOP Team, SHS, Chaplains Office, LGBT Center, Sexual Violence Prevention & Education, Ombudsman, African American Resource Center
- Special Services is on-call 24/7 and is not limited geographically. If there’s one students need to know, they want it to be this one.
- Sexual harassment report against students goes to Office of Student Conduct (OSC), against staff goes to Affirmative Action, against faculty or instructional staff goes to Department Chair or Dean
  - GA: What if the perpetrator is the DC or the Dean? A: Go to a confidential office first. The report would go to a higher office.
  - GA: Are DCs and Deans trained to deal with sexual harassment issues? A: There are no training programs so far, other than the fact that they are made aware of the policies
  - GA: It’s not obvious that sexual violence is dealt with by Affirmative Actions. When students are in distress, they might not think of going there. A: We welcome suggestions on how we’re reaching out. Penn Violence Prevention also has all of this information online.
  - GA: What’s the difference between confidential vs. not? A: Confidential means they don’t need to report to Title 9 Coordinator. Other people, ex. instructional staff have an obligation to report sexual violence if they hear about it from a student, for ex.
- Canvas course called GTAP (Graduates Thrive at Penn) that was started two years ago by some schools and this year by more schools
- SAS has the least participation, PennDesign is doing really well
- Meeting with schools to talk about how to deploy internal Penn module on Canvas, it’s also on the GSC website
- PAVE, undergrads but also last year created a grad group that can talk about culture change around the issue of sexual harassment, go to them if you want to become an educator or you want to host them by a student group.
- train staff every summer who are designed to be supportive educated folks around these issues (sexual harassment)
- Miles: Hailey and Brenda are points of contact be more involved in these things.
- Questions from the GA:
  - How do we know where to go if we can’t categorize our complaint? A: Any of the 9 offices; they’re all general and confidential
  - Is there an alternative to the Deans for reporting against faculty and staff? A: The 9 confidential offices are willing to work with everyone, ex. the Women’s Center has worked with male survivors.
  - We want to hear about the things that you want to change and how we can work together
  - Is there an option for online by-stander report, or any form of online reporting system? A: Penn Guardian App allows people to alert the community, but there is no anonymous online reporting option right now. There seems to be some energy in creating one.

(b) Paul’s finance presentation
- Robert’s Rules suspended, Paul’s rules adopted
- Biannual All Access Party by BGAPSA and others at the Pyramid Club
  - Q: Why can’t we just give the money to IDEAL directly instead of subsidizing a party? A: It’s important to create networking time through the party.
  - Q: What’s the difference between VIP and regular? A: doors open at 7 for VIP, 7:45 for regular tickets. There will be a photographer & open bar for VIP during this early time.
  - Requested: $21,853. Recommended by Finance Comm: $6750. Motion to fund $11,553. Motion to fund $4800.
  - Last year GAPSA funded them ~$4000 for each of the 2 events
  - Motion to fund $6750 passes
  - Greg is confirmed as Deputy

(c) Miles’ presentation about GOP Bill
- The proposed Bill would make PhD waived tuition as taxable income
- Ideas: GAPSA can write a letter, can sign on to NAGPS’ letter
- Miles will bring it up at UCouncil Steering next semester
- GA: Will the U statement be against the Bill in general, or about PhD student income? A: Opposed to the Bill in general (because University is probably worried more about the fact that U endowments will be taxed at a higher rate)
- Cornell has a totally different system of classifying their PhD student tuition “waivers” so they won’t be affected
- Some programs at Penn also have a system where PhD student tuitions are paid for as opposed to waived (there is a nuance here)
- GA: Since the PhD tuition is a number that the U makes up and pays itself (just an accounting issue), if the Bill passes, GAPSA should petition the U to change this accounting issue
- GA: Also set the tuition lower?
- GA: Have any other Universities (GAPSA-equivalents) signed on? A: They probably haven’t had enough time yet. But Miles imagines that nearly all of them will sign eventually.
- Motion to sign on to the letter passes.
- Next steps: Motion to work with admin to write GAPSA’s own letter. Passes.
- Motion for Exec to write it up and for GA to vote on it as long as it’s sent out 10 days in advance. Q: Is there a procedure for voting over email? A: Constitutionally unclear. But one option is exec can write it and submit it and GA can ratify it afterwards.