MINUTES FOR THE Seventh GA MEETING OF 2017-2018

Wednesday, January 17, 2018
6:00-8:30 pm
Irvine Auditorium
Amado Recital Hall

I. Food is served
5:45 pm

II. General Assembly Meeting
6:00 – 7:30 pm
Amado Recital

a. Approve Minutes from November 29
   • Approved
b. Update on GAPSA Renewal
   • email gapsa.future@gmail.com
c. NLRB Union Decision
   • Aaron and Liv presentation:
     • What the election is, what you need to know
       • Transcripts of hearings are available on GET-UPs website
       • The aim is to hold a recognition election, to see whether the majority of students who would be covered by a union would like for GET-UP to be their representative on the employment side, and then bargain for a contract
       • There have been successful elections at several schools since Columbia, and a few with unsuccessful and contested results
       • What the next 11 weeks will look like
         • election logistics. The NLRB will conduct the election, at a date that isn’t finalized.
         • Might be in the 4th week of March, over a few days, with in-person polling
         • There will probably be several voting locations
         • Who will be eligible: grads in all 9 schools who have worked in instruction or research duties in certain recent semesters (Spring 2018, or Spring/Summer/Fall 2017). It would need to be a non-clerical capacity.
         • There is an information section with links on the GAPSA website.
         • GET-UP activists are going to be reaching out several times to grad students over the next 11 weeks.
• It’s required by law that Penn provides the eligibility list 10 days before the election.
• The employer can’t TIPS: threaten, intimidate, Promise, or spy.
• GAPSA and GET-UP
  • GET-UP isn’t asking student groups to endorse them before the election. What they want to ask of GAPSA is for help to have as free and fair an election as possible.
  • Students could report election concerns to GAPSA if they’d feel more comfortable doing that than talking directly to GET-UP.
  • Reported that Penn has told the faculty senate that they will submit an appeal after the election date is declared.
  • As far as competition goes, there are enough issues for GET-UP and GAPSA to work alongside each other.
• Q&A:
  • What happens if there’s an appeal? [many things could happen – a stay on the election, impounded ballots, or having the election precede as scheduled (perhaps most likely)]
  • How do you find out whether you can vote? [There will probably be contested ballots (challenge ballots). The list might not be able to be shared publicly.]
  • What’s our next step besides just voting? [you can campaign if you want]
  • Note: The election is decided by 50% of those who vote, not those who are eligible.
  • Are you coordinating with schools’ student governments to announce who’s eligible? [we’re reaching out to as many people as we can. GAPSA will push out info when we have more info.]
  • The contract only covers you – and you only pay dues – in the semesters when you’re doing the sort of work that would include you in the bargaining unit. However, if you’re a member of GET-UP, you always are.
  • getupgrads.org
  • How would GAPSA and GET-UP have a “yes-and” relationship? [the split will likely come down to what is and isn’t covered in a contract. All schools with unions still also have student governments.]
d. Mental Health Survey
  • There was a conversation last semester about the sobering statistics of grad student utilization of Penn’s mental health
resources.
• Rosario and others have been hard at work on a survey.
• We met with CAPS to come up with questions, many of which were pulled from the Health & Mind survey, so we can compare results with national standards
• This particular survey will have its results public
• If you have an expertise in survey design, please help us out with feedback through a to-be-created Google Form.
• Very comprehensive questions, targeting different conditions.
• Suggestion: include a list of links to resources and surveys at the end of the survey, as well as a disclaimer at the beginning of the survey that it might be stressful, and to be mindful of your environment, have people you can contact, etc.
• Dean will send out the questions and the Google Form for providing feedback

e. Exec Board Updates
• President
  • Immigration rights red cards
  • IDEAL will run point on this moving forward
• VP
  • GAPSA Renewal: email Miles, or Becky, before next week
• Comms
  • Ask an Exec member to be let into the office to get your bomber jacket
• E&A
  • The mapping software is online, be prepared to work on it next meeting
• Fin
  • Empowerment funds have been released and are being transferred this week
  • Tuesday the 30th will be a Finance 101 info session at the GSC
  • Encourage your presidents to spend the GAP fund
  • Always apply with the auto-refer option, so you can get money from wherever it may be.
  • Reminder that finance committee is open to anyone who wishes to participate
  • Traunch voting: -- passes
  • Confirming Yifan as budget deputy: -- passes
• IA [not here]
• Operations:
  • new room: thanks, the breakout sessions are downstairs
  • check the calendar, and my emailed agendas, for locations
  • Attendance policy:
Re-instate 3, Robbie, Lloyd, and Jessica: passed

Professional
Research
Social
Student Life
  1st week of PennSHAPE classes, and nutrition classes are coming up
Student Programs
  Continuing with micro-saloon
External Affairs
  Grad Tuition won’t be taxed.
IDEAL
  Red cards
  Jan 31st 4-6 University Council, there will be a push, working on CDO.
SHAB: Student Health Advisory Board, needs student representation. There are 4 meetings this semester, from 3:15-4:30 on 1/26, 2/23, 3/23, and 4/20. Contact Mark to serve on that committee.
Echo speaking from Penn Design about China development. Will have 1st event on Friday, with other universities.

III. Committee Meetings 7:15 – 8:45 pm
  • skip straight to councils

IV. Council Meetings: 7:45 – 8:45 pm
  IDEAL Council: Room #16
  Professional Council: Amado Recital
  Research Council: Green Room

V. Happy Hour: 8:45 – 11:00 pm
  City Tap