MINUTES FOR THE Tenth GA MEETING OF 2017-2018

Wednesday, February 28, 2018
6:00-8:30 pm

Houston Hall
Ben Franklin Room

I. Food is served

II. General Assembly Meeting

Ben Franklin Room

a. Approve Minutes from February 14
   • approved

b. Union Update
   • …
   • GET-UP can go harder on the admin without having to maintain those relationships
   • Takeaway with GET-UP and Exec is to maintain flexibility in our partnership
   • Strategic tactic shift, rather than any lack of support or anything
   • Comments:
     • Would GET-UP share the collected data about how many Penn grad students are concerned about what topics? Could be productive data for GAPSA to bring to table. [maybe – will be brought up in committee]
     • GET-UP sees itself as set up for organizing a labor movement, whereas that doesn’t seem to fall under GAPSA’s vision of its mandate [GAPSA has decades of relationships, and multiple campaigns to weigh]

c. Carryover Presentation
   • Review of carryover vote process
   • Suspension of rules for this item
   • Only one ballot was tossed out on technicalities – 53 were counted
   • IDEAL was far and away the most popular category
   • The consolidation accounts for the will of the GA’s votes by 90%
   • Questions:
     • Are dollar amounts allocated to the line item, or the Chair? [to the Chair]
     • Is the GSC getting enough money? [Not quite – they
have infrastructure requests: kitchen, safety, new projector, storage, etc. They would need more to accomplish that.]

- Some categories that got rolled in had very low point totals, so does the roll-in process dilute from the high point categories? [This has been the system for three years, and the roll-in dilutes, you could say, from the lower-point categories]

- Pro/Cons & Commentary:
  - The amalgamation process skews the pure will of the GA, in that some reps may have voted differently depending on how categories got viewed together
  - Concern that next year when this is presented, it should be clearly specified which line-items would end up being rolled together in the end, so that reps can vote accordingly in the first place.

- Motion to release the carryover PASSES
- Amendments?
  - Miles makes plug for GSC – they have an operating budget but it does not include room for space renovations and improvements.
    - Opinion that the G12 allocation might be better spent re-assigned to the GSC.
  - Why doesn’t the Penn administration fund the Grad Center’s renovations? [This relationship has evolved over the years]
  - What happens if they don’t get funding for their kitchen updates? [not sure]
  - Point of personal privilege: this is a recurring theme where GAPSA’s funds step in to spend money where the University is unwilling to, but where the will of the students
  - Agreement to scrap the G12 line item
  - Motion 1: shift $72k from G12 to GSC
  - Request: have GAPSA ask the Admin to fund the rest of the GSC’s renovation needs
  - Note that now request for family leave can now go to the Family Center instead of their departments
    - Motion to vote: PASSES

d. Exec Updates

- **External**: Poll, ranking issues according to personal importance. Also, internal discussions about insurance … informal surveys [co-pays vs co-insurance, etc.]. You can email the shiac committee to learn more or get involved. They renew insurance proposals every year. Email here: shiac@pobox.upenn.edu
- **VP**: [Miles]: UC meeting last week was powerful, about
Penn’s failures in the domain of sexual harassment and assault. Miles wants to re-open call for a GAPSA advocacy committee. Email Miles if you are a GA member who will be around next year, and would like to get involved with this. Also, GradFest leadership: historically, the VP has managed this, but it doesn’t make sense for that role. Might make sense for student programs, for example, or a standalone deputy. If it’s re-assigned that would happen through an amendment before elections, so those who run would know what the position entails.

- Would it be possible to hire a professional event planner? This would kick off the year on a strong start, even when many schools haven’t elected their G12 execs by that time in the year.
- How would it be different between VP having a deputy, or Student Programs being the one with the deputy? [it wouldn’t]
- The ongoing process of looking at possibly changing the Exec board wouldn’t complete until after elections

- **Comms:** contest, as well as a “meet IDEAL” series
- **E&A:** All appointments filled for first time in GAPSA history. AMP Project: starting this Friday. Also, E&A’s Solidarity Fund is starting up – anyone can apply for those who experience deficiencies in equity and or access. Will open up Friday, 5pm. Link on GAPSA’s homepage.
- **Finance:** Round 3, GAPSA Finance 101, and some tickets available for lottery – email gapsa.finance@gmail.com by Tuesday.
- **International Affairs:** Interschool International Database – new website inspired by Mark’s AMP project. There’s lots of good resources out there, but no multilingual database. The plan is to complete first version before May. Seeking international student volunteers!
- **Ops & Professional:** happy hour, bowling. And advertise travel grants.
- **Research:** mentorship- how do we take that into account when we hire new faculty members?
- **Social:** stay tuned!
- **Student Life:** Mental health survey has been approved by IRB, and is ready to go. There’s an editable link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zYiUxQShoZqrtY5QXywfG3XkpiKPCphLpdc0VutGDA/edit. Practice filling it out based on the qualtrics link, and time it to provide timing feedback. Email gapsa.sl@gmail.com with any feedback. Also: Peer-to-Peer Support Program. The Benjamins exists for undergrads only, so we want one to be by- and for- grad students. CAPS has agreed to share the same training
curriculum they use for undergrads with us. Seeking grad students for first training class. [Recommend seeking trauma-informed training – also, we’ll be collaborating with other counseling and social work groups down the line.] Wellness Writing program coming up March 12th.

- **Student Program**: micro-salon program up and running – submit proposals for topics through form.
- **IDEAL**: Has met with 8 administrators. Working to create a Marginalized Student Welcome at the beginning of the year. Collaborating with GSC on upcoming sessions on sexual harassment and diversity. Stay up to date with us on Twitter and Facebook.
- **Miles**: DPS having a meeting during our elections, and VP will be there.
  - Grad Center round-table discussions coming up, as per President Gutmann’s email on the unionization news.

**III. Committee Meetings:**

*Find your committee:* Various locations

**IV. Council Meetings:**

*IDEAL Council*: Golkin Room  
*Professional Council*: Ben Franklin Room  
*Research Council*: Bishop White Room

**V. Happy Hour:**

Wahoo’s  

7:15 – 7:30 pm  
7:30 – 8:30 pm  
8:30 – 11:00 pm