Wednesday, 15 September 2021

7:00-8:30PM General Assembly (Class of 1949 auditorium)
8:30PM Happy Hour

General Assembly Minutes

7:08pm: started meeting (by Joe R)
  • Took a moment of silence for 9/11 victims Penn alumni

7:15pm: Agenda approved
  • Also, some members joined via Zoom

7:17pm: Welcome – Introductions & Goals for GA
  • We GAPSA are here to support and serve the graduate and professional student body.
  • Build bridges, foster partnerships, and unify all 12 graduate and professional schools of Penn

7:19pm : Robert’s Rules of Order – Review/Refresher (by Paul)
  • Everyone has the right to speak and be heard
  • Robert’s is not here to stop or limit us, it is here to help
  • Motions:
    o 1) Motion to...
    o 2) Second
    o 3) Restate motion
- 4) Debate
- 5) Vote
- 6) …

- Points: (must be recognized by chair)
  - 1) Point of Order
  - 2) Point of Information
  - 3) Point of Inquiry
  - 4) Point of Personal Privilege

- Privileged Motions (not debate-able) & Subsidiary Motions

7:27pm: GradFest (led by Paul, Programming Directors Tiffani and Shreyas)

- Starting on Friday, week-long event
- Over 20 events happening, on campus and off campus
- All info accessible on the QR code
- University is entrusting us to hold events for 2000 students amid pandemic, need to take this seriously, COVID-compliant
- Tickets are selling fast, but there are reserved tickets for volunteers
  - also check with respective school governments for discounted tickets before Friday
- Looking for volunteers
- Schedule:
  - Fri 9/17: GAPSA 101, GRAD SCHOOL MIXER @ Dave and Busters
  - Sat 9/18: Silent Disco
  - Sun 9/19: Apple Picking
    - Selling quickly
  - Mon 9/20: Movie Night @ Penn Park --> Raya and the Last Dragon
  - Tues 9/21: GradFair, Conversation Constellations & Cocktails @ Morris Arboretum
  - Wed 9/22: Wednesday Wellness (yoga class)
  - Thurs 9/23: Town Hall, Professional Headshots, Speed-Dating @ Philadelphia Distilling
  - Fri 9/24: Professional Headshots, Baseball Game Nite (Pirates vs. Phillies) @ Citizens Bank Park
    - Baseball game tickets selling quickly
  - Sat 9/5: Midnight Cruise (Spirit of Philadelphia)
    - Sells out quickly usu in 24 hours

7:41pm: Approve Interim Directors

(elected out of normal election schedule, so currently Interim directors)

- Elsa Yang – Director of External Affairs
- Tiffani Brown – Director of Off-Campus Programming
7:47pm: Committee Introductions

- **Advocacy Division**, headed by President Joe R
  - External Affairs - Elsa not here, so Joe R
    - Fighting for advocacy issues people care about
  - International Student Affairs - Hoang Ahn
    - Advocacy and Legal Support
    - Promotion of Wellness (physical, mental)
    - Improve communication among students - Integration of Social Engagement
  - Student Wellness - Robert not present, so Joe R
    - Partnering with women’s center for breastfeeding kits
    - Food pantries to address food insecurity, collaboration with IDEAL closet
    - Putting together a formal wear closet available to all graduate and professional students
    - Also to make more known existing resources to students
  - Equity & Access – Guerline not present, so Joe R
    - Existing Engineering platform scale up to all 12 schools to assess the state of Diversity, Equity and Access

- **Programming**, headed by Exec VP Paul
  - On campus programming – Shreyas
    - Not just GradFest, but other events coming
    - Looking for volunteers
  - Off campus programming – Tiffani
    - Aiming to have everyone network, socialize, etc.
  - ** We need your help!
  - (Paul) Aiming for one party with affinity groups every month
    - If you are on a committee, you can get a free ticket
  - ** You can be on multiple committees, work hard-play hard mentality
  - Ivy+ Summit
    - Penn is the host this year (exciting!)
    - Talking about Advocacy

- **Finance and Operations**, headed by VP FinOps Christian
  - Budget & Oversight – Ajay
    - We are here to give out money, looking for people to help and join committee
  - Public Relations – Serena (not present so Joe R led)
    - How to strengthen GAPSA branding
• Better communications platform (a more unified campus)
  • e.g. can only look up people in own school even if similar area of study
    ○ Logistics - Helen
• Sustainability, supporting local and/or BIPOC businesses

8pm: Gym Fees
• Part time students pay fees, but are barred from gym
• Motion for free gym access approved, no dissent.
• Motion will thus be pursued.

8:08pm: Provisional Budget (led by Christian)
• Provisional budget was presented back in Spring, to be approved by elected GA members
• Constitutional Budget 101 (all the rules)
• Constitutional budget must be presented by second GA meeting of the year, otherwise funds will be frozen --> so this will be pursued next GA meeting
• Total distribution info all on GAPSA website
• This year, we have an initiative for GA members to pair up and do any kind of event they would like to do, in order to foster closer relationships
  ○ Each GA member has budget of $500 allotted to them
  ○ Please use this!
• Individual Grants, Transcription Grants, Community Outreach (joint initiative with Professional and Research Councils)
• Tied Fraction Details (funds with Penn centers/orgs)
• Reserves
• Goals of Exec Board (each person presented briefly, slides have info)

8:30pm: Everyone (voting members) to fill out Budget Survey for direct feedback at end of meeting. Trying to get everyone’s input to find out everyone’s priorities.

Open Floor/Q&A

Other notes: some GA positions still need to be filled, different schools have different election timelines, so we will be updating the reps as soon as possible.
8:35pm: Adjournment approved. Happy Hour at New Deck.