Wednesday, 13 October 2021

6:00-6:30PM Food served and check-in (Ben Franklin [HH218])
6:30-7:30PM General Assembly Meeting (Ben Franklin)
   Zoom link: https://upenn.zoom.us/j/91963881814

7:30-8:30PM Council Meetings (Professional Council – Ben Franklin,
Research Council – Bishop White [HH217], IDEAL Council – Class of 1947 Room [HH314])*
*unless Chair communicated otherwise

8:30PM Happy Hour at New Deck Tavern

General Assembly Minutes

1. Agenda approved (6:35PM)

2. Minutes approved from 9/29/2021 (6:35PM)

3. Announcements (6:35PM)
   a. GAPSA-GSEG Diversity Summit
      i. Oct 15
   b. Call for Parliamentarian Candidates

4. University Committee Appointment Ratification (6:40PM)
5. Presentation & Discussion:
Resolution to Expand Access, Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunity with Digital PennCard (6:42PM)
- Presented by Joe Suh
- Digital PennCard to **supplement** current physical PennCard
  - e.g. mobile credentials
- Also, perhaps to reduce plastic and footprint in global warming (but it was also raised that this would only really help if we completely replace the physical PennCard with the digital one, not supplemental)
- Examples shown of other University Digital ID cards:
  - Auburn University
  - Duke University
  - John Hopkins University
- Suggestion to propose competition to Engineering students to create app because the school’s record of making technology/apps for its students and community is not exactly the best
- Another important question is how this would fit in with Penn’s current infrastructure? And cost considerations
- Digital PennCard – we should bring this to the attention of the administration, General Assembly to decide today if they **want** to bring it up to the administration or not (amends to the resolution may follow later, and more discussion about how to go about creating and implementing Digital PennCard)
- Motion passes, and feedback will be reviewed by councils.

6. Presentation & Discussion:
Resolution on First-year Doctoral Student Relocation Funds (7:04PM)
- Presented by Ludwig Zhao, on behalf of the Research Council
b. Resolution for the university to provide supplementary funds for first year doctoral students who need to move to Philadelphia their first year
   i. $3500 (calculated based on different schools’ statistics for cost of living – housing)

C. Affordability
   i. Stipend is not given until September 30, so students often lack sufficient funds to move in the beginning

d. Equality and Diversity
   i. e.g. someone who may choose to stay closer to home instead of Penn because it is cheaper to stay than move to Philadelphia

E. Point raised that

f. Some schools already do this, so this may not be too far-fetched?
   i. But actually, someone raised a point that those schools only do up to $1000, and then they take it out of future payments so it is more of a loan system. So it is questionable how helpful it is to promoting equality and diversity

g. Why PhD?
   i. PhD first, because the schools already did it (there are pilots) – so over time, after this resolution is pushed forward, we can expand to professional students

h. Keep in mind that loan system and whatnot may be more difficult for international students, because they do not have social security and other bank accounts set up yet

i. IDEAL and Research Council has voted on this, but Professional Council has not yet

j. Motion to have final vote next meeting after all 3 councils review, motion passed.

7. Open Floor/New Business/Q&A (7:20PM)
   a. More committee assignments will be out later this week
   b. Funds application round 1 closes Friday Oct 15

8. Meeting adjourned (7:23PM)