AGENDA
GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSEMBLY
44th GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION
November 9th, 2022; 6:30PM
Wharton Room 365
Zoom Link (In-Person attendance required for GA Reps unless otherwise excused):
https://upenn.zoom.us/j/91579346701

- Call to Order, Approval of Minutes and Agenda (5) Edwards
- Advocacy Division Updates (15) Phan
- Housing Updates (5) Phan
- Executive Board Professional Development Grants (10) Rummaneethorn
- Operations Budget Amendment (15) Jin
- Red & Blue Strategic Committee Discussion (5) Welfer
- Special Election Announcement & Procedures (10) Watson
- Future GA Meeting and Celebration Discussion (5) Watson
- Open Floor (5) Watson
- Adjournment

MINUTES

6:48 PM

I. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes and Agenda (Edwards)
   a) Approved, no objection

6:50 PM

II. Advocacy Division Updates (Phan)
   a) Announcement: University Council Open Forum on November 30th
   b) Ivy+ Summit:
      i) Updates around Community Building, Graduate Support, International 
         Student Support, Graduate Housing, access to Mental and Physical 
         Wellness
      ii) Next moves: if there are any concerns you would like to raise to reach out 
          to the director of external Affairs
c) ISA Updates
   i) Updates around ISA establishment in other Ivy’s; ISA in IPOG (launching of GAISO); Resources Saturday; ISSS Open Forum (40-50 attendees) raising housing issues, and support
   ii) Upcoming events: E&A International Student Town Hall. Reach out to Rexy for

d) Equity & Access:
   i) Increase of $38k for Ph.D. stipends!
   ii) Updates on Research and Wellness Student Town Hall
   iii) Upcoming event: International Students Town Hall (11/29) and Professional Students Town Hall
   iv) Initiatives: Meal Swipe Program; gathering data on financial aid – to get involved reach out to GAPSA E&A

e) Wellness:
   i) Updates on: Wellness Townhall (10/20); Food Pantry (10/28)
   ii) Initiatives: Wellness Week in December!

7:11 PM

III. Housing Updates (Phan)
   a) Questions and Feedback
      i) As this is an issue, what is the end goal? To resolve? To subsidize?
         (1) The first issue is access, and secondly, whether it will be affordable. The year prior, there was little consultation when the decision was made, so there is a priority to ensure that graduate students are a part of the decision-making process.
         (2) New building: Accolade ($1600+)
      ii) Is there a chart or guidance on housing prices between Penn and other institutions?
         (1) The price that was offered was based on the current price on campus and the price of rent for the area. As for other institutions, it is also based on location, but housing was also a concern for other schools.
      iii) The one bedroom starts at about 200-400 sqft, the pricing of it is competitive market rate. How will it be advertised to students?
         (1) Currently, what is stated on the website is different to what has been told GAPSA
         (2) Advertising: flyers have been seen around campus and can be contacted through the website
      iv) Is the point of the housing to be close to campus or to be more affordable?
         (1) Ideally, both yes. The hope is that we want to make it accessible to meet the demand of students
      v) The price of rent for two semesters is high (above market rate) for the quality – this does not address the real issue. There is no real option for students who are not
vi) Best way to go about this, pushing the university to build more buildings for Graduate students, moving beyond the Sansom place boundaries  
   (1) How willing are they to build a new building?  
      (a) Historically, zero percent. The reason it was built was that there was no place to live on campus. For the university, the third-party route is the way to go. The way to go is to pressure the third party to be student beneficial

b) Issues around housing application  
c) Update on new app for Penn Transit to be more user friendly  
d) A main concern: there are 150 reserved bedrooms for Grad students – but in the future, there is a possibility that there will be zero Grad students

7:29 PM

IV. Executive Board Professional Development Grants (Rummaneethorn)  
   a) Concerns around accountability systems: creating a system that does not require new work; students should keep it within students  
   b) Oversight Committees:  
      i) GA and G12 members through an open nomination (elect by GA)  
      ii) Reviewing monthly exec reports  
   c) Questions & Feedback  
      i) When the committee makes recommendations to suspend pay: is there a planned threshold? Is entirely subjective?  
         (1) It depends on the committee – to do opinion averaging on a case-by-case basis. In creating this committee  
      ii) Would the committee have to set the KPIs of the Exec board? What defines egregiousness? What about sanctioning?  
         (1) Sanctioning mechanisms are in place  
         (2) Egregious: there are a lot of enumerated responsibilities that are default, and it holds accountable if you fail to serve – taken straight from the GAPSA constitution  
         (3) Utilizing existing GAPSA structures for impeachment, etc.  
      iii) To gain visibility, to act as intermediary, to hold accountable for sanctioning/impeachment

7:46 PM

V. Operations Budget Amendment (Jin)  
   a) Results from the survey: more support for end of year dinners, global alumni mixers, small group dinners  
      i) Something to consider is the inflation for catering  
      ii) Previously Small Group Dinners were for GA members to come together to discuss GA initiatives. Moving forward we would like to have a representative from G12s, affinity groups, bringing outside individuals, etc.  
      iii) There will be a mechanism to ensure  
   b) Feedback on
i) Small dinners: 60-70% positive
   ii) End of year dinner: 50-60% positive

   c) The Options Ahead
d) Alumni Relations: Additional Request of $19,500
e) Be on lookout

8:03 PM

VI. Red & Blue Strategic Committee Discussion (Watson)
   a) No new updates

8:04 PM

Motion to extend meeting by 15 minutes, motion passes with little objection

VII. Special Election Announcement and Procedures (Watson/Welfer)
   a) EVP, Jaydee, will be resigning and stepping down from her role
   b) President appointed a chair of elections to Paul Welfer (Director of Alumni Relations)
   c) Electors must be certified ten (10 days) prior to the election, please check with Alex (Director of Logistics) to see if you are eligible
   d) Call for nominations! You can nominate either by calling it out in GA meetings or email Paul, and on the day of the elections last minute call

Motion to approve election procedures as presented, passes with no objection

8:19 PM

VIII. Future GA Meeting and Celebration Discussion (Watson)
   a) Motion to move the Wednesday, December 7th, to Wednesday, November 30th, motion passes unanimously
   b) Question: if you are not able to go to the new date as it was a change?
      i) GA is allowed to excuse absences
   c) Feedback on being more relaxed with attendance
      i) 50% positive
   d) If you are virtual, you cannot vote
   e) If you are not able to be here: email GAPSA about concern
   f) GA celebration dinner/meal to be moved to November 30th -
      i) Feedback: generally positive
      ii) Feedback: To have happy hour after elections

8:28 PM

IX. Open Floor (Watson)
   a) Gentrification of Townhouses might clash with the GAPSA housing issue agenda
      i) GAPSA has not taken a stance on it
      ii) It is encouraged to draft a resolution for GAPSA to take a stance on it
      iii) Concerns around Penn’s relationship with the wider community; encouraged to sit on the housing committee
iv) ISSS also discuss concerns about housing, it is open to all students and not limited to international students

b) Clarification on why we voted on the election and then voted on the date change

X. Adjournment at **8:35 PM**