To: The General Assembly of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Author(s): Haarini Ramesh, Ashley Scott, Samuelle Delcy, Chloe Ricks, Bakary Samasa, Joanna Wong, Daniel Morris, Lisha Bhati, Jacquelyn Torres, Amanda Peña, and Zizhao Li

RE: Amendment to GAPSA's 2022/2023 budget to reallocate $47,000 from Reserve to IDEAL Group Funding ($27,000 of the $47,000), IDEAL Council Development ($10,000 of the $47,000), and creating the IDEAL Collaboration Fund ($10,000 of the $47,000)

ABSTRACT:
The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) should commit to reallocate $47,000 from the 2022/2023 budget reserves to IDEAL Group Funding ($27,000 of the $47,000), IDEAL Council Development ($10,000 of the $47,000) and creating the IDEAL Collaboration Fund (ICF) ($10,000 of the $47,000) per Article VIII.A.3 of the GAPSA Constitution.

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WHEREAS, The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) is charged with representing all graduate and professional students enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, GAPSA’s IDEAL (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Leadership) Student Council is charged with representing graduate and professional affinity group interests across all of Penn’s twelve graduate schools; and

WHEREAS, The Affinity Groups comprising the IDEAL Student Council offer a variety of programming opportunities to connect academically, professionally, and socially; and

WHEREAS, Each of these organizations serves both research and professional student communities and supports affinity groups across all of Penn’s twelve graduate schools;

WHEREAS, GAPSA is an inclusive organization that derives strength from the diversity of its members; and

WHEREAS, The University of Pennsylvania affirms that the University benefits greatly from the rich diversity of all undergraduate, graduate, and professional students; and

WHEREAS, The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, high inflation, and rising costs have led to significant community-building barriers and economic burdens on IDEAL constituencies, while the funds allocated to IDEAL Group Funding have remained stagnant; and

WHEREAS, Additional funds to IDEAL Group Funding and IDEAL Council Development empower GAPSA’s IDEAL to support affinity group interests across all of Penn’s twelve graduate schools, especially uplifting students from disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly under-represented minorities; and

WHEREAS, Additional funds to IDEAL Council Development would be used to organize student leadership development initiatives for affinity group leaders across Penn’s 12 graduate schools focused on representing intersectional identities or student-led promotion of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts; and

WHEREAS, Additional funds to IDEAL Council Development would be used to support the formation of new affinity groups, including but not limited to those reflecting the interests of
WHEREAS, The creation of an IDEAL Collaboration Fund (ICF) promotes collaboration on programming and advocacy efforts among affinity groups; and

WHEREAS, The IDEAL Collaboration Fund (ICF) fosters intersectionality, supporting the IDEAL Student Council on any initiative done in partnership with 2 or more different IDEAL constituencies; and

WHEREAS, The IDEAL Collaboration Fund (ICF) is accessible to any school-specific affinity group across all of Penn’s twelve graduate schools on any initiative done in partnership with another school-specific affinity group or the IDEAL Student Council; and

WHEREAS, The IDEAL Collaboration Fund (ICF) could stand to benefit WSDM (GSE), Pride Alliance (GSE), ASW Collective (SP2), Trans Student Union (SP2), Association of Black Social Workers (SP2), QSP2 (SP2), Minorities in Nursing Organization (Nursing), Asian Pacific American Nursing Student Association (Nursing), Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (Medicine), Latino Medical Student Association (Medicine), Penn Med Pride (Medicine), South Asian Medical Student Association (Medicine), Elizabeth Blackwell Society (Medicine), LIFT US UP (Medicine), Penn INSPIRE (Medicine), Chinese Dental Association (Dental), First Generation Professionals (Dental), Hispanic Student Dental Association (Dental), Indian Student Dental Association (Dental), Korean Student Dental Association (Dental), Penn Dental Pride Alliance (Dental), Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (Law), Black Law Student Association (Law), Disabled & Allied Law Student Association (Law), Latinx Law Student Association (Law), Native American Law Student Association (Law), First Generation Professionals (Law), Penn Law Lambda (Law), Penn Law Women's Association (Law), South Asian Law Students Association (Law), Inclusion in Design (Weitzman), Urban China Collective (Weitzman), Penn Women in Design (Weitzman), Womxn in Planning (Weitzman), African American MBA Association (Wharton), Asia Club (Wharton), Brazil Club (Wharton), Caribbean Business Initiative Club (Wharton), Greater China Club (Wharton), India Club (Wharton), Japan Club (Wharton), Korea Club (Wharton), Middle East and North Africa Club (Wharton), Out for Business (Wharton), Return on Equality (Wharton), Southeast Asia Club (Wharton), Wharton Africa Student Association (Wharton), Wharton Asian American Association of MBAs (Wharton), Wharton Hispanic-American MBA Association (Wharton), Wharton Latin American Student Association (Wharton), Wharton Women in Business (Wharton), Lambda Vets (Vet), Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (Engineering), National Society of Black Engineers (Engineering), Out in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (Engineering), Society of Women Engineers (Engineering), Underrepresented Student Advisory Board in Engineering (Engineering), Women in Computer Science (Engineering) and any organization across all of Penn’s twelve graduate schools that supports the core tenets of the IDEAL Student Council of fostering inclusion, diversity, equity, access and leadership; and

WHEREAS, Increasing monetary support for the IDEAL Student Council aligns with GAPSA’s mission of empowering the graduate student body; now, therefore; be it

RESOLVED, GAPSA shall amend its 2022/2023 budget by reallocating $47,000 from Reserve to the IDEAL Group Funding ($27,000 of the $47,000), IDEAL Council Development ($10,000 of the $47,000), and creating the IDEAL Collaboration Fund ($10,000 of the $47,000); and

RESOLVED, To use allocated funds in order to strengthen the IDEAL Student Council and its academic, professional, and social initiatives.