GA Reps in Attendance

Adam Ziada  
Akshay Kumaria  
Arianna Chang  
Ashley Scott  
Bakary Samasa  
Ching Wei Sullivan  
Chloe Ricks  
Chris Larson  
Daniel Morris  
Deeya Bajaj  
Dimitris Boufidis  
Harshil Parekh  
Jacquelyn Torres  
Jayme Nordin  
Joanna Wong  
Joe  
Rummaneethorn  
Kaixi (Alex) Yang  
Kaustubh Naik  
Kendall Hart  
Keri Davenport  
Kyle Rodriguez  
Lauren Verheyden  
Mark (Kip) Werner  
Maya Singh  
Meagan Kearney  
Merik Gillespie  
Michael Santos  
Molly McHugh  
Nina Kalkus  
Radhika Mittal  
Ridhi Dar  
Riya Choudhury  
Shivani Daftary  
Simeon Ristic  
Sophia Li  
Stephanie  
Schreiner  
Xufei Liu  
Yumi Kodama  
Zahabia  
Rangwala Zizhao  
(Molly) Li

AGENDA
GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSEMBLY
44th GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION
October 12th, 2022; 6:30PM
Gittis 2, Penn Carey Law School
Zoom Link (In-Person attendance required for GA Reps unless otherwise excused):
https://upenn.zoom.us/j/94733373681

6:40 PM
Welcome to GAPSA (5) Watson

Motion to approve the minutes from the last three meetings
- Passed

Motion to add an agenda item:
- Create an Ad Hoc committee to deliberate and come up with amendments to the constitution
- Passes

Agenda item added
- Motion to approve the agenda
- Seconded, passed

6:50 PM

Committee assignments
- Assignments distributed today, please contact Alex (Logistics) if you did not receive an assignment
- Please take note of the still open committees
- Compiling calendars of the committee meeting times to hear what’s happening, etc.

Survey for GA meeting feedback

Food arrives so 10 min recess to collect food

7:00 PM

University Council appointments
- Review of the appointments for University Council
- Motion to approve the appointments

University Council and Committees
- Past two general assembly meetings we have been covering UC and committees
- Robert, Hoang Anh, and Emily Getzen (E&A)
- Application process to appoint people
- Formal approval for appointed reps
- Motion to approve, Seconded
- Passes with majority to approve the appointed list of reps for UC and committees
- List of reps and their contact found here:

7:05 PM

IDEAL Council Budget Amendments:
- 27k to IDEAL group funding
- To increase from 6k to 8k
- 10k to leadership development
- Extend opportunities for engagement and participation to exec boards of other affinity groups
- 10k to Ideal Community fund
- Total of 47k amendment (money taken from reserves)

See Below

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 Disabled, Neurodiverse, First-Generation, Low-Income, International, Indigenous, and Queer students; and
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.

Questions related to the IDEAL Budget
  - Why was this number chosen?
- How is the leadership development fund going to be utilized?
- What was the percent utilization from last year?
- What happens to the carry over?
- What happens when the infinity group goes over the allotted amount?

7:20 PM

Operation budget amendments
- Amendment to the budget initiatives (soft intro)
- Feedback on what is important and necessary
- Three subareas:
  - Logistics, Alumni relations, public relations
- Logistics: end of the year dinner
- 30K increase to accommodate for rising food costs, increased GA attendance, etc
- Waiting to present on numbers for the next GA
- Breakdown of statistics for each of these areas – find time for presenting this at the next meeting
- Alumni relations: Newly established
  - 46K total (will check later)
- Connecting to GAPSA alum – building bridges and connecting current students to our previous students
- Data analytics: also newly developed (still working on figuring it out) Agreements with the budget
- Public relations: community branding and software communications platform – Working with Penn Student Agency to sell GAPSA branded merch
  - 68K

7:40 PM

Graduate Housing Issue (10) Watson/Zhao

Graduate student housing concerns
- Penn does not provide much graduate student housing
- Sansom place currently the only grad housing offered
- 591 beds
- Lack of accessibility and affordability for housing

Sansom place: Ludwig Zhou
- Redesign to be refurbished for use later
- No longer affiliated with the university

Watson:
- One graduate student housing option
- Not up to par for graduate student housing
- Renovation that is not a good for grad students
- 525 beds in the location
- Long term that will go down to 120 rooms to be provided by the university

Resolution to improve graduate student housing

Questions:
- Don’t all undergrads move off campus anyway?
- How will the renovation affect the pricing of the location
- I think that Grad student housing should be offered to the best of the school ability
  - Make housing for people with kids
- International students
  - It’s very easy for international students to transition and come here by staying in the grad dorms
- Did they explain the reason why they want to close grad student housing

7:57 PM

President’s Inauguration and Homecoming (5) Welfer

- Paul
Inauguration with Magill

8:00 PM

Motion to extend the meeting by 15 min
- Passed

Transportation Issues (5) Zhao

- Formation of a shuttle service to be utilized by the graduate students

Septa advocacy
- UPHS advantage program

8:06 PM

LPS Gov president
LPS Gov’t Concerns - Budget Action (10) Watson

Voted to change allocation to use the old methodology for the use of the funds Would need our funding to be available to make a resolution on the funding

It is moved and seconded that an ad hoc constitutional revisions committee be created.

Motion passes

8:12 PM

Open Floor (5) Watson

8:16 PM

Motion to adjourn the meeting

8:19 PM

Meeting Adjourned