**ABSTRACT:**
The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) should commit to amending GAPSA's constitution (Article VIII: Budget and Finance Section A) to codify IDEAL Group Funding, IDEAL Affinity Group Leadership Development Fund (AGLDF), and IDEAL Collaboration Fund (ICF) which shall increase at a rate, in percentage terms, equal to that of the GAPSA budget as a whole, to support a host of programming initiatives that will materially benefit the lives of graduate and professional students. This resolution similarly aims to codify this year's increase for both Research and Professional Councils.

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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, Funds to IDEAL Group Funding and the Affinity Group Leadership Development Fund (AGLDF) empower GAPSA’s IDEAL to support affinity group interests across all of Penn’s twelve graduate schools, especially uplifting students from disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly underrepresented minorities; and

WHEREAS, Codifying the Affinity Group Leadership Development Fund (AGLDF) would allow GAPSA IDEAL to annually 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, Codifying the Affinity Group Leadership Development Fund (AGLDF) would 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, Codifying the 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, Sustaining 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 GAPSA’s constitution’s Article VIII: Budget and Finance Section A to insert: “10. The IDEAL Council shall be guaranteed an appropriation in the sum of no less than one hundred seventy thousand in FY24 for the purposes of supporting affinity group events, organizations, and initiatives. The IDEAL Collaboration Fund (ICF) and Affinity Group Leadership Development Fund (AGLF) will become permanent line items. These organizations will be permanent IDEAL Groups: Black Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (BGAPSA), Chinese Students and Scholars Association at Penn (CSSAP), Ernest E. Just Biomedical Society (EEJust), Black Graduate Women’s Association (BGWA), Lambda Grads, Pan Asian Graduate Student Association (PAGSA), Penn Graduate Women in Science and Engineering (PGWISE), Penn Grad First Plus, and Rangoli - The South Asian Association at Penn. The aforementioned groups, that of which shall act as umbrella organizations (defined as coordinating with school-specific affinity groups in multiple schools), will be automatically funded at the highest tier per the empowerment plan in future years. IDEAL Groups will be automatically dispersed, at the start of the academic year, 50% of their prior-year Empowerment Fund base grant and their final allocation after a review of their pertinent compliance with the applicable empowerment plan tier. a) The amount of funds appropriated to the IDEAL Council shall increase at a rate, in percentage terms, equal to that of the GAPSA budget as a whole.”

RESOLVED, GAPSA shall amend GAPSA’s constitution’s Article VIII: Budget and Finance Section A.5 to: “The Research Student Council shall be guaranteed an appropriation in the sum of no less than one hundred seventy thousand dollars in FY24 for the purposes of awarding research student travel grants, requests for merit funding from research student groups, and supporting academic programs. a) The amount of funds appropriated to the Research Student Council shall increase at a rate, in percentage terms, equal to that of the GAPSA budget as a whole.”

RESOLVED, GAPSA shall amend GAPSA’s constitution’s Article VIII: Budget and Finance Section A to insert: “11. The Professional Council shall be guaranteed an appropriation in the sum of no less than one hundred seventy thousand dollars in FY24 for the purposes of awarding professional student travel grants, requests for merit funding from professional student groups, and supporting professional student programs. a) The amount of funds appropriated to the Professional Student Council shall increase at a rate, in percentage terms, equal to that of the GAPSA budget as a whole.”

[END]