To: The General Assembly of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, Katie Bonner (Executive Director - Office of Student Affairs), Barbara Hewitt (Executive Director - Career Services), Brian Peterson (Director of Makuu), Cindy Au-Kramer (Finance, Operations, & Program Coordinator of PAACH), Krista L. Cortes (Director, La Casa Latina), Erin Cross (Director - LGBT Center), Elisa Foster (Director - Penn Women's Center), Rodolfo (Rudie) Altamirano (Executive Director, International Student & Scholar Services Executive Director, Immigration Services and Integration Programs)

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RE: Amendment to GAPSA's 2022/2023 budget to reallocate the remaining reserve balance to the potential list of General Assembly-approved initiatives by June 16, 2023, 4:30 PM, with the priority on “Use #1.” Amendment to GAPSA's constitution (Article VIII: Budget and Finance Section A) to require GAPSA, starting in FY24, two weeks prior to the end of the fiscal year, to transfer the remaining amount of its annual allotment as a gift to Career Services to support graduate and professional student unpaid internships.

ABSTRACT:
The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) should commit to reallocating the remaining reserve balance to the potential list of General Assembly-approved initiatives, with the priority on “Use #1.” This resolution also proposes a constitutional amendment that ensures the entirety of GAPSA's allotment is utilized for the interests of graduate and professional students.

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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 has a fiduciary responsibility to graduate and professional students, and acknowledges the critical role it has as stewards of general fee money, and remains dedicated to utilizing its funds in a meaningful way to support its constituency; and

WHEREAS, The University is removing GAPSA's ability to maintain carryover, and we underscore that a shift in an account from one that allows for the carryover to one that does not makes it more challenging to plan for large-scale advocacy projects (e.g., menstrual product access, food insecurity, supporting various centers on campus) by removing the essential financial cushion of reserves; and

WHEREAS, GAPSA appreciates its role at this university, one of fostering meaningful relationships with the University Life Leadership Team, Penn Office of the Provost, Office of the President, Cultural Resource Centers, Graduate Student Center, Career Services, and
administrators from various parts of campus life to better the lives of graduate and professional students; and

WHEREAS, GAPSA recognizes the importance and value of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Center (LGBT Center), Pan-Asian American Community House (PAACH), Center for Hispanic Excellence: La Casa Latina (La Casa Latina), Makuu: The Black Cultural Center (Makuu), Penn Women’s Center (PWC), International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), Graduate Student Center (GSC) and Career Services for the University of Pennsylvania, its community and particularly for graduate and professional students; and

WHEREAS, GAPSA believes that working with the aforementioned stakeholders would build a stronger university, reaffirm our shared values of uplifting students from all walks of life;

WHEREAS, GAPSA strongly believes that the University, as a whole, must do better in supporting graduate and professional students through the Cultural Resource Centers; and

WHEREAS, GAPSA strongly believe the University, as a whole, must do better in supporting graduate and professional students with unpaid internships; and

WHEREAS, GAPSA maintains a sizable reserve balance (approximately $1.2 million) and wants to demonstrate to the University it has a good faith belief that supporting the Cultural Resource Centers and graduate and professional students with unpaid internships are essential causes; and

WHEREAS, GAPSA also strongly believes in having an open graduate student government space. Even the current GAPSA office in Houston Hall is in an area explicitly labeled on the wall for “undergraduate student government.” GAPSA does not have a physical space in the Graduate Student Center, which is the primary avenue for graduate and professional students to congregate outside their school. GAPSA sees a potential use of its reserve funding to include the possibility of purchasing a home and utilizing it for the G12+ student governments (starting next year, only two graduate student governments have a physical office space), for IDEAL Groups (whose primary place should be part of the ARCH Phase II Planning), General Assembly (and our various committees, to meet and work on resolutions), and for the general public to stop in and ask questions. This “Graduate Student Government House” could be purchased for $250,000-$1,100,000123 and would be the property of the University of Pennsylvania. However, GAPSA will become the long-term tenant of the building. A room in this building could even become a satellite office for the Graduate Student Center.

RESOLVED, GAPSA shall amend its 2022/2023 budget by reallocating the remaining reserve balance at the end of FY23. GAPSA’s General Assembly authorizes the following list of uses and commits GAPSA to implement Use #1, and if not possible, the descending list of options:

1) Use #1: GAPSA shall commit to allocating our carryover as a gift to the following campus entities to the following proportions (if an entity does not have a gift account and/or chooses not to receive this gift, their amount shall be given to Career Services; if Career Services chooses not to receive this gift, their amount shall be distributed evenly among the other entities that choose to accept): The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Center (LGBT Center) (7%), Pan-Asian American Community House (7%), Center for

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3. https://www.zillow.com/homedetails/4028-Market-St-Philadelphia-PA-19104/10308601_zpid/? [Note: this is zoned for mixed-use already]
Hispanic Excellence: La Casa Latina (La Casa Latina) (7%), Makuu: The Black Cultural Center (Makuu) (7%), Penn Women’s Center (PWC) (7%), International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) (7%), Graduate Student Center (GSC) (7%), Career Services (51%)

- **Broad gift stipulations:** 1) Gift should be used for the betterment of graduate and professional students 2) GAPSA should be credited according to institutional guidelines (e.g., plaque, logo, etc. using the judgment of a reasonable person).
- **Career Services Stipulation:** The gift is to permanently create an unpaid internship funding program, which GAPSA will aim to support annually.
- **These funds should be transferred by June 16, 2023, at 4:30 PM (two weeks before the end of the fiscal year).**

2) If “Use #1” is not possible, GAPSA calls the university to implement **Use #2:** Utilizing our reserve balance to invest in creating a physical space for GAPSA, IDEAL Affinity Groups, G12+ student governments, and the general graduate and professional study body. This would be a “Graduate Student Government House.” This Graduate Student Government House would involve purchasing a multi-bedroom home/mixed-used property (current Zillow prices of $250,000 - $1,100,000) to create a student-facing space for graduate and professional students. The University of Pennsylvania would own the Graduate Student Government House.

   - a) This would be a space for graduate and professional students to congregate and directly interact with their elected representatives.
   - b) This would be a space for the G12+ Student Government, most of which still need a physical office.
   - c) This would be a space that can be shared with students facing housing insecurity.
   - d) This would be a space where GAPSA could pay for childcare services and provide them for parents currently not served by University resources (e.g., certain programs that may be ineligible for support through the Family Center).
   - e) This would be a space that may also allow the Graduate Student Center to have a satellite office.

3) If “Use #1” or “Use #2” is not possible, GAPSA commits to **Use #3:** Gifting the entire reserve balance to support the ARCH Restoration Project and reiterating the necessity of incorporating GAPSA IDEAL Groups into these spaces.

   - a) Gift Stipulation: Crediting GAPSA in the space, following institutional guidelines.

4) If “Use #1”, “Use #2” or “Use #3” is not possible, GAPSA calls on the University to implement **Use #4:** Gifting the entire reserve balance to establish and permanently endow a “GAPSA Fellowship Fund” open to both Research and Professional students for support interdisciplinary research.

5) If “Use #1”, “Use #2”, “Use #3”, or “Use #4” is not possible, GAPSA calls on the University to implement **Use #5:** Refund graduate and professional students this fiscal year, a proportional share of the entire reserve balance.

**RESOLVED,** GAPSA shall amend GAPSA's constitution’s Article VIII: Budget and Finance Section A to insert: “12. Any funds available, starting in FY24, two weeks prior to the end of the fiscal year, GAPSA will transfer the remaining amount up to its allotment to Career Services to support graduate and professional student unpaid internships.” with an understanding that the project in which we support at the end of each fiscal year can be amended by the General Assembly on an annual basis.