Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Meeting Minutes | 1st meeting of the 45th General Assembly Session (2023-2024)

13 September 2023 at 7-8:30pm
Location: Silverman Hall 240B at Penn Law

Present: In person is 3/7 IDEAL, 14/23 Professional Council, and 6/9 Research Council. Approximately 55 attendees both voting and non voting. Attendance list included at the end of the document.

7:17 pm

1 Opening

- Meeting called to order, opening remarks by Speaker Gina Perrucci.
- Agenda approved.

7:24pm

2 Introduction to GAPSA (35)

Executive Board Introductions   Executive Board

- VP of Advocacy Saloni Tandon: What values do we need to define? Accessible, equitable, etc.

- VP of Finance Nakisha Renee Jones: Total operating budgets is under their purview.

- VP of Operations Gabrielle Newell: Public relations, alumni relations, data analytics, logistics.

- VP of Programming Anusha Singhal: Goals include increased collaboration and more accessible programming.

- Professional Council Chair Kendall Hart: Takes professional students issues and organize them into legislation to be reviewed by the General Assembly.

- Research Council Chair Ludwig Zhao: Grants for research travel, academic event funds, advocacy (ex increasing stipends, organizing town halls).

- IDEAL Council Chair Chloe Ricks: Control of the Empowerment Fund for affinity groups. Goal to create a listserv to encourage more overlapping interaction and initiatives.

7:35pm

GA meeting structure   Krone

- Presidents Advisory Council (PAC) meeting this Friday, reach out to Michael for an invite to join.

- A motion to extend meeting time now needs 3/4th's vote to pass.

- Use Roberts rules of order, refer to one pager.

- See constitution and bylaws for official information on procedures.

- Expect Agenda Monday before the GA meeting, Minutes the Friday after the GA meeting.

7:43pm

GA Rep responsibilities and committee information   Krone

- University council introduction, UC Council committees, trustee committees. More information in slides.

- Full list of all rep seats on website (link will be sent after GA). Application for seats is in slides.

  Q: Applying for all committees and councils is through the same application?
  A: Yes. All in the QR code.

- GA assembly member roles and responsibilities: Show up to GA meetings, go to council meetings (meeting time is up to chair, 1hr long), go to committee meetings.

- GA members must join at least one internal committee. Further information on slides, please fill out a form for preference of a committee.

  Q: Committees meet every two weeks?
  A: Yes!

- In the case that you cannot attend General Assembly meetings: appoint a proxy ahead of time, can be done twice per semester. Email gapsa.logistics with name, email, and school/program of the proxy. Two unexcused absences are also permitted.

- Stay connected over emails and slack workspace. Go to Michael for invite link to the GA 23-24 slack channel. Council and committee channels to come.

7:52pm

Energizer / Ice Breaker (10)   Krone

- Originally scheduled 10 minutes, opted for 5 during meeting for sake of time.

7:59pm

GradFest Introduction (10)   Singhal

- New addition of GAPSA alumni dinner Friday 22nd 7-9pm.

- Sign up for grad fair. Expect President of Penn or Provost to be there. Get your student group represented!

- Movie night, sports day, axe throwing, and speed friending still have tickets. Raffle tickets for boat cruise will be at grad fair.

  Q: Boat cruise tickets are definitely sold out?
  A: Yes, unless you enter the raffle and win.

  Q: Do we need volunteers for progamming events?
  A: Join the Programming committee to volunteer.

- Reach out to Anusha with questions and concerns.

8:02pm

Budget and Finance Introduction (10)   Alvarado and Jones

- Approval process of the budget: new timeline, prelim budget is needed in January rather than March, final needed in March.

- No longer have monthly allocations, rather it will be done all at year end, less P-cards, no carryover due to encumbrances from last year, cap of 300k for future carry over. More to come.

- Three budgets to know about and review, info and numbers in slides.

- One goal is to recommend that pot of money for event collaboration that is held to G12 be extended to IDEAL council.

- Three sessions will be hosted on the budget. Material will be sent out the night of the GA meeting. Friday: a budget tutorial will be made, recording should exist for those unable to make it. Walk through of budget i.e. how to read major changes, things that are unchangeable due to the constitution. Reps should think of amendments which are to be submitted the following Saturday by midnight.

- Two sessions of budget office hours will be held. Feel free to email questions as well to Rene.

- On Sept 27 in two weeks, final vote on amendments of budget will occur.

<div align="center">8:14pm</div>

Recess Director and Deputy Appointments (10)   Perrucci

Presented themselves:

Gaurav Mangal (Dir of Intl Student Affairs)	Sparsh Maheshwari (Dir. of Cultural Programming)	Mayowa Fageyinbo (Dir. of Equity and Access)
Ananth Srinivas (Dir. of Public Relations)	Dora Racca (Dir. of Data Analytics)	Paul Welfer (Dir. of Alumni Relations)
Kerone Wint (Dir. of Wellness)	Rene Alvarado (Dir. of Budget)	Sofia Castelli (Dir. of Academic Programming)
Hongyu (Viva) Wan (Deputy Dir. of Alumni Relations)	Aradhana Kasimetty (Dir. of Logistics)	Grace Chang (Deputy Dir. of Records)

- Motion to vote on director appointments. Seconded. All in favor.

- **Recess appointments confirmed.**

<div align="center">8:18pm</div>

3   Open Forum

- Quorum announcements: In person is 3/7 IDEAL, 14/23 Professional Council, and 6/9 Research Council. 9 Research Council positions remain vacant, 27 remain vacant on Prof Council, and 3 for IDEAL.

- Discussion on making presidents of G12s non voting members of GA:

  Assembly Member A: Motion to appoint all 16 presidents of 16 G12s as nonvoting members of the general assembly.

Assembly Member B: Are all graduate students members of GAPSA as is, so what would be the difference between GA non-voting member and non-voting graduate student attendee?

Assembly Member A: Only non-voting GA members can attend closed sessions and receive notice of GA meetings

Point of info: Are all of the 16 aware and in agreement with this motion?

Assembly Member A: Some are. Some are already non-voting members.

Point of clarity: if president of G12 are voting members already, will this make them nonvoting?

Assembly Member C: If you are G12 and have a vote as a GA rep, this motion would not demote you.

Assembly Member D: Can we end Q and A and open a formal debate?

Perrucci: Q and A is over.

Assembly Member E: Motion to postpone debate, open at council and reopen and next GA mting.

Seconded. All in favor. **Debate postponed until next meeting**.

- Misc Q and A:

Assembly Member E: What's going on with happy hour?

Perrucci: We are waiting for more GA members.

8:25pm

4 Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn.
- Seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

5 Attendance

Professional Council

Hugh Strike Law (CSR)
Olivia Heffernan Law (CSR)
Christian Bogardus Medicine (MSG)
Maya Alexis Medicine (MSG) Virtual
Mo Soumaoro SP2 (SP2SG)
Elyse Cinquino SP2 (SP2SG)
Isabelle Schlehr Veterinary (SAVMA)
Sabrina Garcia Veterinary (SAVMA)

Professional Council

Rebekah Davis Business (WGA) Virtual
Ashish Erasani Business (WGA) Virtual
Alison Lee Business (WGA)
Divya Achtan Business (WGA) Virtual
Isaiah Matthews Business (WGA)
Rhea Datta Business (WGA) Virtual
Loyd Bradley Business (WGA) Absent
Cristian Navarro Business (WGA) Absent
Shivani Daftary Dental (PDM) Absent
Lauren Verheyden Dental (PDM)
Katherine Bencosme Dental (PDM)
Tre Ambroise Design (WSC)
Meagan Kearney Design (WSC)
Lauren Pawlowski Design (WSC)
Akshay Kumaria Education (GSESG)

Research Council

Ben Glass Arts and Sciencess (SASGov)
Jenny Reiss Arts and Sciencess (SASGov)
Sathya Vijayakumar Business (WDC) Virtual
Devo Probol Communication (AGCS)
Stephanie Schreiner Medicine (BGSA) Absent
Emily Getzen Medicine (BGSA)
Jayme Nordin Medicine (BGSA)
Adam Ziada Medicine (BGSA)
Amanda Watson Nursing (DSO)

IDEAL Council

Briana Edwards IDEAL BWGA Absent
Zihao Wang IDEAL CSSAP
Samuelle Delcy IDEAL EE Just Absent
Carlos Jarquin IDEAL LAGAPSA Virtual
Catherine Zhang IDEAL PAGSA
Sereen Assi IDEAL PGWISE
Krishleen Kaur IDEAL Rangoli Absent