



Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Meeting Minutes | Tenth Session of the 45th General Assembly (2023-2024)

28 February 2024 at 7-8:30pm

Location: Jon M. Huntsman Hall (JMHH) 360

Minutes by Deputy Director for Records Grace Chang

Following minutes of 45.10 to be approved the 13th of March, 2024

7:15 pm

1 Opening (3)

Holtzer

- Meeting called to order and opening remarks by Speaker Dan Holtzer.
- Quorum confirmed by Director of Logistics Aradhana Kasimsetty.
- Agenda approved.
- Motion to approve minutes from 45.9 (2/14). Seconded. All in favor. In the eyes of the chair, the motion is carried.¹

7:16 pm

2 New Business (77)

Upcoming programs and volunteer opportunities (2)

Krone

- Bowling Party! Flower Show! Madam Butterfly! Holi! Phillies!
- Find [events](#) here!

7:17 pm

Vote on Discretionary Fund Awards (5)

Jones

- [Wharton Africa Business Forum](#)

Summary by representative: Two day event to connect students with business people in the community, get business ideas off the ground, and networking. Attendance is typically 400. 167k is the approximate total expense. Raised \$156,669 through other sources, need \$11,182. Previously, GAPSAs loaned \$5,000 which would be paid back by this funding award.

Assembly Member: Could you explain why there is an 11k deficit? Rep: Pending payments include 5k for the GAPSAs loan, second is about 6k used to pay for the venue.

¹Please provide all suggested edits to the minutes to Director of Logistics Aradhana Kasimsetty by the Friday before next GA.

Assembly Member: What is your back up plan to settle these debts? Peter: No specific back up, we'd have to talk to WABF team.

Assembly Member: How much has GAPSA provided to date from other GAPSA fund sources? Rep: As far as I know its a 5k loan from this year. Nakisha: an extra 2k has been awarded this year as well.

Assembly Member: Is there a plan to not require these funds next year? Rep: Supreme court ruling against affirmative action caused a lot of corporate sponsors to pull out. We were not left enough time to recuperate from that. By next year, we will have more time.

- Motion to extend questioning for one minute Seconded. All in favor. In the eyes of the chair, the motion is carried.

Assembly Member: Conference is open to everyone, last year how many non Wharton Penn Grad Students attended? Peter: No specific numbers but around 10%, so 20 students.

7:34 pm

- Peter moved to a breakout room, session is now closed to him. Begin deliberations.
- Time to vote. All those in favor of a full cash transfer: 25 in the room 6 on zoom, 31 in favor. 8 opposed in the room. Funding will take the form of a cash transfer of \$9,182 from the discretionary fund with no added provisions or stipulations.

8:00 pm

- Peter brought back
- [MFA Class of 2024](#):

Summary: Made up of 20 students from Weitzman. Student Group and Academic Event cross over. We bring our work as a cohort to other places on campus. Cross school work is a staple of our program. Secondly, the event is open to the public and free which increases accessibility to all graduate students. This money will help us pay for the venue, pay for people to write about the show. We were given 8k from the AEF, still asking for 5k from this body.

Assembly Member: You already received 8k, what do you still need? Rep: Digital Marketing is something we added (3-4k), hired a writer (2k) curtains and equipment for the gallery space since learning about AEF. We have received 2k, approved for 8k, 10k total awarded in funds.

Assembly Member: You mentioned subsidizing some travel costs? Rep: That is possible if we get funding. Waiting on a 3k SAS grant for that.

Assembly Member: Is this completely extracurricular? Rep: Yes, extension of a curricular event in Philadelphia.

Assembly Member: Is it all public or just Penn students? Rep: All public, free. Brings people to Penn.

Assembly Member: For scope, total amount is 26k. Received 10k from GAPSA. Want 3k from SAS, 5k from GAPSA.

Assembly Member: What is the extent of Philadelphia event versus New York Event? Rep: We have a supplied curator for Philadelphia work that selects work. The space isn't ideal for video. We get to self curate our event in NYC.

Assembly Member: When is this? Rep: Throughout the month of August

Assembly Member: What is the venue? Rep: EFA project space, GAPSA money will all go to the venue.

- MFA Group has left the room, session is now closed to them. Time to deliberate.
- Motion to postpone. Seconded. All in favor. In the eyes of the chair, the motion is carried.
- Motion to extend by 15 mins.

8:25 pm

- Penn Fight Night:

Krone: I am not apart of fight night but one of the co-presidents is on a flight and cannot be with us. I will present on their behalf. Last year about 50% of tickets were non Wharton. Half of the boxers are non Wharton. This event definitely used to be Wharton heavy, but incredible strides have been made to make this more GAPSAs wide. They're asking for less than they ever have, and are working to use IPF funding. Buying Palestra only tickets could be a great option, and we could sell them to graduate students.

Assembly Member: I've been made aware that Fight Night pledged 170k to boys and girls club last year and the majority of that did not go there. Where did it end up going?

WGA president speaking: The WGA just went through a restructuring in the Fall, and the fight night committee ended up pledging something that wasn't tied to any real money. When finances were taken over, some expenses were left out. The boys and girls club are happily on board to keep working with us. In years past, we have given around 75k, which is how much we've give them this year total.

Assembly Member: That over promise was not published? It was an internal email? WGA Pres: Yes. An over promise has never happened before.

Assembly Member: How did that info become available? Response: Likely word of mouth.

Assembly Member: I have the tax filing pulled up from last year. Cash grant is 173k, from two years ago, so 75k is not actually greater than prior years. Response: I can confirm that the number was more than previous years, but I don't have the exact number

Assembly Member: Motion to extend by three minutes. Seconded. All in favor. In the eyes of the chair, the motion is carried.

Assembly Member: Where are Penn Fight Night accounts held? Does this cash come from Trustees or WGA? Response: It comes from WGA.

Assembly Member: I want to point out the importance and need for trusting but verifying.

Chair rules this out of order, we are in QA

Assembly Member: Where is the revenue going if its not going to the Boys and Girls club? WGA PresidentL Expenses first, then everything else foes to Boys and Girls Club.

Assembly Member: How much did Fight Night give last year?

Assembly Member: Motion to extend by 2 mins. Seconded. All in favor. In the eyes of the chair, the motion is carried.

Assembly Member: WGA maintains its own bookkeeping. Could they provide us with the full record in the interest of transparency. WGA President: I can't promise without the CFO approval but happy to keep the conversation open.

Assembly Member: When were books closed? WGA President: No idea.

Assembly Member: Any club with any funding is obligated to disclose everything. If they don't do the AER, transfer will not happen.

Assembly Member: Has GAPSAs finance received that for last year and this year? Nakisha: Yes for 2023.

Krone: This is getting tickets to get people into the event.

Chair rules that was out of order.

- Room is closed to Fight Night, we are in deliberations
- Motion to table the Fight Night decision. Seconded. All in favor. In the eyes of the chair, the motion is carried.
- Room is back open.

8:54 pm

Second reading of RC resolution regarding Ph.D. experiences Bill 11 (15) Zhao

- Motion to extend by 15 mins. Seconded. All in favor. In the eyes of the chair, the motion is carried.
- Resolution to work with vice provost to enhance communications. Three things to focus on, (1) pre-orientation offer letters, (2) welcome to Penn post commitment letter, (3) handbook and website standardization and enforcement. Four resolved clauses.

Assembly Member: What is the administrative burden for GAPSA and RC? Response: It will not be possible to look through all orientation handbooks for RC, we will be working with G9 to go through their handbooks. Its an advocacy bill. VPE team seems to be on board, this isn't a requirement.

Assembly Member: What is the timeline to anticipate? Two, what about professional council, could we come and join onto this at all? Response: Hopefully this Fall we will have a template that programs can adopt. Professional degrees are not under VPE, so gaining the support for professional would be complicated.

Assembly Member: Graduate groups get reviewed every 10 years, so VPE seemed open to adding handbook requirements to review.

Assembly Member: There is no enforcement built into this bill.

Holtzer: Proceeding to voting. Calling the vote. Seconded. All in favor. In the eyes of the chair, the motion is carried and the resolution is passed.

9:02 pm

First reading of IDEAL Council constitutional amendment (15) Ricks

- Summary: Shared between IDEAL and school based affinity groups. According to the Constitution, IDEAL is supposed to support all affinity groups. Now, the number of affinity groups has grown significantly. This is trying to close the gap and involve more affinity groups into IDEAL council.

Assembly Member: On resolved clauses with financial implications, aren't annual increases at the discretion of GA? Ricks: Increase is at discretion, this would be linking the empowerment fund to that increasing.

Assembly Member: What if the budget gets cut, will the empowerment fund get cut? Ricks: No.

Assembly Member: Is IDEAL a SGEF? No, it is a council not a student group.

Assembly Member: Is there a demonstrated need? Ricks: Yes, IDEAL has a budget and part is the empowerment fund. There is others as well. Empowerment fund provides base budget. For other student groups, you also have IPF where they get a base budget preventing SG from dipping into base budget. This is an analog for APF.

Assembly Member: The purpose of IPF isn't to avoid damaging previous budget. Its about using it. The IPF incentivizes cross school collaboration. This is different if the goal is to reduce budget expenditure.

Ricks: Right, this is about incentivizing collaboration.

Assembly Member: What is the utilization of the empowerment fund. This is difficult to answer because I don't have it from finance. I'd say around 70% gets used. This is because collaboration and reach is constrained because involvement is limited.

Assembly Member: To clarify: I like the concept, but there is poor utilization because there is not enough budget, so you want to increase the budget?

Assembly Member: IDEAL groups dissolve due to membership. For example, there are first gen graduate groups but at the level of IDEAL they don't exist since they don't support G12.

Assembly Member: IDEAL is not restricted to recognize groups it just needs to vote. Whats the rationale of binding the hands of future IDEAL council members concerning APF? Shouldn't IDEAL vote on that internally? Ricks: After the GA voted to pilot the APF, it is highly sought after. Codifying it would allow us to fund school based memberships and match them with GA money.

9:17 pm

February Finance Sunshine Report (5)

Jones

- EVP special projects is over? Money should have come from 1.3, not 1.2.

9:20 pm

Menstrual products in campus buildings project (5)

Zhao, Schreiner

- Crowd sourcing some human power! For the better part of a year I've been working on getting free menstrual products into all genders restroom spaces. One bathroom per building is the current goal. I've gotten a non response from university leadership. Partially a result of other university mess that has taken precedence. We are trying to regroup! I would like to ask everyone to scan the QR code which is a survey that will let us know which bathrooms have menstrual product dispensers. Reach out to Stephanie Schreiner for more ways to help.

9:23 pm

Elections overview and rules (5)

Holtzer

- Voting will be in person only. Send a proxy in person, talk about accomodations with Holtzer and Ari. Secondly, nominations will be at least 10 days before election. Electors must be certified 10 days before election. You can self nominate! Review procedures to understand how the vote counting will be done.

9:25 pm

3 Open Forum (10)

Holtzer

Announcements and Questions from GA Members

Holtzer

- Week after elections is important, we've been invited to a listening session with the Presidential Commission. How do we build community among graduate students, countering hate.
- Public apology from Krone for any abuse of power during presentations.

4 Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned.

5 Attendance

IDEAL Council	Professional Council
<p>Christopher Johnny IDEAL BGAPSA Absent Briana Edwards IDEAL BWGA Zihao Wang IDEAL CSSAP Absent</p> <p>Carlos Jarquin IDEAL LAGAPSA Absent Max Piscotta IDEAL Lambda Catherine Zhang IDEAL PAGSA Virtual Sereen Assi IDEAL PGWISE Absent Danushi Prajapati IDEAL Rangoli Absent</p>	<p>Lavnik Balyan Engineering (GSEG) Oliver Ma Engineering (GSEG) Sravana Nuti Engineering (GSEG) Joey Vitale Engineering (GSEG) Sophia Li Engineering (GSEG) Yilong Huang Engineering (GSEG) Harsh Yellai Engineering (GSEG) Virtual Akash Jain Engineering (GSEG) Virtual Megan Perelman Engineering (GSEG) Virtual Yiming Wang Engineering (GSEG) Aditya Chennapragada Engineering (GSEG) Hugh Strike Law (CSR) Absent Olivia Heffernan Law (CSR) Absent Laila Salame Law (CSR) Absent Sooyong Kwon Law (CSR) Virtual Hayden Innes Medicine (BGSA) Muskan Lather Medicine (BGSA) Virtual Christian Bogardus Medicine (MSG) Absent Maya Alexis Medicine (MSG) Absent Mo Soumaoro SP2 (SP2SG) Elyse Cinquino SP2 (SP2SG) Katherine A. Paulikonis SP2 (SP2SG) Isabelle Schlehr Veterinary (SAVMA) Virtual Sabrina Garcia Veterinary (SAVMA)</p>
Professional Council	Research Council
<p>Daniel Ceva Arts and Sciencess (LPSGov) Matthew Furey Arts and Sciencess (LPSGov) Xinyu (Kathy) Li Arts and Sciencess (LPSGov) Absent Rebekah Davis Business (WGA) Virtual Ashish Erasani Business (WGA) Virtual Alison Lee Business (WGA) Absent Divya Achantani Business (WGA) Virtual Isaiah Matthews Business (WGA) Absent Rhea Datta Business (WGA) Virtual Loyd Bradley Business (WGA) Virtual Cristian Navarro Business (WGA) Virtual Shivani Daftary Dental (PDM) Proxy: Lauren Verheyden Lauren Verheyden Dental (PDM) Katherine Bencosme Dental (PDM) Proxy: Lauren Verheyden Tre Ambrose Design (WSC) Virtual Meagan Kearney Design (WSC) Absent Lauren Pawlowski Design (WSC) Duc Nhu Education (GSESEG) Taylor Sullivan Education (GSESEG) Ananya Mekapati Education (GSESEG) Absent Vani Kumari Education (GSESEG) Virtual Xinzhu Shi/Madelynn Education (GSESEG) Mengying Bian/Victoria Education (GSESEG) Absent Varun Viswanathan Engineering (GSEG) Proxy: Harsh Yellai Virtual</p>	<p>Ben Glass Arts and Sciences (SASGov) Jenny Reiss Arts and Sciences (SASGov) Jaydee Edwards Arts and Sciences (SASGov) Virtual Ameen Sidhick Arts and Sciences (SASGov) Absent Alexandra Faeth Arts and Sciences (SASGov) Adithya Raajkumar Business (WDC) Devo Probol Communication (AGCS) Proxy: Xinyi Wang Catherine Zhang Education (GSESEG) Virtual Quan Minh Nguyen Engineering (GSEG) Stephen Lee Engineering (GSEG) Makyla Boyd Engineering (GSEG) Stephanie Schreiner Medicine (BGSA) Emily Getzen Medicine (BGSA) Jayme Nordin Medicine (BGSA) Virtual Adam Ziada Medicine (BGSA) Alexandra Maye Nursing (DSO)</p>

Appendix

To: Members of the General Assembly of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
From: GAPSA Research Council
Authors: Jenny Reiss, Yumi Kodama, Emily Getzen, Ludwig Zhao
Date: 11/19/2023
RE: Resolution on Research Student Information Sharing

Abstract

The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) Research Council at the University of Pennsylvania commits to advocating for transparency and access to essential information for research students. This resolution is motivated by a desire to ensure that all Ph.D. granting programs are providing adequate information for students' planning and decision purposes. This resolution proposes communication requirements, specifically regarding graduate group handbooks, welcome letters, websites and orientations to guarantee preparedness for Ph.D. students, which will contribute to the overall prestige of the university.

WHEREAS, The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (**GAPSA**) is entrusted with the responsibility of advocating for the welfare of all graduate and professional students at the University of Pennsylvania (the **University**); and

WHEREAS, Within GAPSA, the Research Council (**RC**) is tasked with handling academic and advocacy issues specific to research masters and doctoral students (**Research Students**); and

WHEREAS, To maintain Penn's status as a world-leading educator, University departments and graduate groups (collectively, **Group** or **Groups**) should regularly furnish essential information to their Research Students, and present such information in an accessible manner and timely manner; and

WHEREAS, The Vice Provost for Education (**VPE**) oversees the compliance of Groups for their Ph.D. and research masters programs with the University's information sharing requirements; and now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, FIRST that GAPSA RC shall work with VPE to institute communication requirements (Appendix, Section I) for all Groups at the University of Pennsylvania; including comprehensive offer letters, matriculation letters, graduate group orientations, maintenance of program-specific handbooks, and maintenance of program-specific websites.

RESOLVED, SECOND that GAPSA shall work with VPE, all schools with research students (the **Schools**), and their respective student governments, to create, maintain, and utilize transparent methods to ensure compliance by Groups with Resolution 1, above.

RESOLVED, THIRD that GAPSA approves the creation of a standing working group within RC's Committee on Academic Affairs (the **Academic Group Communications Task Force** or **AGCT**), to liaise with VPE and the Schools and their respective student governments on the subjects of Resolution 1, above.

RESOLVED, FOURTH that GAPSA charges the AGCT with the responsibilities listed in the Appendix, Section II for the 2023-2024 academic year and going forward.

Appendix

Section I

- I. *Comprehensive offer letters in clear and plain language.* VPE shall ensure that the letters sent to all Research Students acknowledging acceptance into a given University program (**Offer Letters**) include in clear and plain English any and all information with respect to:
 - A. The availability of stipendiary funding and the source of such funding, if offered;
 1. if stipendiary funding is offered, the Offer Letter shall include:
 - a. the amount of offered stipendiary funding per year and any regulations regarding cost of living increases or other variations in such funding year-on-year;
 - b. the number of years of stipendiary funding offered;
 - c. the date of the first disbursement and the number of months within each academic year stipendiary funds are dispersed;
 - d. any work or Group or University service requirements to which stipendiary funding is subject, including, if applicable, if such requirements are negotiable and the process for that; and
 - e. if applicable to the program, expectations regarding, and the availability of funding within the Group for additional program years beyond the duration of offered stipendiary funding;
 - B. contact information for the Group officer (program coordinators or their equivalent) responsible for answering any additional questions, the Group chair (or their equivalent), and the student's advisor(s), if applicable;
- II. *Matriculation Letter.* VPE should send an additional letter (a **Matriculation Letter**) to each newly matriculated Research Student once such students have committed to matriculation no later than two months prior to the formal commencement of the student's program at the University. Such Matriculation Letters shall include:
 - A. a general timeline of key Group (if applicable) and University orientation and registration events and dates, accompanied by applicable website addresses; and
 - B. as a link, an attachment, or otherwise enclosed, a copy of the Group's comprehensive handbook, defined to include at a minimum, all core program information, processes, options, rules, regulations, forms, and contact details, covering admission through graduation (**Group Handbook**) as is currently required of Groups by VPE; and
 - C. as a link, an attachment or otherwise enclosed, a copy of a universal University research student handbook (**Universal Handbook**) compiled jointly between VPE and GAPSA, or in the absence of such an up-to-date, complete, Universal Handbook being available for the relevant admissions cycle, a link to the Graduate Student Center's New Graduate Student Orientation Hub <https://gsc.upenn.edu/welcome>.
- III. *Graduate Group orientations.* VPE should require and ensure each Group holds annual new student orientations. Groups must be held accountable for ensuring the

relevant date, time, and location of such orientations is provided to each new Research Student.

- IV. *Maintenance of clear, comprehensive, accessible, and up-to-date program Handbooks.* VPE shall require and ensure that all Groups maintain clear, comprehensive, and up-to-date Group Handbooks, as defined above. Group Handbooks shall be in a form easily accessible to Research Students, such as a PDF document or well-organized, clearly presented web pages with active links.
- A. Group Handbooks shall be reviewed and updated at a minimum annually.
 - B. If a Group chooses to provide a PDF document, such document must be easily accessible on the Group's website to admitted and enrolled Research Students.
 - C. VPE should strongly urge Groups that such information also be provided to prospective Research Students as well.
 - D. The Group Handbook shall include, but is not limited to, the following information:
 1. Graduation requirements
 - a. Course requirements and process of credit transfer, if available
 - b. Teaching or service requirements
 - c. Dissertation proposal requirements and processes
 - d. Qualifying examination or comprehensive examination requirements
 1. Timeline
 2. Format
 3. Outcome and its implication
 4. Remediation
 - e. Dissertation committee requirements
 1. Formation
 2. Composition
 3. Frequency, format, and records for regular meetings
 - f. Research requirements (including any publication requirements)
 2. The minimal meeting frequency with the primary dissertation advisor(s)
 3. A basic time-to-degree timeline
 4. The availability of funding and funding resources
 5. The availability of dual degrees and the enrollment process
 6. An advisor-advisee grievance policy
 7. A link to the Group's website
 8. Information regarding essential University resources, which should include but are not limited to:
 - a. Graduate Student Center (GSC)
 - b. Penn Libraries
 - c. Center for Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Innovation (CETLI)
 - d. Penn Wellness
 - e. Weingarten Center and Student Disability Services
 - f. Campus Cultural Resource Centers (CRCs)
 - g. International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)

- V. *Maintenance of clear and up-to-date Department websites.* VPE shall require each Group to have a website that includes the following essential information and is updated regularly, at a minimum annually.
- A. Graduation requirements as outlined in the Group Handbook
 - B. A basic degree timeline
 - C. Contact information for
 - 1. Program Coordinators or their equivalent
 - 2. Graduate Chairs or their equivalent
 - 3. Faculty members within the Group
 - D. The link to the Group Handbook
 - E. Essential University resources, including but not limited to the item listed under Section I.IV.D.8
 - F. The Graduate Group grievance policy
 - G. The requirements and the format of annual progress meetings and/or report

Section II

The following are the responsibilities of the AGCT:

1. work with GAPSA Research Council representatives and their respective school governments to determine which Groups are not in compliance with Resolution 1, above, for the current academic year and communicate that information to VPE; and
2. lobby VPE for their compliance with Resolution 2, above, on an ongoing basis; and
3. discuss with VPE the creation of a revised template Offer Letter for all Groups to be obliged to send all Research Students, including, but not limited to, the information outlined in Section I.I, above, to ensure consistency of information sharing across all University Groups; and
4. investigate with VPE, school governments with Research Student constituencies, and relevant GAPSA stakeholders, the feasibility of the creation of a template for all Group Handbooks in accordance with Section I.IV, maintained by VPE; and
 - a. if deemed feasible, take such steps as may be necessary to assist VPE in the creation and maintenance of such a template.
5. investigate with VPE, school governments with Research Student constituencies, and relevant GAPSA stakeholders, the feasibility of the creation of a proposed Universal Handbook for Research Students to be maintained by VPE and provided to all Research Students in accordance with Section I.II.C, above; and
 - a. if deemed feasible, take such steps as may be necessary to assist VPE in the creation of such a Universal Handbook.
6. annually review the communication requirements listed under Resolution 1, above to see if any changes shall be made to reflect current students' needs.

To: The General Assembly of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA)

Author(s): Chloe Ricks-Martinez, Maxwell Pisciotta, Gaurav Mangal, Briana Edwards, Samuelle Delcy, Mayowa Fageyinbo, Catherine Zhang, Will Chan,

RE: Resolution to Improve IDEAL Council's Advocacy and Representation Efforts

ABSTRACT:

Within the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA), the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Leadership (IDEAL) Council is intended to represent graduate and professional affinity group interests across all of Penn's twelve graduate schools. As graduate and professional students with affinity interests in need of representation have proliferated since the founding of GAPSA, and later IDEAL Council, this resolution seeks to modernize the governance of the Council such that its modern functioning is parallel with its purpose.

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

WHEREAS, the IDEAL Council offers financial, social, and organizational support to graduate student affinity groups that seek to promote the values of inclusion, diversity, equity, access, and leadership; and

WHEREAS, the IDEAL Council is comprised of representatives of affinity groups that have executive boards and constituencies that are inclusive of at least three of Penn's twelve graduate schools; and

WHEREAS, School-based affinity groups whose executive boards and constituencies may not meet the three school requirement for IDEAL Council membership are still entitled to representation by GAPSA and GAPSA's IDEAL Council; and

WHEREAS, school-based graduate student affinity groups whose missions otherwise align with those of GAPSA's IDEAL Council may be negatively affected by an inability to access the financial, social, or organizational support from the IDEAL Council; and

WHEREAS, the work of GAPSA's committees, particularly those that fall under the Advocacy Division, is made more efficient and far-reaching when graduate students from diverse backgrounds are able to introduce new and ongoing initiatives that are being developed outside of GAPSA's General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of GAPSA, the IDEAL Council, graduate school-based affinity groups, and the constituents of each to increase diversity and inclusion and ensure equitable

representation at the level of graduate student government and university administration are mutually hampered by barriers to communication and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, the number of graduate students at Penn with identities that fall within an IDEAL constituency and require adequate representation, financial, and organizational support is only expected to proliferate; be it

RESOLVED, FIRST that the amount of funds appropriated for the Empowerment Fund shall increase at a rate, in percentage terms, equal to that of Council budgets as a whole for the purpose of funding graduate affinity groups with voting members on the IDEAL Council; and

RESOLVED, SECOND IDEAL Council shall provide up to 10% of its appropriation for the Empowerment Fund to the Affinity Partnership Fund (APF), which shall be matched by an equal contribution from GAPSA; and

RESOLVED, THIRD that school-based graduate affinity groups who serve overlapping constituencies as IDEAL Council representatives but may not routinely service graduate students across three or more of Penn's graduate schools may appoint a representative to a non-voting seat on IDEAL Council as an "IDEAL affiliate;" and

RESOLVED, FOURTH that Article VI.A.3.c(1) of GAPSA's constitution should be amended such that the former c(1) becomes c(2) and the new c(1) reads "each of GAPSA's four advocacy committees should reserve at least one seat with a "right of first refusal" for IDEAL Council representatives or IDEAL affiliates; and

RESOLVED, FIFTH that the VP of Advocacy, the IDEAL Council Chair, and the Director of Equity and Access shall meet jointly at least once per semester to discuss the status of ongoing advocacy efforts related to diversity, equity and inclusion.

2023-2024 GAPSA Universal Group Funding Application

To promote greater equity and access to funding, several GAPSA group/event fund applications are consolidated into a universal application. This includes but is not limited to the:

- Academic Event Fund (AEF),
- Community Outreach Fund,
- Discretionary Fund,
- Empowerment Fund,
- Student Group Event Fund (SGEF).

Applications will be automatically referred to the appropriate fund(s) for consideration based on the information provided in the application.

Applicants should contact their respective G12 school government officers to inquire about Interscholastic Partnership Fund eligibility.

Only events or programs occurring between September 1, 2023, and May 30, 2024, are eligible to apply.

Section 2: Applicant Information

Unique ID	UF-44-037
Name of Applicant	Mitchell Knafo
Student Group Name	Penn Fight Night

Group Description

Over the past 20 years, Penn Fight Night, a student-run organization has hosted an amateur boxing event in which 3,000+ graduate students attend. Since its founding, Penn Fight Night has become the largest philanthropic event at Penn, combining a thrilling show with making a significant impact in the local Philadelphia Community.

What year was Group formed?	2003
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How many members does your group's leadership (executive board) have?	8
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Have you received GAPSA funding in the past?	Yes
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Did you earn revenue last year? Yes

What was your total revenue last fiscal year: between July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023? \$500,000

Brief summary of how funds will be used.

The funds this year will be used to decrease our costs so that we can subsidize tickets to Penn Fight Night. More specifically, we are hoping that we can decrease the ticket price for General Admission and Palestra Only tickets to make the event more accessible for all graduate students.

Section 3: Event(s) or Program(s) Information

For this section, we aim to capture a comprehensive understanding of the event's objectives, target audience, and alignment with GAPSA's mission. The answers provided will give us insights into the event's relevance, expected impact, and potential for success.

In what category should your event/programs(s) be considered? Other/None of the above

Academic Event Funding (AEF) requests will be referred to the Research Council (RC) for review. To be considered, applicants must: (1) have the endorsement of at least one Research [GA Representative](#). (Click [here](#) for list of reps.) (2) Submit a presentation using the presentation [template](#) (Click [here](#) for template). Contact the RC Chair at gapsa.research@gapsa.upenn.edu for further details.

How many events are you requesting funding for? 1

What is the event name? Penn Fight Night

List the dates of your event(s) or program(s) (MM-DD-YYYY). If you have more than one event or program for this application, please separate these dates by ";"

04-06-2024

Please provide a brief description of your event(s) or program(s). Outline the main objectives and activities of the event.

Over the past 20 years, PFN, has hosted an amateur boxing event in which 3,000+ graduate students attend. This year's event will take place on April 6, 2024. The main objective for this event is to bring together students from all the graduate schools and give them a night they will remember.

Target Audience and Broad Engagement: How will your event engage a broad audience of graduate and professional students beyond a specific club or small group? Describe the strategies for outreach and engagement to ensure participation from a wide array of students across disciplines. Highlight any collaborative efforts with other student groups or departments.

Our goal is to target all 12 graduate schools—last year, we had representation from 11 of the 12. We will engage a broad marketing strategy, utilizing the GAPSA newsletters, social media, individual school emails, and physical posters detailing the event. We presented to the G-12 back in the fall.

What is your marketing plan?

We have an internal marketing team that will market the event to all the graduate schools. We As previously mentioned, we will utilize various avenues to notify students of PFN and how to obtain tickets. Tickets will go on sale in late-February and we plan on promoting the event at the beginning of February. If tickets do not sell out on the date of release, then students will be able to purchase tickets up until the event. Our goal is to engage with the individual school presidents to market the event to their student

body.

Alignment with GAPSA's Mission: How does your event advance or align with GAPSA's mission? Relate the event's objectives and activities to specific components of GAPSA's mission. Explain how the event will further GAPSA's goals and values.

We are uniquely positioned to have an event that allows engagement amongst all the graduate schools. As mentioned, last year, we had representation from 11/12 graduate schools. We hope to unify the student body through a fun event. PFN contributes to the inter-graduate school culture.

Section 4: Budget Details

What is the total budget of your event(s)? 385895

Of your total budget, how much money are you requesting from GAPSA? 35000

What is the estimated attendance for your proposal? 3100

Please itemize your total budget for the following categories:

	Unit Cost (\$)	Quantity	Total Cost (\$)
Food (for meetings or events)/Non-alcoholic beverages	39000		
Alcohol	9000		
Venue/Location/Tickets	81598		
Speaker Fee/Honorarium	0		
Equipment/Technology/Marketing	51500		
Event related supplies	3050		
Event related promotional items (banners, t-shirts, etc)	0		
Clothing & Costumes	4300		
Delivery Services	0		
Digital Advertising	0		
Facilities & Security	35000		
Sports Equipment	0		
Photocopies, Printing & Publicity	0		
Performance Production	177000		
Travel & Conference Fees	9000		
Other	6000		

Will the event(s) or program(s) generate revenue?

How much revenue will the event(s) or program(s) generate revenue? 388275

How much will the tickets cost (per person)? 110

Revenue Planning: How will your group ensure that 33% of the total cost will be earned in revenues.

Historically, we have sold about 385,000 in ticket sales.

* there are different ticket tiers for the event. We are seeking funds from GAPSA to make the event more affordable specifically for the General Admission and Palestra Only tiers, which will have the greatest impact on the accessibility for the event for graduate students.

Will you be cosponsoring the event(s) or program(s) with other organizations?

List the names of the co-sponsoring organizations and the name and email addresses of their officers

WGA, loydb@wharton.upenn.edu

Have you requested funding from other sources/sponsors?

How much funding have you requested from other sources? 45000

How much funding have you secured from other sources? 45000

Are there any restrictions on who may attend (e.g. cap on students, spots reserved for students from a particular group or department)?

Cap: 3265, Spots reserved for Wharton Boxing and Penn Grad boxing clubs. 21+ event.

Wharton Africa Business Forum

What

The Wharton Africa Business Forum (WABF) is the largest student-run, Africa-focused annual conference that brings together business leaders, students, and investors to discuss the latest trends in business in Africa. Hosted by the Wharton Africa Student Association (WASA), the conference is a two-day event that features keynote speakers, panel discussions, and networking opportunities, making it a prime opportunity to learn about African business trends and connect with other business leaders.

Celebrating its inception in 1992, the WABF has become a significant event for MBA students from all different schools to engage with influential African leaders and delve into the continent's latest business trends. It is entirely student-run and offers a lineup of thought-provoking sessions and keynote addresses by industry leaders, fostering fresh ideas, collaborations, and opportunities.

Who

The conference is organized by the Wharton Africa Student Association (WASA)
Target Audience: Penn students, business leaders across Africa, and students from other universities
Average attendance: >400 per year. For WABF 30th (held in November 2023), 404 people attended the conference

Where

Huntsman Hall and Sofitel Hotel

When

November 10-11, 2023



Wharton Africa Business Forum

Funding Request

Funding requested: \$11,182

Total budgeted expenses: \$167,852

Planned Use of Funding

Funds shall be used to settle the conference deficit of \$11,182 which is still unpaid to date. Specifically, \$5,000 will go towards settling the loan from GAPSA and the remaining \$6,182 shall be used to settle events suppliers and reimburse student expenditures incurred in organizing the conference.

Other Funding Sources

Sum of money raised: 156,669 (including ticket sales)

Sponsorship: McKinsey Africa (20K), Shiri Adventures (5K), OA markets (8.5K), WGA (30K), Jobomax (1.5K), Mack Institute (5K), CatalyzU (5K), Harambeans (5K), and Africa Global VC (2K), Others (6.5k)

Wharton Africa Business Forum

Why GAPSA?

How would GAPSA, the graduate community, and/or Penn community benefit from the event/initiative?

- Networking opportunities: WABF attracts > 400 attendees, presenting an opportunity for attendees to meet other students at Penn and other universities and prominent African business leaders.
- Community Building: It takes >30 people at Penn 4 months to organize WABF. During this process, the organizing team ends up developing a very strong community like bonding with each other.
- The WABF Gala is a celebration of Africa's unique and diverse culture, which enriches attendees' greater appreciation of Africa's heritage and tradition, thus facilitating a richer bonding with Penn students from Africa.

To what extent is the event/program inclusive of other graduate schools?

- We expect about 10-20% of the attendees to be Penn Graduate students outside Wharton.
- The event is open to all Penn students. Undergraduate students get discounted tickets.
- The event is marketed event across all graduate schools at Penn.

How do you plan to involve other graduate schools?

- We used the different affinity groups across Penn schools to market the event and encourage participation by other non-Wharton Penn students.

MFA Class of 2024

What

Our event is a two-part exhibition featuring the work of the Weitzman MFA Class of 2024.

The purpose of this exhibition is to build strong social and material connections between the MFA students at the Weitzman School of Design and a broader audience. The goal of this exhibition is to allow our MFA Cohort, as representatives of both UPenn and the Philadelphia Arts community, to show the important and exciting work being done here with a broader audience. This event provides a wonderful opportunity for the graduate fine arts community at UPenn, and presents itself as a means to stimulate conversation within the network of potential students and professional artists and curators present in New York City.

Who

MFA Class of 2024

Where

EFA Project Space Manhattan, New York

When

Entire month of August 2024. There will be two openings for each respective half of the exhibition.

MFA Class of 2024

Funding Request

Funding requested: \$5,000

Total budgeted expenses: \$18,000

Planned Use of Funding

We plan to use the entirety of the funds received through GAPSA to offset venue costs.

Other Funding Sources

Of the twenty group members each of us has taken on individual out-of-pocket costs to produce the work for this exhibition.

The Weitzman School of Design Department of Fine Arts has offered \$8000

The Sachs Program for Innovation may grant us an additional \$3000.

MFA Class of 2024

Why GAPSA?

How would GAPSA, the graduate community, and/or Penn community benefit from the event/initiative?

- A free event open those with interests in the fine arts across the twelve graduate schools.
- As a GAPSA sponsored cultural endeavor, this event will extend beyond the traditional academic landscape, offering a platform to share artworks, engage in meaningful discussions, and learn from one another.
- By spotlighting diverse talents and emphasizing the relevance of arts in academia, this exhibition speaks to GAPSA's mission to work beyond the university, advocating for the recognition and significance of artistic pursuits in higher education; not just across campus, but on a larger stage as well.

To what extent is the event/program inclusive of other graduate schools?

- We hope with our marketing strategy to have the show reach students in each graduate school. Our on-campus relationships as a club have a strong connection to a few schools across campus, most notably the School of Social Policy and Practice, as well as organizations that work across schools, like CEE and the ICA.
- Our marketing is primarily concerned with on campus efforts that advertise to the graduate community at large, and in the summer additional promotion in NYC.

How do you plan to involve other graduate schools?

- On campus outreach and promotion (verbal, digital, physical), specific promotion for artist-led tours of the show, outreach through our cross-school hubs such as ICA, CEE and Penn LGBT Center.