



Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

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

25 October 2023 at 7-8:30pm

Location: David Rittenhouse Laboratories Room A8

Minutes by Deputy Director for Records Grace Chang

Following minutes of 45.4 to be approved the 8th of November, 2023

7:17 pm

1 Opening

Chair Pro Tempore

- Meeting called to order by President of GAPSA Michael Krone.
- Tonight, Michael has selected Jaydee Edwards Chair of Elections, to serve as chair pro tempore.
- Motion to appoint Jaydee Edwards as chair pro tempore for tonight's meeting. Seconded. All in favor. Motion is carried.
- Opening remarks by Chair Pro Tempore.
- Assembly Member: I move to add an item to the agenda: to have a first reading of a bill that just passed in research council. Before open floor, we would like to add the first reading of bill six.

Point of information: What is the title and summary?

Assembly Member: It is an amendment to budget line items. Not dollar amounts, but organization.

- Motion to add the first reading of bill six to the agenda and approve the agenda. Seconded. All in favor. In the eyes of the chair, the motion is carried.
- Agenda approved.
- Motion to approve minutes from 45.3 (10/11) and 44.13 (4/12). Seconded. All in favor. In the eyes of the chair, the motion is carried.¹
- Quorum confirmed by Director of Logistics Aradhana Kasimsetty.
- Introduction of Social Programming Director Sruti Sailam. Motion to approve the appointment. Seconded. All in favor. In the eyes of the chair, the motion is carried.

7:28 pm

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

2 New Business (65)

Special Election for Speaker (50)

Edwards

- Introduction of Ananth Srinivas and Xinyi Wang as Tellers, and Jaydee Edwards of Chair of Elections. Opening remarks.
- Aradhana: There are 50 people eligible to vote today.
- One nomination for Dan Holtzer from the Law School.
- First call for nominations. Second call. Third call. No other nominations, we will have an uncontested election.
- Dan begins his three minute speech: I am familiar with parliamentary procedure and am learning the Constitution of GAPSAs. In the interest of efficiency ... that is all.
- Entering GA only Q and A.

Assembly Member: Please summarize your experience with parli pro.²

I did high school model UN. I'm also generally just into it – I'm interested in getting my parliamentary license after law school.

Assembly Member: Basic check, can you run through the process from calling for some sort of motion to the end of resolving the vote? Assure me that you can repeat that.

Procedure depends on what type it is, if there are subsidiary motions like a motion to amend, or a motion to amend the amendment.

Assembly Member: Do the numbers 4:58 10:56 25:10 mean anything to you?

Likely citations to Roberts Rules of order I assume, but I'm not sure what they are off the top of my head.

Assembly Member: Your position is also somewhat of a referee. What is your experience with handling tense moments?

I've appeared as a certified legal intern. Meaning, I've been screamed at for 20-30 minutes straight without flinching.

What is your availability on Wednesdays from 7-9pm?

Free.

7:38 pm

That is time for GA only questions.

Motion to move on and skip further questions. Seconded. All in favor. In the eyes of the chair, the motion is carried.

7:39 pm

Motion to close the session for Dan. Seconded. All in favor. In the eyes of the chair, the motion is carried.

GA deliberation time. Bye Dan!³

7:47 pm

Motion to open the meeting. Seconded. All in favor. In the eyes of the chair, the motion is carried.

²parliamentary procedure

³Non-GA members were not asked to leave since the motion wasn't to close the session, rather just to close it for Dan.

Welcome back Dan! Congrats!

7:51 pm

Upcoming programs and volunteer opportunities (2)

Singhal

- We still have fitness series going on in November. Other events include friendsgiving.
- There is also a deal for homecoming tickets!
- We will start having a social advisory board, in the style of financial advisory board. All are invited to join.
- Share [events](#) with constituents!

7:52 pm

Review of Ivy+ Conference and discussion topic solicitation (10)

Krone

- Opening remarks by President of GAPSA Michael Krone.
- Informational documents with specific data about programs and structures will be sent out.
- Takeaways on housing and transportation:
Assembly Member: How much did Harvard pay for the external audit?
No exact number, but we have the emails so we can look into it.
How does the subsidizing of off campus housing work?
Only Stanford has this. Gives cash for PhD students. Harvard is thinking off adding this to remain competitive with Stanford.
- Accessibility: Penn is doing really well! Making sure new and current construction is quality and in compliance.
Columbia has a 24 hr ride share option for accessible transit, though the service area is very restricted.
Going to school newspaper is a powerful way to enact action and get attention.
- Food and Financial Security: There is a lack of data collection from students. No school has a targeted approach. There is a focus on community building at Princeton.
Brown has a food pantry, gets monthly restocks of \$1500.
MIT has a banana lounge, basically room where you can get free bananas. Donors fund this, likely due to it being a unique and interesting idea.
Other schools with smaller student bodies than Penn offer meal swipes (6-8 free per semester regardless of need).
- Health Services: Penn doesn't have dental and vision covered for research students.
Costs of around \$4000 for insurance are comparable among other schools.
Yales council has individually been buying and distributing period products but admin has been reluctant to do this.
- Unionization Takeaways:
What is the Executive board expectation when unionization happens?
Depends on what and who will be covered. Context of students as workers is covered, but students as students will not be and will remain with GAPSA. There will likely be liaisons between the union and student government.

- Went through some topics, Michael seeking questions.
- Next year we will be hosting Ivy+ at Dartmouth.

8:04 pm

Finance October Sunshine Report (5)

Jones, Oni

- Opening remarks by Jaydee.
- Presented spending up from July until now. A lot of these expenses are last fiscal year (\$35000).
- Overall: Don't have G12 utilization rates yet. See utilization rates on slides. The overview slide will be appended.

Utilization is spent divided by budget without adjustment?

Yes.

Question about how Wharton-WDC opted out of IPF, where did the GAPSA match money go?

They got the money returned back. Our match amount went into our reserves.

Why is GAPSA Grad fest underutilized?

Boat Cruise is incoming.

8:13 pm

Research Council Budget Amendment Bill 6 (10)

Zhao

- Remarks by Ben Glass and Research Council Chair Ludwig Zhao
- Presented verbatim [Research Council Budget Amendment](#)
- Speech:⁴ Merger of 6.5 and 6.6 for research individual and group grant funds. Will allow fluidity between the two grants will allow less GA approval.
- Q & A:

What are the actual dollar amounts?⁵ Additionally, research group funds is referring to Academic Event Fund. That is available to professional and research funds, how will you protect professional students?

Ludwig: Under current models, we will first review AEF. Then, we will fill in the rest with individual grants.

Assembly Member: You mentioned inconsistent use of funds between these. Do you have numbers showing what the trend has been in recent years or overall?

Ludwig: We can show the numbers, but we would like to remind that COVID years has made it difficult to organize events.

- Any other questions?

Is this necessary long term? We need to see the historical numbers.

On average we're only able to fund 1/3 of applications for individual grants. AEF has also had years when it's been fully expended.⁶

⁴Paraphrased

⁵Refer to appended text.

⁶All other questions to Research Council Chair Ludwig Zhao

8:24 pm

3 Unfinished Business & General Orders (5)

Focus Issue Discussion on Public Safety (25)

Tandon

- Motion to table until next meeting. Seconded. All in favor. In the eyes of the chair, the motion is carried.

8:24 pm

4 Open Forum (5)

University Council Open Forum

Chair Pro Tempore

- Event is on November 29, and topics are due November 3.
- Any member of the University community who wishes to do so may attend the Council meeting. If you want to be assured of speaking at Open Forum, you must submit a request to the Office of the University Secretary (ucouncil@pobox.upenn.edu), briefly indicating the subject of the intended remarks.
- Speakers' statements are limited to three minutes and should be framed to present topics of general University interest and be directed to University Council as a body through the moderator, and not to individuals.

Announcements and Questions from GA members

Chair Pro Tempore

- Drafting Committee will be meeting Monday and Tuesday at 5:30pm ET on Zoom. Reach out to Simeon Ristic for the zoom link.
- Schedule and location for upcoming GA meetings is included in the appendix.
- Homecoming deal. We have tickets for 50 students at 7 dollars (rather than 20), which gets you into all events. It will be on the website and on social media. Event is Saturday November 4th.
- Concerning food insecurity: there will be focus groups run by admin. Students can sign up for 30 minute sessions, and participants will receive a \$30 credit at Penn dining locations. Keep an eye on GA slack to spread the word.
- We are starting another subgroup for those who want to work on Transit. Info is in the newsletter. Additionally, we are ensuring access to free menstrual products. Looking for more volunteers to update a map on which buildings already have access and which need access. Send emails of interest to gapsa.advocacy@gapsa.upenn.edu.
- If you are a PhD student, we are trying to regulate handbooks and edit the website to include essential info. Please give us feedback on what needs to be included so it can be added. Email gapsa.research@gapsa.upenn.edu.
- Additionally for PhD students: be aware of unionization process and vote that is upcoming.
- Slides will be sent out!

8:31 pm

5 Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned.

6 Attendance

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

Appendix

GAPSA Finance Sunshine Report July 1, 2023 YTD: Overall

Line Item	Budget, \$	Adjustment, \$	YTD Spent, \$	Remaining, \$	Utilization, %
Leadership	\$ 17,000	\$ --	\$ 2,719.06	\$ 14,280.94	18.0%
Finance	\$ 153,670	\$ 5,053.96	\$ --	\$ --	0.0%
Operations	\$ 118,600	\$ 2,353.12	\$ 5,845.23	\$ 112,754.77	4.9%
Programming	\$ 248,000	\$ --	\$ 45,592.93	\$ 202,407.07	18.4%
Advocacy	\$ 18,000	\$ --	\$ 1,620.00	\$ 16,380.00	9.0%
Councils	\$ 352,200	\$ 25,460.42	\$ 5,660.12	\$ 346,539.90	0.02%
Tied Fraction	\$ 265,954	\$ 2,100.00	\$ --	\$ 265,954.00	0.2%
Contingency	\$ 84,309	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 84,309.00	0.0%
G12+ GAP	\$ 217,066	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 217,066.00	0.0%
G12+ Base	\$ 840,201	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 840,201.00	0.0%

Notes

- Utilization for G12+ Base will be available beginning next month.
- Funds were allocated on October 13.
- Utilization is low across the board for the reason highlighted previously.

GAPSA General Assembly Fall 2023 Meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	
September 13	7:00pm ET	SILV 240B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All meetings will be 90 minutes, extendable only by three-fourths vote• Attendance in person is preferred when meetings are hybrid• If you cannot attend any meeting, please send a proxy to the extent you are able
September 27	7:00pm ET	JMHH 365	
October 11	7:00pm ET	SILV 240B	
October 25	7:00pm ET	DRLA8	
November 8	7:00pm ET	JMHH G55	
November 29	7:00pm ET	JMHH 365	
December 6 (GA Retreat)	TBD	JMHH G55	

Zoom for all meetings: [Link](#)



GAPSA General Assembly Spring 2024 Meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 17	7:00pm ET	TBD
January 31	7:00pm ET	TBD
February 14	7:00pm ET	TBD
February 28	7:00pm ET	TBD
March 13*	7:00pm ET	TBD
March 27	7:00pm ET	TBD
April 10	7:00pm ET	TBD
April 24	7:00pm ET	TBD

- Elections will be held on March 13, 2024, so please note that this meeting will be on an extended schedule to hold all necessary elections
- Locations for meetings will be announced in December 2023

Zoom for all meetings: [Link](#)



To: The General Assembly of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
Author(s):
Sponsor: GAPSA Research Council
RE: Research Council Budget Amendment

ABSTRACT:

GAPSA budget amendment to merge line items 6.5 (Research Individual Funds) and 6.6 (Research Group Funds) into a single line 6.5 (Research Individual and Group Grant Fund) to improve allocation and adjust for variation in application volume.

WHEREAS, Research Student Travel Grants, funded entirely by line 6.5 (Research Individual Funds), are among the most applied for and highly competitive grants, with less than one-third of the applications receiving funding on average, and are experiencing a significant increase in demand; and

WHEREAS, The Academic Event Fund, funded entirely by line 6.6 (Research Group Funds), experiences significant variations in spending depending on application volumes and funding cycles set by GAPSA Finance; and

WHEREAS, A merged budget line item for Research Council grants would create more opportunities to enable research students to attend conferences and workshops, promoting equity and diversity by providing flexibility in cases of variation in application volume; and

WHEREAS, The budget amendment process has become more complex and time-consuming due to additional approvals required from the Office of the Provost; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the GAPSA budget is amended by merging line items 6.5 (Research Individual Funds) and 6.6 (Research Group Funds)—re-designating line 6.7 (Research Council Development) as line 6.6 (Research Council Development)—into a single line item 6.5 (Research Individual and Group Grant Fund) with the allocation equal to the sum of the two current allocations of lines 6.5 and 6.6;

[END]