

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA)

Annual Report

Presented by the 2023-2024 Executive Board



gapsa

GRADUATE *and* PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSEMBLY
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA



Overview and State of GAPSA

2023-2024 Executive Board

GAPSA and the University faced unprecedented challenges and persevered throughout the year



Implementation of new financial policies and procedures following an audit of student groups, creating challenges to GAPSA's operations and student relations



Challenges to free speech on campus amid global conflicts that manifest here at Penn



Administrative distrust of GAPSA and relationships that needed to be rebuilt across the University



Changing legal landscape around affirmative action and the ability of students to be admitted and potentially connect based on identity



Spontaneous leadership changes due to donor backlash and campus unrest halfway through the year



Leadership that was largely new to GAPSA, creating an opportunity for fresh perspective

Leadership Report

Michael Krone, President

Alexander Chmielinski, Executive Vice President



President's Report

The President's priority was to create an efficient, inclusive, and accountable GAPSA that prioritized student-facing initiatives and common-sense approaches to policy and operational challenges facing graduate students.

Building stronger relationships with Penn administrators

GAPSA's Executive Board held more than 15 meetings with administrators this year, including with the President, Provost, Executive Vice President, Vice Provost for University Life, Career Services, Faculty Senate Leadership, ISSS, and more

For many administrative centers, this was the first time that they had met with GAPSA in a group setting, and we prioritized targeting appropriate agenda topics with the offices that could address them (e.g., housing with the EVP)

Admin responded positively to meetings, signaled desire for increased partnership

Improve GA awareness of GAPSA and engagement with GA meetings

Developed a cadence of GA communication pre- and post-GA meetings to improve knowledge and awareness of actions for the GA to take (e.g., sign up for committees, apply to University Council, read resolutions)

Improved presentations at meetings to boost GA understanding of GAPSA procedure and policies, including addition of "Focus Issue" discussions to hone in on issues facing graduate and professional students

President's Report (1/2)

The President's priority was to create an efficient, inclusive, and accountable GAPSA that prioritized student-facing initiatives and common-sense approaches to policy and operational challenges facing graduate students.

Revitalize Presidents' Advisory Council (PAC)

This year, we hosted all four Presidents' Advisory Council meetings for the first time in recent memory, welcoming in Presidents, Treasurers, and leaders of G12+ organizations to discuss issues pertaining to school financing and policy changes, GAPSA Programs, and managing student groups

PAC served as a forum for G12+ leaders to get to know each other and to know GAPSA and facilitated dialogue across schools

Represent GAPSA on University and external Boards

GAPSA was represented on University Council, the Provost's Academic Planning and Budget Committee, the University Task Force on Combatting Antisemitism, and the Consultative Committee for the Search for the Vice Provost for Libraries

In each meeting, GAPSA leaders represented the needs of graduate students and advocated for greater inclusion of graduate student feedback

President's Report (2/2)

The President's priority was to create an efficient, inclusive, and accountable GAPSA that prioritized student-facing initiatives and common-sense approaches to policy and operational challenges facing graduate students.

Constitutional amendments and improvements

Through the diligent work of the Drafting Committee, GAPSA's Constitution and Standing Rules were updated to better reflect current policies and procedures and to ensure compliance with University policies

Much work is still to be done to ensure proper governance, but the clerical and substantive changes made through Bills 7, 8, and 9 will provide GAPSA with a stronger documented foundation across all its Divisions and Councils

Developed a culture of feedback and sensitivity to change

Through efforts like the mid-year survey, agenda suggestion form, and interpersonal interactions, GAPSA sought this year to be more responsive to GA members' needs, resulting in (1) shorter, more efficient GA meetings, (2) more training on procedure and Roberts' Rules, (3) fewer President-led agenda topics at meetings, and (4) improved satisfaction at GAPSA events (e.g., happy hours)

Executive Vice President's Report (1/3)

The Executive Vice President sought to create a community within GAPSA and ensure that all GAPSA's leaders and members had the tools to accomplish their goals throughout the year.

Utilization of President Gutmann Leadership Award (PGLA)

Throughout the fiscal year, approximately \$40,000 in travel funds were awarded to students who demonstrated a need for financial assistance to attend international conferences

Students were actively presenting their work and made concerted efforts to minimize travel costs

Collaborative efforts with the Research and Professional Council ensured the maximization of funding distribution to support as many students as possible

Executive Team Retreat in Fall 2023

A cost-effective executive retreat was organized, which played a pivotal role in enhancing team cohesion and setting a positive tone for the year

The total expenditure for this retreat was kept under \$2,500, demonstrating financial prudence while achieving the intended team-building outcomes

Executive Vice President's Report (2/3)

The Executive Vice President sought to create a community within GAPSA and ensure that all GAPSA's leaders and members had the tools to accomplish their goals throughout the year.

Maintenance of a Productive Work Environment

A focus was maintained on nurturing a cohesive and stable executive body, which contributed to zero resignations at the Vice President level throughout the year

This stability was crucial in ensuring the effectiveness and continuity of the executive team's initiatives

Legislative Advocacy and Collaboration

In collaboration with peer institutions and the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO), efforts were undertaken to identify the impact of legislative Bill H.R. 6585 on various schools

A strategy was developed to prevent students from institutions with large endowments, such as Curtis, Juilliard, and Mayo, from being unfairly restricted from accessing federal student loans

This initiative aimed to safeguard access to these prestigious programs for students facing financial barriers

Executive Vice President's Report (3/3)

The Executive Vice President sought to create a community within GAPSA and ensure that all GAPSA's leaders and members had the tools to accomplish their goals throughout the year.

Financial Transparency and Discretionary Spending

Approximately \$500 was allocated from discretionary funds to cover unforeseen expenses related to Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA) events (e.g., utensils, cookies) to ensure smooth execution of events

Health and Wellness Initiatives

Discretionary funds were also utilized to provide essential oral healthcare products to students

Efforts included the development of standardized treatment plans and organizational resources to guide students in accessing dental care through the university, regardless of their insurance coverage

Engagement and Representation

Commitment to university governance was demonstrated by attending all University Council meetings and as many administrative meetings as possible, ensuring that the voices of the executive body and the student population were well-represented and heard

A stylized graphic in a lighter blue shade than the background, depicting three human figures sitting around a large, rounded rectangular table. The figures are represented by simple outlines of heads and shoulders, with their arms resting on the table. The table is a thick, dark blue oval shape.

Councils

Chloe Ricks-Martinez, IDEAL Council Chair

Kendall Hart, Professional Council Chair

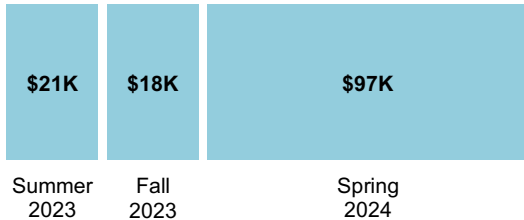
Ludwig Zhao, Research Council Chair

Professional Council accomplished goals of student funding and member development



Funding Provided External To Students

Awarded over \$136,000 in Professional Student Individual Grants



Internal Council Development Initiatives

Hosted a legislative writing workshop

Discussed legislation in council

Brought Professional Council members together on legislation

Discussed key issues relating to Professional students



The big concept of Professional Council this year was that Professional Council benefited our students by providing an extraordinary amount of grants and by uniting around key issues

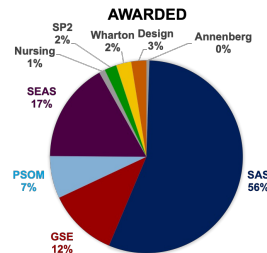
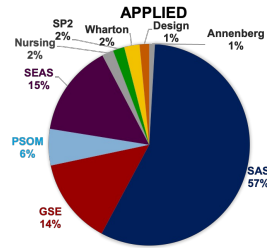
Research Council supported students through grant programs and advocacy initiatives (1/3)



Funding Provided Through Individual and Group Grants

Awarded \$136,079 in Research Student Individual Grants to 197 students, with highest proportion of awardees in SAS (57%), SEAS (17%), GSE (12%), and PSOM (7%)

Funded 7 events through the Academic Event Fund, using \$32K



Redesigning the GAPSA-Provost Fellowship for Interdisciplinary Innovation

Expanding the Fellowship's scope to include support for applicants attending workshops and training programs beyond research projects

Realigning the Fellowship's goals and purpose with the current leadership vision at Penn

Simplifying the application process for applicants, recommenders, and reviewers

Research Council supported students through grant programs and advocacy initiatives (2/3)



Council Town Hall and Doctoral Student Climate Survey

Directly gathered feedback and suggestions from over 250 constituents and identified common issues like:

Transportation concerns, including Penn Transit and Public Transit.

Availability of grants and fellowships for conference travel.

Support for mentorship and research guidance from faculty advisors.

Enhancing community-building and fostering connections among research students.

The graphic features a central title "PhD Student Climate Survey" in a bold, teal font with a white outline. Above the title are icons for a notebook, the Gapsa Research Council logo, a flask, and a person. Below the title is a call to action: "Fill out the survey and be among the first 50 participants to receive exclusive GAPSAswag and other exciting rewards, including free GAPSAswag Spring Gala tickets, JBL speakers, and more!". Below this is the slogan "YOUR VOICE MATTERS!" in orange, and the URL "bio.site/gapsa" in a grey box. The graphic is decorated with various teal and grey icons like a DNA helix, a pencil, and wavy lines.

PhD Student Climate Survey

Fill out the survey and be among the first 50 participants to receive exclusive GAPSAswag and other exciting rewards, including free GAPSAswag Spring Gala tickets, JBL speakers, and more!

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

bio.site/gapsa

Research Council supported students through grant programs and advocacy initiatives (3/3)

Resolution on Research Student Information Sharing

Successfully advocating for and implementing, starting Academic Year 2025, a university-wide comprehensive and standardized offer letter system for all admitted Ph.D. students, along with a commitment letter for all enrolled Ph.D. students

Providing standards and guidelines for all Graduate Group handbooks and websites and collaborating with VPE over the summer for implementation

Establishing a standing committee to collaborate with all G9 Schools leadership and the VPE to ensure regular reviews of handbook and website requirements

Collaborating with the VPE and GSC to organize a university-wide Ph.D. gathering at the start of the next academic year, aiming to provide university resources and foster connections among Ph.D. students

IDEAL Council created new funding opportunities for group partnerships and gathered feedback

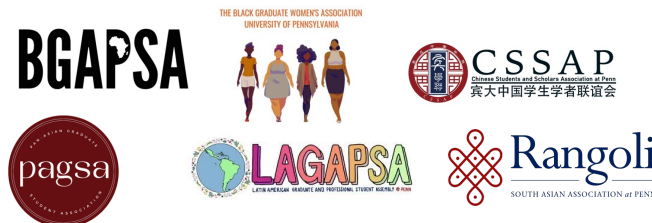
Allocated 10% of IDEAL's Empowerment Fund budget to pilot **Affinity Partnership Fund (APF)** and secured GAPSA match next year

Created infrastructure for **greater inclusion of school-based affinity groups** in GAPSA as IDEAL affiliates



Increased **percentage of IDEAL Council budget allocated for Empowerment Fund**, allowing groups to receive up to 150% of prior year's award

Partnered with Equity & Access to raise awareness about **first generation graduate student needs**



Worked with Equity & Access team to jointly plan **"Seats at the Table" series**

Facilitated discussion between VPUL and IDEAL affinity leaders about **graduate use of ARCH**



Advocacy Division

Saloni Tandon, Vice President for Advocacy

Mayowa Fageyinbo, Director of Equity and Access

Gaurav Mangal, Director of International Student Affairs

Xinyi Wang, Director of External Relations

Kerone Wint, Director of Wellness

GAPSA Advocacy has been the voice of student concerns to the highest levels of the university

Throughout the year, GAPSA Advocacy has...

Identified key challenges faced by students across their journey at Penn, and took actions to raise them to the administration through meetings, and the University Council (UC)



Despite facing challenges such as...

Limited response from administrators on key tasks and institutional slowness

Perceived inadequacy or limited sensitivity of Penn-level committees in general

Inability to make purchases and reliance on GAPSA bureaucracy

Need for greater orientation to how GAPSA and the university work



To yield results for graduate and professional students

Wellness Week

Clothes donation drive

World Café

Pop-up Pantries

Discussion sessions

International Cultural Fair

Discussion sessions during the GA

Participation in Ivy+

Supporting ISSS's Forerunner

GAPSA Advocacy has identified and voiced concern for many student issues throughout the year (1/8)

Student-facing issue	Problem	Solution	Status
<p>Limited affordability for transit options</p>	<p>Students live across regions and are often forced to travel for internships that are unpaid. The lack of regional partnerships with SEPTA leads to financial burdens</p>	<p>Penn level partnership with SEPTA for subsidized passes</p>	<p>Requested the relevant office multiple times but have not seen any progress. SEPTA partners are eager to move forward</p> <p>Issue was also raised in the last UC for 2024</p>
<p>Lack of reliable emergency housing</p>	<p>The university has no graduate-student-specific housing facility, causing challenges for students that face sudden housing crisis</p>	<p>Penn could identify college houses and allocate space for graduate students; or any other solution</p>	<p>Issue raised at the UC</p> <p>Admin have responded that they feel they have enough mechanisms to take care of students in such situations</p>

GAPSA Advocacy has identified and voiced concern for many student issues throughout the year (2/8)

Student-facing issue	Problem	Solution	Status
<p>Unreliable shuttle operations, and delayed timings</p>	<p>Shuttle timings now operate starting at 7:30pm, making it challenging for students during winters</p> <p>Students also face significant delays in the shuttle operations</p>	<p>Roll back timings, and improve algorithm of the shuttle</p>	<p>Raised issue across meetings, and during UC</p> <p>Admin have raised concerns over the misuse of the shuttle</p> <p>This needs more long-term intervention from the side of GAPSA to the students so that they are more aware</p>
<p>Food insecurity</p>	<p>Some students believe that students are food insecure and need additional support</p>	<p>More focused, long-term interventions that ensure students facing challenges are aware of, and can access solutions like Student Intervention Services</p>	<p>Food pantries rolled out to offer short-term support</p> <p>Targeting and tracking if students in genuine need are using it is a concern</p>

GAPSA Advocacy has identified and voiced concern for many student issues throughout the year (3/8)

Student-facing issue	Problem	Solution	Status
<p>Lack of perceived safety</p>	<p>Students across cultural, religious identities expressed feeling unsafe</p>	<p>Ensuring that DPS was aware of the challenges that students were facing, and was able to always deploy adequate support to students</p>	<p>Challenges conveyed to DPS; key gap perceived was the lack of standardized information to all graduate students</p>
<p>Lack of equity in employment / internship opportunities</p>	<p>CPT is inconsistent across schools, and across departments within schools even in instances where programs are very similar</p> <p>This has led to inequitable opportunities for international students, further impacting their employability after graduation</p>	<p>Ensure that all faculty members are sensitized to the larger CPT process, and the implications that it has on students</p> <p>Ensure that each program is re-evaluated by the departments so that they offer maximum CPT opportunity within the legal framework</p> <p>Ensure high sensitization of all staff members on CPT</p>	<p>Issue has been raised to the provost, president multiple times. Issue also extensively discussed with ISSS, and Career Services with pilot program tests to be run in SP2</p>

GAPSA Advocacy has identified and voiced concern for many student issues throughout the year (4/8)

Student-facing issue	Problem	Solution	Status
<p>Lack of consistent information offered to students during orientation</p>	<p>Students across schools receive varying levels of information on support systems offered at Penn, impacting their experiences while being a student, and in some cases leading to negative consequences in the event of the student requiring additional accommodations</p>	<p>Ensure all schools at the minimum distribute the resources developed by the Grad Center to all its students – could be in the form of mandatory courses on canvas</p> <p>Ensure administrators across schools are aware of all support services offered at Penn</p>	<p>The problem is accepted and acknowledged however the current decentralization of schools make it extremely difficult to ensure consistency on this front</p>
<p>Lack of emergency funding to international students affected by crisis</p>	<p>At the time of any crisis (economic, political or otherwise), international students are likely to be impacted financially</p> <p>There is no current funding pool for such emergencies at the graduate level</p>	<p>Develop a pool of funding for graduate students facing international emergencies</p>	<p>Raised at UC</p> <p>Admin have voiced that they are finding donors to develop this pool</p>

GAPSA Advocacy has identified and voiced concern for many student issues throughout the year (5/8)

Student-facing issue	Problem	Solution	Status
Lack of adequate care facilities for students that have care-giving responsibilities	Almost 10% of grad students have care giving responsibilities, but have limited support structures for the same on campus, gatekeeping education for them	Expand day-care facilities for grad students	Raised at UC, raised with Faculty Senate and other major administrators
Inadequate green norms, rules, efforts to help ensure that tech waste is reduced	High waste of food, clothes, plastic on campus contributing to environmental harms	Build systemic changes to this to help reduce waste	Hosted a clothing drive during wellness week to ensure clothes are diverted to homeless in Philly with similar efforts pending
Perceived discomfort with the insurance offerings at Penn	Penn's insurance plan was found to have several limitations, and was found to be expensive	Change or improve the plan	GAPSA representatives are a part of Student Health Insurance Advisory Committee to help re-evaluate a new plan

GAPSA Advocacy has identified and voiced concern for many student issues throughout the year (6/8)

Student-facing issue	Problem	Solution	Status
<p>Overall lack of centralization of efforts across key aspects that affect all grad students</p>	<p>Each school has their own authority, autonomy, and hence offer varying levels of support, have differing systems for students; causing more inequities</p>	<p>Have some level of consistency in offering, or increased accountability of schools to the Provost</p>	<p>Raised multiple times across forums</p>
<p>Perceived limited sense of belonging by students belonging to different cultural identities</p>	<p>Students from minority groups have often raised the feeling that they do not belong at Penn</p>	<p>There are several efforts being deployed both by the admin, and by students across groups</p> <p>There seems to be limited effective awareness of these platforms</p>	<p>Equity and Access partnered with IDEAL to help ensure 'a seat at the table' conversations were undertaken, to help students share their perception and experiences on critical issues.</p>
<p>Lack of cohesion across schools in the Philadelphia region</p>	<p>Several other schools in Philadelphia face similar challenges especially when it comes to safety, transit and other aspects</p>	<p>Host a Philly+ program like that of Ivy+</p>	<p>Suggested carry-forward exercise for 2024-2025</p>

GAPSA Advocacy has identified and voiced concern for many student issues throughout the year (7/8)

Student-facing issue	Problem	Solution	Status
<p>Lack of ultrasound facilities at Penn’s Student Health Services</p>	<p>SHS did not offer ultrasound facilities, impacting emergent diagnostic services needed by students especially since wait times in the ER are very high</p>	<p>Purchase an ultrasound machine</p>	<p>Machine is likely to be ready for go-live by Fall 2024</p>
<p>Lack of consistent efforts to advocate for, and representation of international students</p>	<p>The extent to which international students have a voice depends on the level of association, positionality of representatives</p> <p>Key issues typically fall through the cracks across years</p>	<p>Have a dedicated Graduate International Student Assembly (GAISO) to reduce dependency on GAPSA for advocacy needs</p>	<p>The larger concept and procedure for GAISO needs to be fleshed out</p>
<p>Need for cultural sensitization in Student Wellness</p>	<p>Students requiring long term care are often diverted to doctors outside Penn that are not vetted, or are culturally sensitive</p>	<p>Develop a list of culturally relevant, vetted therapists and only then divert students to them</p>	<p>Wellness at Penn team is aware of the problem</p>

GAPSA Advocacy has identified and voiced concern for many student issues throughout the year (8/8)

Student-facing issue	Problem	Solution	Status
<p>Penalty on late fees, and early deadline on the Penn Pay Plan</p>	<p>Fine imposed on students if they are delayed in their fee payment</p> <p>Additionally, deadline to enroll in the Penn Pay Plan is very early, and there is no failsafe or support systems offered for exceptional issues.</p>	<p>Extend the deadline and consider genuine cases for late fee payments</p>	<p>Issue raised at UC</p>



Finance Division

Nakisha Renee Jones, Vice President for Finance

Debbie Allen, Director of Funds Management

Rene Alvarado, Director of Budget

EriOluwa Oni, Director of Financial Reporting

Shuruthi Senthil Murugan, Deputy Director of IPF

Division of Finance overview



Nakisha Renee Jones, VP

Division at-a-glance

The Finance Division manages grant application, evaluation, and disbursement processes; perform regular audits of GAPSA Finances, GAPSA-funded groups, events, and initiatives. Maintain financial records & provide regular reports; and designs and maintains GAPSA budget & GAPSA-funded events/initiatives

Progress year to date

Modernized individual grant applications into universal application for PGLA and Council-based grants

Added Development budgets to Councils and created Affinity Partnership Fund

Hosted FAB meetings and trained G12+ leaders on how to engage with GAPSA Finance

Developed FY24 and FY25 budgets in consultation with the GA and GAPSA leaders

Evaluated student group event fund proposals and made awarding decisions

Established greater accountability of GAPSA Finance and robust transparency

GAPSA Finance highlights of the year

Highlights include:

The year of three budgets, budget survey, multi-factor budget point system

Increasing the Empowerment Fund in Fall of 2023 with IDEAL Chair

Creation of the Affinity Partnership Fund

Opening of the GFAC registration process

Reduction of paperwork for Lending Vehicle, Green Leaf, and Pilot Fund approvals

Merging to the Graduate Student Center's grant system for individual grants

Finance Committee member participation and support for group funding evaluations

Creation of internal database of student group data for past two fiscal years

GAPSA Finance Association Council 2023-2024

How did GAPSA Finance arrive at these numbers?

All student group were asked to register for GAPSA Finance Association Council (GFAC), which is the treasurers of GAPSA and its constituent student organizations, including G12+ and student groups funded by GAPSA. Every application was reviewed for compliance with GAPSA policies to receive funding for the fiscal year. Denied applications went to GAPSA Finance Committee for review.

GAPSA Finance received 96 GFAC applications and approved 90% between Oct. 2023 and Apr. 2024

87

Two-thirds of applicants were non-Ph.D. students, one-third were Ph.D. students
65% of groups had received funding before, and 35% of groups were new

9

\$561K

Total size of all student groups' budgets for the year, reflecting demand for GAPSA funding

\$290K

Total GAPSA budget for student groups FY24 (excluding G12 and IPF)

GAPSA Finance approved more than 60 groups' applications for nearly \$300K in funding

Total Groups Approved

GAPSA Finance received 68 universal fund applications and approved 96% between Oct. 2023 and Apr. 2024

65

3

Funded

*Not
Funded*

Total Funds Approved

GAPSA Finance received \$327K in funding requests and approved \$298K across various funding sources (details to follow)

\$298K

\$29K

Funded

Not Funded

Summary of fund awards by account

Fund Name	Award Letters	Total Funding	
Stud. Group Event Fund	60	\$97.0K	117 Award letters
Acad. Event Fund	6	\$27.0K	
Synergy Fund	4	\$25.0K	\$422K Awarded in funding to student groups (including IDEAL groups)
Pilot Fund	2	\$18.0K	
Green Leaf	7	\$4.0K	\$840K In G12+ governments, plus \$92K in GAPSA match for IPF
COF	4	\$13.5K	
Discretionary Fund	2	\$34.0K	
Empowerment Fund	8	\$80.0K	
Interschool Part. Fund	16	\$115.0K	
Affinity Part. Fund	8	\$8.0K	

GAPSA Finance contended with policy changes while also striving for internal improvements

GAPSA Finance navigated changes in policy enacted by the University...

Limitations on per-person expenditures for meetings and events

Limitations on purchasing card capabilities for GAPSA and other student groups

Changing reporting requirements

An accelerated budget timeline

Increased scrutiny from Provost's Administrative Affairs



...and sought to repair and improve internal processes

Implementing new grant applications for students and student groups

Promoting internal spending controls and a culture of financial accountability

Training at Executive Board retreat on how to use GAPSA budget dollars and report on use

Hosting financial wellness training for students

GAPSA Finance oversaw the passage of FY24 and FY25 Budgets and revitalized access, transparency

Developing Our Budget

Budget Committee prepared a refreshed FY24 Budget approved by the GA this Fall, which brought it into compliance with University policies and crafted new opportunities for innovation (e.g., Affinity Partnership Fund)

Budget Committee adapted to a new budget timeline that accelerated the development of the annual budget, and adhered to principles of GA and student input and accountability to long-standing commitments

Budget Committee created an allocation mechanism based on utilization, need, and interest and ensured robust transparency among allocations

Budget Committee created detailed informational materials about what was in the budget and the parameters for spending and coached Executive members on using funds

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly			
Director of Budget			
Preliminary FY24/25 Budget			
10-MIN-24			
Consolidated			
Core Base	\$	931,287	01
GAP	\$	217,332	
G12+ Base	\$	865,494	
AAE	\$	17,257	
Trust Fraction	\$	293,000	
Contingency	\$	84,441	01
Total	\$	2,409,710	
Detailed			
Core Base	\$	931,287	01
Leadership	\$	16,970	
1.1 President Special Projects	\$	5,520	
1.2 EVP Special Projects	\$	5,000	
1.3 EVP Leadership Development	\$	6,000	
Finance	\$	159,952	
2.1 Student Group Event Fund	\$	104,072	
2.2 Diversity/Incl. Fund	\$	25,000	
2.3 Pilot Funds	\$	20,000	
2.4 Administration	\$	9,930	
2.5 GA Opportunity Fund	\$	-	
2.6 Division Development	\$	1,500	
Operations	\$	110,459	
3.1 Alumni Relations	\$	27,235	
3.2 Data Analytics	\$	3,000	
3.3 Logistics	\$	76,724	
3.4 Public Relations	\$	1,500	
3.5 Division Development	\$	2,000	
Programming	\$	246,545	
4.1 Grad Fest	\$	62,284	
4.2 Professional Development	\$	1,500	
4.3 Academic Programming	\$	10,191	
4.4 Cultural Programming	\$	85,000	
4.5 Social Programming	\$	79,101	
4.6 Wellness/Work	\$	6,459	
4.7 All Access	\$	9,800	
4.8 Division Development	\$	1,500	
Advocacy	\$	20,883	
5.1 Equity & Access	\$	4,076	
5.2 External Affairs	\$	7,134	
5.3 International	\$	4,153	
5.4 Wellness	\$	2,070	
5.5 Division Development	\$	2,000	
Councils	\$	367,078	
6.1 Employment Fund	\$	86,269	
6.2 IDEAL Council	\$	16,178	
6.3 Professional Student Individual Grants	\$	106,090	
6.4 Professional Council Development	\$	5,000	
6.5 Research Student Individual Grants	\$	106,090	
6.6 Academic Event Fund	\$	42,456	
6.7 Research Council Development	\$	5,000	
Trust Fraction	\$	293,000	
7.1 President Gutmann Leadership Award (PGLA)	\$	40,000	
7.2 GAPSA Provost Awards	\$	90,000	
7.3 InPhos Booth	\$	3,000	
7.4 Family Center	\$	23,000	
7.5 Legal Services	\$	1,800	
7.6 Graduate Student Center (GSC)	\$	16,000	
7.7 Executive Service Awards	\$	87,000	
7.8 Other Encumbrances (Admin + PGLA Carryover)	\$	34,000	
7.9 Graduate Student Emergency Fund	\$	-	
Contingency	\$	84,441	
8.1 Emergency Fund	\$	40,000	
8.2 Bonus Fund	\$	44,237	
8.3 Reserve	\$	314	
Affinity Accountability Program (AAP)	\$	17,257	
9.1 Affinity Partnership Fund (APF)	\$	8,628	
9.2 Affinity Partnership Fund (APF) GAPSA Match	\$	8,628	
G12+ Accountability Program (GAP)	\$	217,332	
10.1 Diversity Fund	\$	25,000	
10.2 Interchool Partnership Fund (IPF) G12 Contribution	\$	98,366	
10.3 Interchool Partnership Fund (IPF) GAPSA Match	\$	96,166	
G12+ Base	\$	865,494	
11.1 Annenberg Communications	\$	3,213	
11.2 Carey Lab	\$	65,771	
11.3 Dental	\$	58,684	
11.4 Education	\$	62,762	
11.5 Engineering	\$	180,524	
11.6 Nursing-GSO	\$	17,807	
11.7 Nursing-GSO	\$	3,115	
11.8 Pre-man Medicine MFG	\$	39,000	
11.9 Pre-man Medicine MFG-GSA	\$	17,654	
11.10 SAS-P/gov	\$	39,809	
11.11 SAS-P/gov	\$	74,318	
11.12 SP2	\$	29,014	
11.13 Veterinary	\$	36,780	
11.14 Wetman Design	\$	47,424	
11.15 Wharton WDC	\$	118,383	
11.16 Wharton WDC	\$	12,462	

The budgets, mid-year release, and monthly spending goals were all crafted to meet dynamic student needs



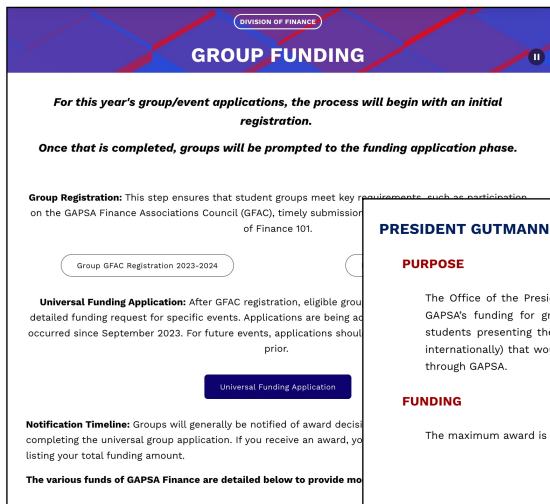
GAPSA Finance oversaw the passage of FY24 and FY25 Budgets and revitalized access, transparency

Getting Funding Out to Students

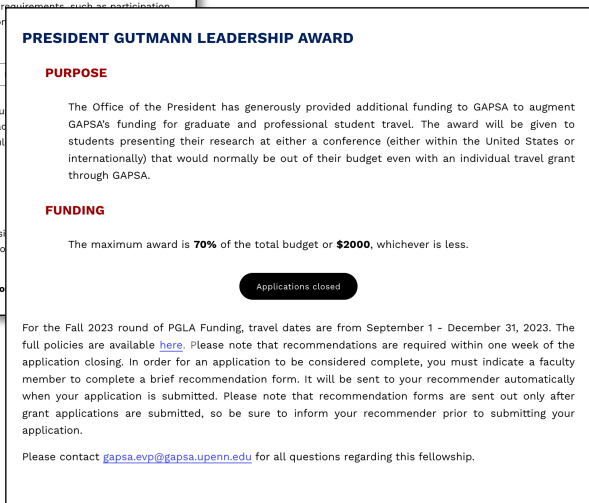
GAPSA Funds debuted a **new universal application for GAPSA individual grants** in partnership with the Councils and EVP, leading to an easier access point for students to apply for GAPSA grants; established uniform covered periods and submission deadlines across Professional Council and PGLA to ensure equity and fairness in the funding application process.

GAPSA Funds **streamlined the grant award process for students** by confirming that students were able to choose between grants they were awarded and ensuring compliance with University policies regarding funding maximums

GAPSA Funds **streamlined support for student groups through the GAPSA Finance Associations Council (GFAC)** application, which ensures groups are registered and current with After-Action Reports, and through a universal funding application, enhancing compliance with GAPSA and University policies



Students can browse eligibility and funding policies for student groups...



...and for individual travel, conference, or professional development grants



Operations Division

Gabrielle Newell, Vice President for Operations

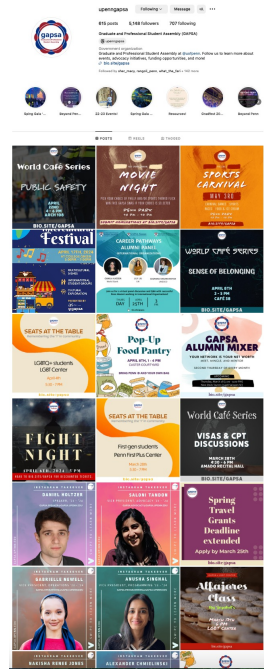
Aradhana Kasimsetty, Director of Logistics

Dora Racca, Director of Data Analytics

Ananth Srinivas, Director of Public Relations

Paul Welfer, Director of Alumni Relations

Operations Division kept GAPSA running smoothly and connected us to the University



Supported nineteen different local vendors across various internal GAPSA meetings and met diverse dietary needs



Created a safer structure for supporting small and medium sized off campus internal socials with alcohol

Supported General Assembly member comprehension of meeting materials through multiple avenues (e.g., emails, handouts, and meeting slides post meeting)



Implemented monthly alumni happy hours that provided valuable networking opportunities for alumni to connect with each other and with current students. Ultimately leading to higher rates of volunteerism and mentorship

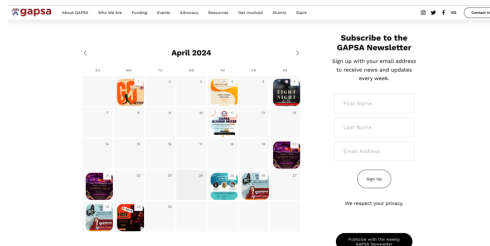
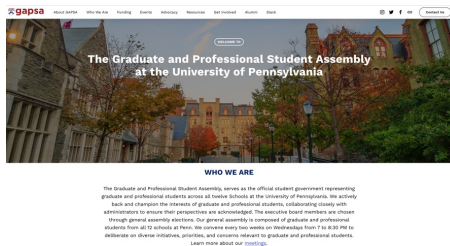
Strengthened alumni engagement through regular communication, alumni panels, and relationship-building amongst alumni and students



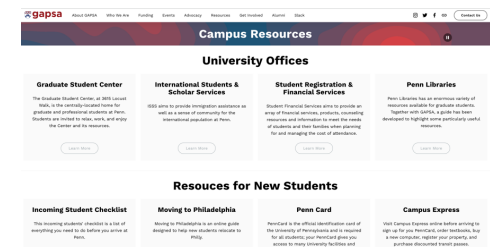
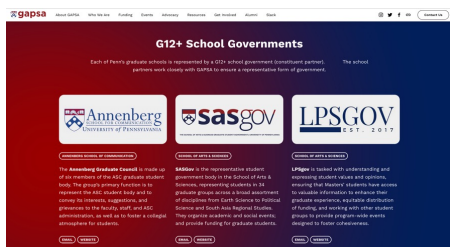
Operations Division kept GAPSA running smoothly and connected us to the University



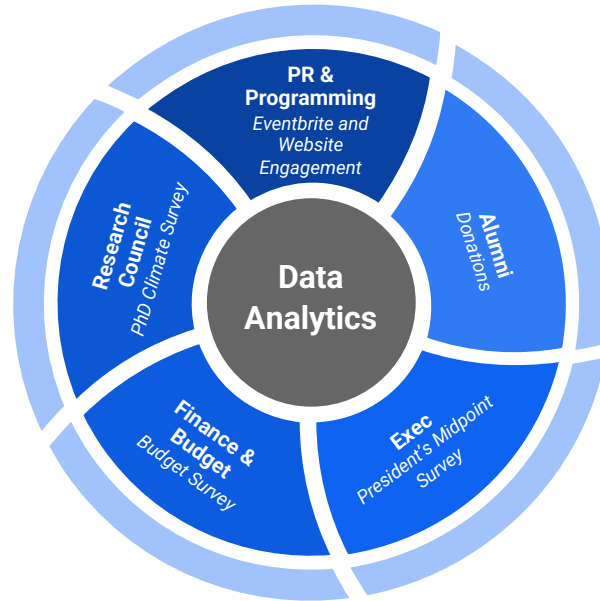
Spearheaded the conception and deployment of a **brand-new website**, meticulously crafted for optimal efficiency, streamlining user navigation and enhancing accessibility to a diverse array of GAPSA resources and engagement opportunities

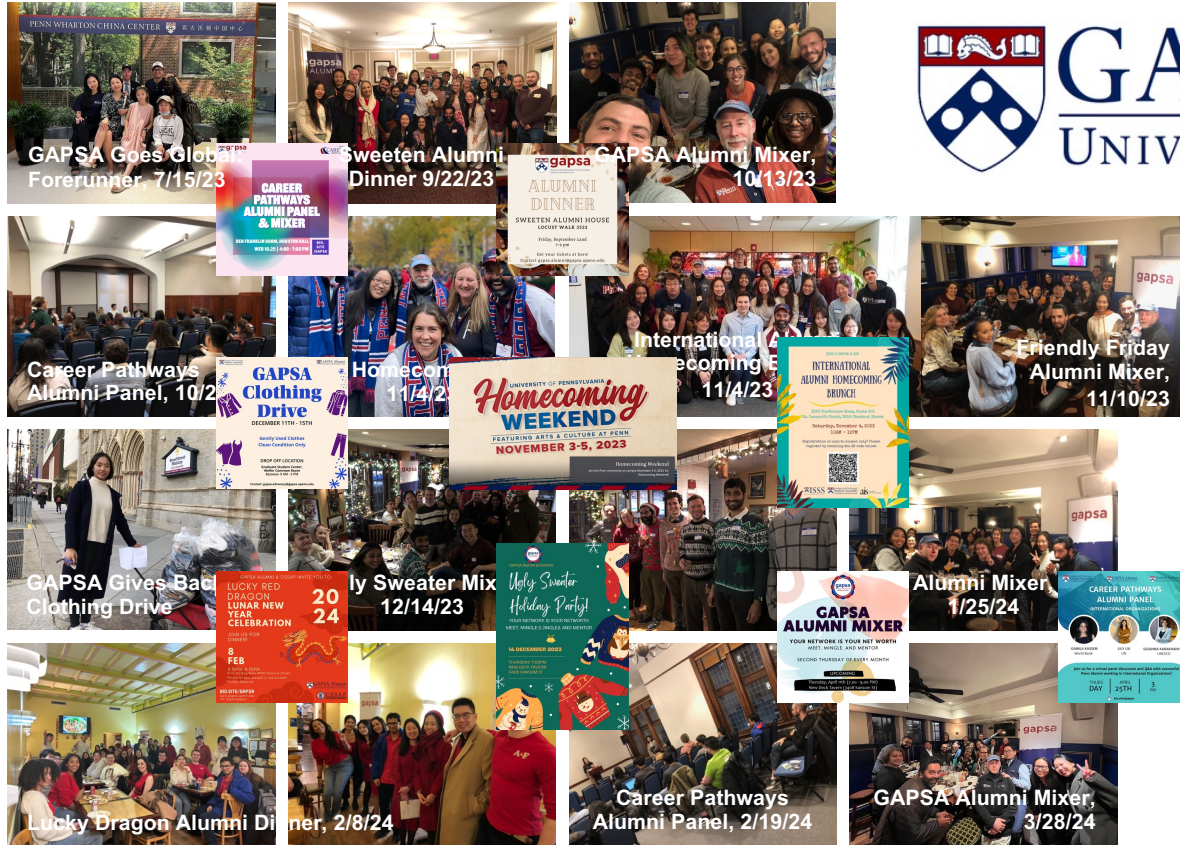


Supported student initiatives by **purchasing swag from a campus student ran organization**, fostering collaboration and empowering student entrepreneurship, while also providing branded merchandise for all GA members



Data Analytics tracked the engagement with GAPSA from various constituencies





GAPSA Alumni

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Sweeten Alumni Dinner
 Friendly Fridays Networking
 Career Pathways Alumni Panels
 Penn Homecoming
 International Alumni Brunch
 GAPSA Gives Back
 Second Thursdays Mixers
 GSC Alumni Reception
 Alumni Weekend
 GAPSA Goes Global: Forerunner

GAPSA Alumni Ticket Program
 GAPSA Alumni Mentoring
 GAPSA Alumni Networking
 GAPSA Alumni Fundraising
 GAPSA Alumni Advisory Board

Alumni Relations is connecting students at home and abroad through Summer 2024

Career Pathways Alumni Panel
Second Thursday Alumni Mixer
Alumni Weekend

GSC Graduate Awards & Alumni Receptions
ISSS International Alumni Welcome Back Brunch
GAPSA Goes Global: Sao Paolo Forerunner
Second Thursday Alumni Mixer

GAPSA Goes Global: Singapore Forerunner
GAPSA Goes Global: Mumbai Forerunner
GAPSA Goes Global: Shanghai Forerunner

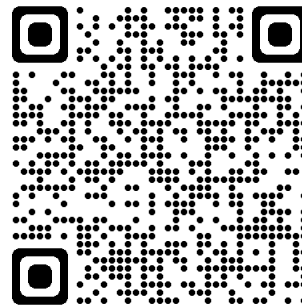
291,356
Graduate Alumni

14,750
Mentors

104,219
Global Alumni



Join Us!



GAPSA Alumni Newsletter
Become a Mentor
GAPSA Alumni Advisory Board
Develop Alumni Events

Programming Division

Anusha Singhal, Vice President for Programming

Sofia Castelli, Director of Academic Programming

Sparsh Maheshwari, Director of Cultural Programming

Sruti Sailam, Director of Social Programming

Programming put together dozens of events throughout the year to build community



Programming's goal was to build a robust programming calendar with fun social, cultural, & academic events

Have programs that aim to embrace inclusivity and multiculturalism and to promote or build cultural awareness



Increase the reach of our events, including more artistic events as an outlet from work or school



Guide grad students through pivotal career choices and promoting insightful educational experiences

Bring together other student groups and collaborate with them

Incorporate fitness classes as a method of meeting other graduate students with similar interests

Cultivate an enriching academic environment that fosters intellectual growth and professional development opportunities

Flagship events (1/2)

~1,200 grad students attended
20 **GradFest** events over a week

Collaborated with 30 student
groups & on-campus partners for
GradFair



Wellness Week helped students to get de-stressed before finals and focused on social, mental, and financial wellness



Flagship events (2/2)

More than 2,200 students across all 12 schools attended the **Spring Gala** at The Franklin Institute in February 2024



Sports Carnival in May 2024 will be the last big event of the year with food, games, and a movie



Cultural Programming highlights

This year we explored Philly and celebrated many cultures...

Broadway Series: Madame Butterfly, Wicked

Friendsgiving Dinner

Bowling Bash at Lucky Strike

Philadelphia Flower Show

PCMS Concert Pass

Halloween Nights at ESP

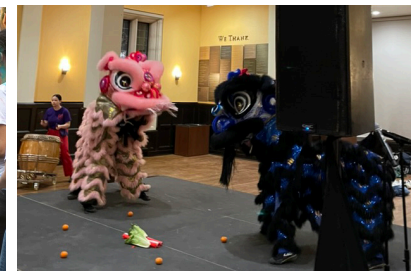
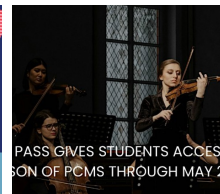
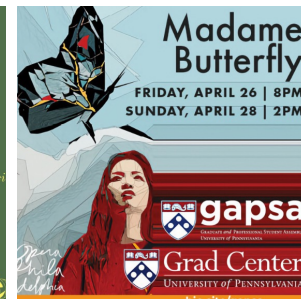
Phillies vs Reds Game

Improv Comedy Show

Collaborations with IDEAL groups and on-campus partners like GSC, FRC, CRCs

Intercultural Festival with AIS, ISSS, and Penn Global

Longwood Gardens Trip (upcoming May 4)



Social Programming highlights

This year we tried to build an inclusive calendar with a balance of free and paid events...

We had small-scale socials, collaborated with different organizations on campus and a variety of small businesses around Philadelphia

Fitness Series: Zumba, circuit training, mat Pilates, spin classes

InBody scanning

Barry's workout class

Ice cream social

Jezabel's Alfajores class

Tote bag decorating class



Academic Programming

Our focus was to help students explore career paths to feel confident about life after Penn...

Career Pathways Panels & Mixers

- STEM-focus
- Humanities & Social Sciences
- Working in International Organizations
- Graduation photos

We also toured many museums together...

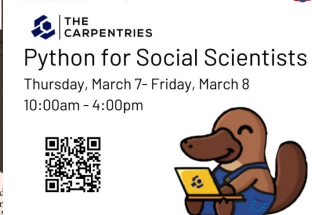
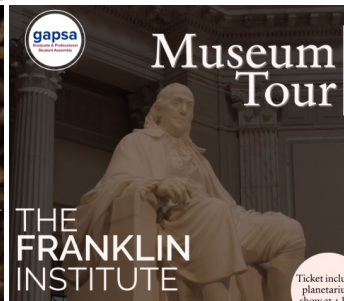
Ancient Alcohol Tour & Tasting

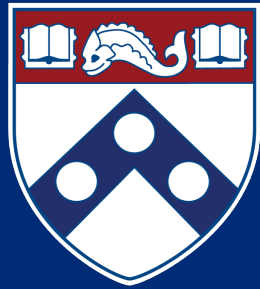
Philadelphia Museum of Art Tour

Rodin Museum Tour

Mütter Museum Tour

Franklin Institute Tour





gapsa

GRADUATE *and* PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSEMBLY
UNIVERSITY *of* PENNSYLVANIA