



**GAPSA Pluralism Council Minutes
October, 16 2008**

Members present: Christa Heyward, Meredith Shaffer, Alejandro Hagan, Susan Haas, Haine Lee, Pratibha Bajaj, Esther Agbaje, and Ben Gojman.

The meeting started with the Vice Chair presenting the agenda for the meeting. After that all present members were invited to speak on the key issues.

Following are the key points of discussion:

- Representation of Latino students – It was raised by a member that comparatively fewer latino students enter Penn. What could be done to increase their numbers?
- Women representation in Engineering school and in faculty – How could this be increased?
- Part time students are not involved in GAPSA. How can we increase their voice in the campus?
- A major issue regarding resources for parents was also brought up. Day-care is not affordable for students. Your commitment is called to question if you have to leave early to take care of children.
- It was suggested that a secured playground for children can be established in the campus.
- Law school seems to be separated. How can it be integrated into GAPSA's activities?
- It was proposed that we conduct a survey of Alumni regarding how plurality issues were addressed before? What resources were used? It was proposed that Alumni involvement will also act as a source of funding and mentorship. They could be contacted through email.
- Funding for under represented – Does University have separate funds to attract students from minority community?
- It was proposed that a combined welcome event for all graduate students can be organized. Students from minority communities can come and sign up for the organizations that represent them at such events.

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- Visibility among new students was highlighted as a cause of concern. A website where all Penn minority students can access information about their organizations was also proposed.

Summary:

1. University can send email to new students on the behalf of the Pluralism council to address the issue of visibility.
2. An integrated webpage can be established which will have links to all minority community organizations.
3. A parent resource center needs to be built.
4. Data needs to be collected on Minority population in the university. School authorities can be contacted separately for this.
5. It was proposed that a sub-committee can be formed with the University council to take this issue forward.
6. The timing of the next meeting will be finalized through email like last time.

Submitted by

Esther Agbaje
Vice Chair for Equity & Access