
To: Brenda Brand, Office of the Secretary
From: Andrew J. Rennekamp, GAPSA Chair
Date: January 23, 2009
Re: GAPSA University Council Status Report for January 28, 2009

GAPSA Resolution on Resources for Students with Children (January 21, 2009)

On January 21, 2009 the Assembly passed a resolution urging the University administration to seriously consider the needs of graduate and professional student parents. The resolution points to several resources and services, previously available to students and their children, which have been taken away over the past few years. These include on-campus housing for graduate student families in Mayer Hall as well as PennCard access to Penn Transit Services, Penn Libraries, and the Hutchinson Gymnasium. Additionally the resolution points to the lack of adequate childcare facilities on or close to campus and calls on the administration to work toward addressing this important need. The full text of the resolution can be found on the GAPSA website:

<http://www.gapsa.upenn.edu/meetings/resolutions>

New Online Ticketing for GAPSA Events (Spring 2009)

GAPSA now offers online ticketing for select events. This is made possible by a partnership with "TicketLeap.com," a local, Philadelphia-based, Internet ticketing provider founded, run and owned in part by Penn alumni. By using TicketLeap.com graduate and professional students are now able to purchase tickets to GAPSA events from any Internet connection in the world, using their credit or debit card information. Before this service was offered students were only able to purchase tickets in person, during business hours at the Graduate Student Center. The web address for the GAPSA ticket site is <https://gapsa.ticketleap.com>

GAPSA-UA Trip to the Presidential Inauguration (January 20, 2009)

GAPSA, in coordination with the Undergraduate Assembly and the Office of the Vice Provost for University Life, Dr. Valarie Swain-Cade McCoullum, hosted a free trip to the 2009 Presidential Inauguration in Washington, DC for about 46 students. Interested graduate and professional students were invited to enter a GAPSA lottery drawing from which the names of about 20 students were selected at random. The remaining seats were similarly filled by the UA. In all, more than 2,000 students signed up for the drawing. The selected participants attended a pre-event meeting, met the charter bus at midnight on January 20th, received goodie bags and t-shirts commemorating the event, and visited the Smithsonian Museum of American History following the swearing-in ceremony and inaugural parade. Many additional students independently attended the historic event. Students remaining on campus were invited to watch the televised event at one of several locations around campus including the Graduate Student Center located at 3615 Locust Walk.

University City Graduate Coalition (Spring 2009)

Leaders of graduate and professional student governments of Drexel University, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia (USP) met together for the first ever meeting of the “University City Graduate Coalition” (UCGC). The Coalition was formed with the purpose of engaging locally, bringing students from across University City together for social networking, academic, and community service opportunities. GAPSA has volunteered to take the lead role in organizing a community service event in which students of the three universities will participate before the end of the semester. Student leaders from the Coalition have also been in contact with representatives of the non-profit organization “Campus Philly” to brainstorm ways that the two groups can collaborate in the near future. Campus Philly seeks to fuel economic growth in our city by encouraging college students to study, explore, live and work in Philadelphia. The Executive Director of Campus Philly, Jonathan Herrmann (W’00), is a Penn alumnus. For more information see <http://www.gapsa.upenn.edu/links/philly-peers>

GAPSA Student Life Policy Council (2008-2009)

Elizabeth Almasi (Medicine)

Mike Baiocchi (Wharton)

James Bennett (Design)

Victoria Carchidi (Design)

Jill Chua (Wharton)

Carla Cue (Arts and Sciences)*

Vipul Devluk (Engineering)

Daniela Fera (Arts and Sciences)

Sarah Fisher (Design)

Amy Fuller (Arts and Sciences)*

Josh Garber (Law)

Cassandra Giombetti (Education)

Pierre Gooding (Law)[°]

Kyle Gorman (Arts and Sciences)

Peter Henessy (Wharton)

Derek Johnson (Medicine)

Gareth Keane (Wharton)

Eugene Khandros (Arts and Sciences)

Michelle Kinder (Medicine)

Heather Klusaritz (Social Policy & Practice)

Jonathan Lane (Law)

Rosa Mathai (Dental)[§]

Colin McLean (Design)

Greg Milhauser (Wharton)

Robin Miller (Nursing)

Jennifer Onksen (Medicine)

Scott Palmer (Medicine)

Kiran Patel (Medicine)

Jay Piccini (Nursing)

Matt Rufo (Design)

Shimul Sengupta (Wharton)

Jessica Shupik (Education)

David Slifka (Law)

Matthew Sones (Dental)

Lauren Swiston (Design)

Nikki Thorpe (Arts and Sciences)^{†§*}

Emily Thorson (Annenberg)

Rafael Walker (Arts and Sciences)

Alexandra Yurkovic (Medicine)

[†]GAPSA Vice Chair for Student Life

[°]GAPSA Deputy Vice Chair for Student Life

[§]Member of the UC Committee on Campus & Community Life

^{*}Member of the GAPSA General Assembly

GAPSA International Student Council (2008-2009)

Saad Izhar-ul-Haq (Wharton)
Omar Khan (Engineering)†‡*
Brian Kiai (Wharton)
Jungyung Lisa Ko (Nursing)
Asako Kondo (Arts and Sciences)
Wenting Li (Arts and Sciences)*
Quan Liu (Dental)
Deborah Mason (Wharton)
Xianonan (Shannon) Qu (Wharton)
Antony Rithin (Engineering)
Eleni Skoufari (Law)
Gavin Teo (Wharton)
Ria Varghese (Engineering)
Jun Yu (Engineering)
Melissa Buck (Arts and Sciences)^o

†GAPSA Vice Chair for International Affairs
‡Member of the International Student Advisory Board
*Member of the GAPSA General Assembly
^oDomestic Student Participant

GAPSA Pluralism Council (2008-2009)

Esther Agbaje (Arts and Sciences)†‡*
Adeeba Al-Zaman (Arts and Sciences)
Pratibha Bajaj (Wharton)^o
Samantha Giusti (Social Policy and Practice)
Christa Heyward (Medicine)‡*
Haine Lee (Law)
Meredith Shaffer (Medicine)
Tyler Stoops (Wharton)
Matthew Walters (Wharton)

†GAPSA Vice Chair for Equity and Access
^oGAPSA Deputy Vice Chair for Equity and Access
‡Member of the UC Committee on Diversity & Equity
*Member of the GAPSA General Assembly