
To: Lynne Sniffen, Office of the Secretary
From: Andrew J. Rennekamp, GAPSA Chair
Date: February 12, 2009
Re: GAPSA University Council Status Report for February 18, 2009

GAPSA cheers Philadelphia “76ers” to basketball game win (February 5, 2009)

On Thursday, February 5, 2009, the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly hosted an outing to the Wachovia Center at 7pm, where 150 graduate and professional Penn students cheered the Philadelphia 76ers basketball team to a 99-94 win against the Indiana Pacers. Students were able to purchase \$15 subsidized tickets through GAPSA, which included a food voucher for a hotdog, popcorn and a soft drink.

GAPSA Co-Sponsors Women’s Week 2009 (February 9-17, 2009)

The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly is pleased to be listed among the top sponsors of Women’s Week 2009, which included a keynote address given by American poet Dr. Maya Angelou. The Assembly allocated \$5,000 in support for the event and also reserved a block of 300 advanced tickets for graduate and professional students. These tickets were sold to graduate and professional Penn students for \$8 apiece. The sold-out event was held on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 in Irvine Auditorium and brought together a diverse audience of women, men, and even elementary school students, from across our campus and West Philadelphia community.

Funding for Student Groups (Spring 2009)

GAPSA also provided a total of \$14,890 in funding for 27 different University-wide graduate and professional student-run organizations. These include cultural, artistic, religious, athletic, career and community service oriented groups. 16 of these groups had not received GAPSA funding in the Fall. Due to the high demand, and the relatively small allocation for student group funding, GAPSA is currently in the process of securing additional funds for student group activities, which should be reflected in the 2009-2010 GAPSA budget.

GAPSA-UA Mentoring Program Update (Spring 2009)

GAPSA is pleased to report that the GAPSA-UA mentoring program has been in high demand this year. Run by the Graduate Student Center and funded by GAPSA and the Undergraduate Assembly (UA), the program has had a 66.8% increase of undergraduate enrolment from 184 students in 2007-2008 to 307 students thus far in 2008-2009. This is the biggest increase in the program’s history! Most of the new enrollments are in response to two e-mails: one sent in the fall from the Associate Provost for Education to all juniors with a 3.4+ GPA and the other sent by Career Services in January to all undergraduates interested in applying to graduate or professional schools. Most of the enrollees have been matched with graduate mentors, however we are currently in need of (and actively recruiting) a few more students from the Law School.

GAPSA Expands and Diversifies Event Programming (2008-2009)

Over the past four and a half years, GAPSA has expanded the number and types of events planned for graduate and professional students. To give an idea of how programming has been expanded while funding has remained constant, the Graduate Student Center has supplied the following data. Please note that these numbers only include events where tickets were sold through the Graduate Student Center; they do not reflect GAPSA online ticketing, non-ticketed events or events where tickets are sold only at the door. GradFest ticket sales are also omitted.

Time Period	Number of Ticketed Events	Number of Tickets Sold
2004-2005	11	532
2005-2006	8	298
2006-2007	17	558
2007-2008	33	832
2008- January 2009	33	906