
Minutes of the General Assembly Meeting on April 8, 2009

The twelfth regularly scheduled meeting of GAPSA General Assembly was convened on April 8, 2009 at 6:18 PM in the Bodek Lounge in Houston Hall.

Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Present were: Andrew Rennekamp, Alejandro Hagan, Jonathan Lukens, Christa Heyward, Nikki Thorpe, Christina Arlt, Jessica Kim, Esther Agbaje, Omar Khan, Natalie Williams, Sarah Smith, Susan Haas, Carla Cue, Leslie Warden, Tim Shokair, Wenting Li, Raleigh Martin, Jack Higgins, Allison Sullivan, Jill Harrison, Christie Chavez, Alexander Balloon, Chrissy Caggiano, Heather Curl, Maher Zamel, Swathi Madaiah, Jacqui Simonet, Johanna Busch, Corbett Brown, Joanna Bisgaier, Tom Byrne, David Vafek, Karuna Patil, Henry Friedman, Anthony Willis, and Matt Walters.

Also present were: Jade Palomino, David Conklin, Ashley Goss, and David Stein.

Quorum was declared.

Approval of the Minutes from Prior Meeting

The changes to the March 25th minutes put forth by GAPSA Chair Andrew Rennekamp were approved by a majority vote, and the minutes were approved.

Reports

Chair's Report

GAPSA Chair Andrew Rennekamp stated that due to the successful advocacy of the current Executive Board, the budget for graduate and professional student government at Penn will increase for FY10 by about 19.2% or \$123,925. There has also been a commitment made by the University administration to continue to increase the budget over the next three to four years until the % received from the total General Fee pool was equitable to what is received by undergraduate student government, which is currently at 5.22%. This will amount to a more than \$300,000 increase by FY13.

Mr. Rennekamp also stated that a preliminary budget will be presented, by the incoming and outgoing Vice Chairs for Finance, to the Assembly at the end of the year dinner in two weeks time.

Special Orders

Election of the 29th Executive Board of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Mr. Rennekamp turned the meeting over to Vice Chair for Equity and Access Esther Agbaje to preside over the 2009-2010 Executive Board elections. The results are as follows:

Chair: Corbett Brown (Nursing, PhD)

Vice Chair: Lee Solomon (Medicine, PhD)

Vice Chair for Communications: Allison Sullivan (SAS, PhD)

Vice Chair for Equity & Access: Michelle Jacobson (Arts & Sciences, MES)

Vice Chair for Finance: Ashley Goss (Medicine, PhD)

Vice Chair for Operations: David Stein (Engineering, PhD)

Vice Chair for Professional: Jade Palomino (Law, JD)

Vice Chair for Research: Henry Friedman (Wharton, PhD)

Vice Chair for Social Activities: David Conklin (Engineering, PhD)

Vice Chair for Student Programs: Maher Zamel (Education, EdD)

The Assembly elected to leave two seats vacant until special election in September:

Vice Chair for International Affairs: vacant

Vice Chair for Student Life: vacant

Mr. Rennekamp thanked Ms. Agbaje and the Assembly and congratulated the newly elected Executive Board. Mr. Rennekamp reminded the Assembly that the new term would begin at midnight on May 1, 2009 and last for the duration of one year.

Announcements

Mr. Rennekamp reminded the current and future Exec Board members that there would be an Exec transition meeting next Wednesday, April 15th from 6-8pm in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of the Graduate Student Center.

Mr. Rennekamp also announced that the final Assembly Dinner would be held on Wednesday April 22, 2009 at 8pm at Rx Restaurant located at 45th & Spruce Streets.

Reading and Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Rennekamp asked Vice Chair for Operations Sarah Smith to read aloud the minutes from the current meetings for approval. The minutes were approved as read.



Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13pm