MEMO

To: Tram Ng
From: Lee Shaker
Chair, GAPSA

Date: January 29, 2007

Re: GAPSA Status Report for January 31, 2007 University Council Meeting

**Community Building Activities: GradFest 07**

In addition to the normal range of social, cultural, and service activities organized or sponsored by GAPSA, we are excited to share news of an event that we are developing that will hopefully become a signature, annual occurrence for the graduate and professional student community.

GradFest 07 is intended to be a fun and relaxing day of coordinated events tailored specifically to graduate and professional students designed to: strengthen the students’ sense of connection with the University, celebrate and show appreciation for their academic achievements, and start a unique post-undergraduate Penn tradition.

GradFest 07 is scheduled for Saturday, May 5th and is being organized by a broad-based group of graduate and professional students from across campus. For more information, please email Joung Lee at gapsa.vc@gmail.com.

**Considering the structure of Graduate/Professional student government**

Together with GSAC, the Graduate Students Associations Council which serves the School of Arts and Sciences and all research students at Penn, GAPSA is in the midst of a year-long process of assessment aimed at evaluating and restructuring graduate/professional student government at Penn. The student government system that exists today at the university dates to the late 1970s; in the intervening decades the academic structure of the university has evolved dramatically making a once-rational student government structure anachronistic.

Thus far, an array of stakeholders have been consulted, including: leaders of the individual schools’ student councils, members of the assemblies of both GSAC and GAPSA, and any interested graduate or professional student. After a series of open forums dedicated to the topic in January, working groups comprised of all interested students will meet throughout February and March to work towards negotiating a balanced, cohesive proposal for ratification later in the spring. For more information, please contact Lee Shaker at gapsa.chair@gmail.com.