MEMO

To: Tram Ng
From: Lee Shaker
Chair, GAPSA

Date: February 26, 2007

Re: GAPSA Status Report for February 28, 2007 University Council Meeting

Community Building Activities: GradFest 07

There has been steady progress in planning for GradFest07, a fun day of activities to celebrate graduate and professional students at Penn to be held on May 5, 2007. GAPSA has been working closely with Penn's Business Services Division to secure corporate sponsorship, and a T-shirt design contest, due March 19, has been announced as well. An initial program of activities has been developed, and we expect to begin outreach efforts via print media and website shortly after Spring Break.

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. After a series of open forums dedicated to the topic in January, working groups comprised of all interested students have met throughout February and are working towards generating a final proposal in mid-March. Broad-based progress is being made at crafting a proposal that addresses the diverse array of student needs and concerns in a productive fashion. Feedback has been sought and integrated from leaders of the individual school governments, students at large, university administration, and the Trustees. For more information, please contact Lee Shaker at gapsa.chair@gmail.com.

Arts Day 2007

The Penn Arts Leadership Conference, also known as Arts Day, is set to return to Penn’s campus on Wednesday, May 9th. Featuring Neil Rubenstein (former president of Harvard, Chairman of Artstor.org, and close friend of President Gutmann), the day will include panels discussing the benefits of a stronger arts community at the university. Tony Lambino, GAPSA’s vice-chair for student representation, and Elizabeth Lim, a MFA candidate, have worked together with many university administrators to contribute a graduate student perspective. We are excited to see the day come to fruition and to be part of a vibrant arts community at Penn.

Rebuilding Together

GAPSA is excited to participate once again in the Rebuilding Together project to refurbish neighborhood housing in West Philadelphia. Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 16 through April 8, GAPSA will coordinate a group of volunteers that will pitch-in to fix up one of the 15 houses that the Penn Rebuilding Together effort is taking on this year in the Carroll Park neighborhood.
GAPSA is currently looking for volunteers to help with the project. No prior construction experience required, so come join your fellow Penn Grad students for a valuable, rewarding, and fun experience. Please email Chris Pencikowski (chrispen@sas.upenn.edu) if you are able to make it out any Friday, Saturday, or Sunday between March 16 and April 8, 2007 or if you have any questions.