MEMO

To: University Council
From: Daniel Grabell
Chair, GAPSA

Date: September 26, 2007

Re: GAPSA Status Report for September 26, 2007 University Council Meeting

**New Shuttle to Center City – The OctoBus**

- GAPSA is sponsoring the OctoBus – a shuttle route in October to help improve safety of Penn’s students. The shuttle will run 7 days a week, 6pm to 3am. It will pick up passengers at the Moravian Food Court (3409 Walnut St) and Pottruck Health and Fitness Center (3701 Walnut St) and drop them off at any intersection along Chestnut St, Broad St, Lombard St or 22nd St, west of Broad. After midnight, the shuttle operates as a "to door" service: it can drop you off at your address within the perimeter, as well as a "from door" service: you can call 215-898-RIDE and be picked up from your address in Center City (west of Broad St), to be dropped off at the two transit stops on campus (Food Court or Pottruck). You can find a map of the shuttle route at [http://www.gmap-pedometer.com/?r=1323102](http://www.gmap-pedometer.com/?r=1323102); we estimate that a loop will take 35-45 minutes to complete, but the actual time will depend on traffic. The OctoBus will be a 15-passenger van with the signs "Penn Transportation" and "Center City OctoBus". This pilot which will run the month of October will help us determine the level of interest of this new route as well as increase the safety for our students. GAPSA is looking forward to working with the administration to help increase the safety of Penn’s student community.

**GAPSA – Provost’s Award for Interdisciplinary Innovation**

- In its second year, we are pleased to announce the work of our 6 interdisciplinary summer fellowships. Winners hailed from SEAS, SAS, LAW, SP2, MED, and NURS & were in their 2nd-6th years at Penn. A range of methodologies was employed by our winners & their work did truly push beyond traditional academic boundaries as they explored topics running the gamut from the development of a road-safety device to using microenterprise development to reduce indoor air pollution in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala. Several of the projects helped students have an impact throughout the world. A good example of this international interdisciplinary approach to knowledge is the project by Amanda Marzullo, JD candidate LAW and MS candidate SAS. In her project, she investigated women’s successes in Kenya’s Kadhi courts. GAPSA is very enthusiastic about the success of this program and is looking forward to a third year.

**Community Building Activities**

- The unprecedented all-day GradFest07 event for all graduate and professional students at Penn was held on Saturday, May 5, 2007. Overall over 1000 graduate student from all of Penn’s schools attended the celebration which included workshops highlighting the unique skills and events of each of our twelve schools. Several crowd pleasers included the engineering students making fresh ice cream and the pets available for adoption courtesy of our Veterinary School. Crowds gathered to watch people don inflatable sumo suits and oversized boxing gloves to do battle on college green. The afternoon also offered signings in the Penn Bookstore by alumni and student authors, free access to Pottruck’s climbing wall, an overbooked tour of Penn’s art galleries, and a campus-themed Quizzo.
GAPSA is excited to launch GradFest08 to help further build the graduate community and strengthen graduate students identity with Penn

- GAPSA hosted its annual welcome-event at Strikes bowling alley in West Philadelphia immediately following the President new student reception. More than 500 students representing all twelve graduate and professional schools enjoyed bowling, ping pong, and the company of their new peers.

**GAPSA 2007 – 2008**

At the close of the Spring ‘07 semester, GAPSA’s Executive Board welcomed a completely new slate of officers. This year’s GAPSA Board consists of:

- Chair – Daniel Grabell, Wharton, College’00, gapsa.chair@gmail.com
- Vice Chair of Communications: Alina Badus, SAS; gapsa.pr@gmail.com
- Vice Chair of Finance: Victor Abiola, Wharton, gapsa.finance@gmail.com
- Vice Chair of International Affairs: Anne-Katrin Arnold, Annenberg, gapsa.ia@gmail.com
- Vice Chair of Operations: Henna Kim, Dental, gapsa.operations@gmail.com
- Vice Chair of Pluralism: Christa Heyward, Medical, gapsa.vcpluralism@gmail.com
- Vice Chair of Professional Students: Neal Mueller, Wharton, College ’00, gapsa.prof@gmail.com
- Vice Chair of Research Students: Andrew Rennekamp, Medical, gapsa.research@gmail.com
- Vice Chair of Social: Jessica Kim, Education, gapsa.sa@gmail.com
- Vice Chair of Student Life: Kara Yokley, Wharton, gapsa.sl@gmail.com
- Vice Chair of Student programs: Wenny Lin, Medical, gapsa.sp@gmail.com

The newly elected students took office on May 1st, and after a summer of Exec meetings, the first General Assembly meeting was held September 12th. Starting a new tradition, GAPSA was excited to have our executive board retreat at nearby Fairmont Park. Our team challenged key issues as to merging the cultures of our two newly merged governments as well as laying out our policy agenda for the year. Overall the group was excited by the work and eager to begin on our goals and plans for the year.
The Center City OctoBus

The Center City OctoBus will run from October 1st to October 31st, 2007. It runs 7 days a week, from 6pm to 3am.

It picks up passengers on campus at the Food Court (3409 Walnut St.) and Pottruck Health and Fitness Center (3701 Walnut St.). The OctoBus continues west on Walnut St., north on 38th St then turns east on Chestnut St. It travels along Chestnut to Broad St, then turns south to Lombard St. Finally, it travels west on Lombard to 22nd St, north on 22nd St and until it reaches Walnut St. and takes Walnut St. back to campus. The loop should be completed in 35-45 minutes but might take longer, depending on traffic.

Passengers can get off the bus at any intersection along the route in Center City. After midnight, the OctoBus also operates as a “to door” service (if can drop you off at your address in Center City, west of Broad), as well as a “from door” service (it can pick you up at your address; please call 215-898-RIDE to be picked up).

The OctoBus is a 15-passenger van, with the signs “Penn Transit” and “Center City OctoBus”.

For questions or more information, please contact Alina Badus, GAPSA Vice Chair for Communications, at gapsa.pr@gmail.com.