MEMO

To: Deanna Kemler
From: Lee Shaker
Chair, GAPSA

Date: April 22, 2007

Re: GAPSA Status Report for April 25, 2007 University Council Meeting

Restructuring of GAPSA official

Following an intense year-long effort, GAPSA, GSAC, and students from the 12 graduate and professional schools at Penn are proud to have agreed upon a new structure for graduate student government at Penn. Highlights of this reorganization include:

- The creation of a SAS-specific student government that represents all research and professional students within SAS.
- The creation of a new fund-allocation scheme that distributes more funding directly to the 12 school-level student governments while preserving dedicated funding for GAPSA and cross-school student groups.
- A redefinition and restructuring of GAPSA to become an organization that better serves all students in providing advocacy support, academic and non-academic programming, and connections to the campus and each other.

The final proposal was ratified by GAPSA’s general assembly, GSAC’s general assembly, and a super-majority of the individual school governments. In fact, every body that voted on the reorganization passed it with resounding support. GAPSA will assume its new form as of May 1st, 2007; GSAC will be redefined as SASGov at the same time.

The upshot for the university community is that GAPSA is now the single, university-wide umbrella student government for graduate and professional students and all 12 schools have local-level student governments that represent the interests of their students at the home school. For more details, please visit www.gapsa.upenn.edu.

GradFest 07 Approaches

GradFest is debuting all day, May 5, on Penn’s campus. The event is a day-long suite of activities designed to appeal to the diverse array of graduate and professional students by providing a similarly disparate menu of events that highlights our presence at Penn. The events run the gamut from a child-friendly carnival to a gallery tour of campus; all graduate and professional students (and their families) are invited to a day of relaxation and exploration of the campus and our community.

Pre-registration at the Grad Student Center (3615 Locust Walk) is ongoing and qualifies you for entry into a raffle for prizes like Southwest Airlines ticket vouchers. For more information, check out the event website at www.gsc.upenn.edu/gradfest.

GAPSA elects 2007-2008 executive board

Students were elected for the newly reconfigured GAPSA exec-board on Monday, April 16th. We are pleased to introduce the following students as GAPSA’s new leaders:
Chair, Dan Grabell (Wharton)  
VC Communications, Alina Badus (SAS)  
VC Finance, Victor Abiola (Wharton)  
VC International Affairs, Anne-Katrin Arnold (ASC)  
VC Operations, Henna Kim (Dental)  
VC Pluralism, Christa Heyward (Med)  
VC Professional Students, Neal Mueller (Wharton)  
VC Research Students, Andrew Rennekamp (Med)  
VC Social, Jessica Kim (GSE)  
VC Student Life, Kara Yokley (Wharton)  
VC Student Programs, Wenny Lin (Med)  

This crop of student leaders promises to be effective and energetic. It includes members of past GAPSA and GSAC execs, many members that have served as representatives to GAPSA or GSAC’s assemblies, and many students who have been involved at their schools and on campus in other ways.