MEMO

To: Tram Ng
From: Lee Shaker
Chair, GAPSA

Date: November 12, 2006

Re: GAPSA Status Report for November 15, 2006 University Council Meeting

Community Building Activities

• On Saturday, October 21st, GAPSA participated in the Philadelphia Cares Day in the Philadelphia public schools. More than 30 GAPSA-led volunteers helped to clean, organize, and rehabilitate learning spaces across the city.

• On Saturday, October 28th, GAPSA is provided a group of 13 volunteers that staffed a benefit party for Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia. GAPSA volunteers ran a silent auction, registered guests, and took donations at the event which raised more than $100,000 to help educate Philadelphia’s children.

• GAPSA continues to help place tutors at Penn Alexander and Lee Elementary in West Philadelphia. Since the beginning of the year, GAPSA has solicited for participants multiple times and continues to funnel more Penn Grad and Professional students into the schools.

• On Saturday, November 11th, GAPSA held a daylong volleyball tournament at Hutchinson Gymnasium. The event enjoyed university-wide participation as 14 teams vied for the title. Other events included: GAPSA’s annual Halloween party in Center City and a GAPSA sponsored a dinner at Haru in Old City that sold out days in advance and brought members of diverse schools together across sushi. Our next large social event will be a wine and cheese evening at the School of Nursing on Thursday, November 16th.

• As of November 8th, GAPSA had allocated just under $15,000 to student groups for programming running the gamut from a fish fry to a workshop on job opportunities. In addition, GAPSA has provided operations funds to seven groups so far this year, including BGAPSA, LaGAPSA, the Turkish Student Association, and the Yan Xin Quigong Club. GAPSA is excited to have increased the amount of funding available to student groups to $80,000 in this year’s newly approved budget—in excess of 15% more than the sum available last year.

Campus Outreach and Education

• On, October 25th, GAPSA welcomed Dr. Evelyn Wiener from Penn’s Student Health to its assembly for an in-depth presentation and Q&A. Conversation SHS and its associated services brought several important topics to our attention and prepared graduate students for University Council’s focus on SHS on November 15th. In addition, GAPSA visited the Penn Police Station for its assembly on November 8th to review campus and community safety with Maureen Rush.

• At GAPSA’s final assembly of the fall semester on November 29th, Dr. Cade from VPUL and Anita Mastroieni from the GSC will visit. Visits from guests like this strengthen the ties of communication between students and administration while also proving to be mutually informative.
Facilitating Student Group Formation

- On November 6th, GAPSA was pleased to inaugurate the new Graduate Student Suite in Houston Hall with representatives from an array of graduate student groups that will share the space. Graduate and professional students across campus are indebted to the office of the VPUL for providing this space and making it habitable for us. We are all excited to have a suite to call home and look forward to interacting more closely with each other—both physically and conceptually.