MEMO

To: University Council
From: Daniel Grabell
   Chair, GAPSA
Date: February 27, 2008
Re: GAPSA Status Report for February 27, 2008 University Council Meeting

GAPSA’s Key Priorities for the Spring Semester

• **Financial Support for Ph.D. Students** – GAPSA wishes to thank the President, Provost, and everyone involved on helping to increase stipends for our Ph.D. students. We are overwhelmingly humbled by all the work and effort that went in to make this momentous change at the University.

• **Leadership Retreat** – The Leadership Retreat is in the planning phase for May 20-22 at Fellowship Farm in Pottstown, PA. The Leadership Retreat will focus on:
  
  o **Group Dynamics**: Recognition of group development and functioning
  o **Power Dynamics**: Understanding the uses and abuses of power. How privilege, wealth and status affect group formation and inter-group relations.
  o **Leadership Styles and Skills**: What type of leader are you? How does an individual leadership style affect group performance, cohesion and interaction.
  o **Leadership Presence**: Techniques to motivate, inspire trust, and command presence

All Graduate and Professional Students are eligible to apply at [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=vlaKE_2bPA3Qeni7Uf8GMm5g_3d_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=vlaKE_2bPA3Qeni7Uf8GMm5g_3d_3d)

GAPSA would like to thank the Vice President of University Life and the Office of Student Life for providing the funding and support to create this interdisciplinary training program that will allow Penn students to develop the necessary skills to be a better leader at Penn and a stronger Penn alum.

• **Review of the Ph.D. Exit Survey** -- GAPSA is also examining the University’s current “Student Doctoral Opinion Survey” ([www.upenn.edu/grad/sdso/sdso.html](http://www.upenn.edu/grad/sdso/sdso.html)). For at least ten years Penn’s Institutional Research has been collecting this data as an exit survey for Ph.D. degree recipients. We would like two things: first, to ensure that University is wisely stewarding this valuable information, and second, to review the appropriateness of the questions being used.

• **Recruitment of Minority Students and Faculty** – GAPSA is working to partner with Penn on improving its recruitment procedure of Native Americans graduate student and faculty. In addition, we seek to explore and implement methods to provide support and retention to these teams.

• **Graduate Students with Children** – GAPSA is partnering with the Graduate Student Center and the Provost to help improve the resources made available to students with children. We seek to create programs to support graduate students with children while on the Penn Campus.

• **Graduate Student Housing** – As part of the Penn Connects plan, GAPSA would like affordable graduate student housing that will help graduate students live closer to campus. We continue to work with the University to make this a reality.
GAPSA Exec Board

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