To: Joseph Gasiewski, Office of the University Secretary  
From: Joseph Friedman, GAPSA Chair  
Re: University Council Status Report (11/30/2011)

Ivy Summit Recap

The 2011 Ivy Summit was held at MIT from 11/4 – 11/6. Six GAPSA Executive Board members attended along with DeAnna Cheung from the Graduate Student Center. It was a very productive weekend. I think Penn’s delegation left feeling reassured that Penn students are the beneficiaries of well-funded and well-executed initiatives. It was frequently clear that Penn is a leader in terms of the support and resources it provides to students; no less clear was the unique spot the university holds in terms of the interdisciplinary opportunities that abound across campus.

Nina Zhao and I led a breakout session entitled “Empowering Constituencies: Perspectives, Challenges, and Innovative Solutions.” We gathered perspectives about what it means to empower the student body, discussed challenges in achieving that goal, and focused on three or four problems that seemed to be a common theme. We also brainstormed new solutions to the problems presented. Nina and I will be sharing the results with the General Assembly in the weeks ahead.

Finally, it was confirmed that Penn will host the Ivy Summit next year, in the fall of 2012, for the first time in nine years. It was also agreed that Columbia will host in 2013 (in line with the sequence followed in the past). Regarding hosts beyond 2013, it was agreed that we will presumptively follow the same order that began when the summit was revived.

Ivy Summit Hosts

- University of Pennsylvania, Fall 2012
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Fall 2011
- Princeton University, Fall 2010
- Cornell University, Fall 2009
- Harvard University, Fall 2008
- Brown University, Fall 2007
- Dartmouth College, Fall 2006
- Yale University, Fall 2005
- Columbia University, Fall 2004
- University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2004

Surveys

In the last few weeks, GAPSA has conducted two surveys. The first survey gauged student interest regarding the possibility of extending Penn Transit services south of South Street (Transit Survey). This idea emerged on the heels of the reopening of South Street Bridge. GAPSA will be in touch with Penn Transit following the analysis of the results; so far interest has been very positive and nearly 1,500 students have responded. The second survey is meant to gather feedback with respect to GradFest (GradFest Survey). We were very pleased with the results of the revised GradFest schedule this year, and look forward to hearing student input about how we can make future GradFests even more successful!
Events and Initiatives

Recent GAPSA events have included our annual Black-and-White Formal, which was again held at the Ritz-Carlton on 11/11/11. Pictures from the event, which sold out, have been uploaded on the new GAPSA Facebook page. In addition, our Vice Chair for Student Programs recently led a very successful Volleyball Tournament, which saw the registration of over 200 students. GAPSA will also host a Thanksgiving dinner on 11/22 at Houston Hall, as well as strive to build camaraderie with other community-building initiatives: Flyers games, theater outings, and a Night of Surprise on 11/29.

GAPSA General Assembly

The General Assembly features approximately 55 representatives from all 12 of Penn’s schools:

**Annenberg School for Communication:** Elizabeth Roodhouse and Sue Mello (Alternate)

**Graduate School of Education:** Giselle Xiaomeng Liu, Maher Zamel, Koeun Lee, Alison Stolow, Dongnian Zhou, and Akeesha Washington

**Law School:** Matt Papkin, Sven Udekwu, and Brandon Harper

**Perelman School of Medicine:** Edward Chen, Vera Mucaj, Kilang Yanger, Kristy Simmons, Anant Agarwalla, Matt Colo, Alex Rosen, and Prioty Islam (Alternate)

**School of Arts and Sciences:** Candice McCleod, Salar Mohandes, Jay Kim, Anthony Pratcher, Luke Victor, Alex Ponsen, Ana Schwartz, Prashant Subbarao, and Arvin Gouw

**School of Dental Medicine:** Gabe Strauss and Marisa Pereira

**School of Design:** Jay Kim, Keyleigh Kern, and Sarah VanLandingham

**School of Engineering:** Stephanie Pasquesi, Sid Ghosh, Tanvir Aslam Mohammed, Sharad Sharda, and Roshni Koshi

**School of Nursing:** Jenny Persson, Paule Joseph, and Caitlin Gordon

**School of Social Policy and Practice:** Abigail Pleeter, Marlene Walk, and Lori Latimer

**School of Veterinary Medicine:** Irene Bukh, Will Kay, Melissa Ogg, and Nikhil Joshi (Non-Voting Rep)

**Wharton School:** Samir Malik, Grant Smith, Madhu Srinivasan, Wes Whitaker, Matt Verghese, Charles Chen, Jessica Wang, and Andy Wu

Thank you,

Joseph Friedman
Chair, Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
J.D. Candidate, Class of 2012
University of Pennsylvania Law School
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