GAPSA UPDATES – OCTOBER

FUNDING

GAPSA has continued to fund work that enhances student life at the University of Pennsylvania. Our traditional areas of funding (Student Group Funding, Professional and Research Student Travel Grants, and the Discretionary Fund) are all currently open and accepting applications. We are currently experiencing the highest demand ever recorded for these traditional funding opportunities.

In addition, our newly pioneered funding opportunities (the G12 Synergy Fund and the GA Opportunity Fund) have been well-publicized and are also off to an exciting start. One particularly promising General Assembly representative is taking advantage of the Opportunity Fund to spearhead an initiative to improve GAPSA’s communications through the creation of a “GAPSA Forum”, a Penn Key protected chat room connected to the GAPSA webpage. He hopes that this resource will allow Penn students to provide GAPSA with feedback, and discuss our advocacy efforts and events.

EVENTS

This October saw many successful GAPSA events. Highlights include “The Power of Procrastination”, a speaker event featuring PhD Comics creator Jorge Cham, and co-hosted by Drexel’s Graduate Student Association (GSA). Our largest social event was the Mad Men Fall Formal, attracting over five hundred Penn students to the downtown Westin dressed in their 1960s snazziest. In addition to many other exciting events, GAPSA continues to host weekly happy hours at a variety of local establishments in order to provide Penn students with a reliable and fun way to explore Philadelphia, and meet their classmates.

ADVOCACY

The tenth annual Ivy Summit, hosted by the University of Pennsylvania during the weekend of November 2nd, will inaugurate a yearlong effort across the Ivy League to build campus mental health resources. GAPSA will lead a two of ten workshops taking place over the course of this weekend focusing on student government best practices, and the above Pan-Ivy Advocacy Issue.

Additionally, GAPSA’s course registration improvement initiative continues to gain momentum as we were recently approved for Penn Key protection by the Penn Information Services Center (ISC).
We will continue to move forward with this initiative in partnership with Rob Nelson, and other key University administrators. Next steps include meetings with Penn’s General Counsel, and production of a database safety and privacy report.

Thank you for your support,

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