GAPSA UPDATES – JANUARY

In the spring semester, GAPSA intends to build on a productive fall during which we successfully advocated for the expansion of Penn Legal Services to include landlord-tenant mediation; created the possibility for international and transgender students to register their preferred name with the University registrar; and proudly held Ivy Summit 2012. In addition to the successful execution of our regular duties, our goals for the spring semester are as follows:

BUILDING INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY - In 2013 GAPSA will be continuing its efforts to create an institution capable of continuity and sustained growth. In addition to the nomination of deputies to serve as a leadership class within our General Assembly, we will be working with the Penn Law Entrepreneurship Clinic to draft bylaws that codify the procedures through which we discharge our responsibilities; to think critically about our Constitution; and to form contracts to govern our relationships with vendors.

EMPOWERING AFFINITY GROUPS – GAPSA will seek to partner with administrators to proactively empower those affinity groups that specialize in serving the entire graduate and professional student population at Penn. Through the implementation of a tiered funding model, we intend to help such affinity groups to build strong, inclusive, democratic institutions, and to encourage them to augment the capacity of school-specific groups through teamwork and a spirit of unity.

We are, as ever, appreciative of the support of this council, and we look forward to partnering with you to make 2013 a great year in graduate and professional student life.