GAPSA UPDATES – SEPTEMBER

During the summer, GAPSA successfully coordinated academic, outreach, and social events to bring together new and returning graduate and professional students. Among some of the accomplishments include helping to kick-start cultural affinity groups on campus, strengthening GAPSA’s relationship with several university resource centers, and increasing our presence on campus through various modes of advocacy and communication. Throughout the fall semester, we intend to carry that energy further into our work as we strive to make the Penn experience for graduate and professional students more integrated yet diverse.

GradFest MMXIII – In mid-September, GAPSA hosted the annual GradFest, a week-long celebration provided for and organized by students. The events received a combined attendance of over 2,400. Highlights from the week include formal mixers, the GAPSA-Provost Award Reception, a resource fair, and a speaker event. The GradFest summary report will be published shortly and can be provided upon request.

Select Community on Pluralism and International Affairs – In April, GAPSA approved of a constitutional amendment to codify a new initiative that will enable GAPSA to further empower affinity and international student groups. In the fall, GAPSA aims to fulfill that mission through the inauguration of a Select Committee which will strengthen connections between GAPSA and these student groups, as well as among the groups themselves.

Penn SHAPE – For the second year, GAPSA will be sponsoring Penn SHAPE, a fitness and wellness program aimed at physical and mental health. Individual and group-based activities and workshops are expected to become a component of this program. Through Penn SHAPE, we encourage students to build their personal connections across academic disciplines and bring together students from across the campus.

Developments in Communications – During the past few weeks, GAPSA Communications has implemented new changes to our website and social media pages that have enabled an unprecedented increase in our subscribers. We are ensuring that our continued success will increase the visibility of GAPSA advocacy activities and encourage greater student participation moving ahead through the fall semester.