The Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA)  
The Pennsylvania State University

of the 67th Assembly  
April 28th, 2018

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

GPSA Capoeira Group  
Funding to support summer classes and future workshops  
(Decided: [ Y / N / A ])

Nature of the Situation:

As graduate and professional students most work activities do not promote physical activity making physical health an important area to address in graduate and professional student life. Graduate and professional students are also at an increased risk to develop mental health problems due to the nature of the lifestyle required when pursuing post-graduate degrees.

Martial arts, dance and music promote improved physical and mental health. Capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian martial art, uniquely combines fight, dance, acrobatics, and music. Some movements are physically difficult, but there is a large aspect of participation through the music and culture that accompanies training capoeira. Teachers often say there is something in capoeira for everyone.

There was recently a capoeira, samba and maculelê workshop given by Mestre Efraim Silva and Thelma Ladeira from Connecticut Capoeira and Dance Company. There was a strong interest seen from the turnout for this event, pushing for the formation of a capoeira group at Penn State.

Supporting the formation of a capoeira group on campus will help toward fulfilling GPSA’s mission of enriching graduate and professional student life.
Recommended Course of Action:

Jogo de capoeira (game of capoeira) happens in a roda, a circle of capoeiristas. A roda is where all the aspects of capoeira come together as two capoeiristas play a game and implement what they have learned in training. The roda is led by a bateria, group of instruments, that can be made up of an atabaque, berimbau, pandeiros and an agogo. The atabaque acts like a heartbeat in a roda and is essential for providing axé or energy to the capoeiristas in the roda.

The Graduate and Professional Student Association authorizes the purchase of an atabaque for the capoeira group to support the growth and activities. This will initially be to support several GPSA organized classes to be held throughout the summer and workshops with visiting capoeiristas and Mestres in the future.

Atabaque - $519

Respectfully submitted,

David Dopfel
Delegate, Intercollege Graduate Degree Programs

Brian Conway
Eberly College of Science

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