GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

GSG Assembly Meeting
Jadwin 102
April 12, 2017 5:45pm

The meeting is called to order at 5:54pm.

Approval of March Minutes
Will Smith (Politics Rep) motions to approve the minutes. Michelle Frazer (Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences Rep) seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

Reenrollment
- Christine Murphy (Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs), presenting:
    - Reenrollment opens up on Monday.
    - Any enrolled graduate student who is eligible for enrollment for the next year. (Includes students moving into DCE, or a Masters' student with one more year to go.)
    - Motivations for reenrollment: making sure students are making progress towards the degree. Students are asked to think about their progress the past year, plans for the summer, and plans for enrollment during the next academic year. If enrolled, what things do students plan to accomplish during the next year.
    - Assessing use of university resources -- helpful for the GS to assess graduate student use of career services programming, etc.
    - Comply with federal guidelines (including RCR completion).
    - Students complete re-enrollment, adviser makes re-enrollment recommendation and comments, then go to DGS for review/recommendation, then to Academic Affairs (which reads *all* of them), then to Finance (generates re-enrollment reply form and works out funding), and then goes back to students for review of feedback and accepting re-enrollment. **This is now required.** You can also now request *more* feedback from your advisor/department if you feel that would be useful. You will not be able to accept re-enrollment until you've looked at your reviews.
    - New piece: asking students to identify where they would like to grow outside their own research work, in order to help the GS identify where they can expand offerings to help students meet their goals.
    - "Advising up." These are read by many, many people, so positive language is

important. Make sure you understand that the re-enrollment reply form outlines your support for the next academic year.
- ○ If you have concerns that you don't feel comfortable writing, then you are always able to speak with your department's DGS, or can reach out to the academic affairs deans in the Graduate School at any time.
- ● Questions:
  - ○ Jessie Schwab (Psychology Rep): Is the feedback from previous years available?
    - ■ Christine: Unfortunately, no. It's archived once the new re-enrollment form is launched. If you want to catch up on past years, feel free to talk to your advisor.
  - ○ Under what circumstances do you register as DCE?
    - ■ Christine: Once you've completed your full program length of enrollment. DCE is not guaranteed, although most students get it, and it's important to talk with your advisor ahead of starting
  - ○ Xiaoyu Tang (Lawrence Apartments): How is re-enrollment determined?
    - ■ Christine: The advisors have lots of different options: recommend, recommend with concerns, do not recommend. The GS follows up with advisors if concerns are indicated, and with students to make sure everyone is clear about what's going on. If you're pretty sure you're going to graduate in the summer, there's no harm in requesting re-enrollment. Graduation will override the re-enrollment, if you graduated in August, for example.

Princeton.edu redesign:
- ● Daniel Day (Assistant Vice President for Communications) presenting.
  - ○ The current site dates back to the late Bush administration (circa 2007 or so?) and there are a lot of reasons why the site wasn't updated, but the plan now is to keep iterating and updating the site as we go after this overhaul.
  - ○ The website will launch May 18, and will be livestreaming the commencement ceremonies.
  - ○ The menu bar scrolls. There's also a section for current news stories, followed by nice pictures of Princeton, followed by a calendar of events that runs the feed from Timeline.
  - ○ Primary audience is outside the campus. "Meet Princeton" is mostly meant for outside site users.
  - ○ The beta version will open on Tuesday (18 April), with the option of sending feedback to the developers if you scroll down to the bottom of the screen. You can find the link via the university homepage.
- ● Questions:

- ○ Joshua Wallace (Astrophysics Rep): Will TigerHub look any different?
  - ■ Daniel: You can get there in one click, but it will look exactly the same. Also working on improving the internal site search functionality.
- ○ Emily Kern (Communications Director): How much of this information is publically available?
  - ■ Daniel: Different amounts of personal/contact info are available to the public versus to searchers logged in to the University network. Also, you can also always contact the university to have less of your information available online.
- ○ Merle Eisenberg (Lakeside): Have you included the Lakeside network as a part of your internal to Princeton network?
  - ■ Daniel: That's a good question. Let me look into that.
- ○ Are you transferring news stories from the previous site to the new one?
  - ■ Daniel: Yes. Everything's going to be imported over into the new format, and it's going to look really good.
- If you have any questions, get in touch: dday@princeton.edu.

TigerTrade Redesign:
- Presenting: Casey Chow (Project Leader), Andrew Wonnacott, Evan Wildenhain, Maryam Bahrani, Perry Cate.
  - ○ Have the option to sort by 'posted most recently'. David Walsh (History Rep): turns out you can sort by that, but would be a good default.
  - ○ Adam Fisher (Special Events Officer): pick-up or delivery sort option would be good.
  - ○ No one in this room has ever done an auction option ever.
  - ○ Facebook integration? Would you rather login through Facebook? Room is indifferent.
  - ○ David: photo on the landing page would be useful. Basically, if you can make a prettier version of Craigslist, that would be fantastic.
  - ○ Taking design cues from the Google Inbox, with everything in rows, but then a "mark as read" option.
  - ○ Considering a "saved search" option. (It would be great to get notifications by email.) Also have options for a semantic search (AC versus air conditioner versus A/C).
  - ○ Would be great to have a starred option, to pick out things that look good.
  - ○ Ad about to expire warnings would be great, or to have the option to renew an ad without having to just re-input everything.
  - ○ How many of you would prefer to have non-expiring ad options? (We generally would prefer that, but there still needs to be a way to clear out old/defunct ads.)

- How do you search TigerTrade? Full text or category search? (Categorization isn't always great, because people are bad at using categorization.) It would also be great to get autocomplete/instant results, or to have suggested categories you can tag with. Also good to simplify and reduce the number of categories.
  - Do we have locations on TigerTrade? If not, can we have people indicate where stuff is located?
  - Any chance for a views counter or the number of stars something has gotten? (As in, as a buyer, you might assume there's something wrong with it if no one has looked at something in a week.)
  - Should there be a non-Princeton log-in option? (Regional Craigslist is kind of a nightmare, so it's good to keep the sense of community and be able to feel like you trust everyone else.)
  - Are there ways to improve pricing? Matching something on Amazon to give a baseline for understanding how much something costs new.
    - Vivian Chang (WWS Rep): it's helpful as a seller, but don't clutter up the site. One big advantage of TigerTrade is that it's such a clean site.
    - We don't want to force a link when it's hard to identify a product.

Calls for Committee Positions:
- USLC: five voting seats, three (or four) filled. Jonathan Balkind (GSG President): The USG has ten seats on the committee, and about fifteen of them show up consistently. We'd like to be able to fully realize our voting power. Monthly commitment, an hour and a half, led by Rochelle Calhoun, who is an excellent proponent of grad students on campus, so we'd especially like to fill out this committee.
- Events Board.
- Transportation Advisory Board.
  - Looking specifically for an off-campus commuter representative.
- Graduate Housing Project.
- OIT Advisory Board.
- Please email us at gsg@princeton.edu, and Emily will pass your email on to the relevant people.
- All of these will probably be just a monthly meeting, and there's no set term; you can serve for as long as you can.
- Hendia Edmund (Health & Life Officer): Brief description of what the housing committee will be doing?
  - Jonathan: We're going to do another survey, try to continually gather feedback that we can pass on to relevant figures in the administration. The next fundraising drive is just starting, and showing graduate student demand right now could be really important, also for getting included in the campus plan.

Open Forum:

- Merle Eisenberg (Lakeside): have there been a huge number of complaints? (Re. Housing)
  - Jonathan: Not an outlandishly large number of emails, but we just want to get a sense of what's happening and be abreast of the situation. We want to know what we can do to advocate and make suggestions to the administration.
  - Apparently people are doing really poorly when they apply in groups. Housing might need to be giving us more historic information, or we need to keep records.
- Sarah: Here representing 12 students from WWS who were not offered housing. Can't live in the GC because of pets or because people have children. Students living off campus pay at least 50% more in rent, and landlord is saying that rents around Princeton are rising. Not getting campus housing increasingly means that you have to pay a much larger portion of stipend towards rent. There needs to be a clearer negotiation or appeal path, because it places an unfair burden on students who don't get lucky in the lottery. WWS is just a two year program, and it's surprising how many people were left in the lurch.
- Akshay Mehra (GSG Vice President): we need to go to Housing now, because they're saying that they have great communication, and that draw went really well this year. We need this information so we can sit down with them and point out what's really happening. We also want to make this information generally available. If you know anyone who's had a big communication failure -- especially where the rules appeared to change -- please have them get in touch with us. As soon as you get out of Princeton housing, you run into really big problems with affordability.
- Jonathan: did you all live off campus last year?
- Sarah: some people who live off-campus were able to move back on campus, but you have to commit to a year-long lease before you might get off the waitlist.
- Jonathan: Problem in previous years where G1s who lived off campus and tried to get back on campus were being given G5 priority. (Noah Apthorpe dealt with this.)
- Michelle Frazer (AOS Rep): several G1s I know were told that they would definitely have it, and then were really surprised to not be offered anything.
- Jonathan: Might be demographics of Lakeside. In the past, Lawrence was pretty highly desired, and now Lakeside is the top pick, and most of the people there had the option to retain.
- Michelle: there's some unit types that are in both Lawrence and Lakeside, and people didn't get either of those.
- Akshay: if you do go to Housing, people from Exec are totally willing to come along and be other people in the room and back you up -- we've done this before.
- David Walsh (History Rep): What's the plan with this survey?

- Akshay: ideally, all this information is publically available so that grad students can make informed decisions, and we can also give out information about how well communication works.
- David: perception that the university may not have actually met their 70% housing goal?
- Akshay: I've definitely heard weird stories this year, so I wouldn't be surprised.
- Joshua Wallace (Astrophysics Rep): if you include DCE students, you definitely fall below the 70% marker.
- Sarah: room draw waitlist is 290 people.
- Akshay: only a quarter of those tend to make it into housing. They say they don't know how this year is going to go, but this is a year where I suspect it's going to be even lower.
- Hendia: in your communication with housing, what do they say? Just 'wait and see'?
- Akshay: yeah, we had someone who was 101 on the waitlist, and they're saying wait and see to him.
- Merle: it depends on how your prioritized your unit, so it's probably fair to say that if you're below #75, you're out of luck.
- Sarah: if you change your preferences while you're on the waitlist, you'll get bumped to the bottom. We're getting different answers from them! People should be able to change their preferences.
- David: What's the deal with Poole's replacement?
- Akshay: apparently they believe everything's going really well without a replacement.
- Hendia: at USLC, Housing believed everything was going GREAT and that the complaints in the housing survey were just because it was a transition year and people were cranky.
- Olivia Martel: I haven't heard anything about the likelihood of hiring a replacement.
- Merle: every meeting, the answer is the same "We haven't drafted the language yet."
- Akshay: this is a really specific U Services issue, and it's really hard to get the Grad School in on this, or to get any traction without actual data.
- Audience 1: is there a cap on pairing up with other students? I.e. pulling in a G5 to an apartment full of G1s?
- Robert Decker (French & Italian Rep): You said the housing office said it was successful. Did you say they're not collecting data?
- Akshay: they're not collecting data.
- David: why is it *our* responsibility to collect this data?
- Noah: they said they were going to upgrade the technical side?
- Merle: didn't put that in place for this draw, and they keep saying they have to build something from scratch and that it's incredibly technically complicated because of the nuance. Apparently they also want to give us choice of unit? The data question is: no. I've asked for various pieces of data at various points and never given help.
- Hendia: they do know number of successful draws. Do we know the number of people

who are eligible versus number of people who were successful?

- Merle: the data they don't know is stuff like how many pets are there in Lakeside.
- Olivia: The one bit of feedback I heard from someone at housing was that there were like 50 applications where there were people who only picked 3 and 4 bedrooms, and that was all they had marked out, and then the system went to those people and couldn't match them to anything, so they didn't get housing.
- Sarah: they also said you had more opportunities to get pulled in with bigger groups at Housing Orientation, making it sound like you had a better chance if you were in a big group.
- Akshay: at the end of the day, there's a big communications breakdown: conflicting information, lack of information. Like, as a G1, you assume that you're going to get housing.
- Olivia: but then people assume that being guaranteed housing is the same as being guaranteed your first choice, which is not the case.
- Michelle: Akshay, as you're following up with the administration, it would be good to get information on how much this hurts people's academic progress. Moving costs, time away from research, stress and worrying about rent.
- Akshay: as we get the GHP report out, that will underscore that fact. And the university is coming around to this -- first thing Eisgruber mentioned in a recent meeting. Long term thing, the university *is* aware that we need more housing. On the short term, with regard to how much time students spend worrying about this: students are spending some 40 hours prepping their defense for housing, to make their case.
- Michelle: basically, after G2, unless you have the time to serve on Exec, you're going to be stuck moving every single year.
- David: something worth considering is ways to make off-campus housing more affordable. I've got some ideas, but it would be something useful for grad students to be thinking about.

Amitesh Datta (Social Officer) motions to adjourn meeting. Joshua Wallace (Astrophyisical Sciences Rep) seconds. The meeting adjourns at 7:18pm.

Next meeting: May 10, 2017 5:45pm