Minutes for the April 14, 2010 Assembly meeting
Submitted by Marina Paul

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I. Meeting Agenda

1. President and Committee Chairs’ reports
2. Decision item: PERMIAS event funding request
3. CPUC and PACA Elections
4. Committee Sign-ups
5. Discussion items
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

II. Minutes

The meeting was held from 6:00pm - 7:25pm in the Joseph Henry Room in Jadwin Hall.

1. President and Committee Chairs’ reports
   a. President’s report
      1. The report was emailed to Assembly in advance of the meeting (see President’s Report 04-14-2010).
      2. A letter was sent to Andrew Kane, Director of Housing, to push for improvements to the University’s emergency communication procedures (see GSG Letter 03-19-2010)
      3. The committee is trying to increase graduate student enrollment in PTENS, the University’s text alert system
         a. This alert system was the only source of information available to many students during the power outage during the storm in March
         b. currently only 71% of graduate students are enrolled
      4. A survey of the graduate student body is to be administered in May 2010. a first draft of this survey was emailed to assembly (see GSG 2010 survey)
   b. Academic Affairs
      1. The committee has been looking into alternative poster printing centers on campus, in light of the recently shut down facility in the GIS MAP library
a. The New Media Center (location: 130 Lewis Library) has been receptive to the idea of offering to print posters to the University community at an inexpensive cost.

c. Facilities
1. The committee is in the processing of determining why graduate students have only a 25% discount on monthly passes for travel on New Jersey Transit, while faculty/staff get a higher discount. This issue is of particular interest now because New Jersey Transit’s fares are scheduled to increase in May 2010.
2. The committee is working with the Graduate College House Committee (GCHC) to mitigate the impact that closing two of the three GC kitchens for summer renovations will have on GC residents.
   a. Because GC residents have fewer available dining options during the summer, Olivia Martel (Community Programs Coordinator, Office of the Dean of the Graduate School) made a request to Scott Baldwin (Manager for Graduate Housing) that the closure of the kitchens be staggered in order to maximize the kitchen space that is available to students at any given time during the summer.
   b. Olivia also suggested that students use the summer dining plan which will still be in place.
3. The outer locks on the doors of the Graduate College will be replaced with proxes and will required PUID cards for access.

d. Treasurer’s report
1. The Treasurer’s report, to be given in April and October, was presented at the April 14 assembly meeting. The text of his report was submitted to the Secretary:

   In the GSG Treasury account we have estimated revenues of $28,945.00. Actual revenues are $23,420.00. These total estimated revenues come from three sources.
   1) $23,500.00 from graduate student fees. The actual revenues are by $80.00 less ($23,420.00), because 8 students asked for their activities fee back.
   2) $5000.00 contribution from the VP of campus life – expected in August.
   3) $445.00 estimated endowment dividend income – not received yet.

   On the expenditures side, we have budgeted (1) 17,300.00 for GSG initiated activities, of which by April 1, 2010 we have spent $1,768.60, and have remaining $15,531.40. (2) For GSG operating expenses we have budgeted $9,740.00, and spent $572.37 by April 1, so we have $9,167.63 remaining. (3) We have also budgeted and fully spent $9000 for GSG co-sponsored activities.
In total we have budgeted $36,040.00, spent $11,340.97, and have $24,699.03 projected expenditures in the GSG treasury account.

2. Discussion points at the meeting:
   a. The 5,000 that the GSG has received annually from the Office of Campus has not been received yet. The GSG must secure this money as soon as possible, as the Vice-President of Campus Life Janet Dickerson will be retiring from her position soon.

   e. Events Board
      1. The chair of the Events Board (and GSG treasurer) presented a status report of the Events Board budget at the April 14 assembly meeting. The text of his report was submitted to the Secretary.

         The Events Board budget for this year is $14,203.72. From this $14,000 is unrestricted, and $203.72 is restricted for use for events with significant participation from Graduate College students. As of April 1, 2010, we have spent $8,698.00, which leaves us with a balance of $5,302.00 of unrestricted funds. The actual (processed) expenses amount to $4,225.29, which leaves with an actual balance of $9,774.71.

   2. Discussion point
      a. The Events Board has approximately $5200 left in its balance until October. With 70% of the money spent by April, the events board money appears to be at a high burn rate. However, the board usually get s most of its requests during February-April and September-October. Very few requests are made between May and August.

   f. Campus Relations Report
      1. The committee will be seeking the following from Career Services:
         a. the option of a graduate student support group for job seekers
         b. Including all graduate students as recipients of the careernews email and giving students the choice to opt out
            1. (the current status is that graduate students can opt in to the list-serve, but very few graduate students are even aware of the list-serve)

   g. Health & Life
      1. The Office of Intramural Sports is aware that undergrad organizations tend to run differently (organizations tend to run differently (for example, undergrads have been more likely to cancel their events, etc) and graduate students would like to participate in graduate-student-run teams. The office is thinking of organizing grad-student-only leagues with the following principles:
1. a co-ed requirement that is currently in place for all teams  
   b. a change to the organizational structure, where there teams  
      will be formed for each grad school division (Humanities &  
      Social Science, etc) rather than for each residential college,  
      to increase participation  
2. Aetna student health plan  
   a. Janet Finnie (Director of Operations and Associate  
      Director, University Health Service) is following up on  
      Prescription coverage issues with Aetna; The health & life  
      committee chair will meet with her soon about this  
   b. Aetna has changed its mailing address. Claims mailed to  
      the old address will be forwarded to the new one but with  
      delays. The envelopes with Aetna’s reimbursement  
      addresses printed on them (available at McCosh) are out  
      date, and McCosh is working on correcting this.  
3. McCosh is anticipating the changeover to computerized medical  
      records.  

h. Social chair  
   1. The social chair announced two upcoming events:  
      a. “Surviving your stupid, stupid decision to go to grad  
         school”, part of the book tour by author Adam Reuben ’01  
         on May 6, 2010, location TBD  
      b. GSG-hosted End-of-year bash– tentative date Saturday,  
         May 22  
2. A summer barbeque event is on the social committee’s agenda, to  
   be held outside at either at the GC or Campus Club  

2. Decision item: PERMIAS event funding request  
   a. PERMIAS (the Indonesian students’ organization at Princeton) came to  
      assembly to request approval for their funding request to the Events Board  
      for $1000. This money would go towards funding their annual gala  
      “Passport to Indonesia: on a Tour of the World, which will be the closing  
      event for this year’s International Festival.  
   b. The event will be held on the Frist South Lawn and provide food and  
      entertainment to attendees. PERMIAS anticipates 250 attendees. Students  
      will be charged $7 and all others will be charged $20.  
   c. The Events Board was interested in funding the event as it has been  
      successful in the past, but felt it was not appropriate to give more than  
      undergrad projects board to an organization that is registered as an  
      undergraduate organization. The Events Board’s initial recommendation  
      was that they fund only $450 towards the event.  
      1. Representatives from PERMIAS argued that while they are  
         registered as an undergraduate organization, six of the eight  
         members on the board of the organization are graduate students  
         and most of the attendees at the event are graduate students every  
         year. At last year’s event, for example, only 10 of the 120
attendees were undergraduate students. Faculty, staff, and members of the Princeton community also attended.

d. The total cost of the event is $6,113. PERMIAS has already raised $2400 of the $6113, and needs to raise another $4433. The group has asked for money from VP Dickerson, the undergraduate Projects Board, and the Davis International Center.

e. PERMIAS stated that they agreed to advertise the event on a GS list-serve to meet the Events Board’s requirement of advertising their funded events to all graduate students. They had also planned to hang posters throughout campus and send other emails advertising the event.

f. A motion to grant PERMIAS $1000 towards their Passport to Indonesia event passed by voice vote (12 in favor, 2 opposed).

3. CPUC and PACA Elections

a. Six of seven members of the CPUC were elected by voice slate at the meeting.
   1. John Tully
   2. Alex Whitworth
   3. Khee-Gan Lee
   4. Ben Olsen
   5. Brookes Brown
   6. Kevin Collins
   7. [Vacant Engineering rep position]

b. Election for graduate student members on CPUC committees
   1. Rights rules & Responsibilities (2 positions)
      a. Remained vacant
   2. Governance Committee (1 position)
      a. Kevin Hughes
   3. Priorities Committee (2 positions)
      a. Judd Cramer
      b. John Tully
   4. Resources Committee (1 position)
      a. Kristina Johnson
   5. Judicial Committee (1 position)
      a. Remained vacant

c. PACA rep
   1. Ashley Thrall (current rep for Civil and Environmental Engineering department, a former parliamentary secretary, and the incumbent PACA rep) was elected to the position of PACA rep.

4. Committee Sign-ups

a. The chair requested that every Assembly member sign up for a GSG sub-committee.

5. Discussion items

a. No items were discussed.

6. New Business

a. No new business was discussed.

7. Adjournment
a. The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.
President’s Report to Assembly  
4/14/2010  
Kevin Collins, GSG President

In the past month, the newly-elected GSG-executive committee has taken on several important projects that merit updating. These include:

- Transition meetings with predecessor office holders and Dean Russel;
- Responding to failures in emergency communications during the early-March blackout;
- Monitoring precept size and budget;
- Developing new programming with Career Services;
- Preparing a survey for data collection in May;
- Developing the new website and social media communication tools; and
- Graduate student participation in annual dodgeball tournament.

These items are discussed in greater depth below. Additionally, our committee chairs have been active working on access to affordable poster printing for all graduate students, access to WeCar and public transit discounts otherwise available to staff, and improving the housing draw process. Their individual reports will address these and other issues.

**Transition**

All officers have had transition meetings with their predecessors as of the end of March. Additionally, I (Kevin Collins) met with USG President Mike Yaroshefsky to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration in the coming year. Of these issues, the most promising area for collaboration is a joint USG-GSG push to ensure that all precepts are 13 students or fewer, per University guidelines. Finally, we met with Bill Russel, Dean of the Graduate School, to discuss our key initiatives in the coming year. Several actionable items came out of that discussion, including the idea for new programming for career services that will be discussed below. We also hope to work with the Graduate School to conduct a short survey of participants in hooding this year to assess how much more demand for tickets for hooding exists than is permitted by the current venue.

**Emergency Communications Procedures**

In response to the early March storm-induced blackouts confused communications that occurred in the aftermath, the Executive Committee sent a letter requesting information about what happened to Housing, Public Safety, and Transportation and Parking Services. That letter is included here as an attachment. With special thanks owed to Director of Paul Ominsky for assistance in coordinating a meeting, Bill Zeller, Kelly Kearney, and I (Kevin Collins) met with staff from a variety of key offices within the University. Part of the communication – initial failure to send emails to Lawrence – resulted from user error on the University’s essential communications e-mail tool, an error that we believe will be avoided in the future. However, other policy changes will be implemented in the future to make most
effective use of the emergency communication tools at the University’s disposal. Specifically, blackouts resulting from storms will receive greater coordination attention, the University will establish a single point of contact with electric utility PSE&G to obtain the best possible information, and students will be sent one text / PTENS alert at the beginning of such an event with important information, including a phone number where they can call to get regular updates. We are drafting a global email to send to the graduate student body to describe what happened, explain what actions the University took and why, describe the sources of information where students can turn in future emergency event, and urge students to enroll in the PTENS system, which has cell phone contact information for only about 71% of graduate students.

Precept Size and Budget

An issue that has come up repeatedly this year is the belief that precept sizes have increased above the University’s standards of 13 students per precept. If true, this should be of great concern both to undergraduates and graduate students, for it affects both the pedagogical environment and the resources available to sustain graduate students in their sixth year and above. For that reason, it was a critical issue raised in meetings with USG president Michael Yaroshefsky. In order to get a better handle on the empirics, we have contacted administrators in the Dean of the Faculty’s office for hard data on both the budget and precept sizes. Associate Dean of the Faculty Toni Turano answers these concerns in this way in a recent email:

“As I understand it, you are concerned that the AI budget has been cut. I am happy to report that the budget has not been cut. In fact, its base funding increased from last year to this year. What’s more, the AI budget has been steadily increasing over the past several years. Departments may feel like the budget has been reduced this year, but that’s because they have not been allowed to overstaff as they have in the past. In the past some departments based AI assignments on employment requests rather than enrollment demands. They also added or kept alive precepts out of sheer convenience, resulting in some very lopsided ratios. We couldn’t allow these practices to continue; misuse in some areas was jeopardizing our ability to respond to legitimate AI needs in other areas. Thus, we’ve been working closely with departments this year to better align our practices with our policies.

Another of your concerns is that precept sizes have grown. In fact, the policies governing precept sizes have not changed. We still subscribe to the longstanding guideline of 12 students per precept in the humanities and social sciences. What has changed is our ability to assist departments in getting as close to this threshold as possible. Thanks to some new ways of tracking AI assignments and analyzing enrollment data we are working to ensure that AI hours are being used as effectively and efficiently as we need them to be. On occasion, yes, the size may exceed the intended mark, but the budget is not necessarily to blame. In some cases, a department will have enough resources but not enough qualified or available preceptors to sufficiently staff a course. In other cases, students’ scheduling preferences will lead a course of 36 to have precepts of 13, 13 and 10. At the end of the day, for the AI budget to function
properly, it must be driven by enrollment-based decisions: that means adding precepts when enrollments go up and subtracting precepts when enrollments go down. Such fluctuation during the first two weeks of a semester can be challenging for everyone involved, graduate students especially, but this type of recalibration is essential to establishing a sound, sustainable system.”

This assuages some of our concerns, but we are continuing to request hard percentages on what percent of precepts this year have 14, 15, 16 or more students, and how those statistics compare to previous years.

**Career Services**

Another response to the economic crisis must be to help equip students with the skills and job-seeking advice necessary to get through. I briefly met with Career Services Assistant Director and Graduate Student Career Counselor Amy Pszczolkowski to discuss three proposals, and Vice President Brookes Brown will be taking the lead on these issues moving forward:

- Making the Career Services announcement list opt-out rather than opt-in for third-year students and above
- Initiating some sort of program of ongoing working groups for students preparing for or on the job market that combines the practical advice provided by Career Services, stress-relief and mental health skill building strategies from Counseling and Psychological Services, and the peer support that such groups can provide.
- Developing program or set of resources for students looking for employment outside of academia but who wish to return to the academic job market the following year.

**Survey**

We have prepared a survey to measure graduate student needs and opinions on critical issues where we think we may be able to make progress in the coming year, even with more limited economic resources. A draft of this survey is attached to this report for your feedback. It will be executed using Princeton Survey Research Center’s Qualtrics survey software at the beginning of May so that the data can be analyzed and used in advocacy efforts this summer.

**Online Communications**

We are continuing to put the final touches on our new website, and we have also launched a twitter feed at twitter.com/PrincetonGSG. We have also registered a blog domain on Princeton’s blog hosting services and hope to have that up and running soon.
Dodgeball

With the assistance of Isabel McGinty *82, chair of the Graduate Alumni Relations Committee, this year there was a Princeton Graduate Student presence in the annual Dodgeball tournament for the first time ever. We hope to work with Dean Montero, incoming Vice President for Campus Life Cynthia Cherrey, and the Graduate Alumni Relations Committee to allow graduate students to be fully part of the tournament next year and form their own teams. This year, the graduate team lost in the first round, but to the eventual champions of the entire tournament.
19 March, 2010

Andrew Kane
Director
Housing Department
101 MacMillan Building
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Kane,

The Graduate Student Government is concerned about the communications with graduate students during the weather emergency this past weekend. We write today to discuss the situation and to suggest new communications procedures.

First, we would like to stress that we understand that staff in the Facilities Department, Public Safety, and elsewhere in the University worked very long and hard hours attempting to mitigate and repair the storm damage as quickly as possible. We are grateful for their dedication to the Princeton community, and they should be commended on their hard work in this weather emergency. That said, though not due to lack of effort by the Facilities department, the University's emergency communications procedures failed in multiple ways. When those failures became evident to the Graduate Student Government, we did what we could to step into the breach and provide essential information to the graduate student body.

However, our ability to communicate with the graduate student body and to provide information to post-doctoral researchers and other staff affected by weather emergencies was and is much more limited than that of the University, as the University can send out text message alerts, the single most effective way to communicate with students lacking power and (accordingly) access to the internet. Furthermore, we know that these communication failures have engendered substantial frustration and anger among graduate students and post-doctoral researchers towards the University, a mood that benefits no one. For these reasons, in the aftermath of the storm, we are looking forward to working with the University in the weeks to come to establish more effective and robust emergency communications practices.

In that spirit, this letter has three objectives. First, in order to ensure that we are all on the same page, we will outline our understanding of the University's response to the storm and identify, where they exist, the failings in this response. Second, we will summarize the open questions that we can work with the University to answer. Third, we are seeking an in person meeting with representatives of the Facilities Departments, Public Safety, Transportation and Parking Services, and other relevant University departments in order to pull lessons and reform procedures for emergency
communications and response to ensure that these problems do not recur in future weather emergencies.

_The University’s Emergency Response and Failures in Communication_

The initial response of the University – from the perspective of graduate students – was an email sent at 6:16 pm on Saturday to graduate students at the Hibben-Magie and Lawrence residents. That email read:

“We understand that there are power outages at Hibben/Magie, Lawrence and Stanworth complexes. PSEG and the Facilities Department are doing all they can to restore power, but there are many issues throughout the area. Please take advantage of the daylight hours to prepare yourselves, in the event the outages last through the evening and into tomorrow - prepare flashlights, keep your refrigerators closed, etc Please call 258-1000, to report any issues and emergencies to Public Safety. Thank you for your patience.”

However, many graduate students did not receive this email, or several that followed it on Saturday night and Sunday morning. First, no resident of the Lawrence Apartments seems to have received any email sent by the University about the power outage until early Sunday evening. According to correspondence with staff at the Facilities office, this seems to be the result of a technical error, although we’re certainly hoping to learn more about the nature of the problem to ensure it is avoided in any future weather emergency. When it became clear to the GSG that essential information – despite being posted on the Facilities Department's web page – was not being received by all graduate students, we used our own ability to email all graduate students and provided essential updates about power outages and road closures. We also announced updates as we received them on our new twitter feed at http://www.twitter.com/PrincetonGSG.

The technical problems with emailing Lawrence residents, however, were not the only communication problems that emerged during the storm and its aftermath. First, emails could only be received by students with email access, and access to the University's internet was cut off by the power outage. On Sunday (around noon, I believe) some fliers were posted around the housing complexes to provide essential information to graduate students. However, the text message alert -- accessible to most students even without power -- only went out towards the end of the power outage, at about 8pm on Sunday. It is still unclear to us why it took so long to send out this text alert, as the University possessed all of the information it contained by at least 1 pm on Sunday. This is one of several questions we hope we can clarify in the coming weeks.

Furthermore, until the text message at about 8 on Sunday night, there were no emails from the University about the numerous road closures around campus. This is a problem, since graduate students are often known to come to their laboratories and offices on campus, even on weekends and even during Spring Break, but especially when there is power on campus but not at one's home. This omission was not for lack of information, since the road closures were also posted on the Facilities' outages website. And this omission was not for a lack of a way to email graduate students about traffic updates. The Tiger Transit Alert email list was created for this purpose, and was used to
provide road closure updates on Monday and Tuesday mornings. When the GSG emailed the graduate student body on Sunday afternoon, we included the road closure information available to us at that time, but we will certainly be looking to learn why this information was not distributed earlier.

Power was restored to the Lawrence apartments by PSE&G around 5 pm on Sunday night. Coincidentally, this was just about when Lawrence residents received an email from the University indicating they should be prepared to be without power until Tuesday. After Lawrence residents contacted Public Safety and the Facilities office, an email was sent out around 6 pm telling Lawrence residents that Lawrence had its power restored.

That left Hibben and Magie, along with a few graduate students in the Butler Apartments without power. At 7:19 pm, the University emailed residents of Hibben and Magie the following message:

“Residents of Magie, The Facilities Department is going to use a generator to give the Magie Building power. The power will last for six to eight hours. The crew is mobilizing now, so you should have power within the hour. Please note that this is a temporary fix. PSE&G is still working on a permanent solution to restore power, but this will give the Magie residents a short reprieve. Residents of Hibben, The Magie community room and restrooms will have power within the hour (to last for six to eight hours). Hopefully, this is a good resource for you.”

That was followed by an email at 10:11 pm, which read:

“The generator hook-up is taking longer than expected. The electricians and engineers hope to have it operational soon. The Facilities department is attempting to get power for both Magie and Hibben, but this has not been confirmed. If there is limited capacity for the generator, we are prioritizing the life safety systems and what benefits the largest number of our residents. Many members of the Facilities staff are working very hard to provide safe conditions for our residents. Thank you for your continued patience, as we work through these issues.”

At 6:16 am on Monday, Hibben and Magie residents were sent the following update:

“The University now has three generators: The smallest generator was used last night to power up the Magie community room. The medium-sized generator is being used to provide power to the remainder of Magie, but the installation of this generator will not be effective until this morning. The large generator is planned for Hibben. There are some missing cables, which were ordered late last night. The cables are due to arrive this morning. If the power is not restored by PSE&G, when the cables arrive, the generator will be used on Hibben.”

However, by 7:15, PSE&G had restored power to both Hibben and Magie. We still are unclear on why Magie was prioritized to receive power over Hibben, and is another
question we will be attempting to answer for the graduate student body. When the word went out that Magie would receive power but not Hibben, we received angry and confused emails from Hibben residents asking why they were not being given the same chance to cool down their refrigerators for several hours.

In addition to attempting to restore power to Magie with a large portable generator, another step that University took to mitigate the harm to graduate students and staff caused by the power outage was opening facilities at Dillon Gym. These facilities included both opening the locker room and showers, and also inflatable beds, sheets, and toiletries for anyone who wanted to take refuge in one of the Dillon group exercise rooms. While we know from emails from the graduate student body that there were graduate students who used (or at least intended to use) the shower facilities at Dillon, we do not believe that any students used the housing there. We say this because, in his role as GSG President, Kevin Collins personally went Dillon Gym to evaluate what had been set up. At 11 pm on Saturday night, there was no one using the sleeping facilities there. This is perhaps unsurprising, since it was not cold enough for the power outages to displace many students from their homes. While we know that some graduate students – particularly those with young children – did seek refuge at places with power, it is not hard to imagine that most would prefer to stay with friends in the area instead of a gym floor.

It is good to know that the University is capable of providing temporary housing if it is needed in the future. However, we hope that if that becomes necessary, we can improve communications within the University about the availability of these resources. The initial information provided by the University about the facilities at Dillon Gym read as follows:

“Dillon Gym (the upstairs Group Fitness Room) will be available staring at 1 p.m. today. You will be able to rest here and utilize the shower and bathroom facilities in the locker rooms. If needed, your complex community rooms and restrooms are available for your use (though without power).”

Notice that this message did not say when the facilities closed, and since Dillon was scheduled to close at 5:45 pm for the Spring Break hours, this left some students confused about exactly what would be available when (the GSG received emails seeking clarification). Moreover, many students were left without access to email, so they only learned about the Dillon Gym facilities and the extended hours of operation many hours later when the text alert went out.

In addition to communications with the graduate student body, there are open questions about communications between arms of the University about these facilities. The Public Safety officer stationed at Dillon Gym indicated that the text message received by the whole community was as much information as he had received about students potentially coming to Dillon Gym. In any case, there certainly were not any Facilities Staff stationed at Dillon for the duration of the time that services were being provided there.
Open Questions Needing Answers

So to recap, there remain a variety of open questions about the University's response to the power outage, and the communications during and after the storm. This certainly will not be the last storm on campus, and we hope to work productively with the Facilities Department and other agencies within the University to answer these questions and thereby improve emergency communications procedures for the future. The questions the GSG will be seeking answers to in the coming weeks include the following:

1) Why was the text message alert system – the single best approach to contacting students without power – not used earlier? The information contained therein was known to Facilities much earlier in the afternoon, and the most important information that it contained – the road closures – was in Facilities’ possession Saturday evening, which is also when it would have been most useful for graduate students, as well as faculty, staff, and undergraduates remaining on campus?

2) Why was the Tiger Transit Alert email list not used to announce road closures? Why weren’t updates posted online or sent by e-mail announcing when campus roads reopened?

3) Why was emergency information not posted (earlier) to the front of the University's website? Based on snow emergencies, this is where students (with internet access) know to look for emergency weather announcements, but (at least until Sunday night) the updates were only on the Facilities' outage info page. Additionally, the availability of those outage updates was not obvious from the front page of the Facilities website (http://www.princeton.edu/facilities/) and was not linked to when information was posted to the University's front page on Sunday night.

4) What exactly was the nature of the technical problem that caused Lawrence residents not to get email updates in the initial phase of the weather emergency (that is, until after we sent out our first email)

5) What were the reasons that Magie was selected to receive power, but not Hibben (at least initially)? There may be technical constraints on the capacity to provide power to both, either simultaneously or sequentially, but the reasons for the initial decision to provide power to one but not the other still have yet to be fully explained.

6) What was the nature of communication between the University and PSE&G? The projected timelines for fixing the power problems provided by the University to the Graduate students were all incorrect – fortunately, power was restored ahead of schedule – and according to communications we received, it seems clear that Lawrence residents alerted the University that power was back at Lawrence, rather than the other way around.

7) What was the nature of communication among departments within the University during the storm and its aftermath?
Moving Forward and Improving Emergency Communications

In order to better answer these questions, and to develop a new set of emergency communications procedures that better serve graduates students and the University community more broadly, we are seeking a meeting or set of meetings within the next several weeks and months. This meeting should involve representatives from all relevant departments within the University, but at a minimum the Housing Department, Public Safety, and Transportation and Parking Services, as well as representatives from the graduate and undergraduate student governments.

We hope that your respective departments can provide preliminary written answers in advance of such a meeting, to make that meeting as productive as possible in moving forward in constructing new procedures where they may be necessary. Among the suggestions for new procedures that we would like to suggest include using the Tiger Transit Alert email alert system to announce road closures as they become known, creating dummy accounts on housing email lists so those sending emergency emails can make sure that they are received, and revisiting the question of when text message alerts are sent during weather emergencies.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter, and we sincerely hope that this is just the beginning of a much longer discussion about weather emergency procedures at Princeton University.

Sincerely,

Kevin Collins
President
Graduate Student Government

Bill Zeller
Chair, Facilities Committee
Graduate Student Government

Kelly Kearney
Chair, Health and Life Committee
Graduate Student Government

cc: Paul Ominsky, Director, Public Safety
    Kim Jackson, Director, Transportation and Parking
    Olivia Martel, Community Programs Coordinator, Graduate School
    Melissa Plaskonos, Deputy Director of Housing for Operations, Housing
    Michael Yaroshefsky, President, Undergraduate Student Government
Graduate Student Government 2010 Graduate Student Survey – 4/10/2010

Academic Affairs

The first few questions ask about the resources graduate students need at Princeton to thrive academically, as well as the information provided to students about the resources that are already available.

1. What is your department or academic program? (Pick from drop down list)

2. In the 2009-2010 academic year, how many weekly precepts, if any, did you teach (drop down list 0 to 12 or more)? For instance, if you taught two precepts for one class in the fall, and four for another in the spring, you would mark “6”

3. In the 2009-2010 academic year, how many weekly laboratory section hours, if any, did you teach (drop down list 0 to 12 or more)? For instance, if you taught one three-hour lab course in the fall, but no lab course in the spring, you would mark “3”

4. In the 2009-2010 academic year, have you been able to do as much Assistantship in Instruction (precept and laboratory instruction) work as you would have liked?
   a. Have not sought to do AI work in the past year
   b. Have done the amount of AI work I sought to do in the past year
   c. Have done less AI work than I sought to do in the past year
   d. Have done more AI work than I sought to do in the past year

5. Have you at any point during your time at Princeton worked as an Assistant in Instruction (AI), be it as a preceptor, grader, or lab instructor?
   a. Yes
   b. No

6. [If AI = Yes] For how many separate courses have you worked as an AI? If you have you have worked for the same course in multiple semesters, count that as multiple courses. (Drop down list 0 through 5 or more)

7. [If AI = Yes] Including mandatory precept training, how many instructional classes have you taken through the McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning?
   a. 0
   b. 1
   c. 2
   d. 3
   e. 4
   f. 5 or more

8. [If AI = Yes] How well prepared do you feel that the AI Training you have received has prepared you for the following aspects of teaching? For each aspect of training, indicate whether you felt very prepared, moderately prepared, neither prepared nor unprepared, moderately unprepared, very unprepared, or whether this aspect of teaching is not applicable to you
   a. Leading precept discussions
b. Leading laboratory instruction

c. Lecturing

d. Grading written work

e. Grading classroom participation

f. Designing a course syllabus

g. Overall for the responsibilities you specifically have had as an AI

9. [If AI = Yes] (Optional) On what topics, if any, would you like to see the McGraw center offer training sessions in the future? (Open-ended)

10. Since you have arrived at Princeton, have you applied for any internal or external fellowships to fund your education? These might include fellowships from governments, from private foundations, or from the organizations within the University, but NOT the University fellowships that are offered within the admissions process

   a. Yes, I have applied for internal and external fellowships
   b. Yes, I have applied for internal fellowships only
   c. Yes, I have applied for external fellowships only
   d. No, I have applied for neither internal nor external fellowships

11. Since you have arrived at Princeton, have you applied for any internal or external grants to funds specific research projects?

   a. Yes, I have applied for internal and external grants
   b. Yes, I have applied for internal grants only
   c. Yes, I have applied for external grants only
   d. No, I have applied for neither internal nor external grants

12. (If report applying for any internal or external fellowships or grants) Which fellowships or grants did you apply, and were you successful?

13. How many academic conferences have you attended in the past 12 months where you presented research? [Drop down list 0 to 10+]

14. [If attend > 0 conferences] For how many of these conferences did you receive financial support to partially or fully offset the costs of travel and participation? [Drop down list 0 to 10+]

15. If you were provided with the financial support to present research one more conference than you were funded to attend in the past 12 months, which of the following describes what you would do with such an opportunity:

   a. I would have presented research at one more conference than I did in the past 12 months
   b. I would have used that financial support to pay for a conference I attended at my own expense
   c. I would neither have presented research at an additional conference, nor was there a conference I attended at my own expense in the past 12 months.

16. Some people in academic fields where post-doctoral fellowships are less common would like the University to hire graduate students who have completed their degrees but are unable to get a job as part-time lecturers. These former students would be required to design and teach their
own small seminar. If you are unable to get the kind of job or post-doctoral fellowship you want, would you like to defend your dissertation and apply for this type of part-time lecturer position, would you prefer to stay on longer as a Dissertation Completion Enrollment (DCE) status graduate student, or would you rather pursue other employment options? Please indicate which is closest to your preference. (randomize options)
   a. Defend dissertation and pursue part-time lectureship
   b. Remain as graduate student and transition to (or remain in) DCE status
   c. Seek other employment options

17. The University’s Writing Program currently offers a handful of one-year positions as Quin Morton Teaching Fellows (QMTFs) to DCE graduate students. Students who take these positions teach one writing seminar each semester, are paid at the current salary for half-time lecturers without the Ph.D. (in 2008-09, $24,700), receive full DCE tuition and Student Health Plan coverage, and enjoy all the benefits of fully enrolled graduate students. If the Writing Program were to expand the number of positions available and seek additional applicants in your field, would you be likely to apply for this post-enrollment opportunity, seek other sources of post-enrollment funding, or pursue other employment options? Please indicate which is closest to your preference (randomize options)
   a. Apply for QMTF program
   b. Seek other post-enrollment funding opportunities
   c. Pursue other employment options

18. Have you had to or will you need to borrow to finance your graduate education or pay for your living expenses while in graduate school?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. I prefer not to answer.

19. [If YES] [Optional] How much debt do you expect to have in graduate student loans when you leave Princeton? Please round to the nearest thousand.

20. Some graduate students plan on looking for jobs in the private sector, some seek jobs in government or with non-profit organizations. Others look for academic jobs in major research universities, while still others plan on seeking academic jobs at liberal arts colleges. If you could have your first choice job after graduation, which of these four options would come closest to your first preference:
   a. Private sector job
   b. Government or non-profit job
   c. Academic job at liberal arts college
   d. Academic job at research university
   e. Undecided

21. Regardless of your first choice of jobs, are you looking for only an academic job, jobs in academia and outside of academia, depending on the quality of the offer, only jobs outside academia, or have you not yet thought about this?
   a. Only academic jobs
   b. Either academic or non-academic jobs
   c. Only jobs outside academia
22. Departments and programs vary in the support they give students seeking jobs outside of academia. How would you rate the general atmosphere in your department or program for students seeking jobs outside of academia?
   a. Very hostile
   b. Hostile
   c. A little hostile
   d. Neither hostile nor encouraging
   e. A little encouraging
   f. Encouraging
   g. Very encouraging

23. Are there any services provided by your department or program specifically for students considering jobs outside academia?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Don’t know

24. [If non-academic services = YES] (Optional) Could you briefly describe what services your department or program provides for students considering jobs outside academia? [Open ended response]

25. Princeton’s Office of Career Services has a full-time staff member devoted to graduate student career services. Which if any of the following services offered by their office have you taken advantage of during your time at Princeton so far:
   a. Topical workshops (Yes, No)
   b. Individual career counseling appointments (Yes, No)
   c. Assistance with application material such as resumes, curricula vitae, and cover letters (Yes, No)
   d. Alumni networking events and/or databases (Yes, No)
   e. The Tiger Tracks job database (Yes, No)
   f. Interview strategy sessions (Yes, No)
   g. Weekly email list announcing resources and upcoming events (Yes, No)

26. (Optional) What, if any, additional services would you like to see Career Services provide in the future? These might include workshop topics, new types of databases, online toolkits, or something else. [Open ended response]

27. Some people say that new student orientation is already too time intensive, while others say that more information about resources available to graduate students at Princeton – including health care resources, computing resources, fellowship and project funding resources, and career-building resources, among others – should be distributed to incoming graduate students. If optional panels on these or similar topics had been offered at your graduate student orientation, would you have attended?
   a. Yes
   b. No
28. If such panels were held at next year’s orientation and open to current graduate students, would you attend?
   a. Yes
   b. No

29. (Optional) What if any topics would you like to see covered in such panels?

Housing

30. We are now going to ask you a few questions about your housing situation. Some people live in University-owned housing – be it in apartments or in dormitory-style housing – while others live in other apartments or in private homes. Do you currently live in University-owned housing?
   a. Yes
   b. No

31. [If live on campus] Which housing complex do you live in?
   a. Graduate College
   b. Annexes
   c. Lawrence Apartments
   d. Hibben-Magie Apartments
   e. Butler Apartments
   f. Other University Apartments (e.g. Millstone, Alexander Rd, Edwards Pl)
   g. Undergraduate Residential Colleges
   h. Other (please specify)

32. Regardless of where you currently live, would you prefer to live in University-provided housing or off-campus housing?
   a. University-provided
   b. Off-campus

33. [Prefer University provided] As the University looks to expand graduate housing in the future, it might consider either new construction or leasing arrangements with private developers in the area. Independently of the option the University chooses, please tell us whether each of the following considerations is very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all.
   a. Cost of rent
   b. Proximity to campus (i.e., living within walking distance from campus)
   c. Accessibility to campus (i.e., living next to a shuttle/bus stop or being able to drive to campus)
   d. Living in a community with other graduate students
   e. Having common space available to run events, hold meetings, or play with your children
   f. Pet friendly housing

34. [Off campus housing – both prefer and live] How far from Princeton’s main campus do you live?
   _________ miles

35. [Off campus housing] Do you own your home, or do you rent?
   a. Own
b. Rent

36. [Off campus housing – Renter] How many bedrooms does your apartment have? ______

37. [Off campus housing – Renter] What do you pay in rent and utilities per month? Please round to the nearest hundred. __________

38. [Off campus housing – Renter] How did you find your apartment?
   a. Word of mouth
   b. Craigslist
   c. University’s Off-Campus Housing office (or their website)
   d. Tiger Trade / Point website
   e. Commercial listings

39. Regardless of where you currently live, have you visited the Off-Campus Housing Office’s website?
   a. Yes
   b. No

40. [If YES] How helpful did you find the Off-Campus Housing Office’s website?
   a. Extremely helpful
   b. Helpful
   c. Moderately Helpful
   d. Neutral
   e. Moderately Unhelpful
   f. Unhelpful
   g. Extremely Unhelpful

41. [If YES] What if any suggestions do you have for making the Off-Campus Housing Office’s website more useful for graduate students? [Open ended]

Shuttle and Parking

The next few questions are about transit and parking on campus and represent a brief follow up to a transit survey conducted several years ago. If you never use the Tiger Transit shuttles, please indicate that where appropriate.

42. Do you own or have regular use of a car currently?
   a. Yes
   b. No

43. Did you own or have regular use of a car in the year prior to coming to Princeton?
   a. Yes
   b. No

44. Regardless of whether or not you personally own a car, how easy do you think it is to get by as a Princeton graduate student without a car? Please pick one of the answers below.
   a. Extremely difficult
b. Difficult
c. Moderately difficult
d. Neutral
e. Moderately easy
f. Easy
g. Extremely easy

45. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the shuttle system provided by the University currently.
   a. Extremely dissatisfied
   b. Dissatisfied
   c. Moderately dissatisfied
   d. Neutral
   e. Moderately satisfied
   f. Satisfied
   g. Extremely satisfied
   h. Never used or N/A

46. The University is entering a partnership with WeCar, a carsharing service. The WeCar program allows any student with a driver’s license to rent a car for a short period of time and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is a one-time Application Fee of $20 and an annual Membership Fee of $40. Students can rent a Toyota Prius for $8/hour or $42/day. There is a one-time Application Fee of $20 and an annual Membership Fee of $40. Students can rent a Toyota Prius for $8/hour or $42/day. Cars can be reserved online, and vehicles will be located at Frist Campus Center, Graduate College, Hibben-Magie Apartments, and Lot 21.

Do you think you’ll sign up for this service in the coming year?
   a. Yes
   b. No

47. [If No] Why are you not interested in the WeCar service? Please check all that apply
   a. I already have a car
   b. I do not have a car, but I can use friends’ cars when I need to drive somewhere
   c. I do not have a car or have access to friends’ cars, but I do not need to drive anywhere
   d. I do not have a drivers’ license
   e. The annual membership fee is too much money
   f. The application fee is too much money
   g. The rental fee is too much money
   h. I live on campus, but cars are not located sufficiently close to where I live
   i. I will not be on campus next year
   j. Other (Please specify)

Social Events

48. Now we would like to ask you a few questions about social events on campus. Which day or days of the week would generally be best for you to attend social events organized by the GSG?
   a. Monday
b. Tuesday
c. Wednesday
d. Thursday
e. Friday
f. Saturday
g. Sunday
h. Would not attend regardless of day of the week

49. Some people would rather have more, less expensive events while others would rather have fewer, more expensive events. Which view comes closer to your own? (randomize options)
   a. More events of lower cost
   b. Fewer events of greater cost

50. Some people would prefer to have greater volume of less expensive food and beverages, while others would prefer to have less volume of higher quality food and beverages. Which view comes closer to your own?
   a. Greater volume of less expensive food and beverages
   b. Less volume of higher quality food and beverages

51. (Optional) Generally speaking, what factors made you more or less interested in attending past GSG events? (open response)

52. (Optional) What events not currently offered by the GSG would you like to see the GSG organize in the future? (open response)

**Graduate Student Government**

53. What kind of advocacy work would you like the Graduate Student Government to take up in the coming year? Please describe the issues, if any, that are important to you

**Bio**

Finally, we would like to ask you a few questions about yourself to better understand your answers to the previous questions.

54. Were you in residence at Princeton for all or most of this past academic year?
   a. Yes
   b. No

55. Were you in residence at Princeton for all or most of this past spring break?
   a. Yes
   b. No

56. Were you in residence at Princeton for all or most of this past intersession break, at the end of January?
   a. Yes
   b. No
57. Were you in residence at Princeton for all or most of this past fall break?
   a. Yes
   b. No

58. Were you in residence at Princeton for all or most of last summer?
   a. Yes
   b. No

59. Do you plan on being in residence at Princeton for all or most of this upcoming summer?
   a. Yes
   b. No

60. Will you be at Princeton for all or most of this upcoming academic year?
   a. Yes
   b. No

61. How many years have you been a graduate student at Princeton? (drop down list)

62. How many years do you expect to take to graduate, including those you have already been at Princeton? (drop down list)

63. What year were you born? [Drop down menu]

64. With which gender do you identify?
   a. Male
   b. Female
   c. Self-identify

65. Are you currently living with a partner or spouse?
   a. Yes
   b. No

66. How many children do you have? (drop down list)

67. [If Children > 0] Do you have a child who requires daycare?
   a. Yes
   b. No

68. What is your sexual orientation?
   a. Straight
   b. Lesbian/Gay
   c. Bisexual
   d. I prefer not to say.

69. Are you married or in a civil union recognized by the state of NJ?
   a. Yes
   b. No
70. What is your present citizenship status?
   a. US Citizen / US Permanent Resident
   b. International (please specify country of citizenship)

71. We have found in the past that personal stories help motivate some of the University policy changes the Graduate Student Government advocates for. Would you be willing to have someone from the GSG follow up with you about some of your answers? If so, please enter your email below.