



# GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

11 December, 2013  
December Assembly Meeting  
Jadwin Hall 102  
5:54-7:25 pm

President Funk calls the meeting to order at 5:54 pm.

Manager of Graduate Housing James Poole and Associate Director for Student Housing Lisa DePaul are here today for a special meeting focused on Graduate Housing.

### James Poole's Opening Comments:

- Jim is frequently asked if the Lakeside project is on time. It is. The project is being constructed in three phases:
  - Phase 1: Lakeside parking structure – complete.
  - Phase 2: Geothermal wells for heating – complete.
  - Phase 3: The 14 structures at the site – in progress. The townhomes are wood-frame and the apartments are steel-frame.
- The Lakeside offerings will be diverse
  - Floor plans are now online at the new [Lakeside website](#).
  - Note that rental prices listed on the website do not include utility prices. Jim expects the Lakeside utility costs should be lower than Butler utility costs because the new construction is better insulated and the appliances are more energy efficient.
  - Furnished units cost \$15 more per month than comparable unfurnished units.
- Butler/Stanworth are still scheduled to close in Summer 2014.
- Students moving from Butler/Stanworth to new housing will not be homeless at any point. If a student's contract ends June 30<sup>th</sup>, but their new unit is not available until later (say, July 15<sup>th</sup>), then they would be offered a contract extension. In this case they would be offered a two-week contract extension to cover the gap.
- Contracts for dormitory housing (GC/Annexes) cover the academic year: September 1 – late May. However, apartment contracts cover the fiscal year and end June 30<sup>th</sup>. These contract start and end dates are dictated by state law.
- Students who apply for housing and are not successful will end up on the wait list automatically. Housing promises to communicate with students on the wait list regularly to let them know their status.
- 2014 Housing Draw: what to expect
  - Current 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year graduate students who live in apartments are automatically offered their contracts again for next year. Students who are moving to Lakeside or Lawrence cannot have **pre-draw retention**, but they will get **pre-draw priority**. Students with pre-draw retention/priority will get emails between now and February to determine their housing preferences.

- If you don't qualify for pre-draw priority you can still apply for housing through [Princeton one-stop housing](#).
- Jim runs a lottery **within each class year**. Applicants can list as many preferences as they want. Jim advises that 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> years list as many choices as they're willing to take to increase their odds of being offered an apartment.
- After pre-draw, room-draw starts. In the Spring, incoming students must be placed. Once they have been placed (some time in May), students on the wait list will start to get placed.
- Jim gets cancellations from March-August. He offers these spots to students on the wait list as soon as they open up.
- Families and Roommates
  - Current first and second year students can pull in third year students as roommates. However, they cannot pull in students in higher class years.
  - There is a limit to how many people can live in each apartment type. For students with children, this varies depending on the age of the children. Students with questions about the unit types they can apply for should approach Jim Poole.

Questions from Assembly:

- **How many spots do you expect will be available in Lakeside after students in Stanworth/Butler move in?**
  - Lakeside has 715 beds
  - Lawrence has 550 beds
  - 260 individuals from Butler, 67 in Stanworth, and 220 in Lawrence qualify for pre-draw retention/priority.
  - Some students who live with partners/spouses are expected to move from Butler two-bedroom units to Lawrence or Lakeside one-bedroom units. This may open up some more housing for grad students.
- **If two students want to live in a 4-bedroom unit, can Housing place two roommates with them to fill the unit?**
  - Jim would prefer that 4 applicants apply together, but if someone drops out from a housing application it might get filled with incoming students or students on the wait list. If this kind of application were made Jim would probably contact the applicants to ask them more about their preferences.
- **Will American Campus Communities (ACC) have a management role at Lakeside?**
  - ACC is a large college housing developer. The Princeton Housing Office has a good relationship with them. There will be an on-site manager at Lakeside who will live in the complex. There will be also be ACC employees on call who will deal with facilities issues. Princeton Housing will place students in Lakeside apartments. However, if you have a maintenance request at Lakeside, the ACC employees will do the repairs – not Princeton maintenance staff.
- **Is there a way to place students who want furnishings in a unit with students who don't?**
  - Not right now.

- **Are there statistics on how many students are/are not placed through the housing lottery?**
  - Last year less than 100 people ended up on the wait list, but this is fewer than usual.
- **How many individuals can be housed by Princeton following Summer 2014?**
  - 1756
- **Is there any way to increase the amount of Graduate Student housing after this year?**
  - There is no plan to do so at this time and this is not up to Housing. The new President and Board of Trustees may develop a new plan. Stanworth/Merwick is being redeveloped for faculty use - graduate students will not live there. Jim does not know what the current plan for the Butler site is.
- **A couple in Butler will pay \$500 more for a two-bedroom apartment in Lakeside than in Butler. Are there plans to help with this?**
  - No. Also, rent generally increases 4% each year.
- **Is there any difference in priority for single and married people?**
  - Students are coded with a number. First years are coded a 9, second years are an 8. Within each class, students with families are coded as a 9.1, 8.1 etc. – so they have a slight advantage within their year.
- **Do you make available during the housing process statistics like the total number of graduate students, number of students with families, and amount of units available so students can make strategic decisions in the housing draw?**
  - We've never been asked this generally. We do have these kinds of data for the GC. Jim can try to gather this data but it will take time – perhaps he can make this info available after the holidays.
  - Kyle: students interested in knowing these kinds of numbers should [contact GSG](#) and let us know which numbers they want.
- **Are furnished/unfurnished apartments listed separately in the housing inventory?**
  - Yes
- **What are the available unit types for students with pets?**
  - The townhouses have exterior entrances and will therefore all be pet-friendly. There are 24 three-bedroom townhouses and 54 four-bedrooms. 47 other apartments on the ground floor will also be pet-friendly because they have an exterior entrance. These units are a combination of one- and two-bedroom apartments. All pet-friendly units will be unfurnished.
- **The total capacity of graduate housing is 1756. What was the total capacity of graduate housing before Hibben-Magie, Butler and Millstone were closed?**
  - Jim guesses the numbers are in the same ballpark. In 2006, the capacity was about 1600.
  - The percentage of students that Princeton can house is supposed to increase to 70-75% in 2014.
  - There used to be and still are some units offline because they were too damaged to be repaired (in Hibben-Magie and Butler). These units affect these numbers.

- **If there are students who couldn't make it tonight, when can they talk to you?**
  - Meeting at the GC tomorrow from 8:30-9:30 am.
  - Next Monday there will be a session at Campus Club from 12:00-1:00 pm for general questions and a 1:00-2:00 pm session for students with families.

Approval of the Minutes from November 2013: Shilpa Nadimpalli (COS rep) motions to approve the minutes and April Williams (QCB rep) seconds the motion. The motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Volunteers for future of graduate housing letter: this is a good time to advocate for changes in graduate housing. The new Dean of the Graduate School will sit down with the Provost and the President of University to discuss the state of graduate housing and we would like to have a document representing the viewpoint of the GSG assembly on the future of grad housing.

- April Williams (QCB rep), Kyle Keller (Vice President), Andrew Edwards (HIS rep), and Sean Edington (CHM rep) will work to draft the letter. The letter will be approved by assembly so that it will represent the opinion of students from all departments.

Executive Committee Report:

- GSG Wine and Cheese from September
  - We spent \$2600 on wine and over \$1000 on cheese. We didn't run out of cheese but we did run out of wine.
  - 685 students attended the event – it was a great success.
- December meeting with University Services
  - University Housing proposed a plan for communication with graduate students to be implemented in December through March. There will be four information sessions in December; a hard-copy letter will go out about changes to Graduate housing in 2014; also info sessions on the housing draw and off-campus housing will be held in March.
  - We suggested that TigerPaww buses run on Saturday mornings, when the Dinky does not run and it's not possible to travel to or from NYC or Philly. Kim Jackson says that this can't be done because of the nature of the agreement between the University and the township that led to the creation of the TigerPaww buses. However, Kim stresses that there are buses between Princeton and NYC that run 7 days a week.
  - Dining Services has several new programs. They are working on a mobile food truck.
  - We have been asked to let other grad students know that the multipurpose room in Frist is available to use for free; to sign up for that room, please [email Laurie Hall](#).
  - Frist has a new program where students who need to charge one of their mobile devices can check out chargers from the Frist welcome desk. You must leave your TigerCard to borrow a charger.
  - University Scheduling wants to work with students to help them plan events. They will work with students to help them find spaces that fit their needs.
- CPUC meeting (Council of the Princeton University Community)

- The last meeting focused on classroom design and the University response to the Meningitis B outbreak.
- Friederike submitted a question about graduate housing: When does the University plan to think about potentially increasing the percentage of grad students that it will house? President Eisgruber said this would happen when new Dean of the Graduate School arrives.
- **CPUC meetings are open to the entire Princeton community. Students can attend the meetings and can access the minutes online. The next meeting dates are February 10, March 10 and May 5.**
- As members of the CPUC Executive Committee, Friederike Funk (President) and Paola Libraro (MAE rep) are involved in planning the CPUC agenda. They want to put Graduate housing on the agenda and expect that it will be a topic in Spring 2014.
- Graduate Housing Advisory Board (GHAB) November meeting
  - The GSG Vice President and Facilities chair meet with representatives from the Butler, Lawrence, and GC House Committee (GCHC), Jim Poole and Lily Secora to talk about what's going on with Grad Student housing.
  - The Butler committee has submitted a proposal to transition into the Lakeside committee. The GHAB will consider this and Jim Poole and Andrew Kane will evaluate the proposal.
  - Grad student reps on the GHAB have successfully advocated for a hard-copy letter on housing go out to all grad students.
  - The GHAB also discussed issues for students who have pets in next year's housing draw. It was decided that the pre-draw priority form will include questions about pets so that we will have more accurate information on the number of pets on campus. Housing only asks residents whether they have pets when they first move in to campus housing, unless students update their information on the Housing website. It is important to get new numbers on pets because the grad student reps think there are a lot more cats at Butler than are reported.
  - Andrew Edwards (HIS rep): Can you post an update on the GSG website about these issues?
    - Because GHAB meetings are closed, we aren't sure what information we can make publicly available and this information needs to be screened before it's released. If possible, we may be able to make these documents available on a web page that reps can log in to view. We are also looking into whether we can share some of this information with our reps by email.
- Meeting with Undergraduates who work with the PACE Center
  - Undergraduates are interested in hosting an open house and reaching out to Grad Students. If Grads are interested in working with Undergrads to help figure out how to get more Grads to use the PACE center, please [contact GSG](#).
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) has a new Executive Director
  - Calvin Chin has approached the GSG to seek our input on what kind of CAPS programming will most benefit graduate students. The GSG

Exec has highlighted the importance of stress-management and prevention.

- Students with ideas for the new director should [contact GSG](#).
- An information session about the Meningitis B vaccine was held on December 5. Students who want information not available on [the CDC website](#) are encouraged to [email the CDC](#).
- GSG presentation to the Executive Vice President senior administrators
  - Friederike highlighted the importance of timely communication with administrators (facilitated by regular meetings), grad student mental health, and fostering connections between grads and undergrads as issues that the Vice President's office and the GSG can work together on.
- GSG Survey on Princeton childbirth and childcare policies was completed on Monday
  - Preliminary report: 240 responses. Problems that stand out:
    - Paternity leave: students are only eligible if they're the primary caregiver
    - Princeton provides \$5000 in childcare support only if your spouse is employed full time.
    - DCE status: If students give birth prior to entering DCE status, they are eligible for an extra term of funding. However, they aren't eligible for this extra term if they give birth after entering DCE status.
    - Hardship housing: families have applied for this in the past, but some don't seem to know about it.

#### GSG Budget Report for 2012-2013: Treasurer Simon Fuchs

- In the past we have run over-budget on parties. This is likely because GSG parties are becoming more popular. For the upcoming year we are therefore increasing the budget for each party by about \$1500.
- What happens when there's a deficit?
  - We have some savings (~\$2000 right now) so it comes out of this
- Events Board Budget
  - 46 events were offered funding in 2012-2013. 41 ended up accepting the funding.
- **Assembly members are encouraged to spread the word in their departments that there is money (up to \$1250) available for events through GSG events board. Students should also be aware that they can apply for funding from the GCHC if the event is to take place at the GC.**
- #44 in the Events Board Budget: SHARE asked for \$700, we agreed on \$500, and they actually received \$700. We will ask them if they can make do with less funding for their next event.
- For events where they guess how many students will come to the event – do they give feedback on how many graduate students actually come?
  - Sometimes – we can try to be stricter about this. They are supposed to give Events Board their receipts and report how successful the event was.
- **We will vote to approve the budget at the January 2014 meeting.**

New Business: Sean Edington (CHM)

- The McGraw Center is thinking about developing two new programs. Currently, all of their programs for graduate students are focused on classroom teaching. However, they are looking into offering the following two types of programming:
  - Helping graduate students improve their skills at one-on-one tutoring
  - Programming on how graduate students can improve their skills as students to improve their efficiency and productivity.
- Assembly members are interested in both types of programming.

**GSG Elections are coming up. Assembly members and other grad students are encouraged to run for Officerships. Students who are not running for an Officer position can run for a position on the Election committee.** The election committee is a low time commitment – it involves some coordination by email and putting up fliers. Kyle (Vice President), Burcin Cakir (EE rep) and Shilpa Nadimpalli (COS rep) will be on the Election committee but more volunteers are needed.

GSG Exec recently found out that Grad Student Departmental Committees have rights that many students are unaware of. Briefly, student committees have the right to:

- Be involved in the approval of new grad curriculum
- Bring up complaints about current graduate curriculum
- The relevant text from [Rights, Rules and Responsibilities](#) is excerpted below.

#### **Graduate Student Departmental Committees**

The following are to be established policies in the making of decisions with regard to the graduate courses of study, and departmental chairs shall be responsible for so informing the graduate students of their departments at the beginning of each academic year. However, any of these policies may be modified by agreement of the faculty and graduate students of a department, these modifications to remain in effect until changed by similar procedure.

1. Each department shall establish a departmental committee of graduate students, to act as a liaison between the faculty and the graduate student body of the department. Each committee should normally meet with the committee of the departmental faculty concerned with graduate studies, if one exists. The committee of graduate students shall have the right to initiate discussion of any proposals relating to the departmental graduate program, shall encourage students to participate in departmental affairs of special interest and relevance to them, and shall have the following additional rights:

a) The right to attach comments to all proposals forwarded to the Committee on the Graduate School by departmental faculty.

b) The right, in certain circumstances, to secure a departmental faculty's reconsideration of action taken on proposals regarding the graduate curriculum. Departments should seriously consider a second vote on any measures regarding the department's graduate program when it is requested by the student committee. In any particular academic year departmental faculties should commit themselves to a second vote on such measures if a second vote is requested within one month by the student departmental committee in a petition endorsed by two thirds of the department's graduate students. If the action being reconsidered is on a proposal that the departmental faculty has rejected, a majority vote of the departmental faculty should reverse the previous decision. If the action being reconsidered is on a proposal that has been adopted by the departmental faculty, a two-thirds vote of the departmental faculty should be required to affirm the previous decision. Departmental faculties should not be bound to reconsider the same action more than once in the same academic year.

2. Student departmental committees shall be provided with a reasonable amount of secretarial assistance in preparing proposals, communicating with departmental students, and conducting elections.

3. Each departmental chair shall be responsible for:

- a) Referring all proposals for major changes in the department's graduate program to the departmental graduate student committee before action on such proposals by the faculty of the department.
- b) Inviting student committee members to discuss proposals for major changes in the graduate course of study with the faculty of the department at or before any meetings in which the departmental faculty proposes to take action on such proposals.
- c) Scheduling at least two meetings each academic year with the graduate student committee of the department, one early in the fall term to work out plans for later consultation, and one in late spring to review the department's graduate offerings so that chairs may take student views into account in preparing requests for new staff.

Pub Nite will be held at 8 pm tonight

Pulin Sanghvi, the new Executive Director of Career Services, is interested in attending the assembly meeting in February. The assembly expresses interest in having Pulin attend.

Mircea Davidescu (EEB rep) motions to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm. Shilpa Nadimpalli (COS rep) seconds the motion. The meeting is adjourned.



