

Overview of achievements for the GSG term 2013/14

1) SUCCESSES RELATED TO NEW PROGRAMMING

- The GSG has worked together with University Services, the Graduate School, and Frist Campus Center to offer extended summer hours at Café Witherspoon, to organize new summer programming at Frist once a week in the summer months, and to launch a summer website that includes information about campus and local events during the summer.
- GSG Pub Nights at a local bar off-campus have become a monthly tradition.
- The GSG has added the NAMI Stomp out Stigma walk as an annual event to raise awareness that the stigma associated with mental illness is one of the greatest barriers that keeps people from seeking help.

2) GSG ADVOCACY / DIALOGUES WITH ADMINISTRATORS

- The GSG has connected better with administrators and created direct lines of communication by having bimonthly meetings with several Directors from University Services.
- The GSG has had frequent and timely meetings with the Housing Office, University Services, and the Graduate School about the move to Lakeside apartments. One example of successful advocacy was the creation of a hardship fund for families who move from Butler to Lakeside, provided by the Graduate School.
- The GSG has drafted a Housing Advocacy letter that will be sent out to senior administrators soon to advocate for an increase in graduate student housing.
- The GSG hosted fantastic guests at assembly meetings: a Q&A with President Eisgruber, Vice President of Campus Life Cynthia Cherrey, Amy Pszczolkowski and Pulin Sanghvi from Career Services, Keira Wilson from Pace Center, James Pool and Lisa DePaul from Housing, Marina Mitchel and Vanessa Silva from Annual Giving.
- The GSG was consulted in recommending potential graduate alumni hooding speakers. In addition, the GSG suggested a new option that graduate students can be hooded by their advisors – which might be implemented soon.
- The GSG was represented at an Executive Vice President senior administrators meeting.
- The GSG has started to advocate for a children- and family-friendly Princeton as a result of a childcare survey.

3) SUCCESSES OF TRADITIONAL GSG INITIATIVES

- At the annual Orientation event in September, the GSG was able to offer the highest number of welcome gifts for incoming first years ever thanks to the generous support by the Office of Sustainability.
- The GSG has organized the most successful annual furniture drive so far, resulting in more than \$4000 that could be donated to local charities.
- The GSG has hosted four big parties that were very well attended (with a record high of 685 attendees at the Wine & Cheese party – and yet we did not run out of cheese).
- The GSG Events Board has sponsored 45 grad student- run events over this past term.
- The GSG has expanded Graduate Writing Days to the GC, making it more successful than ever by working together with the Graduate School, the Writing Center, and the Graduate College House Committee.
- The GSG website has been updated and improved in its functionality.

4) GSG COLLABORATIONS WITH OTHER GROUPS ON CAMPUS

- The GSG has worked together with the Pace Center to make their mission and events more easily accessible to graduate students.
- The GSG has worked together with graduate alumni (e.g., the Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni) to connect graduate students with alums, for instance at the Many Minds Many Stripes Graduate Alumni conference.
- The GSG has collaborated with undergraduate students and the USG to offer additional interesting events to graduate students, such as Community Walk during Orientation, Restaurant Week in November, and Wintersession in January.
- For the first time, the GSG reached out to the organizers of Communiversity, was involved in its planning process and reached out to graduate students so that graduate students could actively be part of it.

In addition, the GSG has started to raise more awareness for rights of departmental committees and has started to distribute more information about CPUC and USLC meetings. Lastly, the GSG has worked towards an improvement in knowledge transfer and transparency by making PriCom procedures known more broadly again and by starting to document processes within the GSG.

The GSG Executive Board 2013 - 14

Princeton,
March 12th, 2014