



GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

10 July, 2013
July Assembly Meeting
Jadwin Hall 102
5:56-7:10 pm

- President Funk calls the meeting to order at 5:56 pm. We do not have quorum yet at the beginning of the meeting.
- 6:04 pm. We have quorum.
 - Pablo Mosteiro (PHY rep) motions to approve the minutes from May and June. April Williams (MOL rep) seconds. The minutes pass unanimously.

Executive Committee Report:

- Meeting with University Services. This is a new regular meeting between the GSG Exec and the key people who manage services on campus. The goal is to meet regularly to share information.
 - Housing: Andrew Cane (Housing and Real Estate Services Executive Director)
 - Lakeside construction is going well. There may be survey in the near future to look into how many units should be furnished. The rent is expected to be similar to that in Lawrence. There will be a washer/dryer in each unit. More information on the design of each unit type is available at the [Lawrence website](#).
 - We discussed the reasons why the University commits to housing only 70% of graduate students. In the past, there have been vacancies suggesting that there is not a great demand for housing among graduate students that is not met. However, we made the argument that this could have occurred because students were offered units so late that they already had made alternate housing arrangements. We will continue our advocacy efforts to let the University know that there is demand for more graduate housing.
 - Dining in the summer
 - Weekly Frist summer cookouts have begun – please spread the word. Anyone can attend; the cost is \$9 without a meal plan.
 - If you know a band interested in playing on August 7 please get in touch – the deadline is Monday.
 - Cookouts are co-sponsored with ODUS, Dining Services, GSG and the Graduate School.
 - Lunch BBQs are happening on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the Woodrow Wilson café and at E-Quad
 - New website on summer dining and activities: www.princeton.edu/summer. Please let us know if you think there is info missing from website!

- Transportation
 - We had some suggestions for Kim Jackson about improving service on the Summer Circulator and Forrestal line.
 - We have successfully advocated for the paving of Lot21 overflow parking.
 - At our last Open Forum, students asked to be better notified about special events on campus that might make parking difficult. We have found out that there is a special trans-alert listserv that can be used to notify subscribers of this kind of event. Instructions for subscribing to the trans-alert listserv are [here](#).
- Hooding Ceremony
 - Many graduate students were unhappy with the hooding ceremony this year (which was rained out unexpectedly, and with little notice).
 - Some students are interested in having advisors perform the hooding.
 - Lisa Schreyer is here tonight. She plans the hooding ceremonies.
 - They planned to have the ceremony this year outside at Cannon Green, because the outdoor space allows for more guests. In the past the ceremony has been in the Stadium, which didn't work. This year, the hoods ended up being handed out at Whig.
 - The plan for next year is to set up Dillon Gym as a backup for guests. It can accommodate all of the guests; and the ceremony will take place at Richardson and be broadcast by video at Dillon.
 - Advisors don't hood students due to time constraints. The ceremony can't be held on Cannon Green earlier than 5 pm due to Class Day activities, which end at 3 pm. Right now, the ceremony lasts ~1.5 hours. Having advisors hood students is estimated to add an hour to the ceremony.
 - It's not possible to have 2 events on Cannon Green in one day, because the second event would start too late to happen outdoors. Also, the University President, Dean Russel and some other administrators who usually attend wouldn't be able to make it to two events due to scheduling constraints.
 - Other universities break up the ceremony by schools, rather than having a graduate school-wide ceremony.
 - Lisa Schreyer: the different schools (WWS, Engineering, etc.) opposed having separate ceremonies when this was proposed previously.
 - Why not have a second ceremony in the Winter?
 - Lisa Schreyer. First, there is a cost issue. There is already equipment set up for the event in the Spring. Also, students who graduated in the Winter would have to come back for commencement if they wanted to be involved.
 - Many students express a strong wish to be hooded by their advisor. Several say they do not mind if administrators can't attend the event, if this means they can be hooded by their advisor. One student (a master's student) says that being hooded by her advisor does not matter to her; she just wants the ceremony to be quick.

- It is suggested that we perform a survey on hooding. People interested in designing a survey should let us know by emailing gsg@princeton.edu.
- [GSG Website](#)
 - The new website is finally online! If you have any suggestions please let us know!
- Summer party:
 - End of July or beginning of August
- President Eisgruber will be at our assembly on October 9 from 6-7 pm. We will collect questions beforehand, and send them to him so that he can prepare a speech that addresses our concerns. We'll then open things up for a moderated Q&A.
 - We will solicit/develop questions at our September meeting.
- Welcome gift for new Graduate Students
 - This year we're going to have water bottles. The Office of Sustainability has helped to pay for them. We'll have 600 bottles.
- Help interview for the new Director of CPS
 - Tuesday or Thursday at noon. Interested students should contact GSG.
- Constitutional Amendments:
 - We'll probably present the amendments and vote in October or November.
 - Voting delegates are delegates from special interest groups who get to vote. They are meant to represent groups that are underrepresented in assembly but constitute at least 1% of the graduate student body. Currently we recognize delegates from the Black Graduate Caucus and the Women's Center. However, they have not sent delegates in some time.
 - Proposal 1: add a few additional groups
 - Proposal 2: a flexible proposal that doesn't recognize any group in the constitution but allows the assembly to vote in or out groups as the composition of the GSG assembly changes. Voting delegates would be voted on each year. The VP would be tasked with finding organizations to represent special interest groups. If the voting delegates don't stay active they get dropped.
 - Proposal 3: Similar to first group but instead of recognizing specific groups, it recognizes organizations – such as the Carl Fields Center, the LGBT Center, the Davis International Center.
 - Ian Ward (HIS rep): Does the Women's Center meet the criterion of being underrepresented?
 - Kyle Keller (Secretary): Not presently. One advantage of Proposal 2 is that if women do become underrepresented the Women's Center delegate can be voted back in.
 - Lizette Taguchi (GCO): Instead of having voting delegates, we could have non-voting representatives from underrepresented groups invited to join the discussion on important issues.
 - Assembly agrees. We already have a provision that allows for such representatives in the Constitution.

- Pablo Mosteiro (PHY rep): A problem with the flexible model is that almost any group can argue that they can be represented. Starcraft players, for example.
 - Kyle Keller (VP): We'd have to rely on the assembly's judgment to determine which groups should be allowed delegates.
- Ian Ward (HIS rep): Has there ever been a real advantage to having voting delegates? A problem is that each delegate dilutes the voting power of the department reps.
- Mike Campanell (PPL): the issues we work on concern all graduate students – parking, transportation, housing, hooding
 - And there might be better groups to add as voting delegates, such as students with dependents
- Carolann Buff (MUS rep): One reason you add a special interest group is try to address unknown needs. You may think you can represent everyone in your department, but you may be unaware of some of their needs due to privilege, etc.
- Sean Edington (CHM rep): Everyone can come to our assembly and have their opinion heard. The assembly is well publicized.
- Pablo Mosteiro (PHY): There are a lot of people not being heard – mostly because they're lazy and don't want to come to assembly– they think GSG and Graduate School are the same.
- Julia Wittes (Secretary): I don't like the symbolism of taking voting rights away from women and African Americans. However, people can exert more power by speaking at assembly than by voting, anyway. So I don't think they're being disenfranchised in a way that is meaningful.
- We should invite someone from the Women's Center & Black Graduate Caucus to come to assembly and talk about whether they think voting delegates are important. If they can present an argument for why they should have a vote, then we might be persuaded.
- Lizette Taguchi (GCO): If we get rid of voting delegates, then instead of taking away voting rights we're equalizing voting rights since everyone can be represented through their departments. However, we should take this conversation as a lesson that we must be aware of seeking out diverse opinions from our departments. We're not perfect representatives.

Open Forum:

- April Williams (Facilities, MOL rep, Campus Life Chair): The old Princeton hospital site is being torn down and an apartment complex may be built in that location (Avalon Bay). There is a planning board hearing tomorrow at 7:30 pm. People who show up at the hearings are mostly opposed to the apartments. She thinks it's in the interest of graduate students to advocate for more housing in town.
 - Pablo Mosteiro (PHY): Where can we read more about the development?
 - April: The Princeton township website.
 - [Walkable Princeton](#) has a good deal of information about this.
 - Lizette: Why is there opposition?
 - Carolann Buff (MUS rep): Most apartments have very high rents.

- April: Some town residents don't want more traffic, more kids in the schools, and a decrease in the price of their property.
 - Carolann: There is a concern that the people who will rent these condos won't be Princeton locals – they'll be executives from Novo Nordisk and Bristol-Meyers Squibb and will be driving.
- Pablo Mosteiro (PHY rep): What is the procedure for attempting to fill spots of people who don't come to these meetings.
 - Kyle: We contact the academic departments. There is a procedure for vacating spots but not for filling spots.
- Lisa Schreyer: The Provost's office wants to have a sexual harassment online training for graduate students. The University already does this training for faculty and staff.
 - Lizette Taguchi (GCO): training should not only concern sexual harassment but sexual misconduct in general.
 - Julia Wittes (Secretary): Is in-person training possible?
 - Lisa: online will happen but department trainings could happen as well.
 - Kityan Choi (AOS): Were there many cases of sexual misconduct in the University?
 - Lisa: The Clery report numbers are available but it's unclear whether we have complete statistics.
 - Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Andreana or gsg@princeton.edu.
 - Olga Lositsky (NEU) volunteers.
- We'll be forwarding one page summary of this meeting to department reps.
- Carolann Buff (MUS rep) motions to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm. Pablo Mosteiro seconds the motion. The meeting adjourns.

