



GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

12 June, 2013
June Assembly Meeting
Jadwin Hall 102
5:57~7:30 pm

- President Funk calls the meeting to order at 5:57 pm. We do not have quorum and cannot approve the May assembly minutes.
- We have one confirmed assembly visitor for the fall: incoming University President Chris Eisgruber. James Poole (Director of Housing) has also expressed interest in coming.

Summary of comments made during the open forum:

- On the evacuation yesterday (due to a bomb threat). Reps say the evacuation was disorganized and several say they had trouble getting to Princeton Junction. Several assembly members express concern that Public Safety did not answer the phone or did not appear to know what was going on and either could not provide assistance or provided false information. It is suggested that we might have someone from Public Safety as a visitor at an upcoming assembly.
- Housing lottery issues.
 - Some problems with the draw may stem from the rule that you're not allowed to move into an apartment with a different number of rooms unless you're changing roommates.
 - Students express concern that some students had a gap in their housing contracts that left them without an apartment for a month, typically in July.
 - This seems to have happened largely to students who prioritized apartment type preference over move-in date in the draw.
 - If people get housing extensions for part of the summer this can cause problems for other students with move-in dates. We think about 50 people had a gap in their housing.
 - Why does this gap occur typically in July?
 - Several reps feel that the housing website is not straightforward or up to date. They request that ALL rules of the draw be posted to the website.
 - A number of students state that they were only able to solve housing problems by contacting James Poole himself and not through working with staff; however, they also state that they had trouble getting in contact with James Poole.
- Other housing issues:
 - Why do GC and Annex contracts end May 25, while apartment contracts end June 30? This can make it difficult to move from the GC to an apartment.

- There is apparently an option to extend GC/Annex housing on a weekly basis in the summer, but this is not commonly known by graduate students.
 - A student had a gap in his housing which may have been due to the need for maintenance in the new apartment.
 - Students request that there be an option to move in without advance maintenance if the new apartment is in good shape.
- **Students who had issues with the housing draw are encouraged to email gsg@princeton.edu.**
- Shuttle Services. Students state that there should be more bus service in the summer given that undergrads almost never ride the buses and most grad students stay on campus in the summer. If there is decreased ridership in the summer, it may be because students don't take the bus since they find it unreliable. In other words, decreased ridership may not reflect decreased demand for buses.
 - AOS student says that in their department, they work more in the summer but there is less service to Forrestal. Another student says that there may be increased ridership on the Forrestal line in the summer due to summer internships there.
 - Another student is unhappy that the shuttle schedules don't sync with the train schedules.
 - A student points out that University employees often have 10-month contracts, which is in part why there is less service in the summer.
 - A student living at Millstone would like the buses to run later than 6 pm; she states that most of the grad students she knows work later than this.
 - A student living at Stanworth says that she is happy with the Stanworth service, however, she suggests they use a smaller bus during the academic year since the big buses are almost never filled.
 - There is consensus in the assembly that buses should run more frequently in the morning and evening (and until later hours), and that service could be reduced at midday.
- Parking: When there are events there is often no room to park in Lot 21. Would it be possible for someone to let us know about these events ahead of time? Perhaps something could be posted at the bus stops?
- Hooding Ceremony:
 - Students are troubled that the number of guests who can attend the event is so low.
 - A student says that her advisor is upset that she cannot hood her own students, as is common at other Universities (at Princeton, the Dean of the Graduate School performs all hoodings.)
 - There is a need for a better contingency plan in case of sudden rainstorms. This year's ceremony was supposed to be held on Cannon Green. Because of a sudden thunderstorm, the ceremony was moved at the last minute to Richardson Auditorium, but the space could not fit most guests. The hooding was rushed and students weren't individually hooded.
 - Suggestion that there be separate Spring and Fall hooding events to make more room for students and guests.

Executive Committee Report:

- Social Events:
 - About 250 people attended the School's Out Party. Please submit feedback to sblackma@princeton.edu or gsg@princeton.edu. Assembly members will receive a survey about the party which they should forward on to their departments.
 - The next party will probably happen in late July or early August.
- NAMI Walk:
 - 13 people participated and 43 donated money; overall \$1170 was raised. The money raised helps to reduce stigma of mental illness and support families. Most of the participants were from Psychology; please spread the word to other departments!
- Furniture Drive: We raised \$4,086. Last year we raised \$3,400. This money will go to Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Rescue Mission of Trenton.
 - We had trouble getting donated stuff to the charity trucks because of a miscommunication. Next year we need to bring large boxes for transporting clothing and small items to the trucks or the charity should bring a box. Big plastic trash bags are also helpful for transport.
 - We have a different organizer every year; the Exec Board wants to create a guide for the organizer to use each year.
 - Please email gsg@princeton.edu with suggestions about how to better organize the drive so that your suggestions can be added to the guide!
 - Julia Wittes (Secretary): We raise \$20,000 a year at my college, which is smaller. Maybe we should talk to them about how to make our drive even more successful?
 - Sometimes pylons are in the way of the trucks. We should see if Public Safety can help us remove barriers so that the trucks can drive right up to the tents.
- Events Board:
 - During the last seven months, the Events Board has provided funding for 34 events organized and run by graduate students. It has committed to fund 4 additional events, which are yet to occur.
 - The budget for the current year is \$20,100, and of this amount \$15,673 has been used.
 - Assembly is asked to help spread the word that there are plenty of funds available for event funding.
 - If events are to be held at the Graduate College, the GC House Committee is often able to contribute \$300 from their funding sources.
- Extended Frist Summer Hours:
 - Previously, Cafés closed at 2 pm. This year, the Frist Café will be open until 6 pm. We couldn't get the food gallery open past 5 pm at Frist.
 - Every Wednesday, the GC Summer Cookout will happen at Frist. There will be free summer events, including caricatures, free ice cream, free massages, and live music organized by the GSG. Bring your friends and co-workers! The cookouts happen at 6:00-7:30 on Wednesdays.

- Musicians cannot be paid.
- If many people use these options we can advocate for more dining options next summer.
- Volunteers Needed:
 - Two volunteers to serve on the Discipline Committee
 - The Committee deals with behavioral cases, not academic improprieties. Fortunately, this doesn't happen very often; in the last two years there was only one case. There are two evening meetings that serve as training sessions.
 - Mircea Davidescu (EEB rep) and Raphael Mendes de Oliveira volunteer.
 - A volunteer is needed to manage Graduate Writing Days. This is a paid position and requires access to a car. Writing Days is a project that originated in the GSG and is very popular.
- Proposed amendments to the GSG Constitution:
 - There are duties that need to be added for particular positions.
 - There is language in the Constitution that reflects the old organization of the CPUC. The section on the CPUC elections is going to be updated to reflect the new organization. The way things work now is that the GSG Assembly will elect people to Committees, and those elected to Committees will also serve in the general body. The section on the election process will be changed to formalize the process that we used for CPUC elections last month.
 - Voting Delegates: Constitution allows voting delegates for underrepresented minority groups (underrepresented in the assembly). Black Graduate Caucus and Women's Center haven't sent delegates in a long time. Problem is that the standard is being applied unequally. We are thinking of recognizing several groups and setting up a system for electing and replacing representatives for these groups.
 - One idea is to represent several groups of Graduate Students (below), each of which should represent at least 1% of Graduate Students. These groups would then be able to apply for a voting delegate in the Assembly:
 - Black Grad Students
 - Female Grad Students
 - LGBT Grad Students
 - Native American Grad Students
 - International Grad Students
 - Latino Graduate Students.
 - Assembly attendees want to know why Asian students aren't represented. Also, should women be represented given that we have many women already on the assembly? Should international students have voting delegates, given that we have many international graduate students on the assembly?
 - What will be the restrictions on adding further special interest groups? If we have too many voting delegates they might outnumber department reps, which would change the whole character of the GSG Assembly.

- Why represent specific groups instead of representing ways to apply for membership?
- These decisions are also important because the voting reps affect our ability to reach quorum.
- The assembly is very divided on this issue and we will continue to discuss it at future meetings.

The meeting is adjourned.

