

Minutes for the April 26 GSG Meeting

Eszter Hargittai, GSG Chair, called the meeting to order at circa 8:30pm. For the benefit of our guests, the Graduate Student Government assembly members were asked to introduce themselves briefly.

Item 1: Approval of the minutes

The minutes were tentatively approved while the attendance sheet circulated. (A subsequent vote made the approval definitive)

Item 2: CPUC U-Councilor and Committee elections

The April GSG meeting marks the first time in which the Graduate Student Government has elected the graduate CPUC (Council of the Princeton University Community) U - Councilors and made nominations for CPUC Committee members. Appointments for the CPUC Committee members will be made by the CPUC executive committee in the fall.

- # Although in one case a candidate had a proxy speaker, in all other cases the aspiring U - Councilors or CPUC committee members either spoke personally or communicated their objectives and merits through their written statements.
- # Jim Vere, GSG Representative Secretary, served as moderator during the elections. Jim also tabulated the votes and reviewed for the assembly the voting procedure.
- # The election was conducted in two phases. The assembly first elected the five U - Councilors. Afterward, GSG nominees for some of the CPUC Committee positions were determined by vote in the GSG Assembly. In fact, the Executive Committee seats were filled while nominations were made for positions on the other committees. What follows is a brief account of the elections, and a complete list of the graduate U - Councilors and CPUC Committee nominees.
- # In electing the U - Councilors, a multiple transferable voting procedure was employed. Assembly members were asked to

generate a list of 5 preferred U - Councilors and to indicate next to each member of the list the order of preference.

Five U-Councilors were elected from eight candidates. The five are

Tamar Friedmann
Karthick Ramakrishnan
Michi Taga
Manish Vachharajani
Mary "Betsy" Wheeler

It was reaffirmed that the GSG Chair would serve on the Executive Committee of the CPUC. The point was discussed briefly within the assembly. Eszter's argument was simply that having the GSG Chair serve on the Executive Committee of the CPUC insures that it is connected with the Graduate Student Government. The Chair, having been elected by 50% of the filled assembly seats, can be assumed to be responsible enough to merit the votes needed for election. Hence, the custom of electing the GSG chair to the CPUC Executive Committee seems to be a wise tradition. Though it was reaffirmed by the Assembly that the Chair of the GSG would serve on the CPUC Executive Committee, that person is not necessarily Eszter. Rather, this individual will be the person serving as GSG Chair in the autumn. (It is worth stating that whether or not the GSG chair had been elected to the Executive Committee, both the GSG Chair and Parliamentary Secretary hold seats on the CPUC ex officio.)

The U - Councilors present were called upon to vote for the nominations for the remaining members of the U-Council Committees. Karthick Ramakrishnan, GSG Treasurer, and U - Councilor Betsy Wheeler were the candidates. After collecting and tabulating the votes, Jim Vere announced that Karthick would be the GSG nominee for next year's GSG Chair on the Executive Committee.

In the case of the Governance Committee, noone was initially slated to run. As Jim explained, the Governance Committee handles procedural matters within the University.

% Ultimately, David Linsenmeier agreed to run unopposed for the position on the CPUC Governance Committee and

therefore will be the GSG nominee to that position.

Jim turned next to the uncontested CPUC committee positions.

% Jim Vere and Jason Brownlee, sustaining no objections, were nominated for the Priorities Committee. While neither Jason nor Jim anticipated any objection, both discussed aspects of their background and goals pertinent to the Priorities Committee.

After becoming a member of the Priorities Committee, Jim Vere conducted the vote for nomination of the two members of the Rights and

Rules Committee. Each of the three candidates - (Tamar Friedmann, Eszter Hargittai, and Robyn Leboeuf) - were given an opportunity to speak. Robyn and Eszter spoke briefly and Jim read from Tamar's email statement.

After collecting and tabulating the votes cast by the GSG representatives, Jim announced that Eszter and Robyn had won the vote for nomination.

The results of the GSG vote for nomination to the CPUC Committees are summarized below.

Graduate Nominees for CPUC Committees

Executive Committee:

GSG Chair
Karthick Ramakrishnan

Resources Committee:

Elliot Ratzman

Judicial Committee:

Rebecca Schwartz

Governance:

David Linsenmeier

Priorities Committee:

Jason Brownlee
Jim Vere

Rights and Rules:

Eszter Hargittai
Robyn Leboeuf

Item 3: Committee and Project Reports

Campus Center Committee: Nathan and Cindy provided the report. The Frist Campus Center is preparing for a grand opening at the start of the Fall semester in September.

% The anticipated copy center has been downgraded to a set of loosely connected copy machines combined with a pick-up and drop-off service station linked to the printing department.

% Although the Frist Center will not assume full operation until September, the GSG has nevertheless been invited to meet in the Frist Center this spring, in May.

Postenrollment: An email has been sent to Dean Redman requesting written information on why the situation for postenrolled students is the way it is. Indeed, given the ongoing confusion on the matter, the Post-enrollment Committee thought it would be helpful to obtain a written explanation of why it is so hard to reduce the difficulties associated with post-enrollment status.

The GSG Endowment: Eric indicated that the GSG investment in the Princeton endowment has been approved by the University. The GSG funds that have been earmarked for this purpose will be invested, Eric said, by the end of April.

APGA Outreach: Lauren Hale provided evidence that the APGA socials had gone well. The Butler Apartments event was well attended, but "under - pizza'd". The dearth of pizza was viewed as a consequence of the popularity of the event.

It was reported to the assembly that approximately 150 persons attended the Lawrence social, another successful APGA event.

The APGA event at Hibben/Magie was somewhat less popular. This is possibly a consequence of the GSG party held there the previous evening.

Constitution Committee: Eric Adelizzi provided the report. The committee has produced several drafts of a revised constitution. Eric's hope was that by the end of April, the Committee's final version would be placed on the GSG web page. The draft would then be open to commentary from the graduate student population.

The next step is to gain approval from the assembly at the May GSG meeting. Finally, the constitutional referendum would be scheduled for next September at graduate student registration.

Item 4: New Business

Graduate Alumni Trustee Initiative: At present, only one of the 40 University Trustees is a graduate alumnus. The hope is for the number of graduate alumni trustees to be increased to five and to have at least two graduate alumni on the board, though four would be ideal.

Teaching and Research Compensation: Concern has developed over whether funding for graduate teaching is increased to offset rises in costs of living. As Eszter mentioned, it will be necessary to gather data on the University departments to gain a picture of how graduate instructors are compensated. The discussion broadened to include the funding of Assistants in Research.

It became clear that the process for determining teaching and research wages varies widely from department to department. A short list was made of departments which do adjust the AI and AR funds to match costs of living. The three are

Molecular Biology

Physics

Psychology

As there were no volunteers to pursue this issue, there is currently no one working on gathering more information about departments that adjust graduate student stipends.

The GSG Archive Initiative: The GSG has often had difficulty maintaining an institutional memory spanning more than a just one or two years. This problem, Eszter noted, has hampered in particular the Postenrollment Committee.

The development of a reliable archive system could save the GSG time and make it more powerful by allowing us to build on earlier successes and to learn from failures in the past.

An obvious first step is to make certain that a filing cabinet is installed in our office in the Frist Campus Center.

Status of the Debasement Bar: A house committee member verified that one difficulty the D-Bar has NOT faced is a paucity of Graduate College Membership stickers. Evidently, only 20 students have applied for membership. One voice in the assembly cited laziness as one reason for the sluggish rate of sticker applications.

% Karthick, GSG Treasurer, pointed out the fact that attendance in the Debasement Bar has declined noticeably in recent months.

% Others in the assembly acknowledged the drop in attendance, but cautioned that it was too soon to know if the reduction in D-Bar attendance is a consequence of the recent policy change restricting D-Bar attendance to Graduate College House members and guests or as a result of the confusion caused by the reactions to the D-Bar issue.

% Karthick praised the enhanced dialogue between graduate students and the administration brought about by more frequent meetings with the Deans of the Graduate School.

Graduation Protocols and Princeton Thesis Templates:

Olgica mentioned that the process for completing a doctoral degree is quite intricate. Graduate students nearing completion would, she said, be aided by convenient access to a summary of the steps required for graduation.

Thesis templates are a related matter. Each field has its own thesis format, but many students would benefit from access to a Latex thesis template. Latex is a word processing system frequently used in the scientific and engineering fields. Setting up a thesis latex document requires a list of specific commands that aren't widely known.

It was suggested that posting information on the GSG web page about the procedure for degree completion and thesis templates could be of service to many graduate students. Perhaps department representatives could be called upon to provide the specific information.

Item 5: Communication

Manuel Sales attended the Ivy Leaders conference at the University of Pennsylvania. Manuel presented the assembly with a report on his visit. Assembly members were urged to study the report and prepare to discuss issues of particular relevance to the GSG at the next Assembly meeting.

Mentoring Program: Eszter read to the Assembly a message suggesting that a mentoring program be set up for the benefit of new representatives. If established, the program would aim at providing the new

representation an orientation within the GSG. As Eszter mentioned, such programs exist elsewhere, though the example she had in mind came from an undergraduate group.

Meeting in the Frist Campus Center: Paul Breitman contacted Eszter to offer to provide the GSG Assembly a tour of the Frist Center at the next meeting and also to allow us to conduct our next meeting there. We've decided to accept the offer.

Karthick reminded that a public forum on issues concerning graduate students would be held on Friday in Bowen Hall.

Item 6: Report of the Treasurer

Karthick presented the sole funding request received by the GSG. Since the request was proposed by Karthick, Eszter briefly assumed the role of treasurer as the Assembly discussed the request.

Karthick asked for \$300 to purchase a full page in the Daily Princetonian to display portraits of the Graduate U - Councilors and CPUC committee members. Although only \$300 was requested by Karthick, the amount of \$325 also was proposed to handle extra costs not covered by the \$300 funding package.

Ultimately, after some discussion, the assembly selected the \$325 option and agreed to Karthick's plan. The merit of advertising in the Princetonian, Karthick noted, is the fact that it is widely read by undergraduates and carefully read by the University Administration and Trustees.

Item 7: Report of the Social Chair

Lauren announced that the Spring Fling had been a successful event with a great deal of dancing. Lauren also urged officers and Assembly members to assist with the setting up of future social events.

Lauren reminded the assembly of the upcoming 80's party. Fliers were handed out for distribution. The event was unique in that a special license had been procured to permit non GC House members to attend. An invitation also was extended to members of the Princeton Theological Seminary. The GSG was a cosponsor of the 80's party.

Item 8: Scheduling of the May meeting and Adjournment

Tentatively, the next meeting has been scheduled for the 24th of May at 6pm. The meeting is to take place in the Frist Campus Center.

The April 26 GSG meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30pm.