

# GSU Assembly Meeting Minutes

**April 30, 1997**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by presiding officer, Robert Weiner.

Present: 15 reps. 3 non-reps. Sign-in sheet attached.

**Item 1:** Evan Haefeli (Press Secretary) moved to approve the minutes from last meeting. Approved by unanimous consent.

**Item 2:** Report of Rep Secretary. Jill Reiss announced that David Koos has replaced Sooji Park as the representative for Butler Apartments. There have been no other changes in the Assembly roster since the last meeting. The number of active seats is 41 with five vacancies, so the 60% quorum needed to conduct business is 25.

N.B. Since a quorum was not present, it was noted that the meeting would be restricted to discussion only (no votes would be taken).

**Item 3:** Robert Weiner (Co-Chair/Project Coordinator) then reported on developments since the last meeting.

1. An undergraduate has now been employed by Student Advantage to enroll Princeton-area businesses in their discount program. Student Advantage Membership will be free to AT&T customers.
2. A group of Butler apartment residents have identified in great detail a series of traffic safety issues on routes between Butler and campus. Also, Adam Davis has led a group of Graduate College inhabitants to do the same on routes between the GC and campus. Robert put these activists in touch with Sherrie Glass (WWS Rep.) who agreed at the

March meeting to investigate the issue of pedestrian safety on Washington Road. The goal is to coordinate all these graduate student concerns about pedestrian/bicycle safety into a single position paper.

3. The new parking lot for graduate students, near the Stadium, is now open.
4. Robert testified at the March meeting of the Council of the Princeton University Community (CPUC) about the desirability of allowing post-enrolled students to run for graduate student seats on the Council. Since then he has been working with Council members to try and implement this change.

**Item 4:** Karen Lipton-Dentler announced that the Campus Center Committee will be having an open house on May 7 that grad students are welcome to attend. Things look good for the GSU, which, according to current plans, will have an office and conference room in the Center. Also, she announced that summer jobs are available at the GC. Contact her for details.

**Item 5:** Robert announced that Dean Wilson and CIT were impressed with the GSU letter regarding graduate computer use. They recognize the need for certain reforms, but have also informed us of the difficulty of pursuing them. For example, it is unclear how broken chairs could be replaced because CIT does not have jurisdiction over the furniture in the computer clusters. However, CIT is doing cost estimates for setting up computer clusters in the graduate apartment complexes. Representatives from CIT will be invited to our next meeting.

**Item 6:** Robert Weiner reported on the activities of the dental project team. Updated information about several options for grad students are listed on the GSU Web Page. The team has successfully negotiated new discounts with an oral surgeon and an endodontist located near campus.

**Item 7:** Robert Weiner noted that we only have two volunteers to evaluate an eye-care plan, and more are needed for the project to be operational.

**Item 8:** Peter Park (Co-Chair/Treasurer) reported on the online Career Services Guide for grad students. Working with the office of Career Services, the online guide will have links to notices about on-campus recruiting activities, electronic resources (like job listings), and an exit survey on Princeton PhDs. The complete set of links will be established over the summer so that the site will be ready by the fall.

**Item 9:** Scott Harper (Web Page Coordinator) announced that a rough version of the GSU Welcome to Princeton Guide is now available on our Web Page. Reps should examine it and bring suggestions to the next meeting or email them to . Scott is also hoping to cooperate with the USG on improving the guide.

**Item 10:** Robert opened discussion on GSU usage of listservers. At present there are three: for Assembly discussion; for posting notices to the Assembly; for posting notices to all interested grad students. The GSU does not control a listserver for all graduate students, though the USG has one for all undergraduates. The only listserver reaching all graduate students is operated by Dean Montero.

The possibility of establishing a similar universal list for the GSU was broached to Dean Joy Montero, but Dean Montero was reluctant to approve it for reasons of protecting the graduate students' privacy. However, she did agree to do so if the GSU adheres to the following conditions: 1) People can unsubscribe; 2) The grad deans must be list owners; 3) Only the GSU executive committee will send out messages and it will not be possible to send replies to the list. Dan Wallach (Computer Science) volunteered to write a proposed charter for such a list, taking Dean

Montero's concerns into consideration. The proposed charter will be discussed at the May meeting.

**Item 11:** Roberto Lint-Sagarena reported that he now has 11 responses from Directors of Graduate Studies regarding the letter circulated to them on post-enrollment issues. Responses were from: Chemistry; Chemical Engineering; Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; German; Molecular Biology; Near Eastern Studies; Philosophy; Plasma Physics; Politics; Religion; Sociology. At the moment we are unsure how to proceed, given the limited number of responses and the mixed nature of their responses.

In the meantime, we shall continue to push post-enrollment issues incrementally, such as making post-enrolled students eligible for serving on university committees, like the CPUC.

**Item 12:** Report of the Social Chair, Patrice Jean: The GSU sponsored coffee house at the GC in celebration of Graduate Student Appreciation Week was a great success. Dean Redman was present.

N.B. Discussion of Goals for GSU Constitutional Review had to be postponed until May because a quorum was not present.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Item 13:** Ben Gum, a grad student in Computer Science, raised a complaint about the Housing Department. He claimed Housing is not enforcing its non-smoking policy effectively, and in particular was ignoring his allergy to smoke and not treating his problem with respect. The reps. in attendance resolved to draft a letter regarding Ben's situation. A draft will be circulated to all reps. over email to see if anyone objects to sending the letter. It was suggested that the GSU consider a resolution regarding the

enforcement of smoking policies in the fall prior to the next Housing Policy Committee meeting.

**Item 14:** Jon Paul Rodriguez (EEB) announced that the Distinguished Teaching Award winners have been selected, but neither he nor anyone else on the committee can say to whom until it is announced at Commencement.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.