

Minutes from April 18, 2001
Graduate Student Government
Frist Campus Center

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by chair Matt Fouse. Pizza was served.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March GSG meeting were approved with the three changes suggested by Eric Adelizzi.

III. Housing Issues with Guest Speakers

Michael McKay from Princeton's Facilities department and Chad Biggs and Heidi Kaplan from Brailsford and Dunlavey spoke to the GSG about the housing situation. Mr. McKay is on the long-term housing committee that includes graduate students Eric Adelizzi and Mary Haas. Brailsford and Dunlavey is a company that has been asked to help gather information from the grad student body about housing. Ms. Kaplan comes from Rutgers where she worked on urban planning, and Mr. Biggs has an MBA in business and marketing. Brailsford and Dunlavey plans to send a web-based survey containing 30 questions about housing to grad students. In addition, they would like to create focus groups to discuss housing issues. The focus groups would include individuals who live in Butler and Lawrence apartments and the Graduate College. When asked why Hibben and Magie apartments were not included, Ms. Kaplan replied that the focus groups are intended to be small, and input from other grad students would be solicited later. Mr. McKay asked the Assembly for suggestions for how to find people to participate in these discussions, and what times would be the most convenient to meet. Members of the Assembly replied that the present time through the end of May is especially inconvenient for those taking classes and generals. The first round of focus groups should meet in mid-May, and concept testing will be done later. The advertising for the survey will go through Dean Montero's email list. When asked how systematic biases in the survey would be addressed, Ms. Kaplan replied that she expected a non-response bias for off-campus students, as well as biases favoring other groups, and they would take these biases into consideration.

Ms. Kaplan asked the Assembly for their thoughts about campus housing in order to better understand how grad students feel about certain issues. She first asked how important the availability of housing was to students when they came to Princeton. Matt Moore stated that subsidized

housing was a financial incentive for coming to Princeton. Others indicated that having a sense of community in on-campus housing, particularly the Graduate College, was an important consideration, and that those forced to live off-campus feel ostracized from the community. Ms. Kaplan asked whether dormitory-style housing is appropriate for grad students. Several members of the Assembly stated that their main reason for not living in the GC was the forced meal plan and the lack of adequate kitchen space for GC residents. In addition, it is typically not possible for single first year grad students to live in on-campus apartments rather than the GC. Ms. Kaplan asked whether the departments are the only place that grad students are able to meet people. Members of the Assembly stated that there are numerous groups and social activities that are not associated with particular dorms or apartments. Others reiterated that the GC is a great place to meet people, particularly at the dining hall.

Ms. Kaplan asked the Assembly for their thoughts about what kind of new graduate housing the University should construct. Suggestions included dormitory-style "villages" where single students and families could live near each other and interact. Others emphasized that for many grad students, having a mandatory meal plan is an unattractive characteristic of the GC, and should be avoided for the new housing.

When asked how high a priority graduate housing should be, members of the Assembly mentioned the benefit of University housing for students coming from overseas and the difference in the cost of housing in the surrounding areas. Many members agreed that there is an urgent need for more graduate housing.

IV. Officer Reports

A. Treasurer's report

Ori Heffetz thanked Steve Miller for his help with the budget. The GSG owes money that has not yet been paid to the Butler Committee and the GC House Committee. Ori discussed two budget requests. The first was for a swing party that had already taken place, and therefore was not discussed. The second request was from the Butler Committee for \$600 to co-sponsor two events. In the past, the GSG has given \$600 for spring events at Butler. The two events at Butler for the spring are Cinco de Mayo and an Earth Day picnic. Cinco de Mayo was the most well received event last year, and approximately 250 people are expected to attend the event this year. The costs for this event include Mexican food and

beverages; the Butler Committee asked the GSG to provide funding for half of the costs (\$400). Discussion followed concerning the amount of funding

given to Butler versus the GC. When asked how much money remained in the GSG budget, Ori stated that there was \$2000. There was some question about whether this included \$1000 from Dean Montero. After further discussion, the Assembly voted to give the Butler Committee \$600, in addition to paying off the \$200 debt.

Another request for funding came from Simon Paterson on behalf of the D-bar for cosponsorship for an '80s party and Band Night. He requested \$200 for '80s night, in addition to at least one email for advertisement. He requested \$400 for Band Night, to cover one third of the cost of the staff and equipment and one fourth of the cost of the bands. After much discussion about the budget, the Assembly voted to give

the D-bar \$300 and send 2 emails for advertisement.

Another funding request came from Jacob for the "D-bar Pimp 'n Ho Ball Hip Hop Dance" for \$100. This money would cover two thirds of the cost of decorations. Ulli Struve added that proctors would also be required, at a rate of \$50/hour, bringing the cost to \$350. Amy Shuster noted that she objected to the name "Pimp 'n Ho Ball". The Assembly voted

not to support this event with GSG money.

On behalf of Kerry Bystrom, a request was made for \$150 to support Communiversity. As this funding was already approved at the previous meeting, no vote was taken. Ulli noted that selling T-shirts and CDs could be a way to make money at Communiversity.

Eric pointed out that the bylaws of the constitution require one week notice for funding requests.

B. Corresponding Secretary Report

Adrian Banner asked all new Assembly members to identify themselves by email in order to update the GSG's information.

Adrian reminded the Assembly that graduate students traditionally hold a furniture drive at the end of each academic year to sell furniture that has been discarded by undergraduates as they leave campus. The event typically takes place in late May after exams, and the proceeds are given to charity. Many graduate students have benefited from the furniture drive in the past. This year, volunteers are needed to be in charge of the furniture drive. This position requires 20-25 hours of work. In addition, 40 volunteers are needed to work during the event itself. Adrian asked interested individuals to send an email to himself or the GSG.

C. Social Chair Report

Yesim Tozan gave the Assembly feedback on the recent wine tasting event. She noted that the sign-up system worked well. Funding for the event included \$200 from the House Committee, \$100 from Ulli's fund, \$150 from the GSG, and \$500 from the \$5 per person cover charge; the costs of the event totaled \$924.

The APGA is interested in sponsoring the spring fling and covering all costs for the event. They suggested that the event take place at the end of May, either the 18th, 19th, or 11th. Members of the GSG would need to work with Dining Services. Yesim asked for one more volunteer to work on the event. The spring fling is expected to be a whole day event with a tent and barbecue. Live bands would play on stage until about 11 p.m., and a DJ would take over until about 1:30 to lessen the noise for GC residents. The event would take place outside the GC facing the golf course, and would probably be in the reunions tent.

V. Business

A. PriCom Report

Jim Vere announced that the Priorities Committee would hold a public meeting on Tuesday, April 24, in Betts Auditorium at 6:30 p.m., to allow anyone to speak to the PriCom members about issues concerning them.

B. CPUC Elections

Matt Fouse announced the candidates running for positions on the CPUC: Jim Vere, Lauren Hale, Donnell Butler, Lior Silberman, Tamar Friedmann, and Michi Taga. Matt Fouse ran the elections in place of Parliamentary Secretary Matt Hindman. The Assembly voted by the method of single transferable vote. Members were asked to rank up to six candidates in their order of preference. While the votes were being tabulated, Matt Moore gave the Assembly an update on parking and transportation (see next section).

Matt Fouse announced the five winners of the CPUC elections: Donnell Butler, Jim Vere, Lauren Hale, Lior Silberman, and Tamar Friedmann. The newly elected CPUC members decided to vote for the CPUC Exec position after the GSG meeting.

The Assembly next voted to nominate individuals for positions on CPUC subcommittees. Jim Vere's nomination to PriCom was approved by the Assembly. Jim gave a description of the Priorities Committee. The main task of the Priorities Committee is to balance the budget of the University. People make presentations to PriCom, which makes recommendations to the President. The President makes proposals to the Trustees. From October through December, PriCom typically meets 2-3 times

per week, sometimes for up to 3 hours. Jim stated that the maximum time the PriCom has spent is 8 hours in one week. PriCom is currently reviewing the proposal from WROC. Jim stated that by serving on PriCom, he has learned about how the University operates. Currently, Jim Vere and

James Wilson serve on PriCom. Lior was nominated and declined. Kevin Osterloh was nominated and accepted after some deliberation.

The Resources Committee makes recommendations about University investments. Matt Moore nominated himself, and the Assembly approved his nomination. Michi Taga was nominated to serve on the Judicial Committee. The CPUC charter states that undergraduates serving as USG Exec members may not simultaneously serve on the Judicial Committee; since there is no such guideline regarding GSG Exec members, there was no conflict with the CPUC charter. Michi's nomination was approved. David Linsenmeier was nominated for the Governance Committee. Tamar Friedmann and Jason Casellas were nominated to the Rights and Rules Committee. The Assembly approved their nominations.

C. The ad hoc post-election committee decided to postpone its report until the next meeting.

D. GSLI Committee Reports

Donnell Butler reported on the Departmental Survey and handed out copies of a rough draft of the survey. The departmental survey will help the GSG understand students' lives in various departments. The survey includes questions about post-enrollment and housing. Donnell requested feedback from those who received copies of the survey.

E. Parking and Transportation

Matt Moore and Yesim Tozan reported that a change in graduate student parking on campus has been proposed. The following changes are being deliberated. Residents of the GC, Butler, Lawrence, and Hibben-Magie would no longer be allowed to park on campus during the day before 5:00 p.m. Instead, a shuttle service would be provided to transport students to campus from the GC and on-campus apartments. In addition, the GC parking fee would be eliminated, and a \$130 campus parking fee would be instituted. Matt suggested that the GSG conduct a survey to elicit feedback from grad students regarding parking and transportation. Assembly members expressed concern about the need for occasional parking on campus and the reliability of the potential shuttle.

Matt suggested that individuals could express their concerns about the change in policy by emailing the GSG.

F. Communiversity

On behalf of Kerry Bystrom, Sinead Macnamara announced that Communiversity would be held on Saturday, April 28, from noon until 4 p.m.

She stated that volunteers from the GSG and the GC House Committee would be needed to work at the Graduate School booth. There will be a sign for the Graduate School and a banner for the GC.

G. Statement on Confidentiality

Amy Shuster is planning to draft a statement on confidentiality regarding electronic communication, which she will present to the GSG at a later date.

VI. New Business

A. Take Back the Night

The Take Back the Night march is scheduled for April 28, beginning at 8:00 p.m. in the chapel. The purpose of the march is to increase awareness about sexual violence. Participants will walk to various locations on campus and chant in an effort to stop violence against women and men. Additional events leading up to the Take Back the Night march are:

Sunday, April 22: Open mic night at Murray Dodge café

Friday, April 20, 11a.m. - 4 p.m.: Clothesline project - T-shirts created

by survivors of sexual violence and their families.

Thursday, April 26, 8:30 p.m., McCosh 50: Alex Olson, slam poet

Next Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.: Workshop about sexual assault: How to support

friends; University policy and procedures.

Amy distributed buttons and ribbons to interested Assembly members. She added that two years ago, marchers were heckled as they walked. Last year, 250-350 people attended the march as a result of good advertising. Amy encouraged people to come to the march.

B. Other new business

Steve Miller expressed concern about the Housing Department's policy on giving priority to grad students with families. Other members of the Assembly expressed opinions that the housing assignments should be based on need, and that students with dependents (children or parents) or lower incomes should be considered to have greater need. Steve pointed out that giving housing to a married couple often has the effect of excluding some grad students from housing who might have been able to have

housing if the policy did not take marriage or domestic partnership into account. Matt Moore suggested that the GSG assign a committee to investigate the issue further. There was also a question about whether the Housing department bases housing assignments on whether a grad student owns a car. Steve took an informal poll of those present and found that the majority disagreed with the proposal that all grad students of the same year should have the same priority for housing.

Matt Fouse suggested that the Assembly meet again on May 16, in Frist Multipurpose Room C. The meeting was adjourned.