

GSU Assembly Meeting Minutes

August 27, 1997

DRAFT

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by presiding officer, Robert Weiner.

Present: 14 reps. 2 non-reps. Sign-in sheet (not yet) attached.

Item 1: Scott Harper (acting as Press Secretary tonight in place of Evan Haefeli who was absent) made a motion to accept the minutes from the July meeting as they were distributed by email. Minutes were approved without changes by unanimous consent.

Item 2: Report of Rep Secretary. Jill Reiss announced that the Assembly now has 34 active seats with the addition of our new Millstone Apartments rep, Alison Lake.

Item 3: Update on events since last meeting.

- Robert Weiner (Co-chair) reported that he had represented the GSU at two events since the last meeting - an ESL dinner, which was well attended, and an orientation session at the GC, which was not.
- Robert reported that a student had asked that for a refund of his \$5 GSU membership fee. The Executive Committee met on 8/26 and decided that a refund was not appropriate. The GSU Constitution, ratified by a referendum among all grad students, established a mandatory \$5 membership fee for enrolled students with no provisions for refunds. Peter Park (co-chair/treasurer) searched the financial records and found no evidence that refunds had been given in the past. Furthermore, allowing students to renounce their GSU membership would create logistical problems such as keeping track of who was no longer a member and therefore not allowed to attend GSU social events. The student will be advised that the upcoming constitutional review would be an appropriate time to propose changing the definition of GSU membership.
- Karen Lipton-Dentler (GS/GC Student Affairs Admin) made two announcements. The interactive calendar is now in place on the Graduate College homepage at

<http://www.princeton.edu/~gradcol> under the "What's New" section. Also, there will be a dance sponsored by the Graduate School at the GC on Friday, September 19th at 9pm, with free beer and free food.

Item 4: Report of the Web Page Administrator. Scott Harper announced that the GSU Welcome Guide has most of the current locations and business hyperlinked, but assistance is needed in adding content and verifying the current information. Jon Paul Rodriguez (EEB) and Steph Harves (Slavic) volunteered to help verify and update phone numbers. All reps were encouraged to look over the Guide and add their input.

Item 5: Discussion about GSU Organizational Planning

- Registration Robert distributed samples of the Student Advantage flyers and a draft copy of a GSU information sheet that will be handed out at the registration table. Reps gave feedback on the content and appearance of the info sheet. Volunteers were solicited to sit at the GSU table during graduate student registration. The schedule for Monday, September 8th is as follows: 9:00am - 11:00am Jon Paul Rodriguez (EEB)
- Mike Blanton (Astropysics)
- 11:00am - 1:00pm Heather VanBuskirk (Hib/Mag)
Alison Lake (Millstone)
- 1:00pm - 3:00pm John Sebastian (ChemE)
Max Karasik (PPL)
- 3:00pm - 5:00pm John Stewart (MAE)
Steph Harves (Slavic)
- The GSU-sponsored BBQ will be at the Graduate College on Saturday, September 6th at 5:30pm. Dining Services will do most of the set-up, but a few volunteers were solicited to help keep things running smoothly and staff a GSU info table. Kapil Agrawal (CIGS) and John Sebastian (ChemE) offered to help.
- The two new list servers will likely be set-up in September. If the grad_events list is operational in time, it will be advertised at the GSU table during registration. Jill Reiss is working with CIT to get them running.
- Officer elections will occur September 24th, during the next Assembly meeting. It was decided that candidates for the positions should declare themselves by Wednesday the 17th, after which Jill will send out the candidate list by email. This deadline will

allow one week for campaigning. Reps were encouraged to email if they are interested in running for a position, or to contact individual officers if they have questions about their duties.

Item 6: New Business: Robert announced that the GSU had applied to the Graduate School for funding to send representatives to the NAGPS National Conference in New Orleans, October 30 - November 2. The Graduate School approved funding of \$250 per person for up to two GSU reps to attend.

The GSU has been nominated for a major NAGPS award. We are one of four nominees:

GRAD/PROF STUDENT ORG OF THE YEAR (Awarded to One GPSO)

Council of Graduate Students, Ohio State University

Graduate Student Union, Princeton University

Graduate Student Association, University of Nevada/Reno

Graduate & Professional Student Assembly, University of Pennsylvania

The Executive Committee recommended that one member each from the outgoing and incoming Executive Committees attend the conference, which has a \$200 per person registration fee. There was a motion to conditionally approve funding for airfare for the two reps, as long as the costs are reasonable (a figure of approximately \$300 per person was estimated). The motion was passed 14:0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm, in a record 40 minutes.