

## **GSG Assembly meeting**

**Date: Wednesday 12 August, 6pm**

**Venue: 127 Corwin Hall**

### Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Confirmation of previous minutes
3. Reports
  - a. Chair
  - b. Academic Affairs Committee
  - c. Campus Relations Committee
  - d. Facilities Committee
  - e. Health & Life Committee
4. Decision Items
  - a. Neuroscience Representative to GSG Assembly
  - b. Selection of 2009 Ivy Summit Delegates
  - c. 2010 Ivy Summit Planning Committee
  - d. Membership of National Association of Graduate & Professional Students
  - e. Funding delegate to attend NAGPS national conference
5. Discussion Items
  - a. New webmail client
  - b. Campus Club
  - c. Printing Policy
6. New Business
7. Close

### **1. Welcome**

The meeting commenced at 6:04 pm.

### **2. Minutes**

The minutes for the July 8, 2009 GSG Assembly meeting were emailed to Assembly the previous week. One revision was sent (to change “P-RAID” to “P-RADE”). A motion was made to approve the minutes with the suggested revision. Since the meeting did not have quorum, Assembly approved the minutes unanimously as a committee of the whole.

### **3. Reports**

## a. Chair

### 1. Taxes

- Contacted Finance about offering domestic students on fellowships the option to have federal taxes automatically withheld by University.
- Assistant Treasurer informed that the University is *not* allowed to offer such a service, and that it withholds taxes from foreign students only because they do not have to file tax returns. (Office of General Counsel confirms that the latter is not true. Discussions with IRS and others indicate that former is also likely not true, although still waiting to confirm this.)
- As per IRS notice 87-31 (if you can find a copy of this online, then you're a better person than me – and four IRS staff members), the University is not *required* to withhold taxes for domestic students on fellowships. However several Universities offer this option to students anyway.
- **Kelly is writing a letter to the administration and we will follow this up over the course of the year.**

### 2. Privacy – Contact details published online

- Student home addresses publicly available online.
- Discussing restricting access this information only to people on Princeton domain, or to make it easy for students to control how much information is publicly available (e.g. using SCORE).

### 3. Charging purchases to student accounts

- University limits ability to charge certain purchases to student accounts during the summer. (Which purchases are restricted is determined on an ad-hoc basis – can charge meals at Frist, but not equipment at Dillon)
- Discussing leaving these privileges active all year in all cases.
- Also discussing fewer restrictions on building access during the summer.

### 4. Campus Club update

- Campus Club set to open on the first day of fall term – Thursday 17 Sept. A variety of events are planned for the opening weekend.
- The Club is intended to function as a student center, run by students, for students. We want to ensure that grads access that club, and that we make it our space as much as the undergraduates. Facilities include library/computer-cluster to do work, TV room, social lounge, games room, café/bar area.
- Clubs and groups can hire out rooms (for free) for events, such as mixers, meetings/discussions, film viewings and so on.
- For more info, see <http://blogs.princeton.edu/campusclub/>

### 5. Miscellaneous

- Position for a web-design/webmaster has been advertised via an all grad student global and on the undergraduate student work agency.
- Additional information about GSG and University services (such as UHS/SHP) included in the Graduate Students' Guide to the Universe.

6. Save the Date

- New Student Sign In – Wed Sept 16, 9am – 12pm, East Pyne
- **GSG Town Hall Meeting (Guest: Shirley Tilghman) – Wed Sept 30, 6pm**
- Ivy Summit: Fri Oct 9 – Sun Oct 11 at Cornell.
- GSG Assembly BBQ – mid/late October?

It was clarified at the meeting that students can make charges his/her PU account at Frist during the summer, but the charges will be applied to September stipend.

**b. Academic Affairs Committee**

The committee had nothing to report.

**c. Campus Relations Committee**

The committee had nothing to report.

**d. Facilities Committee**

A full report about the fall shuttle schedule, plus a discussion of concerns, was sent in advance to assembly (see 080912\_shuttle\_report.pdf).

Report Summary:

1. There will be new shuttle routes and schedule for the Fall, starting Sept 17, 2009.
2. These were designed by TPS (Transportation and Parking Services) to be more efficient and cost effective than last year's routes, while still serving all of our needs
3. There is a new fleet of buses, which will allow standees in addition to seated passengers for more capacity. GPS tracking will continue.

Summary of New Routes – Fall 2009 service starting Sept 17, 2009

1. Weekday daytime service (Monday-Friday until 7pm)
  - a. Tiger Line – connects Lawrence and Hibben/Magie to main campus
  - b. East Line – connects Butler and Lot 21 to main campus
  - c. West Line (extended) – connects GC and Seminary housing to main campus
  - d. Forrestal line – connects Forrestal Campus to main campus (until 8pm)
2. Weekday evening service

- a. Campus Circulator – connects all grad housing to each other and to main campus in the evenings.
  - b. West line – connects Seminary to Seminary housing
  - c. On-demand shuttle – 7 days per week, 11pm-3am during the academic year
3. Weekend service
- a. Saturday Shopper – every other Saturday – connects grad housing to shopping centers on Rt. 1
  - b. Saturday Campus Connection – no service

**e. Health & Life Committee**

- 1. The committee will be meeting soon with the Student Health Plan manager, Michele Gregory. Topics on the agenda for discussion include the following: dental plan options progress, conversion plans for leave of absence, and post-graduation coverage
- 2. Kathy Wagner (Health Educator, UHS) – responded to the summary report of the Healthier Princeton meeting:
  - a. Grad students are not eligible for several screening events offered to faculty/staff throughout the year (such as skin cancer screenings), but are covered for these same procedures at McCosh Health Center. Ms. Gregory intends to compile a master list about how we can get the equivalent services, and we should contact her if we are interested in setting up screenings that we don't get through McCosh. Ms Gregory specifically mentioned that she is willing to help start a Weight watchers program for grad students if there is enough interest.
  - b. A problem with Aetna student health coverage was brought up at the meeting. Some students have reported being temporarily “blacked out” of the Aetna member system. The GSG may to follow through on this, as Aetna customer service shared that they have encountered this problem with Princeton students before

**4. Decision Items**

**a. Neuroscience Representative to GSG Assembly**

**Motion:** That the GSG Assembly note the following proposal to amend the By-Laws, to enable the Neuroscience Program to be represented separately within the GSG.

**Proposed Amendment to By Law I (3)**

*Recognized Programs. The following academic programs are recognized as separate Academic Units: Applied and Computational Mathematics, Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, History of Science, Neuroscience, Plasma Physics, and Population Research.*

*Moved: Praveena Joseph-de Saram*  
*Seconded: Giri Parameswaran*

A motion to table the vote was carried unanimously via a hand vote.

**b. 2009 Ivy Summit Delegates**

1. The Ivy Summit takes place the Oct 9-11 weekend, the GSG has funds to send 4 delegates. Last year's delegates reported that their experience at the 2008 Ivy Summit helped them generate ideas new events, new policies, and new GSG advocacy strategies
2. Candidates:
  - a. 3 candidates were nominated prior to the meeting (Praveena Joseph-de-Saram (Mol Bio rep), Raghuveer Vinukollu (Treasurer), and Divjyot Sethi (ELE). The candidates' statements were read aloud at the meeting.
  - b. Rose Ndong (Black Graduate Caucus Chair) volunteered to fill the fourth slot.
3. A motion to elect the four candidates carried unanimously.

**c. 2010 Ivy Summit Planning Committee**

**Motion:** That the GSG Assembly establish the 'Ivy Summit Planning Committee' to organise the 2010 Ivy Summit to be held at Princeton University. The Committee shall consist of at least 3 members, including the chair of the GSG and any other interested members. Members shall serve until March 2010, when the Committee shall be reappointed. The Chair of the ISPC (who shall be selected by the Committee from amongst its members) shall present a monthly report to the GSG Assembly.

*Moved: Giri Parameswaran*

*Seconded: Kevin Collins*

The motion carried unanimously

Rose Ndong, Giri Parameswaran and Kevin Collins volunteered to participate in the committee.

**Motion:** That the GSG Assembly request the Chair of the Ivy Summit Planning Committee to propose a time-line to the October meeting of the GSG Assembly, for its consideration, regarding the anticipated activity of the Committee. Further, that the GSG Assembly request the Chair of the ISPC to furnish a meeting schedule as soon as possible, to inform members of meetings, and to encourage participation in the Committee.

*Moved: Giri Parameswaran*

*Seconded:*

1. NAGPS Membership

**Motion:** That the GSG purchase an annual membership to the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students, at a cost of \$300, and that its membership be subject to review by the Assembly every 12 months.

*Moved: Giri Parameswaran*

## 2. NAGPS National Conference

**Motion:** That the GSG Assembly allocate \$800 to fund one delegate to attend the National Conference of the NAGPS to be held at the University of Nebraska, from 14-18 November 2009.

*Moved: Ashley Thrall*

*Seconded: Giri Parameswaran*

Assembly discussed the pros and cons to joining NAGPS. At the previous meeting, Assembly voted to table the decision until it was determine whether the University was eligible for corporate benefits.

### 1. Pros

- a. Benefits – VSP offered through NAGPS may cost more than our organization
  - i. But does \$300 buy more than that in benefits for the student body as a whole?
  - ii. we should make sure we advertise these benefits
  - iii. Are we sure these benefits apply in the state of NJ?
- b. Resources
- c. Should we be taking part in the student advocacy efforts as a whole

### 2. Cons

- a. costs are significant: \$300 + \$800 for a national conference
  - i. may not be worth the costs to pay membership to an organization that has not proven to be effective
  - ii. student suggested that we could allocated some money away from other GSG budgetary costs ( such as assembly meeting dinners) to do this
- b. Advocacy – which issues are not being taken care of by another group on our behalf?

A motion to table this discussion (until more research is conducted into the benefits for which Princeton students would be eligible) failed after a hand vote (3 for, 5 against).

Assembly voted on the motion to join NAGPS. The motion to join NAGPS failed (3 votes for, 4 against, 3 abstentions).

The corresponding secretary agreed to look into whether benefits offered by NAGPS apply in the state of NJ.

## 5. Discussion Items

### **a. New webmail client**

1. complaints about new webmail
  - a. students find it is not user-friendly and are still using old webmail
  - b. some report lack of compatibility with some browsers (Firefox)
  - c. some find it difficult at terminals at Frist/Dillon Gym specifically configured for Princeton/webmail
2. OIT is considering outsourcing email to providers such as Google: an outside organization, rather than Princeton's server, would hold personal mail.
  - a. Is privacy an issue?
  - b. A student reported that his/her Google account was recently hacked; is there a transfer of liability?
  - c. Will this change OIT's services/responsibilities to student?

The facilities committee agreed to look into these concerns.

### **b. Campus Club**

1. The campus club, located at Prospect and Washington avenues, is scheduled to open on September 17 opening. The club will be open and holding events that entire weekend.
2. Assembly discussed ideas to establish an early presence of graduate students at the club (in order to prevent the reversion of the club to its eating club roots and to make the club welcoming to graduate students can feel comfortable going)
  - a. Advertise campus club on the GSG website – FAQ's for student groups for information, study space, etc
  - b. Use point.princeton.edu, which has information for study spaces, spaces for music/dance
  - c. e-mail Diane Spatafore for scheduling – blog

### **c. Printing Policy**

1. Current proposal: OIT is cutting costs and wants to implement printing quotas for students that apply for all printing jobs initiated from a student account; OIT is starting to encourage departments to apply their own quotas. This policy was originally supposed to only apply to undergrads. The quota will allow students to print a maximum number of pages (unknown to the GSG at this point) within a two-week period and is non-transferrable. Students would be able to make an (unknown) number of request to print additional sheets by e-mail.
2. A response letter will be written as part of this year's summer letter writing campaign. The letter will request information from OIT about grad students' usage, and make an argument against applying a quota to graduate students. The principles behind the letter will include the following:
  - a. Simplicity

- b. equity across departments
  - c. we need to offer an alternative that promotes conservation
  - d. argue that this would impair effectiveness of graduate students and slow progress to dissertation
3. Feedback was solicited from assembly
- a. treating departments equally may not be fair
    - i. quota will penalize students unequally – for example, there are no department printers and history students do all printing from their student accounts
  - b. graduate students' printing needs may vary across departments and years
  - c. very bad for printing dissertations
  - d. Do we have a comparison of the environmental and financial costs of printing papers vs. running computers
  - e. Suggested alternatives to be offered in the letter:
    - 1. Give students to option to still print past the quote with charges applied
    - 2. Pay students not to print past a quota
    - 3. Make it easier to view/edit documents online - have the university offer a license for organizing / marking up PDF documents so that you can't print
    - 4. Exclude teaching documents (both for students and TAs) from quotas, since teachers are prohibiting students from bringing laptops to class, making it necessary for students to print out documents for class
    - 5. Offer a program such as that suggested for u-grads – partnering with Amazon Kindle
    - 6. other alternatives to quotas – monthly usage email, incentives/pricing;

## **6. New Business**

No new business was discussed at the meeting.

## **7. Close**

A motion to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm. The next meeting would take place Wednesday 9 September, 6pm, Corwin 127.