

Minutes for the December 13 GSG Meeting

Eszter Hargittai, GSG Chair, called the meeting to order at circa 7:00pm. The assembly faced a busy agenda in a new location, the Office of Population Research.

Item 1: Approval of the Minutes

As the attendance sheet circulated, the assembly voted to approve the minutes for the November meeting.

Item 2: Committees and Projects

CPUC

It has been recorded in the CPUC charter that the organization formerly known as the Graduate Student Union (GSU) is now called the Graduate Student Government (GSG).

Campus Center Committee

No developments were reported in the Campus Center Committee.

Health Care

Cristin Howley and other members of the health committee have completed a health care survey. The University will be launching a survey of its own. When plans of the University's survey were announced, discussion began on how to deal with the dilemma.

% The fear is that issuing two surveys simultaneously, or nearly so, will cause confusion among graduate students and lead either to the neglect of one of the surveys or to the biasing of the results of either or both of the two.

% The observation was made that Dean Montero's survey is being developed relatively slowly, and would likely be preceded by the GSG survey if the latter were issued.

% Ultimately, a course of action was suggested in which Dean Montero will be informed via email of the impending release of the GSG health care survey. Subsequently, barring objections, the GSG survey will be made available to graduate students.

[% Following the meeting, an arrangement was reached in which both surveys shall be released. The GSG survey has

been issued, and it can be found at the URL

<http://www.princeton.edu/~gsg/health.html>]

Dental Committee

The dental committee had no news to report.

Eyecare

Margarita's eyecare bargain guide will soon be accessible as a link on the GSG web page. After the close of the meeting, the chart was posted on the Princeton web, and can be accessed at

<http://www.princeton.edu/~gsg/eyecare.html>

CIT Policies

% One issue mentioned is the proliferation of mp3 files and the monitoring of student access of the files by the administration. An assembly member mentioned that a systematic sweep was conducted on November 26 to determine which members of the University community have been extensively using the Napster software. Napster allows users to trade mp3 files without concern for possible copyright infringement. In a sense, the sweep is equitable. As Ulli stated students, faculty, and staff have all been subject to the sweep.

% Another concern is the high cost of DORMNET, as well as the use of laptop terminals in campus libraries. The DORMNET fee is presently \$150, increased from \$144 last year. The continued high cost perplexed the assembly. If not maintenance, then what are the fees being used to fund? No one was able to supply an answer. It was suggested that the GSG contact the library to ask for an alternative to the current Dornment subscription requirement for library network connection.

Transportation

Much of the report on transportation concerned parking.

% A perennial difficulty is the fact that stadium spaces fill early during sporting events, making matters difficult for students coming to work.

% It was mentioned by Eric Adelizzi that for some time,

unused parking spaces have been present in the vicinity of the Princeton Materials Institute. The spaces were not allocated by Princeton University. Curiously, though at least 50 spaces are present, no one is permitted to use them. The parking spaces are apparently being held in reserve for future use and have been in this condition for at least 2 years.

Post-Enrollment

No new developments were reported.

Housing

There has been talk of revising the pet policy in the graduate apartments and dormitories. To prevent allergic reactions, the suggestion has been made that only fish be permitted as pets in the graduate housing units.

Dining Services

Jason Brownlee brought us news of a new type of meal plan which Dining Services shall offer in the near future. The idea is to include with the 11 meal plan the option of having, in addition, 300 "points". The points correspond roughly to dollars.

Evidently, the motive for the "point" system is to make the meal plan compatible with the new Frist Campus Center. The new system will enable students to purchase items in the campus restaurants with their meal plans.

APGA Outreach

With regard to the APGA, the main issue was how to announce the existence of the organization to current graduate students. Discussion on the matter produced several suggestions.

% One possibility is for the APGA to host an event for graduate students at the beginning of the year. This has occurred in previous years. An example is the Art Museum celebration. The difficulty with events held at the start of the year, though, is that first year students already have a great deal to think about, and likely find it difficult to give notice to the APGA at the beginning of the Fall.

% An idea that was received enthusiastically is the mailing of congratulatory letters to students who have passed the general examination. This approach is deemed more likely to capture the attention of graduate students. The congratulatory letter will

welcome the student to the APGA by reminding them that passing generals also makes them an alumnus/alumnae of the graduate school.

Postdoc Outreach

Evidently, the Postdoc outreach committee has not been active recently. Thus, no developments were reported to the assembly.

Constitution Committee

It was reported that the Constitution Committee has begun its task, and has already reviewed half of the document.

Item 3: Correspondence

D-Bar Status: Jason Brownlee brought us word of important developments concerning the D-Bar. What follows is a summary of the lengthy discussion that ensued. The order of the topics is somewhat shifted, but only to provide a clearer account of the discussion.

% An event external to Princeton has prompted the D-Bar crisis. The State of New Jersey has become concerned over what it deems to be a lax enforcement of New Jersey Club License rules. The rules require that only members of the club be served alcohol and be allowed to enter the establishment.

Thus, with the current license, the D-Bar is permitted to admit or serve only House members (GC and Graduate Annex residents, except 529 Alexander) and their guests. Graduate students who are not House members can visit the D-Bar as guests.

Princeton has received a letter of intent stating that the laws concerning club liquor licenses will be enforced in full earnest. University counsel, as part of an internal review, has advised that by February at the latest, the D-Bar achieve compliance with the current license.

Thus our dilemma must be resolved before February. With the aid of Jason Brownlee's knowledge on the matter, as well as his own suggestions, the assembly pondered several solutions to the problem.

% It was quickly pointed out that sending a petition to the administration that the matter be dropped is not a viable solution. The problem exists irrespective of the administration's position on the D-Bar matter.

% Another possible solution is to allow the GSG to

be the holder of the D-Bar club license. Doing so would guarantee the membership of all graduate students, allowing them to visit the Debasement Bar. However, Dean Wilson has stated that it is best if the D-Bar remain accountable to the Graduate College House Committee.

% A third approach is to continue to restrict membership to the Graduate College and Annex residents. However, by means of a guest list or a letter "g" affixed to the ID cards of non-resident students, graduate students living in the apartment systems may visit the D-Bar as guests. The problem is that this may harm the spontaneity of the D-Bar atmosphere.

% Lastly, one might solve the problem by allowing all Princeton graduate students to become members of the GC House Committee. In suggesting this possibility, Jason also pointed out a potential drawback. In legal terms, membership of a club requires that the member be given voting status in the club. Thus, permitting all graduate students to become House Committee members means that in principle, non-GC residents can vote in House Committee elections.

Since turnout at GC elections is sometimes rather low, votes from non-GC residents could quite readily shift the outcome of the elections.

% Evidently, the D-Bar issue is a difficult one, and its resolution will likely require a combined effort from several graduate student organizations.

Item 4: Report of the Treasurer

The treasurer presented the assembly with two funding requests.

The first request came from the Butler Apartments. The two representatives from Butler asked for \$600 to fund Friday social hours, each of which requires \$150. The Butler social committee has evidently consumed its funds for the year, and needs to rely upon external funding sources.

% The dearth of social events at the Butler Apartments was one argument given in favor of supplying the requested funds.

% Ultimately the assembly voted to provide Butler with \$600, enough to fund four of the Friday social events.

Ulrich Struve asked for \$100 to fund a subsidized trip to New York City. Ulli predicted that the day trip would quickly sell out, and the assembly responded to his confidence by swiftly agreeing to provide the requested \$100. Students joining the trip need only furnish \$5.

[# In a development subsequent to the Dec. 13 meeting, Greg Bedard has resigned as Treasurer to focus on preparing for his general exam. We shall certainly miss his enthusiasm and cheerful humor.]

Item 5: Report of the Press Secretary

Eric Adelizzi has composed an article on the GSG Decennial for the Princeton Alumni Weekly.

Item 6: Report of the Recording Secretary

As a reminder, it was mentioned that full version of the minutes is intended to supply a reasonably complete account of each GSG meeting. The minutes synopsis, submitted in tandem with the full minutes, strives for brevity but still contains the essential facts.

Item 7: Report of the Social Chair

Lauren Hale remarked that the winter social was a very successful event. It enjoyed an excellent turnout, and food resources were in good supply throughout the evening.

A new GSG event, a Valentine's party, is taking shape. The celebration will be held on Saturday, February 12 at the Stevenson Clubhouse. Ann Morning proposed the event, and has been instrumental in the planning.

[% Subsequent to the December meeting, it was decided that the event will be called "Y2Kupid".]

% The matchmaking implied in the event's name will be carried out via the "Lovematch Questionnaire". The questionnaire can be accessed at the URL given below.

<http://www.princeton.edu/~gsg/valentine.htm>

The hope is to provide graduate students with an enjoyable and novel experience.

Item 8: Report of the Web Page Administrator

Eric has successfully transferred the GSG web page to its new location, the URL given below.

<http://www.princeton.edu/~gsg>

Item 9: New Business

Regrettably, a student has requested removal from the global email list. A single complaint is no cause for great concern, however. Only one objection sustained over several months of operation of the global list is a very small percentage of the graduate population. The GSG doesn't have administrative rights over the list and cannot unsubscribe addresses from it.

The matter of graduate student representation on campus committees was raised. Three obstacles to graduate student representation were mentioned, and are part of a resolution concerning committee representation that had been passed at the November meeting. The resolution has been presented to Dean Montero by Eric Adelizzi and Jason Brownlee.

% The first is simply time. Often committee appointments need to be made swiftly. Thus, quite frequently, the positions are filled quickly without consulting the GSG.

% "Institutional inertia" is another problem. Since it has not been the custom of the administration to consult the GSG in making appointments, there is resistance to giving the GSG the responsibility simply because it has not been done that way before.

% Another difficulty is the fact that not everyone is comfortable having graduate student representatives on the campus committees.

The meeting adjourned at circa 8:45pm.

The next GSG meeting will be held at 6:00pm on Wednesday,
January 26. The meeting will take place at the Office of
Population Research on 21 Prospect.
