

GSU Assembly Meeting Minutes

December 18, 1996

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

Present: 20 reps. 1 non-rep.

Item 1: Motion by Press Secretary Evan Haefeli to approve pre-distributed (via email) minutes of 11/20/96 Assembly meeting approved by unanimous consent.

Item 2: Co-Chair/Project Coordinator Robert Weiner reported on proceedings since last meeting. There were two funding votes. \$800 was approved for the Women's Center 17:0 and \$75 was approved for the Hanukah Party 17:0. The GSU office has now been renovated and is ready for action. The office phone will be activated by January. The Dental Committee met on December 11 and prepared the following:

Dental Insurance Advisory

The GSU is aware that there are an insufficient number of providers in the Princeton area participating in the HealthPlex dental insurance plan. A GSU project team is currently investigating alternatives. We appreciate your patience. Comments, suggestions, and offers to assist with this project may be addressed via email to thegsu.

It was further noted that, as a non-profit organization, we qualify

for sales tax exemption. Co-Chair/Treasurer Peter Park is working on establishing this, which would enable us to reduce administrative, particularly printing, costs. Finally, both co-chairs continue to develop contacts with other campus organizations, and have arranged meetings with the undergraduate government body (USG) and the Daily Princetonian.

Item 3: Report of Representative Secretary Jill Reiss. There are three new reps, Kristine Haugen (English), Giorgio Biancorosso (Music), and Mike Blanton (Astrophysics).

Item 4: Report of Co-Chair/Treasurer Peter Park. After raising the question of whether or not to continue carrying out funding votes by email, a motion was made that any votes where the Treasurer's recommended amount exceeded \$250 be taken in Assembly meetings only was passed 18:0 with 1 abstention. Thereupon a vote was taken on funding the Chinese New Year party. The initial motion for \$300 was approved 19:0. Peter handed out a draft of written guidelines for organizations planning to request money from the GSU, which will be posted on the GSU Web Page. N.B. Since discussion of the Chinese New Year Party funding request had already commenced via email, reps. not present at the meeting were given two additional days to email in their vote. The final vote count will be recorded in the minutes at the January 29 meeting.

Item 5: Robert Weiner reported on post-enrollment. The Administration has refused to consider a proposal made by the Politics Department to alter the technical status of students currently considered post-enrollment for the first two years after their enrolment status is terminated to enable them to still be considered students by outside organizations. The Project team on post-enrollment is considering organizing a campus-wide petition drive to request the Administration to consider the proposal more seriously. A motion that a letter providing information on the

current status of the GSU's efforts on behalf of post-enrolled students be sent to all reps for them to discuss with their Director of Graduate Studies was approved unanimously.

Item 6: Robert updated the Assembly on the progress of the Health Care Survey. A good number of replies have been received, though no exact figures are yet available. The results of the survey will be tabulated in time for the January meeting, which can hopefully be discussed with representatives from McCosh Health Center at the February meeting. Robert then voiced the suggestion of Dan Wallach that future surveys be conducted on the Web to prevent paper waste. The money saved on printing can be invested in gift certificates. A chance to win a prize would serve as an incentive for grad students to fill out the survey.

Item 7: Report of Web Page Administrator Scott Harper. The GSU Welcome Packet, full of practical information for incoming graduate students on life in Princeton will soon be put on the Web. He asked for a rep to assist him by updating some of the pack's information, on movie theaters and restaurants, for example. A standard funding request form will also soon be installed on the GSU Web Page. Dan Wallch (Computer Science) volunteered to assist.

Item 8: Peter Park read a letter from Graduate Dean Redman concerning the working group on race relations. A motion to have representatives from the group speak to an Assembly meeting sometime this spring was passed by unanimous consent.

Item 9: Peter Park reported that Career Services is eager to work more with graduate students and especially to provide assistance in finding non-academic jobs. Karen Lipton Dentler (GC Residence Life Coordinator) volunteered to become involved with Career Services' efforts to reach out to graduate students, but further volunteers are welcome.

Item 10: Report of Social Chair Patrice Jean. The Holiday party was well-organized, but poorly attended. Reasons cited for this were insufficient advertisement, its taking place on a Thursday evening, and competition from a Graduate College wine-tasting seminar taking place at the same time. A number of grad students were confused because the GC and GSU event were taking place simultaneously. It was advised that this should be avoided in future planning.

Plans for a Coffee Hour in the cafe area of the Center for Jewish Life continue. A motion for \$250, to pay for non-alcoholic beverages at a coffee hour to take place in the first week of February had unanimous support, 17-0. However, since a quorum was no longer present at the meeting, it was agreed that all reps. who were not present would be given two additional days to cast a vote via email. The final vote count will be recorded in the minutes at the January 29 meeting.

Item 11: Report of the Housing Committee. Heather VanBuskirk reported that at the last meeting discussed plans to update smoking policies, strengthening potential complaints against smokers; plans to resist a potential policy banning halogen lamps in all University Housing units and suggest instead that users be made aware of the potential dangers of halogen lamps and request that lighting in all units be improved; and finally, efforts to legitimate hitherto clandestine subletting by post-enrolled students of University Housing.

Item 12: Dining Committee/Student Center report by Karen Lipton Dentler, Dining Services Committee. Graduate student response to the dining survey for the new student center was excellent, and proportionally greater than that of undergrads. At the last planning meeting with the architect, offices for various graduate organizations, including the GSU were included in the plans, though those plans are still tentative. Graduate

representation is proving effective in shaping the center's development. Construction on the center is planned to take place 5 years from now.

N.B. After the formal meeting adjourned, an informal discussion occurred regarding whether the GSU should issue any statement in response to labor strife at other campuses. The consensus among discussion participants was that the GSU should issue a statement simply clarifying who we are and that we have no plans or desire to seek recognition as a labor union, but that the statement should not comment on the strife at the other campuses. The consensus was also that the GSU assembly should consider as a separate matter the NAGPS request that we support the Yale GESO, but that we should only do so after more research.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 PM.