

Minutes for the GSG Assembly meeting held on December 9, 2009

## **Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Minutes
  - a. GSG Assembly, Wednesday 11 November
3. Decision Items
  - a. Neuroscience Representative to GSG Assembly
  - b. Executive Committee & Officers of the GSG.
  - c. Election Committee Vacancies
  - d. Events Board Request
    - i. Georgian Women's Chorus
4. Reports
  - a. Chair
  - b. Academic Affairs Committee
  - c. Campus Relations Committee
  - d. Facilities Committee
  - e. Health & Life Committee
  - f. Social Committee
5. New Business
6. Close.

Next Meeting – Wednesday 13 January, 6pm, Joseph Henry Room (Jadwin 102)

### **1. Welcome**

### **2. Minutes**

Assembly received the minutes for previous meeting (held November 11 2009) in advance of the December meeting. Assembly approved the minutes unanimously by hand vote.

### **3. Decision Items**

#### **a. Neuroscience Representative to GSG Assembly**

The following motion carried unanimously at the meeting (23 votes):

**Motion:** That the GSG Assembly accept the following amendment to the By Laws:

#### **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*

**b. Executive Committee & Officers of the GSG.**

The following motion was initially discussed earlier in the meeting, and then revisited when the minimum number of voting members (26 out of 39 seats) was present for the motion to carry. See the document for a full description of the proposed amendments (Dec09amendments.doc)

**Motion:** That the GSG Assembly accept the attached proposals to amend the Constitution, By Laws and Standing Rules, to include the Chairperson of each standing committee as a member of the Executive Committee, and which reallocates the responsibilities of the Officers of the GSG between a President, Vice President, Communications Director, Secretary and Treasurer.

*Moved: Giri Parameswaran*

*Seconded: Aurelien Fraisse*

This issue revisited when 26 voting members were present – minimum required to change the constitution.

The Rationale for the proposed constitutional changes is outlined below:

1. To give committee chairs several benefits that would result from inclusion in the GSG executive committee:
  - a. Recognition by administration as student leaders; for example, committee chairs currently not invited to discussions between faculty/administration and student leaders)
  - b. the full weight of a GSG exec committee position behind the proposals made by committee chairs
    - i. as an example, the Facilities committee reported that the GSG chair's presence at a recent meeting with OIT over printing quotas seemed to add (albeit unnecessary) weight to our proposals
  - c. formalization of courtesies the GSG has already been extending to current committee chairs
2. clear definition of roles of all members of the GSG executive committee

The following points were discussed before the motion was put to a vote:

1. The Vice-President (VP) role
  - a. The VP was proposed as the campus relations chair in the interest of 1) streamlining exec positions and 2) having a member in the position in leadership as the face of campus relations.
  - b. The VP succeeds the President in case of emergency (as the Parliamentary Secretary succeeds the Chair in the present GSG constitution)
2. Workload of exec committee members vs. committee chairs:

- a. Advocacy work done by facilities chair is enough work for two members
  - b. consolidation of positions was made with this in mind
  - c. other members will pitch in on issues that require more
3. Housing priority slots for committee chairs
- a. last year – Assembly did not reach a consensus about whether members voted in by assembly (rather than the student body) should still get housing priority
  - b. according to last vote, the student body was happy to allow assembly to choose committee chairs
  - c. this proposal advocates for assembly to elect exec-plus committee chairs; the intent would be that the GSG includes them on exec and appeals to housing policy committee to give slots to these members as well

A motion to consider all the changes en bloc was initiated and seconded. The motion passed with 26 in favor (no abstentions).

### **c. Election Committee Vacancies**

A global email was sent to the graduate student body on November 25 2009 seeking nominations for two vacant positions on the 2010 GSG election committee. The body of the email is included below:

Dear Graduate Student,

The Officers of the Graduate Student Government (GSG) are elected for one-year terms during elections held yearly during the Spring semester. An Election Committee is in charge of ensuring that these elections are free, fair, well-publicized, and in accordance with the rules governing the GSG.

**We seek nominations to fill two vacant seats on the 2010 GSG Election Committee.** Any member of the Graduate Student Body who does *not* intend to run for an officer position in the upcoming GSG elections is eligible to serve on the committee.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please e-mail [gselect@princeton.edu](mailto:gselect@princeton.edu) with your name and department by 12/01/2009 at 9 AM EST. You may, but do *not* need to, include a statement explaining your motivations with your nomination.

We look forward to working with you as we organize the upcoming GSG elections.

Best,  
-Aurelien Fraise,  
2010 GSG Election Committee Chair.

Only two nominees were received for the two vacant positions by the deadline above. A third nomination was received one week after the deadline; this nominee was not notified by the corresponding secretary that the candidates would be confirmed by today's

meeting. Appointments of the two candidates to the election committee were made by the corresponding secretary and required confirmation by Assembly.

A motion to approve the corresponding secretary's appointments carried unanimously.

#### **d. Events Board Request**

##### **1. Approval of new Events Board members**

Raja Chahal (MOL) and Daniell Rowles (MOL) volunteered at the meeting to fill vacancies. There were objections to these appointments.

##### **2. Georgian Choir**

The Georgian Choir requested \$1300 from the GSG Events Board for their upcoming concert to be held on February 25, 2010. The director of the choir asked Assembly at the December meeting to approve their request:

1. The Georgian Choir is Princeton's only singing graduate group organization
2. The money would fund the choir's first large-scale concert in Chancellor Green Rotunda.
3. The following is an estimated breakdown of how the \$1300 would be allocated:
  - a. \$800 for renting the cheapest location available
  - b. \$400 for professional recording includes renting and A/V
  - c. \$100 for advertising

The request was discussed at the meeting before putting it up to a vote:

1. Soliciting money from other funding sources
  - a. Undergraduate singing groups such as A capella groups are typically automatically allotted money by various University sources (that total more than the GSG's entire budget) \
  - b. The choir requested money from the following:
    - i. \$1000 from Program for Russian and Eurasian Studies to fund the reception – no response yet
    - ii. No response yet from Music department (which already funds the glee club, A cappella group, own ensemble)
  - c. Assembly also suggested that the choir solicit money from Davis International Center
2. Capacity
  - a. The Chancellor Green Rotunda can hold approximately 200 people. 80 people filled the capacity of the previous event. According to the choir, the Rotunda was the cheapest location available with the necessary acoustics

and required a formal approval process that the choir had already gone through

3. Costs – the choir does not plan to charge students for attending the concert
4. Isabelle McGinty stated on behalf of the Graduate Alumni Relations committee that graduate alumni would be very interested in supporting a graduate singing group and may be able to fund ~\$300, perhaps \$500 if another entity would give money
5. Recommendations/comments from the Events Board (EB):
  - a. percentage of GSB that can attend is always a factor; \$1300 is more than what the EB has given ACSS who are able to have the most in attendance
  - b. typically the EB receives more details and itemized amounts in requests
  - c. Typically, 12\$ per person has been spent on events approved by the EB.

A motion was made to approve the request made by the Georgian Choir. A friendly amendment was made to reduce the money granted to \$1000. It was also suggested that the group should look at alternate venues.

Assembly voted on the amended motion to grant \$1000 with the expectation that the group would look to minimize costs by looking at alternate venues. The motion carried with 9 votes in favor (6 opposing votes, 8 abstentions).

#### **4. Reports**

##### **a. Chair**

The chair emailed the report to Assembly in advance of the meeting, see below:

1. Campus Club
  - The campus club is serving free coffee every evening in the basement tap room. (The tap room café is open from 8pm to 12am on Sunday through Wednesday, and from 8pm to 2am on Thursday through Saturday.)
  - Looking to hold a graduate student “study/grading” break in the next few weeks to encourage students to use the space on a regular/informal basis
2. Meeting with Executive VP
  - Annie and I met with the Executive Vice President, Mark Burstein, to discuss a variety of issues that the GSG has been working on and ways the administration can better serve the needs of graduate students.
  - Intention is to meet with EVP regularly (two to three times per year), with at least one combined meeting each year with representatives from the USG.
3. Save the Date
  - Priorities Committee Public Meeting – Monday 9 November, 7:30pm (McCosh 28)

- CPUC Meeting (including PriComm update) – Monday 16 November, 4:30 (McCormick 101)
- APGA Career Mixer – Wednesday 18 November

#### **b. Academic Affairs Committee**

The committee solicited ideas for external graduate student funding. It was mentioned at the meeting that Stanford has published essays by awardees on its website

#### **c. Campus Relations Committee**

The committee had nothing to report.

#### **d. Facilities Committee**

The committee emailed their report to Assembly in advance of the meeting. The text is included below:

##### **Transportation**

- Dickinson parking issues (related to overcrowding of lot)
  - P&T - simply too many cars for the number of spots
  - Claims lot is being patrolled nightly
  - Will look into allowing use of additional parking, but will most likely be overnight only (e.g., possibly the lot at the old golf clubhouse on College Rd.)
  - Will look into concrete markers to increase parking efficiency
- Forrestal students given hang tags
- Signage should be up by Friday at grad residences for Holiday schedule
- Has assembly had problems with the shuttle system?
- Spring shuttle schedule will be similar to Fall
- Hilary will be stepping down as committee chair, need to find replacement

##### **Housing**

- Meeting with Scott Baldwin to address short term housing issues
  - Percentage demand (is the demand the university claims accurate?)
    - Are students that seek housing elsewhere not being counted, if they still wanted it?
  - Getting details of commitment through construction, not just long term (we want to clarify that the university is committed to house 70% of students regardless of upcoming construction projects and there won't be unexpected "down" years)
    - Are DCE students now being added to the calculations?
    -
  - Ensuring no "disruption in housing service" if housing ends in May 2011 for Hibben/Magie residents who have housing the following year. Important for this year's draw
    - May need to work out temporary housing arrangements; push for guaranteed housing for that month
    - Still in request for qualifications step

- Other universities
  - UPENN – works for students who want more upscale apartments; eroded sense of community
  -
- etc

## **OIT**

- Received report of student nearing printing quota, without system in place to allow exceptions. I will email OIT about this \*\*\* we anticipated that there would be a quota put in place...
- Need to meet with OIT about email outsourcing issues.

Assembly discussed the following points about transportation at the meeting:

1. Last year – parking permits based on zone not by lot; commuters may be able to park in all residential zones.
2. barriers between spots may be put in, but this may in fact reduce “packing efficiency”
3. one area has been re-allocated to dining services
4. President Tilghman discussed parking issue with Kim Jackson (Director of Parking and Transportation) at the recent town hall meeting; Forrester students should have been issued hang tags – but Forrester students present at the assembly meeting were not aware of this! These members will be contacting their home departments to check about this their department administrators got this
5. Kim reports that crowding has not been an issue; GSG shuttle committee has not been receiving complaints
6. Signage at shuttle stops
  - i. Kim disputed that there was no signage at stops and claims that signage had been posted in September; Lawrence shuttles are not up (individual printing out)
  - ii. Student requested that Kim Take down old inaccurate signage
7. Upcoming shuttle schedules
  - a. January shuttle – somewhat curtailed; weekend shopper shuttles will continue
  - b. This May we will have normal services
  - c. Dec18-Jan4 – no on-demand service will be running

## **e. Health & Life Committee**

The committee reported the following two items at Assembly:

1. Healthier Princeton AB – meeting –not specific to grad students
  - a. Swine flu vaccine– not many grad students (barring med students) are eligible on a nation-wide level
    - i. regulations are strict and decisions about further availability are up to the CDC

- ii. bi-annual evaluations – non-UHS-directed comments being compiled
- 2. Medical leave options for graduate students
  - a. Pri-comm requests for health plan continue

**f. Social Committee**

- 1. Election Party –tentatively held on Feb 25 – may conflict with Georgian Choir event
  - a. Location – campus club for now – free assistance, location
  - b. Dancing – events have already been held at CC, centralized dance floor

**5. New Business**

**a. Graduate student interviewers for undergrad admissions**

Isabel McGinty, the chair of the Graduate Alumni Relations committee (and a graduate alumnus of Princeton) solicited graduate student volunteers for interviewing local candidates for undergraduate admissions. Ms. McGinty passed around a sign-up sheet for students (eligible students would have a Master’s degree in hand) to be an alumni interviewer. The university is looking for 20 volunteers to conduct “cold” interviews (where interviewers have no prior knowledge of the applicants’ academic standing) lasting approximately 45min-1hr on Saturday mornings.

Ms. McGinty presented the rationale for graduate student involvement in undergraduate admissions:

- 1. Ms. MsMcGinty, on behalf of GAR, has been advocating for grad student involvement in interviewing undergrads for Princeton class because this would be a great way to increase overall grad alumni involvement (grad students as alumni-in-residence) in Princeton’s largest alumni event
- 2. Grad student would be able to provide a service to international applicants by being interviewed by students from home countries
- 3. Graduate students would be able to fill a dearth of north jersey alumni interviewers
- 4. GAR would like to provide an incentive, such as free t-shirts, that would be given after interviewers submit reports

**b. Election committee**

Assembly had the following suggestions for the Election committee:

- 1. There was opposition from students to including survey questions on official ballots



2. Purchasing new software for the 2010 elections is still under consideration by the election committee; the committee plans to report on this at the January assembly meeting.
3. Students present at the meeting wanted more transparency for how many nominees there are for each position; who is currently running
  - a. regulations are defined in the constitution
  - b. nominations must be done in advance; can't self-nominate after the deadline
4. publicizing election
  - a. need voter turnout for fee hike proposal on ballot; election turnout requires highly contested elections
  - b. publicizing housing perk that comes with GSG officer positions
  - c. It was noted that more voters do not mean more yes votes.

## **6. Close**

A motion to adjourn the meeting carried at 7:56pm.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 13 January, 6pm in the Joseph Henry Room (Jadwin 102)