



# GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

12 December, 2012  
December Assembly Meeting  
Jadwin Hall 102, Joseph Henry Room  
6:05 – 7:18pm

- President Chad Maisel calls the meeting to order at 6:05pm.
- Facilities Chair Tim Brandt (AST, rep) motions to approve the November assembly minutes; Alex Balistreri (NES, rep) seconds the motion. The motion carries by voice vote.
- Secretary Kyle Keller (PSY, rep) describes the GSG's efforts to recommend a list of Hooding Ceremony speakers to Dean Russel.
  - Compiling names from assembly recommendations and the previous administration, a survey with ten candidates and a write-in option was presented to the graduate student body. The survey received 670 votes from across the study body. Drawing from the results of the survey, as well as write-in candidates, the GSG executive board recommended the following six names:
    - John Nash, 1950 PhD Mathematics
    - Cornel West, 1980 PhD Philosophy
    - Arthur Levinson, 1977 PhD Biochemical Sciences
    - Sheryl WuDunn, 1988 MPA WWS
    - Meryl Streep, 2009 PhD (honorary) Fine Arts
    - Ruth Bader Ginsberg, 2010 Doctor of Laws (honorary)
- Vice President of Campus Life, Cynthia Cherrey, sits down with the GSG to detail her position at Princeton University and discuss issues of interest to graduate students.
  - As Vice President of Campus Life, VP Cherrey oversees athletics, recreation, religious life, UHS, and career services, among other facilities open to students. With respect to graduate students, she aims to bring the graduate student experience more into the 'mainstream' of Princeton campus life by finding commonalities between grads and undergrads, and helping graduates have a life outside of lab. She works closely with the Dean of the Faculty and the Dean of the Graduate School. One of her most recent accomplishments is the inclusion of graduate students into the USLC, as represented by the GSG. Another short-term aim is to make it easier for graduate students to get involved with the PACE center – she will be meeting shortly with the parties involved to help this along.
  - Chad remarks that the GSG aims for similar goals, recently with the Princeton Restaurant Week and our ongoing efforts concerning mental health.
  - Questions for Vice President Cherrey from the assembly
    - Chad asks about the most effective way for graduate students to bring up a problem/issue/initiative they are interested in.

- VP Cherrey – For academic, through one’s department; in general, through the Graduate School. The Office of Campus Life is always in touch with the Graduate School.
- Sarah Grady (Communications, MOL) asks about changing the summer of Dillion when the undergrads are gone?
  - VP Cherrey – Changes for during the school year were just pushed through the Priorities Committee; for summer hours, the issue is about usage and staffing. Dave Leach is always open to taking a look at usage.
  - Carolann Buff (MUS, rep) comments that graduate students are often on campus during holidays, etc and tend to feel like second-class citizens due to the (often necessary) closing of facilities.
    - VP Cherrey – The USLC is a good forum through which to raise and address these issues.
- Sean Edington (CHM, rep) comments that there are a lot of undergraduate facilities/spaces on campus, such as eating clubs and residential halls, but few graduate-only spaces. Most graduates do not live in the GC, yet remain on campus – thus lacking such spaces. He suggests converting Campus Club to a more graduate-focused space and giving grads a social identity on campus.
  - Angelina Sylvain (NEU, rep) comments that the Campus Pub project goes in the direction
    - Sean adds that a bar is a good, but a graduate student space shouldn’t be just a place to drinking.
  - Sourindra Chaudhuri (ELE, rep) adds that the D-Bar, one of the few definitely-graduate spaces, is only open after 10am and that graduates need a place to go before that time.
  - Kityan Choi (USLC, AOS, rep) suggests expanding graduate writing days
  - VP Cherrey – Breaking down barriers is about creating shared spaces, not exclusive spaces. These include the Campus Pub, Frist, etc.
    - Sean responses that graduate students need a grad-focused place with which to identify. Spaces such as Frist are largely undergraduate-dominated, simply due to percentages of the population.
  - Chad adds that he has met with Tom Myers (who runs Frist), who wants ideas on how to get more graduate students to Frist, or get graduate students to use Frist more often.
    - VP Cherrey adds that a graduate student space in Frist may solve both problems (grad-only space and grad involvement at Frist).
- Lizette Taguchi (GCHC, GER) comments that graduate students perpetuate stereotypes through conversations, making us feel unwelcome when in fact we are welcome. She suggests stopping thinking about ourselves as difference.

- VP Cherrey – She has had dinners with graduate students, undergrads, faculty, and others, and this helps break down those barriers. Additionally, RGSs further help.
  - Sourindra recommends larger scale grad/undergrad events to help wider breaking of barriers
    - Giri Parameswaran (VP, ECO) notes that part of the reason for the barrier in events is that money comes from different sources, and the mixing of funds is often a contention during event planning.
  - Olga Lositsky (NEU) comments that she was invited to many undergraduate events, to which graduates were welcome but uninformed. Information is not getting to graduate students.
    - Kityan adds that graduates are spread out, but undergraduates are concentrated on campus.
  - Shilpa Nadimpalli (COS) comments that Café Vive is a nice space to eat/etc, but has become an undergraduate study space, limiting graduate student usefulness.
    - VP Cherrey – She recommends figuring out where the USG can help the GSG.
  - April Williams (MOL, rep) recommends considering adding services that would benefit commuting graduate students (such as a towel service at the gyms)
  - Felix Rietmann (HOS, rep) recommends an events listing specifically for cross-listed events for both graduate students and undergrads.
    - Olivia Martel (CPC) notes the events calendar and two events emails.
  - Friederike Funk (Treasurer, PSY) thanks VP Cherrey for the money for the GSG Events Board which, she adds, would be happy to allocate money for joint graduate/undergrad events.
- Vice President Giri Parameswaran presents the proposed amendments to the GSG bylaws.
  - See attached for details.
  - The four main points are:
    - Graduate Activities Fee increase
    - Addition of a Stanworth GSG representative
    - Splitting of the social chair
    - Document cleanup
  - Questions from the assembly:
    - Mike Campanell (BUT, rep) asks about the specific requirements of the different changes.
      - Giri responds that only the fee increase requires a referendum (to be passed by the graduate body); everything else can be passed by assembly vote.
    - Carolann asks why we have voting reps from the Black Caucus and the Women’s Center, but not the LGBT.
      - This needs to be changed. Contact Chad for further inquiry.

- Felix asks if there will still be a social chair.
      - Giri responds that the new position will be a committee chair (elected by assembly), and the current officer (elected by the graduate student body) will remain.
    - Doron Ravid (ECO, rep) how we determine recognized housing (which determines housing representatives).
      - Giri responds that the determination will be according to the Graduate School.
    - Giri motions to accept all changes; Alex seconds. The motion passes via ballot unanimously.
  - Fee increase
    - The proposed amendment changes, subject to referendum, is a \$5 increase in the Student Activities Fee (currently \$10 per year), plus an automatic yearly increase indexed to the yearly increase in the University Fellowship (typically 3%, or about \$0.50).
    - Questions and comments from the assembly:
      - Kyle Samperton (GEO, rep) asks how long the flat \$10 fee has been intact
        - Since 2004
        - There was an attempt in 2009-2010 to increase the fee to \$20. A majority of voters voted to pass the amendment, but not enough graduate students voted for meet the minimum threshold.
      - Mike raises the possibility of changing the referendum requirement, as well as changing the fee to \$20 (+\$10 instead of +\$5).
      - Lizette requests specifics about the changes that will accompany the fee increase, both to inform and attract potential voters.
      - Sourindra suggests mandating part of the fee increase to joint graduate/undergrad events.
      - Doron asks if there is a specific plan about what would change from this year; how would the money be used? This helps both the assembly decide between a change to \$15 vs. \$20, as well as the ability to persuade voters.
      - Kityan suggests raising the fee first to \$15 and seeing if we need a change to \$20.
        - Giri notes that the measures required to get enough vote twice would be impractical.
      - Sourindra asks if representatives can vote for their whole department.
        - No.
      - Ila Varma (MAT, rep) notes that she can sell it to her department, but knows they will still not vote.
        - Sourindra comments that it is the responsibility of the representatives and the GSG to get people to vote.

- Carolann counters that it gets difficult when personal opinions conflict.
- Giri calls to vote the option of putting to referendum a \$5 flat increase and an automatic 3% yearly increase.
  - The Yays carry the vote unanimously, with no abstentions.

#### Attendance

- Executive Board
  - Chad Maisel (President)
  - Giri Parameswaran (Vice President)
  - Kyle Keller (Secretary)
  - Sarah Grady (Communications)
  - Friederike Funk (Treasurer)
  - Katie Hansen (Academic Affairs)
  - Tim Brandt (Facilities)
  - Andreana Kenrick (Health and Life)
- Departmental Representatives
  - Anna Offit (ANT)
  - Jamie Kwan (ART)
  - Tim Brandt (AST)
  - Lichao Cai (CBE)
  - Sean Edington (CHM)
  - Shilpa Nadimpalli (COS)
  - Doron Ravid (ECO)
  - Mircae Davidescu (EEB)
  - Sourindra Chaudhuri (ELE)
  - Natalie Berkman (FIT)
  - Kyle Samperton (GEO)
  - Ian Ward (HIS)
  - Ila Varma (MAT)
  - April Williams (MOL)
  - Carolann Buff (MUS)
  - Baxter Oliphant (POL)
  - Kyle Keller (PSY)
  - Kyle Bond (REL)
  - Marco De Leon
- Academic Program Representatives
  - Kityan Choi (AOS)
  - Felix Reitmann (HOU)
  - Angelina Sylvain (NEU)
  - Mike Campanell (PPL)
- Proxy Representatives
  - Brianne Smith (CEE)
  - Sarah Grady (CLA)
  - Friederike Funk (COM)
  - Chad Maisel (ENG)

- Lizette Taguchi (GER)
- Olga Lositsky (MAE)
- Shawn Westerdale (PHY)
- Andreana Kenrick (SLA)
- Giri Parameswaran (SOC)
- Katie Hansen (SPO)
- Housing Group Delegates
  - Mike Campanell (BUT)
  - Lizette Taguchi (GCHC)
  - Andra Geana (LAW)
- CPUC
  - Carolann Buff
  - Kyle Keller
  - Chad Maisel
  - Giri Parameswaran
  - Olga Lositsky
  - Angelina Sylvain
- Friends of the GSG
  - Olivia Martel (CPC)
- Other Delegates
  - April Williams (CampRec)
  - Anna Offit (USLC)
  - Kityan Choi (USLC)
- Guests
  - Rachael Barry (MOL)