

Minutes for the February 15 GSG Meeting

Eszter Hargittai, GSG Chair, called the meeting to order at CA 6:03pm. The GSG was honored with the presence of two guests. Professor John Wilson, Dean of the Graduate School, and Professor Joe Taylor, Dean of the Faculty, provided early in the agenda a summary of the Wythes report.

Item 1: Approval of the Minutes

While the attendance sheet circulated, the assembly voted to approve the minutes of the January 26 meeting.

Item 2: Report and Discussion of the Wythes Report

As stated previously in the minutes, Deans Taylor and Wilson provided the assembly with a summary of the Wythes report and then asked for input from the GSG assembly.

The content of the Wythes report as explained by Dr. Wilson and Dr. Taylor <As Dean Wilson stated, the report is available on the web at the URL {www.princeton.edu/pr/reports/wythes}>

% The Wythes report is the product of an ad hoc committee composed of former and current members of the Princeton Board of Trustees. Paul Wythes, '55, chaired the committee that prepared the report bearing his name.

% The Wythes report provides for the first time a mission statement for Princeton University. It suggests a course of action for Princeton to follow in the near future, during the next 3 - 5 years.

% After introductory remarks made by Dr. Taylor, Dean Wilson how the plans sketched in the report will impact the graduate school.

% Dr. Taylor informed the assembly that the Wythes report is only in draft stage. He also explained that the committee is currently in the process of seeking feedback on the report from the campus community.

% Dean Wilson stated that he is pleased with the way in which the report's proposals affect the Graduate School. He summarized the report's recommendations concerning the graduate school by suggesting that we "remain steady on the course we're on".

* Dr. Wilson indicated that the ad hoc committee has concluded that the current size of the graduate school is deemed optimal. It is expected, he suggested, that the composition of the Graduate School will remain essentially the same. However, Dean Wilson did point to a slight change. The change is a small trend toward issuing slightly more professional Master's degrees at the expense of PhD's.

* One reason for keeping the size of the Graduate School steady is to make it possible to offer graduate students more generous financial aid.

* Another reason is the simple fact that the current size of the Graduate Student Body is just right for graduate students to take advantage of the research opportunities on campus. Thus, an increase in the size of the graduate school isn't to the advantage of graduate students.

Indeed, although it is true that the faculty shall continue to grow, it is expected that an increase in the postdoc population will cause graduate research opportunities to remain steady in number.

* The McGraw Center for Teaching and learning will serve partly as a new resource for graduate teaching.

% Professor Taylor discussed how the ideas contained in the Wythes report will affect teaching on campus.

* Prompted by a question from Karthick, Dean Taylor stated that while teaching opportunities for graduate students will increase, the numbers of graduate students teaching aren't expected to greatly change.

* With respect to the faculty, Dean Taylor indicated

that the undergraduate student - faculty ratio is actually in danger of becoming too low. Increasing the size of the undergraduate population will help to remedy the problem. It will allow the faculty to continue to grow at the 1% rate of increase it has historically maintained. Consequently, the University will retain a healthy flexibility for pursuing new areas of research.

* Recently, some of the departments (Economics in particular) have faced larger than expected undergraduate enrollment. To remedy this situation, lecturers shall be hired. This will prevent an increase in the number of contact teaching hours for graduate students. At the same time, precepts will be kept at the desired level of 10 - 12 students.

% A question was raised by a member of the audience regarding the quality of life at Princeton. It was mentioned that Yale provided financial support for 6 years, and is considering the possibility of support for a seventh year.

Dean Wilson furnished a reply. In responding, he pointed to the fact that teaching loads faced by Yale students are higher than those dealt with by Princeton students. Thus, one expects Yale students to require more time to complete their degrees.

Dr. Wilson's reply also contained some personal perspectives on the purpose of the graduate school. Dean Wilson stated that a Princeton doctoral thesis is meant more to show a student's future promise as a researcher than to be an enormous body of work in and of itself. Hence, the University strives for a comparatively brief time needed to earn a doctoral degree and deems the traditional five years of support to be sufficient.

As the discussion concluded, the Deans were thanked for their input and invited to remain for pizza and the remainder of the meeting. A brief recess was called for pizza consumption and Professors Taylor and Wilson retired.

Item 3: Committee and Project Reports

Review of the Y2K event: Report of the Social Chair
Owing to Lauren's need to depart early, the Social
Chair's report was moved forward on the agenda.

% Lauren thanked everyone involved for their efforts on the Y2K event. She described the event as a great success, and remarked that she had heard only positive things about the event.

% Before requesting comments from the Assembly, Lauren mentioned that the Stevenson Club staff had complained about the state of the club house following the celebration. Thus, the Stevenson Club has announced a probationary period for the GSG that will last for two months.

% The difficulty with the cleanup was probably due to a combination of two factors. First, as the party concluded, the staff had dwindled to a point that cleaning the club house became an onerous task.

Secondly, many of those planning and assisting with the party at the beginning weren't present to explain how the Club House had been altered. Thus, simple ignorance was a great factor in the quality of the cleanup.

% It was mentioned that the dance floor was rather sparsely populated during much of the event. However, Karthick pointed out that this may have been partly due to the presence of three large spaces in the Stevenson facility. The resulting dilution of graduate students may at least partly account for a relatively quiet dance floor.

As Nathan Marsh pointed out, low attendance could scarcely have been a factor, since Nathan learned that the D-Bar had been virtually vacant the same evening.

% A gratifying fact is that the event came in well under budget. The price tag evidently was a mere \$1600, money well worth paying in this case.

% A strong round of applause was given by the assembly to Lauren Hale and Ann Morning for their

dedication in organizing and setting up the event.

Report on the Planning Committee

Karen Larsen, a Graduate College House Adviser, provided the report on the work of the Planning Committee. As the Assembly learned, the Ad Hoc Committee concerns itself primarily with the immediate future. In contrast, the planning committee takes an interest in the more distant future. As Karen explained, it tends to look 2 - 3 decades ahead. It is important to emphasize that the Planning Committee only provides ideas for the future. It does not formulate definite policies for Princeton to follow.

% Karen attends the committee meetings in the capacity of a graduate student representative, while Graves Chambers attends representing the undergraduates.

% Eventually, the University anticipates that the undergraduate enrollment will double if not triple. The consequence is a need for additional housing infrastructure. To accomodate the additional students, the University expects a significant westward expansion of the campus.

* The golf course will very likely fall prey to the campus expansion, and is predicted to be entirely consumed within 60 years.

* A more immediate alteration to the golf course may prove favorable to graduate students. One idea suggested to provide space for the new students involves converting three holes of the golf course into undergraduate housing. Doing so would have the collateral effect of connecting the graduate college with the rest of the campus.

* Of greatest relevance to graduate students, however, has been the proposal on the Planning Committee that the Graduate College be opened to undergraduates, and that Graduate College residents be relocated to "garden style apartments".

At a dinner at the Van Dyke Library at the Graduate College, Karen Larsen made it clear to the committee members that the graduate community would

very much oppose the loss of the graduate college. Fortunately, she says, the two architects who are now candidates for the work of expanding the campus both favor the graduate college remaining a residence primarily for graduate students.

Karen underscored the need to continually articulate to those planning the course of the university that the Graduate College is a vital institution and must be maintained.

Lastly, Karen urged us to determine which graduate student is appointed to the Planning Committee and urge that person to watch closely for matters concerning graduate students. In this manner, we can avert undesirable situations such as the loss of the Graduate College.

% Three additional issues concerning graduate students emerged during the Planning Committee meetings.

For graduate students, a sense of community is vital. This is true whether or not the Frist Campus Center is completed.

Secondly, it is essential that a range of housing options be made available to graduate students, whether the housing facilities are structured in an integrated way like the Graduate College, or instead are oriented more toward graduate students with families.

Lastly, concern was expressed about the social gulf that exist between graduate students and undergraduates. Perhaps this gap can be narrowed by building a new dormitory in which both graduate and undergraduate students reside. Other options for social integration include opening one of the current undergraduate dormitories to graduate residents and allowing undergraduates completing their theses to occupy the Graduate College.

% Karen explained that the graduate student on the planning committee is selected by Dean Montero. Certainly, this was true in Karen's case.

% With regard to committee appointments, Jenny spoke suggesting that appointment by the GSG

doesn't necessarily insure the broadest of representation. She wondered how energetic students not already on the GSG might become appointed to a campus committee if the task of making all appointments is the duty of the GSG.

Jenny felt that "good outreach" is vital if the GSG is to fill the campus committees in a responsible manner.

% In reply to Jenny, Karthick indicated that interested individuals could come before the GSG and make a case for their becoming members of campus committees.

In regard to developing a "good outreach", Karthick applauded the GSG's efforts in becoming a more active organization, and urged that it continue in this direction.

% Nathan Marsh questioned the notion that the loss of the Graduate College is an event to avoid at all costs. Perhaps, he argued, the University would have in mind to build a comparable facility if the graduate students were to be moved out of the Graduate College.

% In replying to Nathan, Karen alluded to a conversation she had with Dean Wilson in which the two asked themselves why graduate students consider the Graduate College a "sacred cow". In fact, she and Dean Wilson evidently concluded that the importance of the GC rests in the fact that it supplies the feeling of a central community center for graduate students. Thus, she urged, we should be certain that if ever we do exchange the Graduate College for anything else, we make certain that what we have in the end provides the same vital sense of community.

Report on the CPUC

Jason Brownlee furnished the report on the CPUC. The Chancellor Green was his principle topic. The administration has made plans for converting the Chancellor Green from the student center it presently serves as into a library for the humanities. In tandem with its new role as a library, the Chancellor Green

will also contain a set of study spaces under the planned renovation. The renovation, if it occurs, will take place between June of 2001 and June of 2003. Extensive renovation will also take place in East Pyne Hall.

% Although some graduate support has been gained, undergraduates evidently do not support the planned changes. Indeed, it has been argued that the Chancellor Green already is an ideal study space since it allows a combination of casual conversation, munching, and academic work.

% Although a web site opened last year to learn the sentiments of the university community on the Chancellor Green issue, an informal poll conducted by Eszter revealed that only two members of the assembly had been aware of the proposed modifications to the current student center.

% Karthick suggested that if one moved the Third World Center from its present location into the Chancellor Green, the TWC would be more centrally located on campus.

In a separate development, the CPUC passed an amendment to its charter allowing the GSG to supervise the appointments of all graduate student representatives to that body. The Chair requested a suggestion on implementation by the Constitutional Committee.

Report on the Campus Center -- furnished by Nathan
The man in charge of the Campus Center is very enthusiastic about the present campus center. His prior experience includes operating the Rutgers Campus Center.

% The campus center will be open daily from 7am until 3am. In addition, the Center will be closed relatively infrequently -- perhaps just on Christmas and on New Year's Day.

% A grand opening for the center is expected in November.

% The hope is that the GSG office will be located

next to that of the USG to facilitate interaction between the two bodies.

The Health Care Committee

Cristen Howley's report focused mostly on the Health Care Committee. She revealed that a considerable number of responses, 422 to be precise, have been received. It was suggested that additional time be allowed, and Cristen agreed to this.

% Karthick encouraged that graduate students feeling strongly about Health Care issues write a letter to the editor of the Daily Princeton.

He also urged that all members of the GSG take care to scan the online version of the Prince. In fact, he suggested that reading the Prince on a daily basis be a requirement for assembly members.

The Dental Care Committee

Karthick provided the Dental Care report. Karthick has composed a column in the Daily Princetonian discussing the lack of Dental Care among the faculty, staff, graduate, and undergraduates. Jason and Karthick have already contacted the USG concerning the dental care issue.

% Karthick urged that information on the dental issue be sent to the GSLA (Graduate Students for Local Activism). The email address is gsla@princeton.edu

% Karthick encouraged the GSG to issue a statement advocating an improvement of dental care for members of the university community. The content of the statement is given below.

"The Graduate Student Government affirms the importance of basic dental care and urges the administration to include basic dental coverage in its employee and student health plan."

% Eric suggested that we not issue statements on the health plans of Princeton employees. To do so, Eric argued, constitutes a form of industrial action. This, Eric said, is a matter best left to the discretion of

the campus employee groups. Eric further suggested that the GSG amend the statement to be issued by deleting the words "employee and". He expressed his support for the modified statement.

% In reply, Karthick insisted that the statement he seeks endorsement for is more a statement of principle than a call for direct action.

Karthick then urged the GSG to consider the notion that graduate students should broaden their concerns to include matters that do not just concern graduate students.

% The assembly voted to endorse Karthick's statement.

Postenrollment Committee

The report discussed a questionnaire which has been composed and issued.

Feedback has been extensive, and much of it has been negative. The speaker expected to continue to receive a large volume of replies.

Report on the APGA

Following a request by the APGA, Eszter brought to our attention a plan by the APGA to raise the cost of the Reunions weekend from \$15 to \$20. The APGA wants the opinion of graduate students on the increase, and also desired suggestions on how to encourage attendance by graduate students.

% Regarding the increase, the general sentiment in the assembly seemed to be that raising the Reunions fee won't have a major impact on attendance.

% In order to boost attendance, Nathan Marsh encouraged the APGA to explain in its advertisements that owing to the centennial year, the programming shall be of a radically different character. This might attract more graduate students, he said.

Report of the D-Bar Fact Finding Committee

Eric Adelizzi provided the report. He alluded to the appointment to meet with Deans Montero and Wilson on Thursday.

% The counsel for the University has declined to meet with the Fact Finding Committee. Thus, the legalities must be discussed with the Deans.

% Voting on a referendum and the Graduate College House Committee amendment was still in progress. The amendment will permit non - resident graduate students to become members of the graduate college after paying a \$10 fee. In the proposed amendment, the House Committee reserves the right to deny membership to any person. <It should be mentioned that at the time of writing, the amendment has passed and it has done so with overwhelming support from GC residents.> It is unclear whether the current D-Bar problems will be solved as a consequence of the amendment if it passes.

% When asked what the House Committee would like the GSG to do, Eric stated that the House Committee desires two things.

- * Firstly, the HC would like the GSG to determine the opinion of non - residents on the D-Bar issue. The HC is particularly concerned about the opinion of nonresidents on the proposed amendment to the GC HC constitution.

- * Another interest of the House Committee is that the GSG Fact Finding Committee learn from the Deans what legal options exist for resolving the Debasement Bar quandry.

% Nathan, citing widespread confusion about the D-Bar situation, requested that the Fact Finding Committee be granted the authorization to issue as statement to all graduate students summarizing its findings.

% Eric suggested that when the report has been prepared that it be issued via the global list after authorization has been granted by the executive committee.

% Hearing no objections, Eszter authorized the Fact Finding Committee to produce and issue a

report pending approval from the Executive Committee.

Item 4: Correspondence

Eszter brought to the assembly's attention the upcoming meeting of graduate student members of the Ivy League institutions.

% The meeting will take place at the University of Pennsylvania on March 31 and April 1.

% Each institution will send two members. In our case, Eszter will fill one slot. She encouraged any other GSG officer interested in attending to notify her.

% The funding shall be obtained from the Operating Expenses budget.

Item 5: Report of the Treasurer

Karthick provided the Treasurer's report.

Socially, the Y2K event has been deemed a great success. This, as Karthick explained, is also true from a fiscal perspective. Beverage sales evidently did much to offset the food and drink costs. Consequently, the total price of the dance is an unexpectedly low \$1600.

Karthick, in providing a rough assessment of the remaining funds, stated that we've still \$1000 in the Co-Sponsorship Budget, over \$1000 in events, and \$1500 remaining in operating expenses.

The Treasurer predicts a significant surplus in the Operating Expenses budget as the academic year draws to a close.

Funding Requests: The first and only request was presented by the treasurer for a GSLA sponsored speech to be given by Ralph Nader. Ralph Nader, Karthick stated, is a prominent speaker and activist. Interestingly, he also is a graduate of Princeton University. The event is expected to be held on March 7. It will occur at 4:30pm.

% To prevent a conflict of interest, Beverley McKeon presented the request.

% Though the total cost shall be \$500, the GSLA requested \$200 from the GSG.

% Karthick emphasized that funding was essential, since the GSLA currently lacks its own funds. Further, the GSLA cannot gain pecuniary support from undergraduate agencies without first acquiring funds from a graduate student organization.

% As the discussion began, a few objections surfaced. Eszter remarked that due to the finite extent of the GSG, we have historically only funded events aimed directly at improving the lives of graduates or social events in which graduate students participate.

% In reply, Karthick expressed a wish for the GSG to do more. In particular, he urged the GSG to support graduate student groups such as the GSLA. Lastly, he argued that funding might not be as of an issue if the administration rewarded enhanced GSG activism by supplying additional monetary support.

% Eric Adelizzi expressed a concern that in funding the Nader speech, we might be identifying ourselves with a particular political agenda. Nader's work, Eric argued, has been strongly polarized politically. Thus, it would be difficult for us to distance ourselves from political notions if we provide funds for the Nader speech. Since the speech is free, Eric was particularly concerned about it being connected with Nader's agenda.

% In reply, Cristen Howley explained that absence of any charge for the speech is likely due to the fact that Nader is an alumnus of Princeton.

% The assembly seemed to accept Cristen's explanation, and many members likely assumed that Ralph Nader's decision not to charge Princeton for the chance to hear him is due to his status as an alumnus. The implicit assumption seemed to be that Nader's speech would be more of a lecture, as Eszter briefly

characterized it, and not a talk designed to further Nader's political agenda.

As the discussion concluded, the matter was put to a vote. The amounts of \$150 and \$200 were proposed by the assembly.

Members of the assembly voted for the \$200 amount. An additional vote on whether to fund the event determined that the requested \$200 would be supplied for the Nader speech. The vote for the \$200 amount initially produced a tie. For the reasons stated below, Eszter changed her vote and the \$200 option was decided upon.

% Finally, Eszter supplied a comment on why she had changed her position and decided in favor of the Nader speech. Essentially, Eszter seconded Karthick's feeling that the GSG should support graduate student organizations.

Item 6: Eszter suggested that, owing to the busy agendas, we meet again three weeks hence. The date of March 8 was decided upon.

Item 7: A brief discussion of Meeting Protocol

Just prior to adjournment of the meeting, there was a short period of discussion on how to operate the meetings in a more efficient manner.

Karthick suggested that we be more diligent about adhering to the meeting agenda. He further suggested that the Daily Princetonian be invited to attend the GSG meetings.

To further hasten the progress of the meeting, Eszter has initiated a policy of only placing committees on the agenda that have material to discuss.

The next GSG meeting is on March 8. It will held at the Office of Population Research on 21 Prospect Street this Wednesday at 6:00pm.

Regular GSG Meeting: Wednesday, March 8
