

Minutes of the January 10, 2001 GSG Assembly meeting

Index:

0	Call to order
1	Approval of minutes
2	Treasurer
3	Social Chair
4	Housing: Student concern
5	Graduate Student Life Initiative
6	Housing
7	Post-Enrollment
8	Parking and Transportation
9	Campus Relations
10	Health Care
11	Officer Elections
12	CPUC Report
13	CIT Committee Report
14	Cost of living increase
15	New business
16	Adjournment

Item 0: The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by GSG Chair Lauren Hale.

Item 1: The Assembly voted to approve the minutes from the November 30, 2000 GSG meeting.

Item 2: Treasurer's Report

Steve Miller announced that the Chinese Student Association had requested \$500 from the GSG to partially fund their celebration of the Chinese New Year, which will be held on February 10, 2001. In previous years, the GSG has approved \$250 for the event. A representative from the Chinese Student Association told the assembly that the request was increased to \$500 this year because the celebration is expected to be larger than in previous years, with more and higher quality performances. After noting that the GSG budget is especially tight this year, the Assembly allocated \$300 for the event.

Item 3: Social Chair's Report

(a) Yesim Tozan announced that the Love Match Survey is being prepared and asked that any suggestions and comments be sent to her. The volunteers for the Love Match committee are Lauren Hale, Karthick Ramakrishnan, and Yesim.

(b) The Love at Frist Site Valentine's Day event was discussed. Setup tasks completed by University personnel will cost \$15 per hour. Dining services needs to be consulted about any food that will be served at the event. The GSG will supply the alcohol. Yesim asked for 10 volunteers for setup, and a list was circulated around the Assembly. The event will occur on February 16, 2001 from about 10pm to 3:30am. Dean Montero will pay for one half of the expenses since the Frist Chance Dance was so successful. Two movies will be shown during the event (i.e., Romeo and Juliet). Any ideas for decorations should be e-mailed to Yesim.

The event will be advertised through the distribution list, flyers, on the GC calendar, and through reminder postcards sent to each Graduate Student. Only graduate students are invited.

(c) The Wine Tasting event will be held on Thursday, March 29, 2001. Since the event will be limited to 100 people, it will be held in the Frist Multipurpose room. Admission will cost \$5, and the proceeds will be used to purchase water, bread, cheese, and plastic cups. Co-sponsorship with the GC House Committee was briefly discussed, and Eric Adelizzi volunteered to coordinate the efforts of the GSG and GC HC. Volunteers for advertising will be asked to sign up at a later date.

Item 4: Student Concern About Housing

Brent Jones, a fourth year graduate student who lives in Butler with his wife, addressed the assembly with his personal concerns over the possible shortage of graduate housing for 2001-2002. He attended the previous CPUC meeting but felt

that there was no sense of closure on the housing issue at the meeting. He wrote a letter to Provost Ostriker expressing his concerns about housing and gave copies of the letter to Lauren Hale and Karthick Ramakrishnan. He suggested that the housing concerns be reconsidered at the next CPUC meeting. Lauren announced that the Jan. 17 CPUC meeting will address the healthcare report, but graduate housing will be readdressed at the February CPUC meeting, at which the outcomes of the housing committee meetings will be presented. She gave Mr. Jones a copy of the letter from Provost Ostriker to the GSG that provided some additional information on the steps being taken to address the housing problems.

Item 5: Graduate Student Life Initiative

Lauren Hale asked each individual committee to prepare a 2-3 page report before the February 7, 2001 GSG meeting.

Item 6: Housing

Nathan Marsh has spoken with the representative from Lawrence, and he believes that they are in agreement concerning the necessary action for housing. The GSG nominations for the positions on the committees formed by Provost Ostriker were announced. The short term committee consists of Donnell Butler, Josh Handler, and Rick Ellis. The long term committee consists of Jim Vere, Eric Adelizzi, Mary Haas, and Kevin Osterloh. The GSG choices will not necessarily be the students chosen by the administration, however.

Karthick Ramakrishnan mentioned that the GSLA held a housing protest at Firestone Plaza last month and sent a letter outlining their concerns over the lack of housing to Provost Ostriker and Dean Wilson. This group would like the short term solutions to be completed by mid-February.

Cindy Tobery mentioned the idea of an open house walkthrough for members of the administration at some point in February or March.

Item 7: Post-Enrollment

Kevin Osterloh requested at the November GSG meeting that each representative obtain the post-enrollment numbers for his department. Most representatives have not yet sent him this information, so they were encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Representatives were also asked to present any personal accounts of post-enrolled students encountering problems (i.e., horror stories).

Item 8: Parking and Transportation

Cindy Tobery mentioned the discussion with Chuck Nouvel (from Public Safety) that occurred at the last meeting. The idea of funding a shuttle for graduate students with the funds raised from selling parking permits did not seem particularly feasible because the shuttle was estimated to cost about \$50,000 per year to operate. It has been determined that this figure is an overestimate of the cost, so funding does not appear to be as significant an obstacle as was previously thought.

A student in the Program in Atmospheric Sciences presented a specific concern about parking to the Assembly. Most of his work is done at the Forrestal Campus, and no University-sponsored transportation from the main campus is provided. Currently, a graduate student drives a van to bring several graduate students to the Forrestal campus, but this service will not be available in the future. There subsequently will be no transportation to the Forrestal campus for graduate students who do not own cars. Lauren Hale suggested that the student write a letter that states his concerns, and the GSG will endorse it. He could then read the letter at the CPUC meeting on January 17. One possible solution that was suggested is a shuttle. Nathan Marsh also suggested that the DGS's from the department concerned could discuss the issue and find a solution among themselves.

Item 9: Committee on Campus Relations

Karthick Ramakrishnan submitted the student life report from this committee. Three issues that he mentioned are prox card access to undergraduate colleges for graduate students, extending the graduate fellow program in the residential colleges, and mixed graduate and undergraduate housing in the new undergraduate college. He will meet with members of the administration and several undergraduate representatives. He plans to encourage all undergraduate student organizations to establish graduate liaison positions and to encourage a more active role for GSG co-sponsorship of the activities fair (with the USG).

Nathan Marsh asked about what progress had been made on the prox card issue. He felt as though everyone in the administration seems to agree with the concerns expressed by the GSG, but no changes have been made. Karthick agreed and said that he will inquire about the matter again.

Item 10: Health Care

The individual committees that have been researching and discussing the health care issue will report at the January 17, 2001 CPUC meeting. A member of the Assembly asked if the University is aware that the request for improved medical benefits for graduate students is an important issue. Lauren Hale assured him that the administration realizes the importance of these concerns. Karthick Ramakrishnan said that the GSG has the support of key administrators and that the CPUC report has helped initiate progress in this area.

Item 11: Upcoming Officer Elections

Jim Vere announced that campus wide election of officers will occur in March and encouraged members of the Assembly to begin to think about them. He asked all officers to write a short summary of their duties so that potential candidates can better understand the duties required of each officer. The actual voting will begin in February, and the

on-line system used for the ratification of the GSG Constitution will be used. The three volunteers to oversee the elections are Karthick Ramakrishnan, Donnell Butler, and David Linsenmeier. Any GSG member can nominate someone for an officer position. Elections must be completed before the March GSG meeting, and nominations close three weeks before the election date.

Item 12: CPUC report

The following issues of concern to graduate students will be discussed at the January 17, 2001 CPUC meeting (4:40pm in the WWS).

1. Library update: carrel distribution
2. Medical update: feedback
3. Priorities Committee update
4. Forrestal campus issues
5. University president: update on search

Item 13: CIT Committee report

Karthick Ramakrishnan mentioned several items relating to the availability of computing resources on campus. A member of the administration had asked in what manner graduate students would like money for computing resources to be spent. Karthick read a letter to be sent to the administration that outlines the GSG's view of computing priorities. A summary of this letter follows.

A. Goals to be achieved by January 2002:

1. Provide room wiring for GC annexes.
As we understand it, some recently-renovated annexes have already wired and only need to be connected to the campus network. This wiring should not come at a significant cost, given the existence of a line running to the undergraduate residence in 2 Dickinson Street and a line running to the Graduate College. We therefore recommend giving high priority to provide room wiring for GC Annexes, given that 93 residents live in the Annexes, that the anticipated costs of wiring and

connecting are not high,

and that Annex residents do not presently have easy access to network or cluster services.

2. Install a student computing cluster in Hibben/Magie.

Over 200 graduate students live in the Hibben/Magie complex, yet they have no access to

a computing cluster or networked services. Given the significant distance between the

Hibben/Magie residence and any public cluster, we consider the creation of a student

computing cluster to be something that should be achieved in the short term. In order

to prevent abuse of computing and printing privileges by non-student family members who

live in the Hibben/Magie apartments, we recommend making most or all of the computers

accessible only to student logins.

3. Grant graduate student proximity-card access to Edwards computing cluster.

Even if the GC Annexes are wired, those who do not own computers will have to walk a

significant distance to access 24-hour computing resources. The Graduate College is

currently the only option, and the cluster there is already overburdened with users.

We recommend granting prox-card access to the Edwards computing cluster to graduate

students in the immediate future.

4. Expend funds already allocated to reconstruct the New GC cluster.

The New GC cluster was shut down a number of years ago, and CIT has had money allocated

for at least a year to start it up again. In September 2000, the Graduate College

House Committee complained to Georgia Nugent from the Office of the Provost that no

work had been done. Ms. Nugent was surprised to hear of the news because she thought

it the work had already been completed. She promised to look into it, but the House

Committee has heard nothing. We request that the University expend the funds already

allocated to reconstruct the New GC Cluster.

B. Goals to be achieved by January 2003:

1. Provide room wiring for Lawrence apartments.

With 148 graduate student units, Lawrence should be provided with room wiring.

2. Provide room wiring for all units in Hibben-Magie.

Hibben/Magie already houses more than 200 graduate students, and this number has been

increasing over the past few years. Furthermore, there are hundreds of post-docs and

research staff who live in these apartments. We recommend room wiring for all units

in these apartment complexes.

3. Renovate and provide room wiring for Butler units as they are renovated or reconstructed.

We understand that Butler apartment units will be renovated or reconstructed in the

upcoming years. As units are renovated, they should be provided with room wiring to

the campus network.

C. Goals to be achieved by January 2005

1. Wire 529 Alexander.

2. Wire Millstone Apartments, connect via wireless relay, as is being done with Forrestal.

Finally, here are some additional considerations to keep in mind as the network is expanded

and upgraded:

1. All new wiring should be 100-base ethernet.

2. The GC ethernet should be upgraded to 100-base ethernet as soon as the undergraduate residences are so upgraded.

3. Any new graduate student housing constructed over the next few years should be wired initially with 100-base ethernet.

4. Allow network connectivity for laptop "gates" in common areas, such as Old GC Common

Room, Coffee House, etc., and similar areas in the other residences.

Item 14: Cost of Living Increase Report

The GSG supports coordinated, equitable cost of living adjustments across departments. (Some departments award higher stipends to incoming students but do not increase the stipends of currently enrolled students, which can result in a stipend difference of up to \$4,000 per year between first year students and fourth year students, as discussed at the November 30, 2000 GSG meeting). Dean Wilson will investigate this inequity. He asked Dean Dean Mawhinney to speak with the Directors of Graduate Studies in various departments. The GSG is waiting for a response from the administration.

Item 15: request from MaryMargaret Hasley

A ceremony for the remembrance of all of those who died in the previous year will be held in the University Chapel on February 24. Carnations will be placed in memory of the deceased. Karthick Ramakrishnan and Rick Ellis volunteered to attend on behalf of the GSG.

Item 16: The meeting adjourned at 7:19pm. The next GSG Assembly meeting will be held on February 7, 2001 in Frist room 309.