

GSU Assembly Meeting Minutes

January 29, 1997

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by presiding officer, Robert Weiner. Present: 28 reps. 4 non-reps. Sign-in sheet attached.

Item 1: Motion by Press Secretary Evan Haefeli to approve pre-distributed (via email) minutes of 12/18/96 Assembly meeting approved, with minor corrections, by unanimous consent.

Item 2: Co-Chair/Project Coordinator Robert Weiner began report on events since last meeting. Co-Chair/Treasurer Peter Park reported on the two funding votes that had taken place since the last meeting. \$300 was approved for the Association of Chinese Students and Scholars New Year's Celebration 25:1 with 1 abstention and \$250 was approved for the GSU's coffee hour in February 20:0.

Robert Weiner continued the report. The GSU office phone will be working as of January 31 (258-4GSU, i.e. 258-4478) and voice mail will be installed. He further noted that Jon Paul Rodriguez had been appointed by Dean Joy Montero to represent the GSU on the committee that selects the Distinguished Teaching Award recipients. The GSU's sales tax exempt status is now in effect, already saving us money on the latest edition of the newsletter. Both Co-Chairs met with the editor-in-chief of the Daily Princetonian, which wants to cover graduate students more. The Race Relations working group will be coming to the February 26 Assembly meeting.

Robert Weiner further reported on a meeting with the Board of Directors of the Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni

(APGA). They are happy to see the GSU revitalized and reported some information of interest to graduate students: 40% of all graduate applications this year were ordered over the Web; the Mathematics Department is reducing from 62 to 48 (20%) the number of students it is accepting because of research funding cutbacks; 1/3 of APGA dues is spent on subscriptions to the Princeton Alumni Weekly, which the APGA is now pushing to include more coverage of graduate students; Associate Provost Nugent has mentioned an intention to install DormNet in the graduate apartments (although she cannot guarantee that it will happen soon); Peter Park mentioned that the APGA is looking for a band to play at its reunion party.

Continuing the report, Robert Weiner noted that NAGPS is looking to hire someone, grad student or not, to enlist local stores in their Student Advantage discount program.

Judy Yanowitz (Molecular Biology) mentioned a recent meeting on the Kennedy-Kassenbaum law, a measure to ensure Health Care coverage between jobs. This could include graduate students. Information on the matter will be distributed to the reps.

Item 3: Report of Representative Secretary Jill Reiss. Eight seats remain vacant. Mathematics has a new rep., Ryan Siders. Reiss has sent a mass mailing to Millstone tenants and prepared letters to the seven unrepresented departments which everyone present at the meeting signed. Likewise a thank you letter to the director of the survey research center she prepared was signed. Finally, she has compiled current information on committees.

Item 4: Judy Yanowitz reported on and handed out a summary of the health survey results (see attached copy). There was a 23% return rate, which is good for campus surveys.

Item 5: Kristine Haugen reported on the Dental Project Team's

progress. Information is still being processed, but all will be placed on the Web within a few weeks. There are several possibilities for dental care at the moment, none of which is clearly preferable to others. The HealthPlex plan that bears the GSU name no longer has providers in Princeton and only has four providers in nearby communities. On the positive side, we finally have correct phone numbers for these four providers and we have identified a specific HealthPlex contact person to handle student complaints [Ms. Susan Markle, (800) 468-0608 ext 269, Fax (516) 227-1143]. The best we can do for now until a good plan is found is to make all the information available to grad students on the Web, and allow them to make an informed decision.

Item 6: Peter Park noted that our insurance company has made an offer to provide us with an eye care plan (for which we are not currently covered). Tamara Caspary (Molecular Biology) volunteered to begin researching eye care options. Additional volunteers are desired.

Item 7: Robert Weiner noted that the GSU had received a formal complaint from a grad student regarding CIT's decision to close the computer cluster at 87 Prospect St. during business hours for the entire spring semester. A project team of Jim McFarland (German), Brad Verter (Religion) and Rebecca Page (Chemistry) was appointed to work on this and on other CIT policies.

Item 8: Robert Weiner noted that grads in previous years tried to expand the Shuttle Bus to include morning service and that the GSU could conceivably try again. Insufficient interest was shown to appoint a project team to work on the shuttle bus issue.

Item 9: Judy Yanowitz questioned the GSU statement as printed in the January 1997 newsletter. In particular, she questioned the appropriateness of the phrase "the GSU at present has no plans or desire to seek recognition as a labor union." Two motions were

made to alter it. There was some confusion over procedure in doing so and the decision was made to revote over email.

Item 10: Robert Weiner mentioned the need to decide on whether to write a statement in support of the Yale grad students' right to decide to unionize. After much discussion, the decision was made to have the executive committee work out a plan and then present it to the Assembly at the next meeting.

Item 11: Report of Social Chair Patrice Jean. The first coffee hour will be on Saturday, February 8. A complaint has been received that social events do not cater to older grad students, but we are willing to do so if they show a willingness to cooperate with us. The Assembly decided to hold the next wine & cheese social hour in April.

Item 12: Peter Park and Robert Weiner noted that they will be meeting shortly with the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) president to improve GSU-USG relations.

Item 13: An LGBA funding request for \$300 for their annual film festival was approved 19:0 with 1 abstention.

Meeting adjourned 8:55 PM.