

Minutes for the GSG Assembly meeting held on Wednesday July 8, 2009 in 127 Corwin Hall

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes
 - a. GSG Assembly, Wednesday 10 June
 - b. Executive Committee Minutes
3. Reports
 - a. Chair
 - b. Academic Affairs Committee
 - c. Campus Relations Committee
 - d. Facilities Committee
 - e. Health & Life Committee
4. Discussion Items
 - a. Website/Webmaster
 - b. National Association for Graduate & Professional Students
 - c. Ivy Summit 2010 Committee
 - d. Mugs
5. New Business
6. Close
 - a. Next Meeting – Wednesday 12 August, 6pm, Corwin 127

1. Welcome

- a. The meeting began at 6:10pm began. Quorum was not met.

2. Minutes

- a. The minutes were not discussed.

3. Reports

- a. Chair

1. National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS)

- GSG received an invitation to join the NAGPS. Annual membership is \$500 p.a., but they will

admit us at a special rate of \$300 for the first year.

- NAGPS currently has 30+ member schools. There is an annual national conference in mid-November this year it will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska and a regional conference which was held in April at MIT.
- NAGPS has a education related policy platform (see <http://www.nagps.org/legislative>) and maintains a presence in Washington.
- Membership entitles all Princeton graduate students to discounts at NAGPS's various corporate partners (e.g. GEICO, Chronicle of Higher Education, Better World Books etc.) (see <http://www.nagps.org/partners>)

2. Web-design & Webmaster

- Suggestion to 'hire' a webmaster (with the relevant technical skills) to maintain the GSG website. The anticipated work-load is 2-4 hrs/wk. Suggestions include hiring an undergraduate student in a work-study program at a cost of \$10.60/hr and hiring a graduate student with in-kind payment in the form of housing-draw priority. (The latter suggestion may either involve Housing providing GSG with an additional housing priority spot, or a reallocation of priority of one of the current Executive officers.)
- Suggestion to hire the Student Design Agency to enhance the design of the GSG website. Cost = \$33/hr. SDA isn't currently available for business, but will reopen in early August.

3. Graduate Student Guide

- GSG will work with Grad College House Committee to expand the content of the Graduate Student's Guide to the Universe, to include material on Career Services, University Health Services and so on.
- Aim is to distribute the guide to all incoming students not just residents of the GC.

4. Updates from the Administration, informed by meeting with Dean Russell last week
 - The administration will meet in late-July/early-August to decide on a course of action for the Hibben-Magie apartments. Outsourcing to a private contractor seems to be the likely outcome.
 - The 3% (= \$750) increase in fellowships stipends (approved by PriComm in Feb 2009) will remain in place for 2009/10. Early indication is that there will be a 2% increase in 2010/11.

5. Moment of Silence for Students in Iran
 - GSG was asked to organize/publicize a campus wide Moment of Silence in recognition of the political struggles of students in Iran. We declined to formally participate as per our policy of not engaging with overtly political issues.

6. Save the Date
 - Ivy Summit: Fri Oct 9 – Sun Oct 11 at Cornell. We will call for nominations in August

Discussion:

1. We should get feedback from the student body about the perceived helpfulness of the GSG website
2. E-bulletin update: the e-bulletin was not being read, we decided that this was not the best use of our global emails to the student body we've decided to send out emails that are focused on themes; also we have been sending out a number of emails the past few months
3. The survey of the graduate student body planned originally planned for this summer is currently on hold due to a transition to new software; the survey can be sent out as soon as we have software online. Some outdated questions will have to be revised; also it makes more sense to conduct the survey at the start of the academic year due to fewer students on campus and with no press to which to release results.

b. Academic Affairs Committee

1. The committee had nothing to report.

c. Campus Relations Committee

1. APGA is trying to think about raising more dues from potential members, and talking to us about monetary incentives

2. Upcoming projects include getting incoming grad students to participate in P-RADE, getting reunion jackets for grad alum, and accommodating more grad students guests at hooding ceremony (currently only 2 hooding ceremony tickets per person, considering separating MPA/MPP candidates in WWS)
3. Additional suggestions: tailgating at a home football game in the fall, a permanent email address from APGA
4. Alumni giving: Walter McGinty, who is in charge of Alumni Giving, is trying to start a tradition where alum give \$1 per year
 1. Several current grad students have had difficulty donating
 2. While graduate students cannot donate money that will be used specifically for graduate students, a large proportion of alumni giving goes to graduate student funding!

d. Facilities Committee

1. Shuttle detours have been put in place temporarily to accommodate nighttime construction of the Washington Road Cross bridge
2. Not much volume of complaints right now
3. Hilary (Shuttle subcommittee chair) wanted to publicized the summer connection, asked for feedback about the signage on the summer buses

e. Health & Life Committee

1. The committee had nothing to report.

f. Social

1. The summer barbeque will be held next Wednesday. \$2000 was budgeted for the event. A family friendly musical will serve as entertainment. At this point, there are enough volunteers.

5. Discussion Items

- a. Several ideas were discussed about hiring a Webmaster for the new website
 1. Idea #1: hire someone from the student design agency to beef up website, in particular the aesthetics/design. Discussion points:
 - a. Some students thought more information, not aesthetics, was needed in the next website. However, easy navigation to more information is the idea behind this idea.
 2. Idea #2: hire someone to update the website for several hours a week to maintain the website. This option will cost ~\$800.
 3. Idea #3: staff the position of webmaster by hiring (rather than electing) a graduate student based on skills but pay him/her in housing benefits (such as housing and/or parking). This could be negotiated with Scott Baldwin, need to think about exec committee role
 - a. some restrictions on hiring grad students
 - b. student body may object to benefits awarded to non-elected student
 4. Discussion:

- a. very little traffic on site, very few complaints
 - b. Should we be paying someone for #1, or prioritizing, could #1 and #3 be combined? Do we get anything out of this?
- 5. Giri's proposal: advertise the position to both undergrads and grads at the university rate and ask if they have design experience. For next few months, we pay for someone to do this work
 - a. several attendees at Assembly thought this was reasonable comments
- b. Discussion about availability of content on GSG website to public
 - 1. One rep was concerned that the content of the GSG minutes are publicly available. The following solutions were discussed. The decision was left up to the recording secretary.
 - a. Secured access to GSG website contents
 - b. Thorough review of minutes by Assembly members
 - c. Omit all names in future GSG minutes except when it is absolutely necessary. For example, just use "the CEE rep" instead of the name of the rep. If needed, the name of the CEE rep can be found by cross-referencing to the attendance sheet.
 - d. Notify the GSG exec committee of any undesirable results from Google searches of yourself to remove information posted about you in the past
- c. National Association for Graduate & Professional Students
 - 1. Assembly discussed the merits of Princeton's invitation to membership with the NAGPS
 - 2. Membership fees: \$300 annual fee per or \$500?
 - 3. Roles of NAGPS: advocacy work with politicians in DC – solely education focused, no lobbying on other issues (extent of lobbying unclear)
 - 4. Meetings: a National and Northeast conference each year (This year's national conference will take place in November in Lincoln, Nebraska; Northeast at MIT); attendance costs are not covered by registration fee and may be prohibitively expensive (~2000\$) ; we may suggested that they use teleconferencing
 - 5. Member benefits: Corporate partners – student discounts for member schools (GEICO offers a 8% discount right now), books at 10% at Better World, chronicles get \$1 per issue
 - 6. Discussion of merits of becoming a NAGPS member:
 - a. [-] Ivy summit may be better conference
 - b. [+] one time attendance at conference + membership
 - c. [-] attendance is not that expensive in terms of our funding
 - d. [-] comparable member benefits may be found: Princeton must have some relationship with corporations for insurance benefits, etc; Lisa Schreyer was unsure about this, but his should be investigated

- e. [+] we would be supporting other graduate schools and putting the Princeton name behind NAGPS
- f. [+] we could consider sending one student to the national meeting
- d. Ivy Summit 2010 Committee
 - 1. Kevin Collins agreed to organize a meeting in August; this will be announced at the next assembly meeting
 - 2. The GSG has not advertised nominations or decided on an agenda for the committee
- e. Mugs
 - 1. At the last meeting, Assembly approved several designs already issued by PhDComics.com to be part of the design for the new mugs to be distributed this fall at new student orientation. Using this design will be free to us as long as we advertise the PhD Comics website & Jorge Cham's name on the mug. A straw poll conducted at the meeting showed an overwhelming preference of design choice #2:
 - a. GSG on one side, "Your Research Interests" graph cartoon on back
 - b. "What you know and when" graph cartoon – is inclusive of Master's students
 - c. "Lab to dorm" map cartoon – thought to be geared to students in the sciences

6. New Business

- a. No new business was discussed.

7. Close

- a. The meeting closed at 7:06pm.
- b. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 12 August, 6pm, Corwin 127