

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE PROPOSAL

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1. Motivation

The GSG is not just a group of student volunteers; it is an institution with a history, and (hopefully) a future. Recently, a number of concerns have been raised regarding how the GSG functions as an institution. This includes things such as: dealing with lack of quorum at meetings of the Assembly, passing knowledge from older to newer members of the GSG, and improving the election process, a consolidated collection of “best practices.”

These issues should *ultimately* be discussed by the Assembly. However, Assembly meetings are generally ill-suited for the *initial* discussion of these matters, which involve identifying the issues, fact-finding, brainstorming, and, very often, long periods of discussion.

This proposal is to create an “Institutional Review Committee,” which would study the *hows* of the GSG’s operations, in order to make the GSG better able to serve the graduate student body.

The first charge of the committee should be the formation of a six-month agenda for itself, which would be submitted to the Assembly in advance of the next Assembly meeting.

2. Full Text

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a. Duties. The purview of the Institutional Review Committee shall be the rules and policies, both *de jure* and *de facto*, for how the GSG operates as an institution and how the various parts of the GSG interact with each other. The Committee shall (i) study the material in its purview, (ii) provide a forum for discussing the material in its purview, (iii) identify ways to remedy identified problems, (iv) present to the Assembly a framework for discussing the identified problems, and (v), when possible, make recommendations to the Assembly for remedying the identified problems. The Assembly shall enjoy the power to charge the Committee with working on specific issues regarding material in its purview.

b. Other Rules. The Institutional Review Committee shall follow all of the rules regarding the Standing Committees of the GSG. [See Standing Rules II.]

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3. Notes

1. I don't propose this as a Standing Committee due to the parking perks. Yes, the GSG currently has an extra parking permit -- we have 12, I think, and are only using 11 = 7 exec + 4 s. c. chairs. But, I'm hesitant to give a such a perk to this new position. Furthermore, we may want to have two academic affairs co-chairs or form some other committee or something. As for calling this a standing committee and not giving it the parking perk
s, it may confuse the GSB regarding the (existing) standing committee chairs; saying that "standing committee chairs -- except for this new one we just formed -- get perks" is cumbersome.

2. The "forum for discussing" is intentionally left vague. Online forums may work quite well, if the system can get set up.

3. Some possible topics:

Inquorate meetings -- email voting.

Standing committees -- annual appointment by Assembly, regular reports, space on agenda for regular reports, handling co-chairs, formation of other standing committees (institutional review?), break up existing committees, revise charges of existing committees, "get parking perk if possible".

Structure of Assembly meetings -- regular slots for officer & committee chair reports, reports submitted a week in advance, cancellation of meetings by exec, assistant chair / chair (leader of GSG) not presiding over Assembly.

Interaction with individual departments -- multiple reps per department, perks for reps, punishments for inactive / vacant reps, enticements / publicity to come to Assembly / Assembly-only social events, interact with DGSC.

Institutional memory -- senior reps mentor junior reps (budget for lunch?), setup wiki, regular "retreats".

Restructuring GSG officers -- separate advocacy / social / administrative (non-assembly) / administrative (assembly), reasonable workload, perks, interesting positions, how to handle / expect vacancies / inactivities, need for slack, matching official duties and actual work.

Contingency plans -- how to handle periods of low membership, identify top priorities for survival of institution.

Governing documents -- create parallel documents with explicit dependencies, revise to clarify and simplify language.

members should be easily able to search mailing list archives: gsg-assembly:

<https://lists.princeton.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A0=gsg-assembly&X=307F726657B326832E&Y=gsg%40princeton.edu>; gsg-list: <https://lists.princeton.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A0=GSG-LIST&X=51FC95711CA6713F5F&Y=gsg%40princeton.edu>

get DGSCs on gsg-active@

election committee - responding to inquiries about current number of nominations / candidates.