

GSG Meeting Minutes 3/8/00

Brief Summary of the Minutes:

1. The GSG passes a bylaw covering election of representatives to the CPUC. All grad students may run. [See 2/ below]
2. Post Enrolled Student concerns (Housing, Health Care,) will be brought to Dean Wilson. [See 3/ below]
3. Up to \$40 given to the Mafia, GSG rejects the GC House Comm. request to cosponsor social hour, and tables till next meeting cosponsoring a discussion on diversity hiring policies. [See 5/]
4. Daily Prince will be invited to meetings. A GSG Active email list is created to facilitate discussion. [See 6/]
5. Discussion on proposal to make the GC an undergrad dorm. [See 8/]
6. Graduate Students for Local Activism (GSLA) earlier received \$200 from the GSG to cosponsor Ralph Nader's recent talk. The GSLA is unanimously reprimanded by the GSG for improper campaigning and deceiving the Assembly as to the nature of the event. The GSG votes 8-6 not to demand the \$200 back. [See 9/]

GSG Minutes:

Chair Eszter Hargittai starts the meeting at 6:07pm EST, announces that she will be unable to remain due to a sudden conflict and passes the Chair to Press Secretary Beverly McKeon. It is now 11:07pm GMT. Treasurer Karthick Ramakrishnan, in a move to save paper and promote social capital, passes out a small number of budget reports for people to share.

[1] Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of last meeting were approved at 6:08pm.

[2] CPUC (Council of the Princeton University Community) Representation. A little after 6:08pm the GSG begins discussion on a proposed bylaw

(passed out by Representative Secretary Jim Vere) to the GSG constitution on electing people to serve on the CPUC. The CPUC will now allow the GSG to administer the election of representatives to the CPUC. Discussion ensues about points (f) and (g) of the bylaw. The GSG decides to ammend point (f) so that vacancies will be filled by a by-election, and decides that there will be no interim appointments to fill vacancies. It is pointed out that a majority of 5 people is 3 and not 4. This startling revelation leads to a movement to replace four by three in (g). The movement succeeds. Web Page Administrator and self-appointed Grammarian Eric Adelizzi finds a minimum of two typos in the bylaw, which is passed at 6:38:30.

[3] Post Enrollment Report.

Four seconds later we learn that 22 students responded to the post enrollment survey. Major concerns expressed were Housing and Health Care. Teaching, Library usage and Advisor relations responses were generally positive. Other issues brought up include access to gym, parking, and administration cluelessness, prompting one surveyed student to plead "I want some dignity." Some students sought out counseling for stress, and now that they're post enrolled, the counseling is no longer covered!

Treasurer Karthick Ramankrishnan mentioned that some foreign students experience visa problems.

Other mentioned items: a student no longer paying tuition can only be classified as a pre-doc or something similar, and INS rules say one can only stay like this for a year. It was asked if the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students have any figures on post enrollment concerns at other universities.

There will be a face to face meeting with Dean Wilson, where these concerns will be mentioned.

* * *

At 6:48 we break for pizza -- if you came to the meetings, you could break for pizza too! We resume the meeting at 6:51, first being briefly introduced to the USG Senator David Liu, who volunteered (or got the short straw) to come to the GSG meeting.

* * *

[4] Budget Requests.

The Hibben-Magie Spring Fling was canceled due to a room conflict, so the GSG will not support the event with \$300 in funding. Instead, some of the money will go to help the local Mafia. Namely, the The Graduate Mafia Brotherhood (<http://www.princeton.edu/~mafia/>), after assuring the Assembly that anyone is welcome to come and play and that they will find ways to advertise the weekly Thursday games (10pm Graduate College Coffee House), requests up to \$40 to cover the cost of two laser pointers for their games. Treasurer Karthick Ramakrishnan recommends we fund Mafia activities, and the motion passes.

Discussion turns to a funding request by the Graduate College House Committee (HC) for \$600 to help defray the costs of Social Hour. Representative and Assistant Chair of the HC Manish Vachharajani says that

many non-GC graduate students attend, and that Butler received \$600 for their social hours and Hibben-Magie was voted \$200 for their Spring Fling.

Treasurer Karthick Ramakrishnan recommends against funding, arguing that Butler and Hibben-Magie have no budgets, and that this event is a regular occurrence and not a cosponsored event. Manish argues that by word of mouth

many graduate students know about this and again, it is open to all graduate students. Total yearly cost is around \$8300. It is decided not to

help fund these events, but instead to possibly cosponsor a party at the Graduate College (perhaps a Salsa Night).

The Women's Center requests \$200 for an event with the Dean of the Faculty

on diversity with regard to faculty hiring and tenure decisions, to be held

over dinner at the Graduate College. This event will be open to all members of the community. The Women's Center is requesting cosponsorship support from the GSG to help make this a campus wide event where all graduate students will feel welcome. A decision on funding is postponed to

the next meeting while other sources of funding are pursued.

[5] Communications.

7:07pm. In a bold move, the Assembly reverses the order of sub-items under

Communications and discusses External before Internal. The Undergraduate Student Government meetings are covered by the The Daily Princetonian and Tigernet. Everyone votes to invite the Prince to our meetings, save for the Leader of Abstentions Kyle Morrison, who will also be abstaining later.

Chair Beverley McKeon asks the Assembly how they feel about the traffic (or lack thereof) on the GSG Assembly email list. To date, email sent to this email list has generated little response. There is a separate email list (GSG Exec) which is used solely by the seven officers of the GSG. It is suggested that a trial period be inaugurated with more email sent to GSG Assembly.

The following example was brought up. A letter requesting graduate students to participate in a USG Vision survey was being discussed among the Executive Committee. Chair Eszter Hargittai had been informed about this survey by the USG. She had told the Executive Committee that she didn't feel it was worthwhile sending the matter to the Assembly as the survey had only 3 more days to run, and also could limit the effectiveness of the GSG trying to get participation in future surveys. While the Executive Committee was still discussing the matter, Treasurer Karthick Ramakrishnan sent the announcement out to the Assembly, signing it Graduate Students for Local Activism (GSLA). The Executive Committee (EC) later approved sending it out. Treasurer Ramakrishnan was upset that the EC was trying to suppress discussion, and argued that such debates should take place on assembly lists. Web Page Administrator Eric Adelizzi said the problem was not with sending out the letter, but sending it out while the EC was still debating sending it out.

Debate follows. Acting Recording Secretary Steven Miller proposes the following: to trust the Executive Committee to talk amongst themselves on small issues like commas and grammar, but whenever an issue comes up send notice to GSG Assembly. Then, anyone who is interested can be Cc:ed on future GSG Exec emails on the subject.

Representative Manish Vachharajani proposes the following, which is passed:

The GSG should create a GSG Active list where any member of the Assembly or Executive Board may join and the day to day business of the GSG is discussed.

(Note: the second and final abstention occurs here).

[6] Project / Committee Reports.

>From 7:38:02 to 7:39:50 we hear that the Health Care survey will end this week (week of 3/5/00), but there's still time to fill it out at <http://www.princeton.edu/~gsg/health.html>

Also, \$300 was returned from cosponsoring the Hibben-Magie Spring Fling as it was canceled, and that there will be a new party at HM later. Please note Graduate Student Appreciation week will arrive later this semester (currently it's been spotted over Boise, heading East), and the Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni will throw events, including (hopefully) free T-Shirts!

[7] New Business.

Treasurer Karthick Ramakrishnan brings to the Assembly's attention an article on the front page of the Prince (which Proxy Greg Huey is kind and strong enough to hold up for some to see), which discusses a proposal to turn the Graduate College (GC) into a 6th undergraduate residential college. For the most part, the issue is closed and this will not occur. Treasurer Ramakrishnan states that architects have examined the GC, but no one ever talked to GC residents. Graduate College Residence Life Coordinator Ulli Struve commented that the architects were just examining the building, and that it's the University that should be and is soliciting feedback. He states that one can send comments by going to the Wythes report online. The Wythes report may be viewed at:
<http://www.princeton.edu:80/pr/reports/wythes/index.htm>

For the record: one recommendation is that if the GC is turned into an undergraduate dormitory, a daytime shuttle service would have to be instituted for the undergraduates, as campus is so far away it is unreasonable to expect them to have to walk there. A good chuckle was had by all, until it was realized by those living in the GC that they'll have to walk back to campus tomorrow.

Representative Jason Brownlee will go to President Shapiro's office hour on Tuesday, March 21st, sometime between 8:30 and 9:30am, to discuss this issue. Interested persons may contact Representative Brownlee about joining him.

In other new business, the GSG discusses its cosponsorship of Ralph Nader's March 7th talk on Campus. Graduate Students for Local Activism (GSLA) President Karthick Ramakrishnan, at an earlier meeting of the GSG,

had asked for \$200 to help cosponsor the event. After being assured that the event would be non-political, the GSG approved the funding request. In addition, several other student organizations were contacted by the GSLA and asked and agreed to help fund.

Representative Adelizzi reads a letter from a concerned graduate student relating to Nader's speech:

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Mon, 06 Mar 2000 16:48:35 -0500

From: C. Andrew Burlingame

To: gsg@princeton.edu

Subject: Re: February MiniMinutes

Dear GSG,

I'm mildly concerned that Mr. Nader's speech will be funded in part by funds that I have contributed to the GSG. I recognize that as the elected representatives of the graduate student community you have the right and mandate to disburse those funds within the guidelines of your charter and at your discretion, but feel that this use does not fall under your authority.

Political donations (as this surely is) are a form of advocacy. Campaign finance reform is a hot topic in this year's election, and the biggest argument against it involves the philosophy that political donation is a form of free speech. This point of view, held by authorities in political philosophy around the country, clearly establishes donation as a form of political speech (at least until the Supreme Court rules on reform

You speak with my voice, so take some care in what you say.

Regards,

Andy

Graduate Student Government wrote:

>

> * The GSLA asked for \$200 to fund a speech by Ralph

> Nader. Despite concern that the GSG would, in
> funding Nader's speech, be associating itself with
> his politics the assembly voted to provide the \$200.
>
> Shortly after processing the funding request, the meeting
> was adjourned.

Representative Adelizzi expressed concern about the GSG funding political events, as we are an organization where membership is mandatory. In years past we used to have a constant flood of people demanding their membership fees back and asking to leave the organization. Mr. Adelizzi was also concerned about the possible loss of tax-exempt status from funding a political event. Mr. Adelizzi stated he thought the Assembly had been deceived at the previous meeting as to the nature of the event, and that the Ralph Nader for President campaign poster and the Green Party poster displayed behind Ralph Nader demonstrated that this was more than just a lecture. Further, Mr. Adelizzi stated that such events should be paid for by those interested in the event.

Representative Jason Brownlee said the money was to be used solely for publicity and public safety, and none of the money was used for actual campaign donations.

GSLA President Karthick Ramakrishnan stated the USG was very happy with how hard the GSLA had worked to get funds, and voted very quickly to help sponsor the event. Mr. Ramakrishnan said the issue was what constituted a political speech, and all actions taken by the Graduate Students for Local Activism were consistent with the Rights, Rules and Responsibilities guidelines published by Princeton University. GSLA President Ramakrishnan said he asked Mr. Nader (Ralph to some of us here) not to talk of his campaign for presidency, which Mr. Nader agreed to.

A representative present at the event stated there was positive feedback on the event from graduate students present.

The issue before the Assembly was: was this a non-political lecture, or was this a political campaign stop, in which case either the Assembly or the Graduate Students for Local Activism had been deceived.

Proxy Greg Huey showed a flier put out by the Green Party of New Jersey,

which publicized this as a campaign stop, and solicited campaign contributions. Representative and GSLA Treasurer Jason Brownlee stated he distributed this flier around the Graduate College.

Representative Manish Vachharajani read the following excerpts from the poster:

"(At 8:00 Nader will be speaking at the Rutgers College Student Center on College Avenue in New Brunswick; that is a University function, not a campaign event, but the public is invited to attend)"

(note: there was no statement on the poster that the Princeton stop was a University and not a campaign event.)

as well as:

"Nader is encouraging folks to think in terms of \$100 to \$500 contributions"

and:

"Bring your checkbooks along to these events!"

A short time later the Assembly unanimously voted to reprimand the Graduate Students for Local Activism for their part in improper campaigning and deceiving the Assembly.

Next, Web Page Administrator Adelizzi moved that the GSG demand its \$200 back from the Graduate Students for Local Activism for misleading the Assembly as to the nature of the event. This motion failed 6-8.

And in other new business, at 8:11 the Assembly decided to discuss on GSG Assembly the proposal to turn the Graduate College into a 6th undergraduate residential dorm.

At 8:04:32 Chair Beverly McKeon adjourned the meeting, making it an under 2 hour meeting, a local minimum for the GSG.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 29th at 6pm in OPR (21 Prospect) Great Hall.

And that's the minutes and I am outta here

Steve "Dennis" Miller