Please review the draft minutes from the 3/26 Assembly Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by presiding officer, Robert Weiner. Present: 29 reps. 6 non-reps. Sign-in sheet attached.

**Item 1:** The minutes to the last meeting were appended by unanimous consent as follows: Although the following statements do not change the official tally recorded at the meeting, these representatives who missed the vote would like the record to show how they would have voted had they been present: In favor of the resolution, Sherrie Glass (Woodrow Wilson School) and Ming Xu (ACSSPU). Opposed to the resolution, Mike Blanton (Astrophysics).

Scott Harper (Web Page Administrator) then moved to approve the minutes from last meeting as amended. Approved by unanimous consent.

**Item 2:** Report of Rep Secretary. Jill Reiss announced we have 41 active seats and five vacancies. There are three new reps: Stephanie Harves (filling the Slavic L&L vacancy); Blake De Maria (succeeding Andy Shanken as Art & Arch rep.); and Swati Marner (succeeding Sara Godfrey as Lawrence Apts rep.). The quorum for tonight's meeting is 25 seats (60% of all active seats).

**Item 3:** The officers then reported on developments since the last meeting.
- Peter Park (Co-Chair/Treasurer) announced that $100 was approved for the Hong Kong Student Association Party, 22:1 with 1 abstention.
- Robert Weiner announced that the new listserver, GSUKEY, is now available for all (non-rep.) grad students who wish to receive
frequent updates from the GSU. Persons wishing to subscribe should email.

• Robert then reported on the co-chairs trip to the NAGPS northeast regional conference on March 15 at UPenn. The meeting was very worthwhile. They learned a lot about the activities of other graduate student organizations. They were also impressed with presentations from several members of the NAGPS National Board. Topics included: - career services for grad/prof students - jump starting your GSO; strategies for overcoming apathy - diversity workshop - keynote address by Penn's Vice Provost for Graduate Education on role of GSOs in administration of graduate education - teaching resources, - using electronic forms of communication effectively, - update on national legislation affecting grad students, - update on graduate employee unionization - implementing National Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week on your campus.

• John Stewart (MAE) read aloud the Governor of NJ's proclamation that April 6 thru the 13th is Graduate Student Appreciation Week. Copies of the proclamation and the NAGPS newsletter were passed around two handouts for reps to post in their departments. Campus were sent by campus mail to absent reps.

• Robert reported that the CPUC approved a resolution opposing the ban on halogen lamps. He was pleased with the cooperation between the GSU, USG, student members of the CPUC and GC House Committee on this issue. It bodes well for future collaboration.

• Surita Bhatia (GC House Committee) asked for a resident of the Graduate College to join her on the Alternative Lighting Options Task Force that the University appointed in response to the CPUC resolution.

• Robert announced that the Princeton Alumni Weekly ran an article on graduate student life on March 19 that included favorable references to the GSU. It is available on our Web Page under the heading "GSU in the News."

• Robert reported on the Executive Committee meeting of March 14. The officers discussed the agenda for the rest of the semester and recommend the following:
1. Now that we have filled a sufficient number of Assembly vacancies, we can schedule a thorough review of the GSU constitution. At the April 30 meeting we will discuss our goals for improving the constitution and hopefully by the May 28 meeting we will be ready to discuss specific proposals.

2. At the April meeting we will discuss proper usage of GSU listservers and the suggestion that we re-establish a universal grad student listserver for bulletins.

3. Our goal by end of semester is to provide the grad student body with five important benefits:
   - Updated dental plan options
   - New eye care option
   - Online version of our welcome guide
   - Online career services guide
   - Expansion of student advantage discount program to include local merchants (in conjunction with the USG)

4. 
   - Item 4: Brian Kierland (Philosophy) announced that in response to a constituent complaint, he contacted the telephone office about updating the graduate student directory. He will prepare a summary of his findings for the April edition of the newsletter.

   - Item 5: Robert announced that the next order of business was to make a decision regarding the public release of the GSU Assembly resolution supporting the right of graduate student employees to unionize that was conditionally approved at 2/26 meeting.

   The executive committee recommended that the constitutional challenge initiated at the last meeting be dismissed and that the resolution be publicly released forthwith. Robert summarized the reasons for the executive committee recommendation as follows:
   1. Nothing in the constitution prohibits the issuance of this resolution.
   2. The resolution is consistent with our purpose as stated in section II; to advocate interests of PU grad students.
      - We are clearly advocating the interest of Princeton graduate students by making a statement about union organizing rights
of all grad students including our own. This is logically no different than if we would make a statement about a variety of other national issues that directly affect us as grad students, for example: student loans, taxation of fellowships, federal funding of academic research, laws affecting student visas, voter registration and absentee ballot laws, etc..

- The interest of PU grads are served by their student government defending grad student rights and academic freedom.
- PU grads have an interest in the GSUs participation in the regional, national and international communities of grad/professional students that organize on national issues. Our members benefit in numerous ways from their collective efforts.

3. We arguably have a special duty to express our concern about the Yale situation because of the long-standing close relationship between our two universities. It is likely that many of our members will interact with Yale on a professional basis in the future. We have an obligation to inform them of our concern with grad students affairs at Yale.

4. There are a few other clauses of the constitution which indicate that the GSU is expected to deal with issues of national concern. For example, Section IVB, the duties of the officers mentions that the press secretary should ensure coverage of graduate concerns in *national* media. Section IVD, on committees of the Assembly, says that a standing committee on economic affairs should address issues such as *taxes and loans.*

5. In response to the concern about the Assembly passing resolutions that some individuals disagree with, the resolution at issue clearly states that it expresses the views of the *GSU Assembly,* not the entire GSU membership. Individual dissent is expected and allowed for in article III that explicitly acknowledges that our members do not necessarily believe that union organizing among grad student employees is advisable.

After some debate, wherein Steve Miller (Math proxy) repeated his position that the resolution is inconsistent with the purpose of the GSU,
John Stewart (MAE) moved that the constitutional challenge be dismissed and the resolution be publicly released forthwith. The motion passed 23:3 with 1 abstention. The executive committee thus promised to disseminate the resolution in the near future.

**Item 6:** Peter Park reported that we had seven funding requests pending. Six of the requests had not been discussed previously (CIGS spring film festival; LGBA Pride Week, Butler Apts. Cinco de Mayo; APGA Reunions Party; GC Summer BBQs; Astronomy Dept. comet viewing). The seventh involved giving additional funds above the $100 already approved to the Hong Kong Student Association (see item 3). Peter distributed a handout with recommended funding amounts for each of the requests. A total of $1,150 remains in the co-sponsorship budget for this fiscal year.

During the debate, Greg Godfrey suggested that instead of paying for the GC summer barbecues out of our co-sponsorship budget, we should directly sponsor one as a GSU social event (from our social budget). Three motions were seconded and considered:

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Voting Round 1: 3 16 7
Voting Round 2: x 20 6

Motion 2 was approved 20:6. The GSU thus has no remaining funds to co-sponsor events for this fiscal year (thru August 1997).

**Item 7:** Report of social chair. Patrice Jean proposed the following
amounts for various social activities: Repetitive stress seminars, $50; dessert night for grad appreciation week, $100; GC summer barbecue, $400; family statue of liberty trip, $100. A motion made to accept Patrice's recommendations was approved 26:0.

(Robert was then given a birthday tart, and a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday" ensued.)

**Item 8:** Roberto Lint-Sagarena reported on the post-enrollment project. He has only received 6 responses so far about the letters to the DGSs, but all have been in favor of the idea of a university task force to recommend improvements in conditions for post-enrolled students. He encouraged the reps to get feedback from their DGS in advance of the next meeting and forward it to him at rrlint@princeton.edu.

**Item 9:** Robert announced that the CIT letter, revised according to feedback from reps., had gone out and we should have some news on the situation by the next meeting.

**Item 10:** Robert introduced Pamela Bowen, MD, MPH (Director of Princeton University Health Services) and Karen Gordon (Health Education Coordinator). Bowen discussed what was learned from the GSU Health Care Survey. Gordon has prepared a draft question and answer handout in response to a number of additional questions that students had written on their surveys. Copies will be emailed to the reps. for review before the final handout is issued. Discussion proceeded for several minutes.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Item 11:** Sherrie Glass (WWS) brought up constituent concerns regarding the recent pedestrian-auto accidents on Washington Road. The Assembly supported her desire to investigate the problem further.

**Item 12:** Karen Lipton Dentler would appreciate feedback regarding US & campus mail & overnight courier delivery at graduate offices and residences. The Administration is reviewing mail delivery services in
order to improve them where possible. Contact her at klipton@princeton.edu.

**Item 13:** Noha Bakr (NES) said her constituents were concerned about the removal of parking spaces due to construction work at Palmer Stadium. Others reported that a new lot for grad students will be made available soon (construction is proceeding rapidly on Ivy Lane). Consensus was that the Assembly will wait until next meeting to see if the expected parking spaces are sufficient before taking further action.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.