GSG Assembly Agenda
Wednesday 13 May, 6pm

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes
    a. GSG Assembly, Wednesday 8 April
    b. Executive Committee Minutes
3. Presentations
    a. U-Store
4. Reports
    a. Chair
    b. Academic Affairs Committee
    c. Campus Relations Committee
    d. Facilities Committee
    e. Health & Life Committee
5. Discussion Items
    a. Housing - Hibben/ Magie
6. New Business
7. Close.

   Next Meeting – Wednesday 10 June, 6pm, Corwin 127

1. Welcome

The meeting began at 6:08pm. Quorum was not met.

2. Minutes

a. A copy of the April 8 2007 assembly meeting minutes was posted to the website and e-mailed to assembly the previous week; no additional changes were made up to the time of the meeting. A summary spreadsheet for the mid-year budget, which was discussed at the meeting, would be posted to the GSG website (gsg.princeton.edu) as soon as possible. A motion to approve the minutes was made. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Since the assembly did not have quorum, the minutes were approved by assembly acting as a "committee of the whole". Giri (GSG chair) would send an email to the GSG to inform them of any business conducted by the committee of the whole, and any voting member would have to right to oppose the decision within 3 days.

b. Minutes for the weekly executive committee meetings, from March 6, 2009 onward, were also posted to the website.

3. Presentations

a. U-Store

Jim Sykes, President of the U-store, asked for Assembly's thoughts on how the U-store could cater to the needs of the graduate student body.

Jim gave a brief explanation of the U-store's history: The U-store was started in late 1800's as a student agency, and is now a co-op owned by its members. It rents property

from the University but is a separate entity. The U-store recently stopped selling books. When the owners of McCawber Books wanted to retire, the U-store was in negotiations to buy the store. The University wanted a first-class book store on campus, and wanted to offer as much space (and business) to entice book operators and so bought a larger space on Nassau St.

The U-store has recently become more interested in marketing to the graduate student body, a neglected constituency when the U-store focused on selling textbooks. Jim and the U-store board identified three issues concerning graduate students:

1. Pricing:
    a. we understand your stipends, and could sell products for less if we could sell more volume; we need feedback from you about where do we need to be have your business
2. Products:
    a. The U-store's ambition is to be a mini-grocery store - expanding to food – for ex., large containers of milk and water; we sell ~400-500 bananas per week
    b. Other offerings include health and beauty aids. The U-store is asking if we could compete with CVS - would we be more of a destination for students.
    c. The U-store has a dorm business, which is mostly of interest to undergrads.
    d. other – school products
3. Marketing
    a. Doesn't seem to be the demand for students to have to come in to the U-store those first few months of first-year
    b. Feedback – it is welcome now or through Praveena Joseph-de-Saram, the graduate student rep; now, the U-store is also willing to hold a focus group

Jim received the following suggestions and comments:

1. According to Hilary Bergsieker (Facilities committee), the shuttle system may consider allowing advertisements to be posted inside the shuttles. This may be especially useful to the U-store, now that the shuttle stops there.
2. The U-store looks like a paraphernalia store from the outside; advertising may help better inform potential customers about the store's products.
3. Targeting subpopulations of graduate students:
    a. Students who live off- campus – prob. won't get those for grocery market
    b. Student who live on-campus and have no car
        i. Will esp. want food for cooking– condiments*, onions/garlic, bread*, eggs
    c. Students who live on-campus with cars
        i. May want fresh food (bagged salad greens, cheeses* – "whole foods") , not pre-made – without big grocery run on weekend
4. offer prepared food to compete with Café Vivian, which is expensive
5. produce a weekly circular – this can be e-mailed out
6. graduate students' concerns over sweat shop policies

a. U-store advocated for fair treatment starting from the late 90's.
b. Jim personally went to the Russell Athletics facility in Honduras – not a true sweatshop – the facility is air-conditioned, does not employ under-age workers or have workers living in the facility; works have access to health care
c. Issues concerning rights to associate: employees were issued the rights to associate, but the factory that unionized was closed. According to Jim, one side is pushing for the reopening of the closed factory, rehiring of workers and the reinstitution of the union. The other side says the factory is closed, and nothing else can be done. Jim's solution is a compromise, where another factory should be opened, and as many unionized workers as possible should be rehired.
d. The U-store doesn't believe Russell Athletics is a serial abuser, but there are issues to address. If the University has decided that it has met certain regulations, the U-store is not going to make a decision independently.

7. Graduate student paraphernalia
    a. Currently not offered by U-store; clothing with logos for Princeton GS, GC, Princeton GS plus graduation date (may sell even more)
    b. Dorothy Bedford, chairman of the board, suggested department-specific T's
    c. Sweatshirts, jackets, shirts that don't have years on them or "??" for graduation year; asterisk after "Princeton"

Any additional comments or suggestions can be sent to Jim Sykes at jsykes@pustore.com

4. Reports

a. Chair

1. Survey of Graduate Student Body: Aurelian and Kevin have worked hard to complete the survey, which should be administered to students in the near future.
2. Town-Hall Meeting
    a. GSG held its first semi-annual town hall meeting on Wed 22 April. There was a reasonable turn out. The discussion focused mainly on transportation issues. In the future we'll hopefully receive feedback on a more diverse range of issues.
    b. Next town-hall planned for late September. Shirley Tilghman is tentatively scheduled to address the student body at this forum.
3. CPUC Meeting
    a. Last meeting on Mon 5 May. The Provost provided an update on financial situation, and there was a presentation regarding move-in-move-out procedures for undergraduate housing.
    b. Dean Bill Russell presented information on graduate admissions for 2009/10. (See tabled attached)
4. End of Semester Party
    a. GSG is co-hosting an end of semester party in conjunction with the GC House Committee, on Saturday 23 May (weekend immediately after exams finish).

b. YAY for end of year funness!

5. Healthier Princeton Advisory Board
    a. Silvia and I attended the Healthier Princeton Advisory Board meeting last Friday. Several issues were discussed, including spiritual health of the campus, and the progress of the alcohol coalition.
    b. The main session discussed the effect of the economic downturn on health (such as the effect of increased stress levels). A sub-group brainstormed the effect on grad students in particular (e.g. success on job-market, decisions about DCE, research funding etc.) and possible solutions.
6. Save the Date
    a. Ivy Summit: Fri Oct 9 – Sun Oct 11 at Cornell. We will call for nominations in August/September 2009.
    b. May Day Race (Sun 2 May 2010) – team relay marathon from Princeton to Rutgers. Join the GSG team! You have a WHOLE YEAR to train….

Best of luck for exams!
Giri

2009/10 Graduate School Admissions Statistics

	Applicants	Offers	%	Acceptances	%
Total	10133	1068	10.5%	575	53.8%
PhD	7573	840	11.1%	407	48.5%
MA	2550	227	8.9%	168	74.0%
US Resident	5571	716	12.9%	366	51.1%
International	4555	352	7.7%	209	59.4%
Male	6327	686	10.8%	376	54.8%
Female	3802	382	10.0%	199	52.1%
African American	252	28	11.1%	14	50.0%
Latino	282	38	13.5%	23	60.5%
Native American	25	3	12.0%	1	33.3%
WISE	1156	172	14.9%	63	36.6%

b. Academic Affairs Committee

The committee had nothing to report.

c. Campus relations report

An update of the furniture drive was sent by email from Christina Hultholm (CAmpsu relations chair). The email was read aloud by Kevin Collins.
The furniture drive is being held on June 2nd and 3rd this year. Since last year's drive was under-staffed, Annie asked for volunteers.

d. Facilities Committee

1. Shuttle
    a. We are meeting with Kim tomorrow to discuss summer - original plans cut most "extras" over the summer so no budget. – from reunions to August
    b. Concerned over End of Semester reductions. Will report with goal for improvements next year. How is parking working? Other problems?
    c. Summer expectations (30 min freq on circ & east line through 11pm? no on-demand. no weekends. same parking as now.)
    d. Goal – trying to negotiate sat service to wegmans 4 hours every other week. If we can make the schedule/route work and funding.
    e. Forrestal people are meeting with Kim later this month over summer schedule- recent addition of an hour of service not enough.
    f. Hilary's questions to Assembly: should the facilities committee devote its efforts to get a few express hours in the AM, or is the summer circulator – 5min to average Lawrence resident, 10-15min for H/M – sufficient? Should we be prioritizing Saturday service?
        i. one comment– rather have the committee work to get P-Rides reinstated, as a matter of late night safety; Hilary responded that the caveat is that On-demand is most expensive component of service, never had it before
        ii. this year we have less parking lots available to us
2. Housing
    a. Long term: Jeff Dwoskin and Bill Zeller (Facilities co-chairs) wrote a letter to Chad Klaus (Assistant Vice President of Facilities, Services) requesting that the GSG be actively involved in deciding whether outside developers should be brought in for the management of and renovations to Hibben/Magie. The letter was also sent to Dean Russel and President Tilghman (see May11letterKlaus.pdf). Chad responded quickly that graduate students would be involved (a copy of this email was distributed at the meeting- see May12Klaus_reponse.doc) Jeff wanted to discuss graduate students' concerns:
        i. Rent levels; keeping rent increases in line with other grad housing
        ii. Only grad students can live there (with non-affiliated roommates), (maybe flexibility for other affiliates)
        iii. Quality of units, now and at end of life, if not built to University standards. Quality of maintenance & support
            1. Lease flexibility
            2. Common spaces and shared facilities
            3. Assignment - part of housing draw?
        iv. This is a change from the impression we got at the meeting, we need to decided where we need to make sure how to get involved in the process
        v. GSG involvement discussed at Assembly
            1. we need to make sure we are seriously involved, not at the whims of the U

2. we should prioritize issues concerning unionized labor; sustainability issues

b. An op-ed authored by Giri Parameswaran, Anne Twitty, and Benjamin Schmidt was published in the Daily Princetonian today, May 13, 2009 advocating for the University to maintain control of graduate student housing (http://www.dailyprincetonian.com/2009/05/13/23689/)

c. Immediate issues – next two will be on housing policy committee; put on agenda for financial issues for graduate students, and were decided without consulting the housing policy committee

i. new Renters Insurance requirements

ii. Air conditioner installation (Butler, H/M, old lawrence)

d. Maintaining % students housed when Butler goes down – requires renovation of Hibben/Magie

i. Giri suggested that the Facilities committee be addressing this issue

ii. According to Jeff, the facilities committee concurrently consists of 2 people, and he will be graduating soon; he needs more

iii. we need more participation – consists of 2 people,

iv. Annie Twitty volunteered herself and Ben Schmidt

3. Dining

a. GCHC is meeting with Dining Services

b. GC A/C

Planning to air condition GC Coffee House, Breakfast Room, and NGC TV Room. The work is supposed to start mid-May.

e. Health & Life Committee

Silvia Bulow (Academic Affairs chair) and Giri Parameswaran (GSG chair) attended a meeting of the Healthier Advisory Board. At a breakout session, issues concerning graduate students were discussed.

Silvia gave a report at the end of the session, discussing the fact that an additional concern of graduate students is that our needs change from our entry into graduate school, to our exit from school. Specifically, that graduate students have a schedule more similar to undergraduate students upon our entry: we take courses and take exams. In later years, graduate students are more like staff in that we have perform research and teach. In this report, Silvia suggested that the student health plan (SHP) is not always appropriate and argued for the ability to opt out, or to opt in to staff plan. A major concern for having an opt-out plan, however, is that students may need protection from advisors who try to force students to opt out.

f. Social chair

Dance party at Procter hall, to be held on Saturday May 23. Alcohol will be served. The party planning is complete, but Raja is still trying to get access to an outside courtyard if this is possible (given that alcohol is being served). The cost of the party is already

funded; both the GSG and GCHC dedicated 2000 each. Volunteers were still needed for help, advertising, running, clean up.

5. Discussion Items
a. Housing - Hibben/Magie
This item was not discussed at the meeting.

b. Graduating Reps and their successors
Giri (GSG chair) thanked the following reps for their contributions to the GSG:

- Yaron Ayalon, who has been the NES rep and chaired the Firestone Library committee, is graduating. Yaron introduced the new NES rep, Denis, a third-year, at the meeting.
- Andrew Ballinger, former AOS rep and former IRC committee member, is moving back home to Australia. Elissa Pucker is a first year grad student and will be taking over for Andrew as the new AOS rep.

6. New Business
a. Violations of academic integrity at Princeton
The GSG executive committee received an email from a graduate AI (assistant in instruction) that was concerned about the violation of the honor code by undergraduates. The student felt that he/she had heard of several incidents where AIs discovered cases of cheating (either in exams or assignments) in their undergraduate courses but the professors were reluctant to take disciplinary action or report students to the university's Honor Committee (in cases of cheating on exams) or Committee on Discipline (which rules on cases of plagiarism and other cheating on assignments) because of bureaucratic hassles or any hesitation to ruin students' futures.

The student felt, however, that such incidents put AI's, sometimes the primary observers, in an awkward position. The student felt that the GSG should get involved and possibly include the topic on any upcoming surveys of the graduate student body.

Assembly discussed the pros and cons of GSG involvement on the issue:

1. Some departments are already having their own internal discussions. One assembly member reported that teachers are concerned that that the punishment for violations are severe and is applied uniformly for violations of varying degree.
2. Another assembly member felt that this burden should not fall upon graduate students, and perhaps the undergraduates should be getting more involved. This member felt that the TA already has a clear role in the teaching system; his/her responsibility was to raise any concerns with the professor rather than circumvent the professor
3. Another member suggested that alternative methods to prevent cheating should be presented to professors teaching courses. For example turnitin.com allows graders to upload assignments and detects similarity in content to Wikipedia documents
4. Giri suggested we send an email to someone about this issue
5. Another student felt that circumventing faculty authority will probably not result in anything

7. Close

The meeting adjourned at 7:24pm. Giri announced that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 10 June at 6pm in Corwin Room 127.

GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLY MEETING *MAY 13, 2009*
ATTENDANCE LIST

Instructions: Please initial under "Present/Initials". If you are a proxy but not listed, write your name in under "Proxy Name". Cross out a proxy name if incorrect. Representatives and Delegates are listed at left; Officers, Councilors, and others at right. Members of the general public should sign in below, at right, and list their departmental affiliation if applicable.
*NEW REP/FEB

DEPT/ GROUP	REPRESENTATIVE/ DELEGATE NAME	PROXY NAME	PRESENT/ INITIALS
ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES			
ANT	Eva Harman		
ARC	*(vacant)*		
ART	Leigh Lieberman		
AST	Khee-Gan Lee		
CEE	Ashley Thrall		X
CHE	*Bryan Beckingham*		
CHM	*(vacant)*		
CLA	John Tully		
COM	*(vacant)*		
COS	Bill Zeller		
EAS	*(vacant)*		
ECO	Giri Parameswaran		X
EEB	Estienne Swart		
ELE	David Eis		
ENG	(*vacant*)		
FIT	Benjamin Williams		
GEO	Brandon Stackhouse		X
GER	Jeffrey Kirkwood		
HIS	Anne Twitty		X
MAE	Anand Ashok		X
MAT	*Yi Wang*		
MOL	Praveena Joseph-de Saram		X
MUS	Katya Ossorgin		X
NES	Yaron Ayalon		X
ORF	Sally Ling		
PHI	*(vacant)*		
PHY	Ryan Fisher		
POL	Kevin Collins		X
PSY	Hilary Bergsieker		X
REL	Jolyon Thomas		X
SLA	Tim West		
SOC	Michelle Phelps		
SPO	*(vacant)*		
WWS	Ben Woodman		
ACADEMIC PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES			
ACM	*Emanuel Lazar*		
AOS	Andrew Ballinger		X
HOS	Henry Cowles		
OPR	*(vacant)*		
PPL	Jessica Baumgaertel		
HOUSING GROUP DELEGATES			
BUT	Dante Ricci		X
GCO	Divjxot Sethi		
HIB	*(Marcelline Block)*		
LAW	Christina Hultholm	Aurelien Fraisse	X
MIL	*(Steve Hassani)*		
OFF	*(Meredith Safran)*		
VOTING SPECIAL INTEREST DELEGATES			
BGC	Rose Ndong		X
WOC	*(vacant)*		
NON-VOTING SPECIAL INTEREST DELEGATES			
ACSS	Tuo Li		
CIGS	*(Weining Man)*		

OFFICE/ CMTE	NAME	PROXY NAME	PRESENT/ INITIALS
GSG OFFICERS			
Chair	Giri Parameswaran		X
Parl Sec	Kevin Collins		X
Corr Sec	Aurelien Fraisse		X
Rec Sec	Marina Paul		X
PressSec	Anne Twitty		X
Treas	Raghuveer Vinukollu		X
Soc Ch	Raja Chahal		X
CPUC Members – 2007-2008			
CPUC	Giri Parameswaran		X
CPUC	Yaron Ayalon		X
CPUC	Aurelien Fraisse		X
CPUC	Pablo Mosteiro		
CPUC	Christina Hultholm		
CPUC	Ashley Thrall		
CPUC			
CPUC Committee Members – 2007-2008			
EXE	Christina Hultholm		
EXE	Giri Parameswaran		X
GOV	Shin-Yi Lin		
JUD	Khee-Gan Lee		
PRI	Giri Parameswaran		X
PRI	Ryan Harper		
RES	Ben McKean		
RRR	Andrew Ballinger		X
RRR	Darren Pais		
Friends of the GSG			
RLC	Lisa Schreyer		X
CPC	Olivia Martel		X
APGA	*(Victoria Garcia)*		
Standing Committee Members			
Aca. Aff.	Silvia Bulow		*X*
H&L	Kelly Kearney		
Facilities	Bill Zeller		
Facilities	Jeff Dwoskin		X
Camp Rel	Christina Hultholm		

GUESTS AND OTHERS PRESENT		
AFFILIATION	NAME	DEPT
GS	Ilissa Ocko	AOS