

Minutes for the May 12, 2010 Graduate Student Government Assembly meeting

Meeting began at 6:04pm, Joseph Henry Room in Jadwin Hall -

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I. Meeting Agenda

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II. Minutes recorded at the May 12, 2010 Assembly meeting

The meeting started at 6:04 PM in the Joseph Henry room in Jadwin Hall.

1. Approval of Minutes from meetings held on March and April 2010 meeting

- a. The minutes from the March 2010 assembly meeting were approved at the May meeting.
- b. The minutes from the April 2010 assembly meeting were submitted (without the sign-in sheet) in advance to Assembly via email. The April 2010 meeting minutes were approved without additional changes, contingent upon securing the sign-in sheet.

2. President and Chairs' reports

- a. **President's report** (for the full report, see section III). Brief points:
 - i. GSG Furniture Drive to be held on June 1-2
 - ii. Campus club update from Dianne Spatafore (Director of Campus Club); club will remain open until midnight during the summer
 - iii. Survey -intend to get it done by summer; link sent out today for assembly to pilot survey
 - iv. Website – in progress; planning on having it online before start of academic year
 - v. Several CPUC positions are still vacant, GSG subcommittees need more volunteers
- b. **Facilities**
 - i. Summer Tiger Transit schedule
 1. The summer shuttles are running until 1 AM this year

2. Forrestal Village has been extended until 9PM
3. Shuttle will run during commencement and reunions
4. The summer schedule runs until September 10
- ii. Fall 2010 transit schedule
 1. trying to work on changing from circulators (2 that run in opposite directions) to one circuit, as in the proposed summer route
- iii. Housing
 1. Most recent meeting was cancelled
 2. Upcoming meeting– a long term status meeting in housing next month
 3. Facilities has sent letters regarding discounts on monthly New Jersey transit passes, and the WeCar share program
 4. Forrestal shuttles are really delayed due to construction on Mapleton road , Facilities emailed Kim about this
- c. **Academic Affairs**
 - i. Poster printing: come up with solutions to replace recently closed down MAP library printing facilities and offer a inexpensive poster printing option to the University community
 1. Short term solution : send PDF of poster to printing@princeton.edu – 3\$ per square foot
 2. The committee was working on long-term solutions
- d. **Health & Life**
 - i. Meeting with Michele Gregory (Student Health Plan Manager, University Health Services(UHS))
 1. UHS is trying to reduce prescription health care costs, specifically for multi-source drugs where both generic and brand drugs available
 - a. UHS sent letters to students requesting that they either switch to generic drugs if possible or get notes from physicians
 - b. still need to address gap coverage (gap in cost between brand and generic)
 - ii. Recent change to mailing address for Aetna claims
 1. UHS has updated relevant paperwork
 2. UHS addressed a letter expressing its displeasure to Aetna
 - iii. Fees for requesting medical records
 1. Records for psychological services and UHS are kept separately; UHS's rationale for keeping them separate is to minimize privacy concerns that arise from consolidation
 2. Requests for these records must also be made separately and each has its own fee
 3. The committee is looking into whether this separation is required by Aetna or physicians at UHS
 - iv. UHS is updating Student Health Plan (SHP) documents
 - v. Complaints about lost Aetna referrals

1. These complaints have been traced to a single Aetna employee who has since been fired

e. **Social**

- i. End of Year party
 1. The committee requested help for moving furniture for the party because university crews would be cleaning up after undergraduates' move-out period

3. Elections for unfilled positions on CPUC

- a. Judicial committee
 - i. 1 nominee for 1 vacant position
 - ii. Joshua Kroll (Computer Science), was elected as Judicial committee rep by voice vote
- b. CPUC committee
 - i. 1 remaining position that must be filled by an Engineering student in order to ensure all 4 divisions of the graduate school are presented by 7 student reps
 - ii. 2 nominees for 1 vacant position:
 1. Joshua Kroll – computer science
 2. Joseph D'Silva – electrical engineering
 - iii. Joseph D'Silva was elected to the CPUC committee by election ballot

4. Committee and Furniture Drive Sign-ups

5. Approval of Letter writing Topics

- a. Letter writing resolution submitted in advance of the meeting to Assembly by Kevin Collins.
- b. Discussion
 - i. Rationale for focusing on writing letters in summer – the timing will allow survey results to suggest additional letters, and to allow the GSG to make requests to university administrators before fall budgets are finalized
 - ii. Housing
 1. at the CPUC meeting: University pledged to *attempt* to work with housing draw process, but did not actually commit to doing so
 - a. The GSG will get an update soon if an RFP has been sent out
 2. The University's commitment to housing 70% of students should account for the projected increase in graduate student enrollment, but no hard numbers are known about that yet
 3. U. gave us bed and room target #s (didn't have the info on hand at the meeting)

- iii. **A motion to approve the letter writing topics passed unanimously**

6. New Business

- a. A table of contents service for books available through Google books is available through ohiolink.edu
- b. Dean Redman has organized a meeting with the chairs of each department graduate student committee (DGSC) to discuss concerns
 - i. The meeting is to take place on May 24 2010 meeting
 - ii. The DGSC for the politics department is run without a chair position

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54pm.

President's Report

5/12/2012

Kevin Collins, GSG President

In the past month, the Executive Committee has taken on several important projects that merit updating. These include:

- Preparing for our annual charity furniture drive
- Meeting with Campus Club staff to ensure common spaces that are accessible by graduate students over the summer
- Preparing a survey for data collection in May; and
- Developing the new website and social media communication tools;

These items are discussed in greater depth below. Also, we are continuing to look for greater involvement by GSG representatives in the GSG's committees. Descriptions of the committee roles are below.

Charity Furniture Drive

The GSG's annual furniture drive helps reduce waste, provide low-cost household goods to graduate students, and raise money for local charities ... and working for the furniture drive is a chance to earn free stuff! Each year, departing seniors leave their unwanted but usable household items at locations across campus, and the GSG resells these items to graduate students at minimal costs, giving the proceeds and remaining items to local charities. But we need graduate students to help us work the event, which runs from 3 to 9 on June 1, and 10 to 7 on June 2. Work at least a three hour shift (or more) and earn \$10 per hour in merchandise. Additionally, we are looking for GSG representatives to serve as tent captains, by which they can earn a bonus for supervising multiple tents either day.

Contact gsg@princeton.edu for information about how to sign up and help the planet, the community, the graduate student body, and yourself.

Campus Club

Dianne Spatafore briefed the Executive Committee on the progress and future of Princeton's Campus Club. They have a new website, available here: <http://www.princeton.edu/campusclub/>. This website allows for online reservations of Campus Club rooms and facilities. Over the summer, Campus Club plans to be open until 12 midnight, making it unique in common spaces during break periods. They are also looking into purchasing additional equipment, such as grills, outdoor furniture, and bocce ball sets to make their outdoor space more useable. Similarly, they are exploring the option of allowing users to sign out a Wii for use with their large flat screen televisions indoors. We also urged Campus Club to explore some vending options beyond the café, which will not be in operation during the summer as it is run by an undergraduate organization.

III.

Survey

We have received authorization from the Vice Provost from Institutional Research, Jed Marsh, to go ahead with our survey. It is currently being piloted, and will be in the field within the week. We feel it is vital to collect this data now – even during the exam period – so that we can write more effective advocacy letters this summer.

Website

We are making progress on moving things over to the new website. The new website should be up this summer, in advance of the new academic year.

CPUC positions still open

At our meeting last month, we elected new representatives to the Council of the Princeton University Community and its committees. However, we could not fill all of the available position. There is still space for a graduate student in the Engineering division, as CPUC rules mandate at least one student from each of the four academic divisions. A description of what the CPUC does is available here: <http://www.princeton.edu/~gradcpuc/>. Additionally, the graduate student position on the CPUC's judicial committee is also still open.

GSG Advocacy Committees

We are still looking for more members for GSG committee members:

- *Facilities Committee*: The Facilities Committee is working on a variety of projects designed to improve graduate student life on campus. Facilities covers student parking and transportation, housing issues, OIT, dining, and campus sustainability. We have a large number of projects we're currently working on, including:
 - Housing (a new draw system, policy improvements, long term planning)
 - Transportation (changes to the shuttle system, pedestrian safety (lighting), NJ Transit, WeCar rentals, etc)
 - OIT (the printing quota and changes to webmail)
 - Sustainability (setting up an electronics recycling program, recovery of discarded items at move-out, etc).
- *Health and Life Committee*: The Health & Life Committee is charged with studying and publicizing health care options for members of the graduate student body, advocating within the University for improvement in health care and insurance options, services, and benefits for members of the graduate student body, studying and addressing the challenges faced by graduate students with minor children or other dependents, working with Public Safety to address concerns regarding safety on campus, at the graduate housing units, and while using University transportation, and advocating for improvements to athletics facilities and intramural athletics.
- *Academic Affairs Committee*: The Academic Affairs committee aims to improve the academic experience of graduate students in all departments. In the past, the AAC has worked to improve library policies regarding rare books, to improve late-night study spaces, and to increase

stipends and travel funding. Our current projects include developing a central, affordable, last-minute poster printing facility, as well as creating and publicizing a forum for departments and students to advertise or seek AI positions in cognate departments. The committee can take on all sorts of new projects, depending on members' interests.

- *Campus Relations Committee:* The campus relations committee is responsible for liaising with undergraduate student government, alumni, and other organizations on campus. It is also responsible for addressing issues of special interest to international students and other groups within the Princeton community.
- *Social Committee:* On the social committee, you can help out with the planning of events such as the Welcome Party, Wine and Cheese, Winter Party, End of Year Bash, and other events held throughout the year. You may even be able to come up with entirely new events. Primary responsibilities include staffing events and giving valuable input and suggestions in the planning of events. All types of skills are needed for the social committee whether it is distributing flyers, moving furniture, bartending, coming up with decorating ideas, or simply providing advice

