

## **GSU Assembly Meeting Minutes**

20 November, 1996

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by presiding officer, Robert Weiner.

Present: 31 reps. 3 non-reps.

First order of business - motion by Press Secretary Evan Haefeli to approve pre-distributed (via email) minutes of 10/23/96 Assembly meeting approved by unanimous consent.

**Item 2:** Co-Chair/Project Coordinator Robert Weiner discussed November 8 Executive Committee meeting, where officers discussed format and function of newsletter, budget for remainder of fiscal year, and need to make assembly meetings more efficient by using formal motions.

**Item 3:** Robert Weiner noted that the rep. liaisons to Dining Services and Housing Committees have been approved by those committees, but liaisons to campus center committee were not approved because there were no vacancies. In the future we will be careful to only nominate reps. to committees where we know there are vacancies.

**Item 4:** Web Page Administrator Scott Harper noted that the GSU email address published in the newsletter does not yet work. The only functioning email address is . CIT is working on activating the former address, which should be functioning in a few days. (N.B. Our published address is working properly as of 11/27/96.)

**Item 5:** Representative Secretary Jill Reiss reported that there are still vacancies, but several departments are looking for reps. Announced the Graduate Women's Alliance is defunct. Motion made to have Christine Jones from the Women's Center fill the seat, renaming the seat to Women's Center approved 25-0 (no

abstentions). Counting Christine the Assembly now has 34 active reps and 12 vacancies. Other new reps present include Sara Godfrey (Lawrence Apts.), James McFarland (German), Cynthia Hooper (History), and Roberto Lint-Sagarena (Religion).

**Item 6:** Assigning reps to committees and projects so that every rep is active in at least one GSU concern.

**Dental Insurance Committee:** 3 people to serve as conduit for information and concerns related to GSU's Dental Plan, offered since 1989. Tasks include interfacing with the insurance companies, handling complaints, evaluating plans (including the new plan from the National Association of Graduate Students) and distributing information flyers to those interested in it.

- Xiuyan Lu (Anthropology)
- Aurelian Craiutu (Politics)
- Surita Bhatia (GC House Committee)

**Council for the Princeton University Community (aka UCouncil):** 3 appointees from GSU are on this University governing board. Currently two vacancies on the Rights and Rules Committee. This committee does not meet regularly and is not a major time commitment. It reviews and updates the regulations found in the University's Rights and Rules handbook.

- Noha Bakr (NES)
- Nico Janberg (LGBA)

**Health Insurance Project:** Need a committee of five to work on processing the survey and supervising efforts to improve grads health care. Three already serving, two more volunteered.

- Judy Yanowitz (Mol Bio)
- Tamara Caspary (Mol Bio)
- Scott Nolde (Psychology)
- Erin Kelly (Sociology)
- Doug Miller (Economics)

**Post-enrollment status project:** Two reps to work on draft of upcoming petition and stay up-to-date on GSU's efforts to improve conditions for post-enrolled students.

- Roberto Lint-Sagarena (Religion)
- Andy Shanken (Art & Archeology)

**Credit Union project:** Working to gain grad students membership in the University's Credit Union as a separate graduate student (not employee) group. Two reps.

- Greg Godfrey (Civil Engineering & Operations Research)
- Sara Godfrey (Lawrence Apartments)

**Social Committee** - no specific reps needed. Social Chair Patrice Jean has many volunteers. Any others interested in assisting with the social program please contact Patrice directly.

Motion to accept all of the above assignments was approved by unanimous consent. Other projects that reps could work on will be discussed later. The above issues were the most urgent and needed immediate tending to. Computer policies, working on being able to pay for computers with credit cards, get lower dial-in rates, etc. mentioned as a potential project.

**Item 7:** Pizza was consumed while Robert Weiner distributed the Health Care Survey. All but first-year grad boxes will be stuffed with the surveys. Worries about the waste of paper raised, possibility of doing future surveys online discussed, though Dining Services has had poor return rate on its online survey.

**Item 8:** Co-Chair/Treasurer Peter Park passed out copies of the executive committee's proposed budget for fiscal year 1997 (Sept. 1 1996 - August 31, 1997), along with itemization of last year's expenditures for comparison. Total budget for this year \$8000. Remaining surplus of \$1000 from previous years not appropriated

in this proposal. Discussion on format and funding of newsletter lead to three proposals:

1. 3 more bi-monthly newsletters (5 total for year: Nov.-Dec., Jan.-Feb., Mar.-Apr., May-August, Sept.-Oct.) at an estimated cost of \$525 (4 sides, cheap white paper)
2. 1 more full newsletter in spring with postings to keep grads updated on important issues at an estimated cost of \$300.
3. Retain bi-monthly schedule but reduce size to 2 sides at an estimated cost of \$275.

The voting took place in two rounds, with the following results:

First round 1) 12 votes 2) 9 votes 3) 4 votes (eliminated)

Second round 1) 14 votes 2) 11 votes

Approved proposal #1.

Having settled the issue of newsletter expense, assembly proceeded to vote on overall budget. Two proposals were brought to a vote:

1. Executive Committee's recommendation of \$2,450 for operating expenses, \$2,000 for GSU social events, \$3,550 for co-sponsoring events by other organizations.
2. Same as #1 plus stipulation that surplus be used to cover additional operating expenses if necessary.

Outcome: 1) 4 votes 2) 21 votes.

Option #2 approved.

**Item 9:** Social Chair Patrice Jean reported that the Holiday Reception (University policy forbids advertising alcohol at events, so we cannot call it a Wine & Cheese officially) will be **Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7:30 at Whig Hall**. Those wishing to help set-up show up at 7. Coffee Hours will begin next semester.

**Item 10:** Volunteers solicited to distribute Health Care Survey to departments without reps.

**Item 11:** Scott Harper reported on Web Page, now linked to

Princeton Home Page.

**Item 12:** Housing Committee report by Sooji Park. Smoking rules to be enforced; dangerous dip at intersection of Faculty Road and Harrison Street will be brought to Township's attention; recycling will be more vigorously carried out; GS visitor parking spots will be reinstated.

**Item 13:** Dining Committee report by Surita Bhatia. All urged to fill in survey on campus center food options.

**Item 14:** Credit Union project report by Greg Godfrey: CU seems finally willing to consider admitting grads as a separate category, and this could happen soon. Next meeting is later this month.

**Item 15:** Update from Greg Godfrey on Yale grad student strike from last year. the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has issued an advisory opinion in response to complaint filed by Yale's grad students over the University's refusal to let them unionize. NLRB ruled in favor of grad students and against Yale. Yale must respond or be sued by NLRB This could serve as a precedent allowing grad students to unionize at a private university. However, NLRB ruled that teaching assistants can be considered as employees. Greg is concerned that this may have ominous implications for us in that it means that our tuition could then be taxed if we taught. Debate on these implications unresolved. Much remains to be seen.

**Item 16:** Peter Park welcomes comments on the draft guidelines for submitting funding requests to the GSU that were distributed as an attachment to the budget proposal.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Evan Haefeli  
Press Secretary