

Minutes of the November 30, 2000 GSG Assembly meeting

Item 0: GSG Chair Lauren Hale called the meeting to order promptly at 6:00pm.

Item 1: Kevin Osterloh presented the work of the Committee on Post-enrollment. He mentioned that a large percentage of students are not finishing their graduate work on time in some departments (the percentage is close to 70% in some departments). The committee plans to prepare a questionnaire to determine the reasons for which this percentage is so high. Kevin asked that each member of the GSG research the postenrollment numbers for his/her department.

Item 2: Two representatives from Public Safety, Chuck Nouvel and Kenny Samuel, discussed (in considerable detail) the shortage of on-campus parking for graduate students. This discussion was very similar to the report of the Committee on Parking and Transportation (see Item 7).

Public Safety called the lack of parking an "unfortunate circumstance." A telephone number for comments or complaints is listed on the PubSafety web site, and over 100 calls have been placed by graduate students. Overall, there is limited parking on campus. Lot 25 and Western Way are the primary parking locations used by graduate students during the day. Two new garages are to be built in the future, which will result in more parking for graduate students. A garage for staff at the southwest corner of campus is being completed by Dec. 18, 2000. This garage will free up spaces in Lot 16A (undergraduates). This would therefore free up much of Lot 21 (near Jadwin), which is an overflow lot for the undergraduates. About 50 spots of "patron parking" will be freed up, and these can be used by graduate students. Also, staff from Lot 26 take up spots in Lot 25, and these staff will be moved in to the garage (Lot 3). CIT (Lot 4) also uses Lot 25 and Western Way as overflow lots. Ten spaces in the PMI garage are allocated to each engineering discipline. PubSafety will try to add 20 spaces on Fitz-Randolph Road (parallel parking). This parking is accessed by

turning right off of Western Way. Gravel will be put in, and no tickets will be given to cars parked in this location. Karthick Ramakrishnan suggested a shuttle from 8-10am to Butler. The response was that there is too much gridlock on the roads at that time. The night shuttle was instituted for safety, not convenience. PubSafety is not concerned with convenience, so no morning shuttles will be initiated. Karthick noted that the University should consider a shuttle because slipping on snow, cold weather, etc. are safety concerns.

The PubSafety reps further announced that Lot 5 will be taken for construction beginning in January 2001. Consequently, staff will be moved to Lot 20. Facilities will be moved to Lot 16 after Dec. 18, so 140 spaces will open up in Lot 28A beginning on Jan. 1. They also stated that few parking spots are taken early in the morning.

When the new garage is completed, the shuttle stop near Hibben-Maggie will be eliminated. Karthick noted that the elimination of the shuttle will put more pressure on Lot 21, and no remedy was given.

Nathan Marsh asked a philosophical question about the Tiger Tram. Since the staff get parking closer to the academic buildings than most graduate housing is, why do they also have shuttles for their convenience while little concern is given to graduate students? The answer was that PubSafety was forced to start the shuttles because of parking overflows. They reps said that it looks "like graduate students are getting the short end of the stick," but noted that the staff has many inconveniences, as well.

The reps noted that there are not enough members on their staff to ticket all illegally parked cars in the morning, but they will continue to try.

Lauren Hale asked where graduate students should put pressure. The CPUC meeting in December was one possibility. In addition, Pam Hirsh had looked into a shuttle for the Princeton community and the Lawrence and Butler apartments. Ann Halliday was suggested as another possibility. Finally, it was stated that the best long-term solution seems to be the addition of a second deck to Lot 25.

Karthick asked why the prox cards were set such that graduate students cannot gain access to any undergraduate residential college or dorms. He considered this an inconvenience to graduate students involved in such activities as music and theater and explained that this policy is an impediment to the goal of increasing interactions between graduate and undergraduate students. It was learned that at the Safety meeting on Nov. 29, Janet Dickerson said that she did not know why this prox card policy was instituted. She did not agree with the policy, and it will be discussed at the CPUC meeting. It appears that graduate students' prox cards will also provide access to undergraduate colleges in the future.

Kenny Samuel mentioned that he is the liaison for the graduate college under the "adopt a proctor" program. He will also work with other graduate housing, including Hibben, Butler, and Lawrence. He encouraged students to register their bikes and laptops and encouraged students to contact him with any questions relating to crime prevention, etc. (i.e., lighting, blue lights,...) Students were told to call the Public Safety desk if they notice (outdoor) lights on campus that are not working.

The Parking and Transportation Committee also had met with Chuck Nouvel before the GSG meeting. A summary of the main points discussed at this meeting was distributed to the assembly. The text is included under Item 7.

Item 3: The minutes from the October GSG meeting were approved.

Item 4: Social Chair's Report

Yesim Tozan discussed the Gala dinner-dance. Flyers advertising the event were distributed to the members of the Assembly. A list of songs that the Jerry Boyle orchestra can perform was circulated, and suggestions were solicited. There will be a reception at the door for the first 45 minutes of the Gala. Tables for 10 people will be set up near the dance floor. A committee of 5-7 people to help with cleanup and decorations for the Love at Frist Site event will be formed at the January GSG meeting. The wine tasting event will be held at the end of

March.

Item 5: Treasurer's Report

Steve Miller distributed copies of the GSG budget. He found a mistake in the budget from the October GSG meeting that resulted in the exclusion of about \$1,500 of expenses. The Assembly discussed how to allocate payment to the Graduate School for past events that the GSG had committed to sponsor (i.e., Welcoming BBQ). A request from Ulli Struve for funding was read. A trip to NYC was planned for December 18, and the GSG was asked for \$100. Winter bagel breakfasts will be held in the GC on December 16, 18, and 20, with about 50 people expected to attend each breakfast. This even was partially sponsored by the GSG in the past, and the Assembly voted to allocate \$70 to sponsor the breakfast on December 16.

Item 6: Cost of Living Adjustments

Karthick Ramakrishnan announced that the issue of cost of living adjustments for graduate students was brought up at the CPUC meeting on Monday, November 27 to Dean Wilson. In some departments, entering students receive a higher stipend than do current students. For example, one department pays fourth year students about \$9,000 for the academic year, while first year students in the same department are paid about \$13,000 per year. Dean Wilson said that payment is at the discretion of individual departments and recommended that affected students discuss the matter with their department. It was suggested that the GSG send Dean Wilson a letter outlining their concerns on this issue. Lauren Hale and Eszter Hargittai volunteered to draft the letter.

Item 7: Graduate Student Life Initiative Reports

(a) The Parking and Transportation Committee announced that the cost of operating a shuttle for graduate students is about \$50,000 per year. A summary of their meeting with Chuck Nouvel (from Public Safety) was distributed. The text is reproduced below. Yesim Tozan suggested that the cost of parking permits be increased to raise funds required for a shuttle. It was noted that such a shuttle could not stop at the GC and meet its schedule

because the traffic is too heavy in the morning.

summary of meeting with Chuck Nouvel:

"Parking:

Lots of changes will be happening in the near future (Dec/Jan) in terms of parking. The garage by New South has 740+ spots which will be moving a lot of staff from other lots to there. (We can give you more specifics if you're interested in details.)

"What this means for us:

- We should have fewer staff parking in lot 25 (graduate lot off Western Way)
- There should be spaces in lots 20, 28A, and 21 for grad students when lot 25 is full
- Engineering disciplines have been designated a small number of spots in the garage by PMI that grad students should be able to park in
- There used to be head-in parking along Western Way, and it's possible they'll do something to make more spaces there. We can also park along the grass/fence side of Fitz-Randolph if necessary - they should be putting signs up there some time.

"Shuttle:

We didn't make progress in terms of increasing shuttle service. The route for the Tiger Tram will be getting shorter (going from the parking garage by New South rather than lot 16), so grad students in Hibben-Magie won't be able to easily walk to the Tiger Tram stop, plus there is essentially no chance the tram will make stops at lots affecting us, like 21.

"The idea of a morning shuttle was pretty much shot down, despite agreeing that it would be extremely useful and other schools can do this. The reasoning follows: a morning shuttle would be very expensive and not necessarily convenient or reliable. If the current night shuttles were used, they only hold about 15 people. A run going to the different grad housing places would probably take half an hour at least, plus morning traffic would make it hard for the stop times to be accurate. Therefore it would only stop at each place about once an hour and it might be full. So it probably would not seem worth waiting for. Plus they'd need to hire a driver and pay benefits and all that which is

amounts to a big expense for the person in addition to maintenance of the shuttle. If we could somehow raise the approx. \$50,000 to cover these costs, we could revisit this idea. (We could perhaps get some of this money by having grad students living in apartments pay for permits.)

"There's been talk in the community about public buses which would include stops at University housing and campus, but there doesn't seem to be much progress on that."

(b) Health Care Committee

Karthick Ramakrishnan and Betsy Wheeler reported to the CPUC, and the administration seemed responsive to graduate students' concerns regarding the very limited health coverage. Provost Ostriker made a verbal commitment to give dental benefits to graduate students beginning next year. The issues of more affordable vision care and some prescription drug coverage were also discussed. As an aside, Karthick and Lauren Hale mentioned that they tried to put issues relevant to graduate students, such as housing, on the agenda, but there was some talk in the administration about not guaranteeing housing to Fourth Year graduate students for the 2001-2002 academic year.

(c) Campus Relations Committee

Currently, no graduate students can be officers in undergraduate student groups. Two possible solutions were discussed. Either one-quarter of the officers in a (predominantly) undergraduate student group could be graduate students, or each student group could have one graduate student liaison if they so desire. Janet Dickerson had mentioned to the committee the creation of a venture fund to increase interactions between groups of students that ordinarily do not interact. The committee discussed graduate-undergraduate interactions with Dean Dunn. Several positive steps are being taken in this regard. For example, the activities fair may be co-sponsored by the GSG and USG next year (it has been sponsored only by the USG in the past).

A staff appreciation week will be held in the spring. One suggestion is that a barbecue be held in which students serve the staff.

(d) Committee on Post-Enrollment

Kevin Osterloh's remarks at the beginning of the GSG meeting were summarized. Members of the Assembly were asked to determine the average length of stay of graduate students in their department in recent years (departmental secretaries should have this information).

Item 8:

Cindy Tobery suggested that graduate students walk through the campus with members of the administration during the winter. Many members of the administration apparently are poorly acquainted with the location and condition of graduate student housing. GSG members were asked to volunteer to show their rooms to members of the administration. The current volunteers are:
Millstone: Matt Moore
Lawrence: Eszter Hargittai
Butler: Cindy Tobery

Item 9: APGA Concerns

The Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni would like to increase the connection between alumni and current graduate students. Any suggestions as to how this endeavor can be accomplished should be given to Lauren Hale.

Item 10: Young Alumni Graduate Student on the Board of Trustees

The proposal to add a young alumnus of the graduate school to the Board of Trustees was received by that board and is being reviewed. This proposal will be on the agenda at the Board's spring meeting. It is clear that some members of the administration would consider an older trustee more useful than a young alum, but there is by no means a single, unified opinion on this subject.

Item 11: University Presidential Search Suggestions

A limited number of suggestions for the next University president have been given by graduate students. (The last five presidents of the University have been graduate alums.) Suggestions should be given to Lauren Hale by December 15, 2000. The graduate student body has not shown much

interest in this matter.

Item 12: New Business

A Minority Bone Marrow Registration Drive is being held on December 5, 2000 from 9am to 9pm in the Frist Multipurpose Room. A poster advertising the event was distributed to members of the Assembly.

Item 13: Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:38pm. The next two GSG meetings are scheduled for January 10 and February 7, 2001 in Frist room 234.