

Minutes for the Graduate Student Government Assembly meeting

Held on Wednesday October 14, 2009 in Corwin Hall

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes
 - a. GSG Assembly, Wednesday 12 August
 - b. Executive Committee Minutes
3. Graduate Alumni Relations Isabel McGinty
4. Reports
 - a. Chair
 - b. Academic Affairs Committee
 - c. Campus Relations Committee
 - d. Facilities Committee
 - e. Health & Life Committee
 - f. Ivy Summit Delegates + Ivy Summit Planning Committee
5. Decision Items
 - a. Ivy Summit Funding
 - b. Budget
 - c. Vacant Seats
 - d. Neuroscience Representative to GSG Assembly
 - e. Election of Events Board members
6. Discussion Items
 - a. Graduate Student Fee
7. New Business
8. Close.

Next Meeting Wednesday 11 November, 6pm, Corwin 127

1. Welcome

The meeting began shortly after 6pm.

2. Minutes

Assembly minutes were approved unanimously with no abstentions, after the Graduate Alumni Relations chair spoke.

3. Graduate Alumni Relations –

The Chair of the Graduate Alumni Relations (GAR) committee, Isabel McGinty, addressed Assembly. Ms. McGinty relayed that the committee is seeking a better connection to present grad students as part of its overall mission to improve Princeton's relations with graduate alumni. The interest in seeing current grad students as future alumni is of particular interest now that Princeton's Alumni Association is chaired by graduate alumnus Anne Sheridan. As a Princeton alumnus (Classics), Ms. McGinty related that her in her time she felt the connection to the dept,

but not to the graduate student body, alumni, or the university as a whole. On behalf of the GAR committee, Ms McGinty was interested in finding out the roles of the GSG organization, current grad student issues, and any issues or concerns the GSG/grad student body would like to bring to the CPUC.

Ms. McGinty outlined several of GAR's works in progress:

1. developing/utilizing a social networking site for alumni, given that expiration of email addresses makes it difficult to contact most recent alums
2. getting alumni with Master's degrees to hold interviews for admissions candidates to current Master's programs
3. Holding graduate alum events – Ms. McGinty reported that these have been good for networking and exploring career options. A small core group of alumni repeatedly volunteer for this
4. Reunions committee in place for GAR will be helping the APGA on this– interest at any level welcome

4. Reports

a. Chair

The Chair's report was emailed to Assembly in advance (see Chairsreport_1009.pdf).

The following points were discussed at the meeting:

1. Printing quotas may result in an increase in the total pages printed at Princeton. Students may print more on departmental printers, some of which may not have double-sided printing options
2. Stipend increases - if faculty/lowest paid staff get 2% raise, grad students will too
3. Stipend increases - Mol bio stipends are paid from grants, and do not seem to correlate with University increases for grad student stipends
4. Shortage of teaching opportunities for DCE students- a meeting to discuss this will take
5. Precept policy – a minimum class size of 12-13 qualifies for precepts; Princeton has been stricter about enforcing implementing policy in recent years; 16-17 students may be required for 2nd precept. An op-ed is featured in the Daily Prince today about undergraduate student discontent.
6. Alumni relations committee suggested including incoming grad students in Pre-Rade.

There are several issues to discuss:

- a. budgeting : the Pre-Rade ends with a BBQ funded by the Dept. of Undergraduate Studies
- b. Morale: will current grads be cheering them on?
- c. Capacity: Chapel cannot fit all current undergrads and only satellite viewing could be offered to grads
- d. Feedback:
 1. lack of opportunity to fully participate sends a message of second class citizenship
 2. feeling more a part of Princeton/more Princeton spirit may not be in line with what grad student body wants
 3. grad students could have our own tradition or have post-orientation march into pre-raid procession

b. Academic Affairs Committee

1. In progress: no money is available for increasing travel funds. The committee welcomed any ideas for academic affairs (that don't involve money, or for new committee members)

c. Campus Relations Committee

1. In progress:
 - a. meeting 5pm next Wednesday at GSG office
 - b. Beer jackets – would be designed differently from U-grad jackets, would cost \$, committee wanted feedback from students about level of interest
 - c. met with Dean Russell – hooding ceremony – only 2 tickets this year (plus simul-cast) instead of usual 3 – he’s going to wait for GS body response before reconsider what to do
 - d. the next APGA mixer will be held at the Campus Club on November 18 – 6-7:30, mixer open to all divisions

d. Facilities Committee

The GSG sent a global email earlier in the day to inform the graduate student body of recent changes to student printing allowances. Below is the text of the email:

Dear Graduate Student,

The University has introduced a 3000 sheet page quota for graduate students. Here is some additional information about how the quotas are being implemented:

1) The quota will reset each year on July 1 and apply from July 1 to June 30. This year's printing will not be prorated, meaning students will receive a 3000 sheet quota this year even though a few months have passed since July 1. Your usage will be reset as of October 15.

2) The quota only applies to printing in libraries and in OIT computer clusters (which include printers at Frist and at graduate and undergraduate residences.) Printers that are managed by departments WILL NOT BE AFFECTED - even if they use a print release station.

3) Printing related to teaching/precepting (student work, handouts, tests, readings, etc) should be done either on your department printers or through another arrangement with your department (they may provide you with a separate netid to use). The University has guaranteed that students will not be expected to use their personal quotas to print materials used in their roles as AIs. A memo has been sent to each department, alerting them to this policy and instructing them to provide alternative mechanisms for AIs to do teaching related printing.

4) The quotas are intended to make students think twice before printing, to consider alternatives to printing, and to only print what is necessary. The quota should not stop you from printing what you need to complete your academic work or research. OIT has guaranteed that it will grant any approved request for a student to have their quota extended. Whilst we are still working out all the details, the current plan is that such approval may be granted by an appropriate member from your department - such as your supervisor, the DGS or the graduate program coordinator.

5) Quotas will be applied to every "student" netid, meaning student groups will also have a 3000 sheet quota. OIT will need resolve how a student can print from their own computer (already logged in with their personal netid), but then release the job under the organization or class/precept netid so that group is "charged" for the printing under its quota instead of the student's quota.

Although the change only amounts to a soft-quota, we strongly urge all student to not abuse this privilege and gratuitously print pages above their quota. If the University does not achieve it's goal of reducing printing by 20%, then it will have to consider less flexible printing policies in future years.

Please contact us at gsg@princeton.edu if you have any questions or concerns about the new policy. We will work with OIT to ensure that the quotas do not hamper academic work while encouraging responsible use of printing.

The GSG

In progress:

1. transportation – Millstone students – parking at lots 20/21, awaiting decisions about Forrester
2. A stop at Trader Joe's was added to biweekly shopper; alternate one to Shopping center
3. Shuttle Schedules
 - a. KC: shuttle arrivals/departures not matching schedule times
 - b. GSG email account not getting complaints from students right now
 - c. No signage at stops – contact info/schedules

e. Health & Life Committee

The committee had nothing to report.

f. Ivy Summit Delegates + Ivy Summit Planning Committee

1. Formal report will be presented at the next meeting; the 2011 meeting will be held at MIT
2. The president of regional NAGPS is considering reducing membership fee from 500 to 100; advocacy in DC includes trying to make all grad student stipends tax exempt, increase H1B visas available for grad students
3. Yale travel funds total 45,000 – includes \$ for 1 international/domestic conference for each student
4. Cornell – collaborated with city transportation for increasing frequency of shuttles

5. Decision Items

a. Ivy Summit Funding

Assembly discussed the total budget for the 2010 Ivy summit, to be hosted by Princeton.

1. The \$10-12,000 proposed for Princeton's turn is a significant amount of the GSG's \$29,000 budget, yet some schools have spent more. For example, \$30-40,00 was spent by Harvard to fund the summit on their turn. Some of Harvard's funding comes from the school itself; student fees are coming from Harvard's professional schools and from a larger student body.

2. \$10-12,000 is proposed for the Ivy Summit budget held at Princeton. \$3,000 was budgeted from last year, \$1250 plus 3000 this year, plus surplus. For the year we host, we will not be spending what we've spent for years we've attended (funds for attendees)
3. This year's conference funds are coming from the last few year's budgets, not spread out over the past 8 years or so. The graduate school has offered to help fund the event.

Assembly discussed whether \$10-12,00 of GSG funds should be used for hosting the Ivy summit.

Pros (hosting)

1. if we've turned up every year for the past 8, it would be a poor showing to drop out now during our turn to host – obligation
2. Ivy summit is in line with the GSG goals
3. Only 80 cents per 10\$ student fee goes to hosting the Ivy summit every 9 years and attending other 8
4. Cutting costs were discussed at this year's meeting; fate of summit will be focus of next year's meeting:
 - a. should it be held annually, should there be a cost
 - b. Virtual Ivy summit proposed – quarterly held / every 6 months
5. If we don't host one when it's our turn – we are out of it

Cons:

1. Spending money may not be affordable or appropriate in current economic situation
2. May not be justifiable to propose a raise in student fees and then spend this much \$ on hosting
3. Efforts to host may not be comparable to previous host's due to smaller budget

Dean Lisa Schreyer spoke on behalf of the Graduate School, which is in support of Ivy Summit. The meeting of deans of various schools was what inspired this.

The following motions were brought forth at the meeting:

Motion: The GSG shall not use any funds from either the "Graduate Student Fee Income" or the "Contribution from VP of Campus Life" to fund the Ivy Summit. Any amount previously allocated from those funds shall be redistributed to the general fund.
 Motion #1: in favor - 2, opposed – 13, abstentions – 4 – **motion fails**

Proposed if first is not passed - Motion: The total amount spent by the GSG related or pertaining to the Ivy Summit shall not exceed ten percent of the previous year's "Budgeted Graduate Student Fee Income". Excess funds previously allocated to either hosting or attending the Ivy Summit shall be redistributed to the general fund.

Moved: Bill Zeller

Seconded: Ashley Thrall

Concerns:

1. Concern over current wording – motion is about total amount spent for the Ivy summit, not an amortized amount. 5% of budget, plus a match by the GS, would match the projected expenditure of \$10-12,000
2. Doubling the student fee, would double the amount available to be used to fund the Ivy summit – this may make this unnecessary –
3. Other concerns – not matching the standards set by other host universities

b. Budget

The budget was emailed to Assembly in advance (see Proposed_Budget_2009-2010.xls)

Motion: That the GSG Assembly accept the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2009-10.

Moved: Raghuveer Vinukollu

Seconded: Giri Parameswaran

The following clarifications were made at the meeting:

1. Grad student income line: some student fees are refunded – not sure who is requesting and getting refunds
2. Orientation/new student by-line – cost of mugs will go up – more expensive mugs, less surplus from this year
3. Other line = some room – Raja would be interested in non-alcoholic events, using this to partially fund transportation to neighboring school events
4. Surplus from events board - Several student events – no receipts submitted by groups who requested (and were granted) \$ -
5. Winter social - increased to 4000 at the meeting –
6. 500 –GSG exec discretionary fund – available to play with this money
7. As it stands – 1396.00 deficit (spent more money last year, from previous surplus)
8. 5795.78 – surplus for year
9. Suggestion – 6000 total for Ivy summit (includes 4x1250)
 - a. 12000 for Ivy summit– Ivy summit planning committee will provide this breakdown
 - b. any line above a certain amount (6000 is above this) needs to be re-approved by Assembly before expenditure
10. Summit is single largest line amount - is that a large proportion – is that appropriate?

Motion favored – 4 abstentions – 3 against, rest for –

Motion to approve budget passed with 16 yeases, none opposed, no abstentions

Funding request by ACSS

More than 750\$ was requested by ACSS to the Events Board. Since this amount is above \$600, it must be approved by assembly. The original request was made in the amount of \$550, but the event already occurred and the group spent more than what they had planned and are now asking for the new amount. 378 princeton grad students attended, and undergrad students attended as well. ACSS plans to ask USG and reduce the burden, and already received funding from outside attendees from ticket sales

Assembly discussed whether the event should be funded at all. The event was registered with the Graduate School, but not notified in advance to included in the GS e-bulletin. An assembly member pointed out that this was not a grad student body event if it was not advertised to all students.

The Chair proposed that the Events Board hear other requests before making this decision.

c. Vacant Seats

Not discussed.

d. Neuroscience Representative to GSG Assembly

Motion: That the GSG Assembly accept the following amendment to the By Laws:

Proposed Amendment to By Law I(3)

Recognized Programs. The following academic programs are recognized as separate Academic Units: Applied and Computational Mathematics, Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, History of Science, Neuroscience, Plasma Physics, and Population Research.

Moved: Praveena Joseph-de Saram

Seconded: Giri Parameswaran

20 voting members not present; Assembly could not vote on seating a Neuro rep.

e. Election of Events Board members

Motion: That the GSG Assembly appoint Martin Schmalz to the Events Board.

Moved: Raghuv eer Vinukollu

Seconded: Giri Parameswaran

Attended at meeting

The motion passed - approved

6. Discussion Items

1. Graduate Student fee

A straw poll was conducted at the meeting to gauge Assembly's support for an increase in the annual graduate student fee, from 10\$ per year to 20\$ per year where 100% of the increase would go to fund social events. There were no oppositions. The issue was to be revisited at the next Assembly meeting. This fee change would require a referendum where 30% of student body and 3/5 of all voters must vote yes.

7. New Business

No new business was discussed at the meeting.

8. Close

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:55pm. The next meeting would be held on Wednesday November 11 at 6pm, location TBA.