

Minutes from the October 24, 2000 Graduate Student Government Meeting

Item 0: The meeting was called to order by GSG Chair Lauren Hale at 6:00pm.

Item 1: The minutes from the September GSG meeting were conditionally approved (by the Executive Committee) since not all members of the Assembly had yet read them. Thursday, 10/26/00 was set as a deadline for the filing of any suggestions for revision.

Item 2: Introductions were made, and the Assembly welcomed the new GSG members.

Item 3: Treasurer's Report

Karthick Ramakrishnan, the outgoing GSG Treasurer, made available a written copy of the updated GSG budget for the 1999-2000 fiscal year and the proposed GSG budget for fiscal year 2000-2001. Karthick suggested paying the \$845 bill from Ulli Struve for the GC welcoming barbecue and sending a letter requesting better communication with the GSG for future monetary requests. The Assembly voted in favor of Karthick's recommendations.

Currently, \$8,820 is budgeted for fiscal year 2000-2001, with \$2,000 allocated for operating expenses. Karthick suggested that the GSG take a more active role in encouraging people to attend events sponsored by the GSG. Since sponsoring large events is expensive, he proposed a corresponding reduction in the funds allocated for co-sponsorship of events. The Assembly approved the proposed 2000-2001 budget.

Item 4: The

Butler representative asked for GSG support of two social events, El Cinco de Mayo and the Chinese New Year. The Chinese New Year event will be held between 2/4/01 and 2/7/01. The event usually draws about 250 people and costs about \$500-\$600. Karthick recommended tabling sponsorship for the Cinco de Mayo event and allocating \$200 for the Chinese New Year with the stipulation that all graduate students be included since the GSG is sponsoring the event. The Assembly voted to approve \$200 for the Butler House Committee.

Item 5: A "nonpartisan guide for New Jersey voters" was being prepared by the GSLA, and \$50 was requested for photocopying the guide (to be distributed in the GC and around campus). Matt Moore voiced concern at allocating the money because the GSLA had previously been

censured for their use of money to sponsor a Nader speech at which funds were raised, because it would be difficult to ensure that the guide was nonpartisan, and because half of all graduate students are not eligible to vote in the United States. Karthick Ramakrishnan replied to Matt's assertion by stating that there was absolutely no fundraising done at the Nader lecture and that any political advertising was done by the Greens and not the GSLA. Eszter Hargittai stated that she believed that an election guide would be useful to all graduate students, even to those not eligible to vote in the United States. Much discussion followed, and GSG Chair Lauren Hale tried to keep the discussion focused on pertinent issues. It was suggested that instead of producing 500 copies, the guide could be posted on a web site at no cost. The Assembly voted 11-10 to fund the requested \$50, with the stipulation that the content of the guide must be approved by the GSG Executive Committee before the funds are given. [Note: The GSG Executive Committee did not approve of the content of the election guide and voted not to fund the requested \$50.]

Item 6: Social Chair's report

Yesim Tozan announced that Dean Montero approved the proposed wine tasting event. There will be an admission fee, so there will be no cost to the GSG (aside from obtaining the room). About 100 students will participate, and Yesim will contact the company hosting the event to determine the date. Volunteers for clean up and set-up for the Love at Frist Site dance will be needed (specifics to be determined later). About \$1,500 will be needed for the dance, which will be held in the downstairs multipurpose room in Frist on February 16, 2001 from 10pm-3am. Karthick suggested requesting graduate school sponsorship, also.

Item 7: Committee on Petition Regarding Direct Elections

Jim Vere explained the procedure pertinent to the petition and that the petition consisted of a constitutional amendment component and a bylaw component. Karthick suggested ignoring the second part of the petition. He stated that it was pointless to amend the current constitution since the proposed constitution will pass shortly. Steve Miller and Karthick (who previously disagreed strongly on the issue) announced that they had a handshake agreement to try direct elections for two years. Under the bylaw changes stipulated in the petition, ten percent of the graduate student body was needed for a quorum, an uncontested candidate would not be elected if ten percent of the graduate student body opposed that candidate, and ten percent of the graduate student body was needed to recall an officer.

Eric Adelizzi had submitted four amendments by e-mail. His amendments and reasoning were:

"PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENTS TO ELECTIONS BY-LAW PROPOSAL

A. To amend the proposal for BL III-4-e The current proposal states: Should there be a majority of votes expressing disapproval with votes cast by at least 10% of the GSB, the candidate shall be disqualified from office, else that candidate shall be deemed elected. This is problematic. An example: The Graduate Student Body contains, say 1800 students. A candidate receives 178 votes, and 1 vote. He is elected. I suggest altering this to read: "If more than 10% of the Graduate Student Body votes, and the candidate receives a majority of approving votes, that candidate shall be elected. If more than 10% of the

Graduate Student

Body votes, with a majority voting against, that candidate shall be disqualified from the office in question for one year and the Assembly shall act as if there had been no candidate. Should the 10% quorum not be reached, the Assembly shall treat the office under the standard procedures

for an invalid election." This way, the candidate in the hypothetical scenario above would not be banned from serving; rather, the matter would be referred to the Assembly. This amendment further amends the proposal for amendment of the existing Constitution which reads: Should there be a majority of votes expressing disapproval with votes cast by at least 10% of

the GSG membership, the candidate shall be disqualified from office, else

that candidate shall be deemed elected. to read: "If more than 10% of the membership of the Graduate Student Government votes, and the candidate receives a majority of approving votes, that candidate shall be elected. If more than 10% of the membership of the Graduate Student Government votes, with a majority voting against, that candidate shall be disqualified from the office in question for one year and the Assembly shall act as if there had been no candidate. Should the 10% quorum not be reached, the Assembly shall treat the office under the standard procedures

for an invalid election." This has the same effect.

B. Campaign Limitations

I move that we eliminate all campaign limitations.

Limits on

postering and publicity are contrary to freedom of speech and expression.

I move that the following section be stricken from the proposal for BL

III.5-n: No candidate shall spend more than \$30 on his or her campaign. For accounting purposes, copies or printouts on free departmental printers or copiers shall be assessed at 7 cents per copy. There shall be no campaigning until three weeks prior to an election. Campaigning shall be defined to include advertising or sending a message to more than 5 people encouraging them to vote for a candidate or candidates. There shall be no campaigning on the day or days of the election. If the rules on spending are exceeded by less than \$20, then there shall be no further campaigning on behalf of the candidate. If the rules on spending are exceeded by \$20 or more, then the candidate shall be disqualified from the election. I further move to strike from the proposal to amend the current Constitution section IV B.3 subsection xiiia: No candidate shall spend more than \$30 on his or her campaign. For accounting purposes, copies or printouts on free departmental printers or copiers shall be assessed at 7 cents per copy. There shall be no campaigning until three weeks prior to an election. Campaigning shall be defined to include advertising or sending a message to more than 5 people encouraging them to vote for a candidate or candidates. There shall be no campaigning on the day or days of the election. If the rules on spending are exceeded by less than \$20, then there shall be no further campaigning on behalf of the candidate. If the rules on spending are exceeded by \$20 or more, then the candidate shall be disqualified from the election. I further move to strike the entirety of xiii.b.

C. Removal of Term Limitations

This should be fairly non-controversial.

Under the

proposal to amend the current Constitution, I would suggest changing the wording of: Strike out IV B. 3 and replace it with: Elections of Officers:

a. Terms. An Officer's term may last no more than fifteen months. There shall be no term limits placed on any Offices. b. Timing of elections. with: Strike out IV B. 2 and replace it with: Terms. An Officer's term may last no more than fifteen months. There shall be no term limits placed on any Offices. Strike out IV B. 3 and replace with: Elections of Officers a. Timing of elections. and thence re-letter the following clauses. This corrects a minor oversight in the drafting of the

proposal and should be non-controversial. The proposal means to correct the term- limitations clause but amends IVB.3 only, and does not refer to IVB.2.

D. Recall. I believe that the requirements for recall elections are too stringent. Under the proposed Constitution, an Officer may be removed from office by impeachment by 2/3 of Active seats. The proposed By-Law requires 2/3 of active seats to initiate a recall election. If 2/3 of active members of the Assembly want a recall election, that should be sufficient. In fact, under the current Constitution, the number is 25%. I propose changing the wording of the proposal for amendment of the By-Laws under the proposed Constitution, section BL III.7.b which now reads: b. Recall by the Assembly. The Assembly may require a recall election for an Office by a two-thirds vote of Active and Inactive seats. to read: b. Recall by the Assembly. The Assembly may require a recall election for an Office by a two-thirds vote of Active seats."

Karthick declared Eric's first amendment to be friendly. Eric declared his third amendment to be irrelevant to the proposed constitution, so this amendment was disregarded. His fourth amendment, which changed the requirements for recall of an officer from 2/3 of all active and inactive seats to 2/3 of all active seats, was deemed friendly. His second amendment, the most controversial, sought to remove all limits imposed on campaign financing. This amendment was defeated.

A vote was taken on the petition, which will be a bylaw under the new constitution. The votes of the assembly members were recorded as 15 in favor, 4 opposed, and 5 abstentions. The decision was then made to continue the vote by e-mail, but it was subsequently noted that a quorum had actually been present. Thus, the petition was passed.

Item 8: Officer elections

The newly elected officers are:
Social Chair -- Yesim Tozan
Web Page Administrator -- Eric Adelizzi
Treasurer -- Steve Miller
Recording Secretary -- Jeff Davis
Press Secretary -- Karthick Ramakrishnan
Representative Secretary -- Jim Vere

Item 9: Curricular Practical Training for International Students

There is a limit on the amount of time that an International Student can work in the United States depending on the type of visa that student has. Some international students may have had to use some of their eligibility during the academic year. An opinion was given that

the students should not be considered to be working during the academic year if they do not hold outside jobs and that the eligibility should be reserved for summer jobs or work after graduation. Mostly engineering students have been affected. It was stated that an F-1 visa allows one to be a student, while an H-1 visa allows the holder to work for one year, and summer employment would count towards this period. CPT allows work/training without reducing time. According to the INS, this concern is a University issue. Eszter suggested inviting an appropriate person from the administration to speak before the GSG (since the knowledge of GSG members on this matter is limited). A committee of three people was formed to further investigate this concern.

Item 10: The Achievement

Alliance Retreat to help minority students will be held from October 28-29. Dean Cantarella is concerned about minority student achievement and is looking for ideas for improvement. Any interested person is not required to be a minority student. An invitation letter will be sent to GSG-Assembly.

Item 11: Graduate Student Life Initiative

The Parking and Transportation committee scheduled a meeting with the administration after the Fall Break. A letter draft was read to the Assembly, and the primary concerns in the letter were a continuous campus shuttle and more parking spaces.

The public safety questionnaire is available at webware.princeton.edu/PUBSAF/Question.htm. Cars parked in graduate student lots that do not have appropriate parking stickers should be reported to Public Safety at 8-3157.

The Committee on Health, Dental, and Vision will have a report ready in early November. Healthcare will be discussed at the November 13, 2000 CPUC meeting.

The Housing Committee met to brainstorm specific concerns and referred to the Housing Department as a "creature without a head -- it just blunders about in the dark." Lauren Hale mentioned that Janet Dickerson has never seen a Butler apartment, and Dean Wilson has never seen a new Butler unit. She suggested giving the administration a tour of various housing areas in the next few months.

Campus Relations committee has not yet met, but prox card issues were raised. Undergraduates can access the GC, but graduate students cannot access any undergraduate college, which poses a problem when a graduate student is involved in activities that meet in the undergraduate

colleges. Also, no graduate student can serve as an officer in an "undergraduate" group, etc. Such unfair restrictions adversely impact undergraduate-graduate relations and frustrate attempts at community unity (such as the Frist Campus Center, "sustained dialogues," etc.). The trustee fund for graduate- undergraduate relations was mentioned, and the possibility of (further) graduate resident fellows in the undergraduate colleges was raised.

Item 12: Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni concerns

Six graduate students met with an APGA graduate committee representative. He asked (1) what alumni of the graduate school want and (2) what graduate students want of the APGA. The APGA says that it is concerned and interested in graduate student opinions. The APGA was asked for support on securing more graduate alumni trustees.

Item 13: GS Announcements

The Centennial Gala will be held on December 15, 2000. A GS Open Forum will be held November 10 in Multipurpose Room B from 12:15-1:45pm.

Item 14: The University Presidential Search Forum will be held on November 8, 2000 at 8:30. Lauren Hale invites the public to attend.

Item 15: The

Ivy Graduate Student Government Conference was postponed from November and will be held on December 2-3, 2000. Karthick volunteered as the representative.

Item 16: Constitutional Referendum Committee update

Balloting will continue at the Halloween Ball (paper ballots). Solicitation of (on- line) votes by e-mail will continue. The new bylaw approved at this meeting will be advertised since it may be a possible incentive for people to vote on the constitution. Staffers for the voting booths were solicited.

Item 17: New Business

A question arose as to whether the Referendum Committee could choose new venues for voting without consulting the Assembly. Eric Adelizzi explained this autonomy was authorized in an e-mail vote from the August GSG meeting. The more general concern of committees becoming too

powerful was raised, and some members of the Assembly stated that a definite check on committees was needed. The Assembly is a check on the powers of committees, so some members wanted to discuss the rules of the Referendum Committee at the November GSG meeting. Further discussion arose as to how frequently committees were required to meet and whether personal (face to face) meetings should be required. The general consensus was that no specific type of meeting should be required since different formats work well with different people due to diversity of schedules, etc. It was found that the current GSG constitution requires committees to meet at least once per month.

Kevin Osterloh moved that any vote must be initiated in an Assembly meeting and then move to e-mail, but emergencies may arise that require immediate action. Manish suggested that unless an action needs to be taken before the next Assembly meeting on a time sensitive issue, a vote should be initiated in an Assembly meeting. No objections were raised to this suggestion.

Item 18: Eric Adelizzi moved to thank Beverley McKeon for her services as Press Secretary.

Item 19: It was mentioned that the home addresses and telephone numbers of many graduate students are listed in the campus directory and are therefore public information. Some students expressed concern at this public listing of their home information. In addition, contact information (i.e., office location, phone, voice mail) for some graduate students is not listed in the directory even though the students specifically requested several times that such information be included. The exclusion/inclusion of address and phone information will be examined in more detail.

Item 20: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 30, 2000.