

GSU STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 5th., 1988

Facilitator: Jean.

In Attendance: Cindy, Judith, Doug, Alan, Tad, Graham, Gaetano, Sumaiya, Christian, John, Jenny

Following a brief search, we found a room in which to assemble. Jean called the meeting to order, and distributed a carefully planned agenda.

Review of last week's minutes (Alan): Alan read the minutes for the meeting of September 28, 1988, and it was unanimously agreed that they constituted a fair and accurate record of those proceedings. It was also agreed that minutes should be kept for all future meetings.

Counselling services (Christian): Christian reported that he had spoken to Gina Weiss (?) about the organisation of peer-to-peer counselling for grad. students. The training course for these counsellors takes place in Jan./Feb., and involves the payment of a sizeable sum of money. Christian suggested that the GSU will need to move swiftly, if there are to be grad. student peer counsellors in 1989; and he also suggested that the GSU should ask PU to fund any grad. students who enroll in the course. There are further joint GSU/GWA meeting with members of the Counselling Centre scheduled for the future.

Housing Coalition (Tad): Tad reported that a further meeting with members of the Butler Committee showed a very positive response. Progress on the establishment of a cross-complex committee is likely to be slow, since the elections for the Butler Committee (and possibly for the other committees?) are due at the end of October. The new Director of Housing Services, Maryanne Grundy (?) has already organised lunches with the various housing committees, though some of the details of her arrangements are still not clear to us. Jean raised the issue of the classification of the new Butler units as low income housing. Judith noted that some grad. students had attended the Princeton Township meetings on this issue, and it was agreed that this is an issue of concern to grad. students (which could be taken up by the GSU).

Constitution Committee (Doug, Alan): The Constitution Committee met twice during the week, and produced a first draft of a constitution (copies of which were made available to all of those in attendance). As points of procedure, Jean suggested that the time period for discussion of this issue be extended, and Christian pointed out that the first step would be to set an agenda for the evening's discussion. Both suggestions were agreed upon. Considerations raised during the subsequent discussion were:

(i) Presentation at the October 10 meeting. It was agreed that a short summary, with highlights, should be available for distribution at that meeting.

(ii) Unresolved ("bold-faced") questions Christian proposed that the Constitution Committee should provide the Steering Committee with a range of options which might be taken up in each case in which the Committee had not been able to decide on a precise and unanimous formulation of a section of the constitution. This suggestion was approved by consensus.

(iii) Fees Cindy noted that the most important issue to be resolved concerned the question of funding the GSU - i.e. whether PU would allow the GSU to impose and collect a mandatory fee from all grad. students. She noted that there are two reasons why the GSU will need money, viz (a) for distribution to interest groups, and (b) for social events. (Jean noted that social events will be very important in facilitating communication between grad. students.) Following some discussion, it was (tentatively?) agreed that the initial fee should be small, but that the constitution should make provision for its raising later on. (It was also agreed that the response to the proposal of a fee at the October 10 meeting will be crucial in determining the final response to this issue.) Tad suggested that someone volunteer to go speak to Tom Wright about possible legal complications in a GSU decision to levy a fee on all grad. students.: Doug Wright volunteered.

Status of GSU account, etc. (Christian):

(i) GSU Account Christian reported that the GSU now has an account. Dorothy Davis (New South) is the GSU's avenue for access to its funds. (Outside spending needs to be OK'd with Dean Montero.) At present, Christian and Sumaiya are the two GSU reps who are able to sign checks and make withdrawals from the GSU account.

(ii) Space The GSU is on a waiting list of 250 organisations competing for 35 office spaces. Dean Montero is pessimistic about our chances, but did offer room in the GC. (The offices on campus are in Aaron Burr, 70 Washington Rd., and 40 University Place.) After discussion, it was decided that a final decision could be postponed until after our charter is ratified -- but that, in any case, it would not be wise to accept a room in the GC. (Alan noted that there will always be rooms available to us in the GC!)

(iii) Phones The GSU can make appointments to use the phones in Dean Montero's office.

Undergraduate Life Committee Emily will be meeting with the ULC (Jason Weinstein??) on October 6, and should have something to report next week.

Survey Results (Graham) The main question to be discussed concerned dissemination of the results of the survey, now that they have (largely) been compiled. Christian suggested a press release, for which he already has a draft. (There were five "significant" results from the survey mentioned in this release.) It was agreed that all local papers should be contacted (including the Princeton Packet and Town Topics). It was suggested that Randy Clarke might be persuaded to write about the GSU in forthcoming appearances of his column in the Princeton Alumni Weekly. (Mention was also made of the NY Times.) Doug suggested that a scrapbook of press clippings, etc. should be kept. This suggestion was unanimously approved. Alan volunteered to get clippings of the Daily Prince articles that have already appeared. It was also agreed that a major analysis of the survey results should be undertaken, and a report lodged with the Deans. (It was also agreed that a copy be left on reserve in Firestone.) The number of these reports to be produced was discussed, but no firm conclusion was reached. Cindy noted that all information should go directly to grad. students, rather than reach them via press releases - and it was agreed that all press releases should be postponed until after the October 10 meeting. People agreed to contact the various papers to suggest that they send reporters to the October 10 meeting.

October 10 meeting: It was decided that an overhead projector would be needed in order to facilitate presentation of the survey results. Distribution of flyers (?sp.) was discussed, and a small technical problem was corrected. People were organized to distribute the flyers to departments. The agenda for the meeting was fixed: Intro (Christian), Survey (Graham), Constitution (Alan), Department Reps (Judith), Discussion (Moderator:Tad). A practice run was scheduled for Friday, October 7, at noon.

CPUC Meeting (on October 10): Alan and Jean, as members of the CPUC executive committee, reported that the items on the agenda for this meeting are (a) the PU budget (b) the GSU. The need for a good showing of GSU reps at this meeting was noted. (It will be in Dodd's auditorium, in Robertson.) Jean said that the CPUC may need to approve the existence (?) of the GSU (wrt its claim to represent all grad. students). It is unclear if this is cause for concern. Alan noted that the Provost conceded immediately that the grad. members of CPUC do not represent grad. students.

Party: Owing to competition from Butler, it was decided that the GSU party

scheduled for Saturday, October 8 would need to be scratched.

EOS: Christian moved that the meeting be adjourned, as "it's gone on long enough". This proposal met with unanimous assent. Tad volunteered to facilitate the next meeting. Jean suggested that the question of the UAW rep. be added to the agenda for the next meeting. And then we all went home.

Graham.

Graham: I emended this in two ways: I changed the account of the Tom Wright fact-finding mission (under Constitution Comm. iii), and I added Alan's offer to get Prince clippings (under Survey Results). Other than that, looks great. TAD