

Minutes for the Graduate student government assembly meeting held Wednesday September 17, 2008, at 6pm in Robertson Hall Room 035

Recorded by Marina Paul

Agenda

I. Call to Order

A. Approval of the Minutes (August) - Marina Paul

II. Reports

A. Chair - Christina Hultholm

B. Social Events - Yi Wang

C. Facilities - Kevin Collins

D. Health and Life

E. IRC - Ashley Thrall

F. Academic Affairs

G. Campus Relations

H. Communications Update - Jenna Losh

III. Discussion Items

A. Agenda for the Year

B. CPUC Meeting

C. Standing Committee Participation

IV. New Business

V. Adjournment

I. Call to Order

The meeting began at 6:07 pm.

The following new assembly members and guests were seated and/or introduced at the meeting:

ART Leigh Lieberman (formerly Charles Butcosk)

CEE Ashley Thrall (formerly Raghuveer Vinukollu)

CLA John Tully (formerly Tom Zanker)

GEO Brandon Stackhouse (formerly Kelly Kearney)

PPL Jessica Baumgaertel (formerly Daniel Raburn)

ACSS Tuo Li (formerly Yi Sun)

BGC Who?

A. Approval of the August 2008 Minutes (- Marina Paul)

A draft of the August minutes was sent out for review via the gsg-assembly@ email list the day before. No comments were received by Assembly meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was brought forth and approved by voice vote.

II. Reports

A. Chair - Christina Hultholm

Christina represented the graduate student body at the Executive committee meeting of the Princeton Alumni Association. She also met with the APGA. The following were major points of discussion:

1. the need for a long-term plan for housing graduate students
 - a. taken into account as the ten-year campus plan goes along
 - b. 2012 will bring the destruction of Butler apartments. Apartments will be reallocated to Stanworth, but housing should take into account the upcoming increase in grad student enrollment
2. How can grad students make more use of alumni networking/relations? Christina encouraged Assembly to start thinking about this, in terms of types of activities or the nature of interactions and the benefits graduate students would gain.

The CPUC exec committee held their meeting last week and a general council meeting will be held this Monday at 4:30pm. The campus plan will be discussed here. Christina solicited questions or comments from Assembly.

B. Social Events - Yi Wang

The GSG-sponsored Wine and Cheese Social will be held on October 2, 2008 at the Carl Fields Center. All graduate students and guests over 21 are invited. Volunteers were still needed for setup, cleanup, stamping hands. A suggestion was made to streamline the admissions line into the wine and cheese event. Last year, Princeton ID and proof of age were checked and wrist bands were distributed all at once for each person, and a bottleneck at the entrance door formed.

Yi encouraged that any ideas for fall social events be emailed to gsg@princeton.edu.

C. Facilities - Kevin Collins on behalf of Jeff Dwoskin

Assembly hosted Kim Jackson (Director of Parking and Transportation) in May 2008, where she described the current requests for proposal (RFP) to take into effect in January 2009. The RFP she discussed at Assembly included a loop system, where multiple routes originate from and finish at a central stop, rather than a single bus loop hitting all graduate student residences.

A new RFP has the GC loop running **only from 9am- 9pm**. Kevin asked Assembly to get feedback from their constituents regarding this possibility. One department rep asked for more specifics or more concrete proof of this RFP. Kevin was unable to offer this because the GSG did not receive any hard copy.

Several students have contacted their department reps, suggesting a stop be added at Millstone Apartments, which is on the way to the Forrestal stop. Exec would forward email to going to forward this to Kim, but Christina encouraged the reps to tell their constituents to email the administration individually@ parking@princeton.edu.

Kevin distributed a **bike map** at the meeting, outlining bike-friendly routes around campus. The map was created by the transportation committee.

The bike map can be found at <http://www.princeton.edu/parking/bikemap.pdf>

D. Health and Life – no report

E. IRC - Ashley Thrall

Ashley informed Assembly that regular IRC meetings are held on Mondays at lunchtime – 12:30pm, location TBA.

F. Academic Affairs

Stipends – Harvard just increased their graduate stipends to above Princeton's. Given the increase in a peer institution's stipends and recent significant increases in the costs of gas and food, this may warrant a request to increase stipends at Princeton. The Academic Affairs committee (Silvia Newell and Kevin Collins) will start collecting data on stipends (for the academic year and the summer) across all of the departments. Silvia requested that Assembly send her the following information:

1. Stipends for the academic year and the summer, and how it varies for year of enrollment
2. Appreciate anecdotes of how expenses may be affected by the cost of gas and food

G. Campus Relations – no report

H. Communications Update – Jenna Losh

The new GSG website is located at <http://gsg.princeton.edu>. The old website is still active, while Jeff Dwoskin (Facilities chair) and Jenna Losh (corresponding secretary) add any old information to the new site and bring it up to date.

III. Discussion Items

A. Agenda for the Year

Christina (Chair) initiated a discussion to develop a agenda for the GSG for the upcoming year, and asked the audience to bring up any concerns, comments, or suggestions.

1. Expansion of off-campus housing services

It was brought up that many graduate students wanted assistance in their search for off-campus housing, particularly with the upcoming housing crunch due to the restructuring of graduate student housing. Lisa Schreyer () responded that Princeton is interested in increasing services for students seeking off campus housing, and has recently hired a person to specifically on this issue, who is in correspondence with local realtors.

2. Improvement of library services

Students want scanners in all main libraries, and want longer loan periods for books. A student brought up that for the Biology library, the loan period was recently reduced from a semester to only 30 days.

3. Goal-setting by the GSG

A discussion about whether the GSG has reached its goals was initiated. The graduate student government was originally formed to deal with the post-enrollment status of graduate students and the housing crisis. In March 2008, when a new GSG executive committee was elected, the outgoing chair, Shin-Yi Lin, presented a list of goals accomplished by the GSG up to that time (for the list, see March 2008 minute, under section VI (Transition from Old to New Exec and Adjournment)) A list of tasks accomplished since March 2008 is listed below:

1. Summer letter writing campaign
2. Library policy has been changed to allow photography of rare books with digital cameras
3. Travel forum, International Photo contest

A concern was raised that the GSG has mostly focused on tackling long-term issues where problems are continually generated, such as housing, funding, student health, and transportation. Giri suggested that the GSG also set shorter term goals, rather than focusing only on long-term strategies as it has in the past.

4. Raising the profile of graduate students within the University

It was suggested that having a liaison to the undergraduate student government (USG) or a regular graduate student beat reporter would be helpful in increasing awareness of graduate students on campus. It was acknowledged that the source of funding for the Daily Princetonian may govern what the paper strives to report. While the Daily Princetonian (“Daily Prince” or “the Prince”) advertises itself as a Princeton paper, and not specifically as paper for undergraduate students, it was unclear where the funding for the Prince comes from. A student argued that if the funding is from the University, graduate students should be represented as well. Annie Twitty (Press secretary) reported that the Prince Editor is amenable to helping raise awareness of graduate student issues on campus. Last year, we saw an interest with the inclusion of a special insert on graduate students in one issue of the Daily Prince. A global email was sent out recently about several positions for which the Prince is hiring.

There is a perception on campus that there are very few graduate students on campus, and this may lead to a lack of awareness or interest in graduate student issues. However, the total number of graduate students, including students who live on campus and off-campus, is approximately 2400, about half of the total undergraduate students. There was a discussion about the Kite and Key tours having been observed to give negative or inaccurate information to visitors about graduate students. Dan Rayburn offered the following anecdote: a fellow graduate student friend was passing by a kite and key tour, and was identified by the tour guide as “sketchy”.

B. CPUC meeting

The next CPUC council meeting will be held Monday September 22, 2008 at 4:30, in the Betts Auditorium of the School of Architecture. The agenda topic is the ten-year campus plan. Christina informed assembly that the deadline for written question submission is this upcoming Friday, and any suggestions should be sent to gsg@princeton.edu. Written questions submitted from CPUC members ahead of time are obligated to be answered in public at the meeting. Questions from members from the University community asked at the meeting will also be answered, if time permits.

David Jorgensen (REL) suggested that a global email be sent to the student body to solicit ideas.

C. Alumni Relations

Christina (Chair) reported that in her recent discussions with graduate alumni, alumni are interested in getting students to utilize the alumni network more. Princeton graduate alumni have been involved in the graduate school participating in several Alumni Career Mixers (career mixers specific for the Natural Sciences, Engineering and Social Sciences), and the APGA provides funds for student travel and for social events through donations to the Events Board. To increase interaction between students and alumni, Christina suggested that the GSG hold smaller events inviting local area alumni to meet with graduate students, and asked Assembly to think about what events they would be interested in.

Suggestions made included increasing funding from alumni without disrupting Princeton, and increasing alumni sponsorship of events.

D. Standing Committee Participation

A sign-up sheet for being added to email list-serves for standing committees was passed around. The goals for this include 1) increasing involvement of members in the GSG's standing committees and 2) improve awareness of GSG activities in those who don't want to participate, and make assembly meetings shorter and more effective. The committees are briefly described below:

1. Academic
 - a. Deals with library renovations and policy, travel funding, department-specific issues
 - b. Has a library subcommittee
2. Facilities
 - a. Focuses on housing, shuttle, infrastructure and technology (webmail, computing resources)
 - b. Safety issues, including participation in campus safety walks
 - c. The GSG needs to make sure when Jeff Dwoskin (Facilities chair) graduates, it retains "institutional memory"
3. Social Events
 - a. Yi (social chair) reported that he strives to hold one major social event a month – and is always looking for better ideas!
4. Health and life
 - a. Deals with child care, maternity leave; recently worked with the University to subsidize prescription birth control when federal subsidy was discontinued
 - b. Kelly (Chair, Health and Life) recently posted an FAQ's page on the GSG website
5. Institutional Review Committee (IRC)
 - a. Initially formed in March part to deal with an image problem of the GSG; Assembly was unaware of the GSG's agenda or goals. The term will end next March with a report of recommendations to the GSG.
 - b. The IRC is generally interested in facilitating the operations of the GSG: examining whether any restructuring or redistribution would make the system more efficient.
6. Campus Relations
 - a. Attempts to deal with relations between graduate student relations and the rest of the university. This includes coordinating with undergrads, administrators, and the rest of the campus.
 - b. A major focus right now will be to get graduate students to colonize the campus club early on, in part by holding graduate student events soon after its grand opening.

IV. New Business

A. Ivy Summit

At the last meeting, Exec solicited written statements from any members interested in going, because only a limited amount of funding is available for room and board for attendees. The Annual Ivy League Graduate School Council Summit ("Ivy Summit") is where representatives from each of the Ivy League graduate schools (and several peer institutions) meet to compare graduate-student related issues and concerns. The items

discusses may include stipends, housing, funding, admissions, and relations with administrators. The 2008 Ivy Summit will be held on October 24-26 at Harvard University.

At the August meeting, members interested in going to the Ivy Summit as student reps were asked to email Exec. As of the September meeting, Giri Parameswaran (IRC co-chair, ECO rep), Kevin Collins (POL, Academic Affairs co-chair), Kelly Kearney (Health and Life chair, AOS rep), and Christina Hultholm (Chair) were the only four who had expressed interest in going.

There was some debate over who should be able to go. Some students felt that since funding for a limited number of spots is involved, any member of the graduate student body should be given the opportunity to go. However, others argued that the guidelines of the Ivy summit recommend that attendees have some involvement in the student government or the university.

Assembly moved to have exec send out a final list of the attendees via e-mail.

B. Next meeting

The 2008-2009 GSG Budget will be discussed at the next meeting. It was agreed that Exec would send the budget out to assembly via email before the next assembly meeting.

C. Approval of ACSS's funding request for Moon Festival to the Events Board

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting, with discussion items.

ACSS made a request to the Events board for funding their annual Moon Festival party, held this year on October 4, 2008 at the Carl Fields Center. While 80% of ACSS members are graduate students, the event is open to and free for all Princeton students. The ACSS secured funding from the GSG/Events Board last year but needs Assembly's approval for a request for \$1500 from the Events Board. This is an increase in the funding requested last year, due to an anticipated increase in attendance and more money budgeted to improve the quality of food offered. (The Chair of ACSS noted that special food for the Moon Festival Party, including Moon cakes, is expensive and offered only by a limited number of suppliers. Sometimes the ACSS does receive food donations from area restaurants but will not be able to anticipate this beforehand.). The ACSS successfully requested money from several other funding sources, but did not have confirmed amounts at the time of the meeting.

After some discussion, it was clarified that \$4000 remained in the budget for events funded by the Events Board for September by September and October 2008 (the new budget for 2008-2009 goes into effect in November). This is double what was available and spent last year. Budgeting for the Wine and Cheese social (up to \$2500) would still leave money to fund the the Moon Festival and possibly some leftover money.

Several concerns were brought by Assembly about funding the Moon festival again:

1. Since the \$1500 requested from the GSG was 75% of the total funds required to hold the event, but some of the other funding sources mentioned (such as departments) have more money at their disposal than the GSG, should the ACSS be asking less from the GSG and more from its other sources?
2. Should the GSG/Events board be consistently supporting events it has funded previously, or seeding new social events by preferentially funding new events?

3. Shouldn't the GSG's role be to fund the requests made by the graduate students?
No other events are currently requesting funds.

A Motion was made to fund the ACSS moon festival party request for \$1500.
Another motion was made to fund the Festival at last year's level
The motion to fund the request for \$1500 was seconded and approved by voting by a
show of hands vote (14 for, 3 opposed, 3 abstentions)

V. Adjournment

The meet ended at 7:37 pm.

