GSG meeting September 9, 2009

Agenda
1. Welcome
2. Confirmation of previous minutes
3. Reports
4. Decision Items
   a. Inactivation of vacant seats
   b. Neuroscience rep to GSG assembly
   c. Elections of events board members
5. Discussion Items
   a. Procedures for assigning AI duties
6. New Business
7. Close

1. Welcome
The meeting commenced at 6:08pm. The parliamentary secretary chaired the meeting in the chair's absence. Quorum was unmet; Assembly acting as a committee of the whole made all decisions.

2. Confirmation of previous minutes
The minutes for the August 2009 meeting were emailed to Assembly during the past weekend, and the sign in sheet was sent the day of the meeting. 1 revision was brought up via email. A motion to approve the minutes with the revision was approved unanimously.

New assembly representatives to the following departments were seated at the meeting: Musicology, Slavics, Hibben/Magie, and Plasma Physics.

3. Reports
a. Chair's report discussion

The Chair's report was emailed to Assembly in advance of the meeting.

1. Taxes
   a. The treasurer's office is unwilling to provide the option of having taxes withheld from fellowship income – both because they see this as not the role of the University, and because they insist that the law prevents them from doing so (notwithstanding that several other universities offer this service).
   b. We intend to pursue this matter further with the administration.
2. Campus Safety Survey
   a. The Office of the Executive Vice President has put together a survey of students' perception of campus safety and its emergency response procedures.
   b. The survey will be ready for release soon, and OEVP is seeking USG/GSG assistance in administering the survey.

3. Ivy Summit Planning Committee
   a. The ISPC met last week to discuss preliminary planning.
   b. Tentative date for the conference – Fri 15 Oct – Sun 17 Oct 2010. (Bring forward to previous weekend if these dates prove problematic.)
   c. Looking into reserving accommodation and conference/meal venues.
   d. More detailed planning after 2009 delegates return from Cornell.
4. Charging purchases to student accounts
   a. The limitation of use of student charge privileges was the result of a miscommunication between several departments. This error has now been rectified.
5. Webmaster
   a. Solomon Abiola' 12 has been hired as the GSG webmaster. He will begin working for the GSG this week.
6. One of our priorities is to revamp the GSG webpage. Solomon will put together a few design templates for our consideration. If there are any design ideas or features you would like included, please feel free to let Aurelien or I know – and we will pass your ideas on.
7. Save the Date

   - **New Student Sign In – Wed Sept 16, 9am – 12pm, East Pyne**
   - Campus Club Grand Opening Open House – Sat Sept 19, 1-3pm
   - Campus Club Grand Opening Coffeehouse – Sat Sept 19, 10pm
   - Campus Club (alcohol free) Lawn Party – Sun Sept 20, 3pm
   - **GSG Town Hall Meeting (Guest: Shirley Tilghman) – Wed Sept 30, 6pm**.
   - **GSG Assembly BBQ – Sun October 4? (Alternative Sun October 18)**

Several points were made when discussing the chair's report:
1. The 2010 Ivy Summit Weekend (hosted on Princeton's campus) may conflict with midterm week or general exams for some graduate students.
2. The goals of re-designing the GSG website include making the website more interactive, and more representative of the graduate student body and not just the GSG
3. The town hall meeting with Shirley Tighlman may provide an important opportunity for lobbying for grad students.

b. Academic Affairs
The committee had nothing to report.

c. Campus Relations
1. The committee will be meeting with the APGA this weekend to discuss with alum how they can help current grads
2. Working on getting Master's and PhD degrees hooding ceremonies separated to allow more tickets per graduate
3. Upcoming APGA mixers- fall and spring

4. Following up on a previous suggestion, to hold a homecoming/tailgating event for grads and grad alumni: there may already be an event open to grads and the committee is looking into this
5. The GSG Wine & Cheese will take place in October, will hear more later

d. Facilities

1. OIT update: summer letter about printing quotas in progress
2. Housing update: Housing plan for Stanworth apartments tour in progress; housing committee needs more members.
3. Shuttle updates
   a. New shuttle schedule will be coming out; any feedback for a meeting with Kim Jackson (Director of Transportation and Parking) before shuttle goes into service would be welcome. Assembly was requested to review it for errors, gaps in schedules, any unmet needs, and lack of clarity issues. Early corrections to the schedule would prevent confusing revisions when shuttle is already running; moreover, university could be resistant to changes if shuttle is already in progress
   b. Evening shuttle: better connectivity is expected but may be confusing as to what shuttles to take for what destination –any suggestions for mapping or naming were welcomed.
4. Forrestal student parking: U. expects students to take shuttle, affects parking privileges
5. Printing quota – going to follow up on this and get info

 Point of Discussion during report: Retirement planning option for graduate students: students may be ineligible for 401K employee benefits and may need to use a personal Roth IRA;

e. Health and Life

1. A proposal to offer 1-year medical leave with continued benefits to graduate students is being drafted. The proposal is planning to be presented at Pri-Comm this year; it is unpredictable how successful this will be with current University budget cuts.
2. Bids for Dental Coverage plans
3. After a recent survey of alternative coverage plans, university decided to stick with Eastern Dental and reported that this seemed to be the best option; University admin has made sure to keep offices up to par very recently; said they haven't received recent complaints
4. Swine flu vaccine is not offered at flu fest this year currently, the government not issuing in our demographic (age group)
   a. Some students with resp. disease – not sure if they are covered
5. Dental benefits current in place
   a. A list of providers in the community that already offer discounts to grad students are listed on the UHS website
   b. 125$ for annual preventative dental care with SHP
   c. Vital Savings, a discount program through Aetna

6. Discontinuity in health care coverage
    a. Students had previously reported being temporarily dropped from of Aetna system. Michele Gregory (Student Health Plan Manager) responded that some incidents may be due to confusion between Aetna vs. Aetna student programs when filing paperwork
7. Looking into deselecting/opting out of SHP as primary health plan when eligible for other plans (via a family/spouse, etc)

4. Decision Items
a. Vacate inactive seats
 A motion to vacate inactive assembly seats was made at the meeting. Assembly is given to power to vacate inactive seats when a rep has failed to attend for 3 consecutive meetings. Meeting quorum becomes a problem when additional reps do not attend. Vacating inactive seats will enable assembly to amend bylaws and meet quorum. A rep can be reinstated easily in accordance with the rep's home department's constitution.
As of the September meeting, the following three seats were inactive for the past five meetings:
1. Off campus housing seat
2. Chemical Engineering
3. WWS

The following points were made in discussion:
1. Offending reps should be warned before any motion was taken and given the opportunity to come back.
2. Reps are made aware of rules, the offending reps did not notify the GSG committee in advance of their absence or send proxies
3. the point was made that a motion to add a seat for the Neuroscience program, for students who are requesting representation, is being prevented by not vacating seats for people who don't attend

After the discussion, the original motion to vacate inactive seats was withdrawn.
A motion was made to notify offending reps by email by next meeting. The motion failed by hand vote (6 for, 11 opposed).
A motion to vacate seats conditionally in 1 week from the day they are contacted failed (5 for, 12 opposed, hand vote).
The parliamentary secretary volunteered to email the offending reps next month.

b. Motion to add Neuroscience program rep to GSG assembly
Because of the lack of quorum, a rep cannot be seated until at least next month.

c. Elections of events board members

The GSG Events board, which funds grad student clubs, organizations, and events that permit attendance of all grad students, ran elections for 5 open positions at the September meeting. Three candidates were running as of the meeting, including two current

members (Raja Chahal and Raghuveer Vinukollu). A candidate statement was submitted by email by the third candidate, Donghun Lee.

A motion to approve all 3 candidates at once was made. The motion passed unanimously by hand vote.

Motion was made to require that all official communications from the GSG be written in AP style English. Such communications would include summer letters to administration, emails to the graduate student body, documents signed from the organization (not the individual), and the text on the website. The motion failed (4 in favor, 5 opposed, 7 abstentions).

5. Discussion Items
a. Procedures for assigning AI duties or thesis rotations
The molecular biology department is looking into using an automated program to assign lab rotations to graduate students, which it currently performs with a manual system. There have been several slip-ups, where the list has been sent out to the entire department by email and posted online. The mol bio rep asked if any other departments already have this in place. Reps from several departments (Sociology, Geosciences, and Mechanical Engineering) reported that students in their home departments were given AI assignments using a manual method.

b. Feedback from Assembly for GSG website features/options
1. Voting/survey tools
2. WIKI for students – service (car mechanics, for example) ratings
3. GSG achievements – made into a poster for campus – attract new students
4. Randomly generated information, refreshing frequently such as "Did you know what the GSG has done lately?" or "things that the GSG has accomplished"
5. Add a link to it on point.princeton.edu

6. New Business
No new business was discussed.

7. Close
A motion to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.