

## Minutes of the September 27, 2000 Graduate Student Government Meeting

At 6:07pm the meeting was called to order by GSG Chair Lauren Hale.

Item 0: The members of the assembly were asked to introduce themselves as the attendance sheet was circulated and pizza made available to the assembly.

Item 1: The minutes from the August 30, 2000 GSG meeting were approved by the assembly.

Item 2: Parliamentarian Announcements and election discussion

Jim Vere announced that officer elections would take place at the October meeting, except for the office of Chair, which has a staggered term. Anyone interested in an officer position should send Jim an e-mail.

Representatives were also asked to send e-mail to their departments to solicit interest and applications for prospective representatives for departments that have no formal procedure for electing their reps. Based on the current constitution, officer candidates are required to be representatives in the assembly, but this requirement may be relaxed in practice.

Karthick Ramakrishnan announced that the politics department will have a contested election, and a debate between Matt Fouse and Susan

McWilliams would be held in the Graduate College near the D-Bar.

Lauren Hale asked the assembly to encourage their friends to run for the GSG.

Item 3: Social Chair report:

Yesim Tozan said that the First Chance Dance was successful and thanked those who helped. The Valentine's party in February will be titled "Love at Frist Sight." She met with Kim Collins to discuss the venue and announced that the party would be in a large room with a dance floor, a multipurpose room, and a lounge. It will last until 2:00AM. The Assembly decided that the party should take place on Friday, February 16, 2001 instead of Valentine's Day and asked about what type of multimedia system would be available. The former executive director of Wine

Enthusiast will be speaking at a wine tasting event to be held on an undetermined date. The entry fee will be \$5-\$10, and the organizers would

like about 100 students to attend. Such an event has been held at

schools

such as Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania, and the organizers are now looking at Princeton and Yale. Lauren asked for volunteers to advertise, find space, etc., and said that the work will begin once it is certain that the event will be held. Notification will be sent via e-mail at the appropriate time. Karthick mentioned that there should be more involvement in the GSG since only about five GSG members were at the First Chance Dance.

#### Item 4: Treasurer's Report:

Karthick Ramakrishnan mentioned that the current GSG budget had not been updated to include the cost of the First Chance Dance. The dance would cost about \$600 after the GSG received \$1000 from the Dean. Steve Miller, speaking for Ulli, said that the GSG had agreed to fund the summer barbecue for about \$820. Karthick did not recall this and could not find such an agreement in past GSG minutes. Eric Adelizzi asked which year's budget the barbecue fits into and said that the GSG traditionally sponsors a summer barbecue. Karthick said that the two barbecues last year cost \$620 and \$800. Steve Miller said that there are three summer barbecues, with the Graduate College, GSG, and the Dean's Office each sponsoring one. Karthick said that the GSG should have been asked about the barbecue first, and said that the GSG could not spend \$800 from the current budget. He recommended funding the barbecue with all money left in the budget after paying for the dance. A member of the Assembly noted that the GC then might not want to fund events in the future. Manish Vachharajani recommended calling it an oversight and fully funding the event.

Lauren announced that Ulrich Struve had already billed the GSG for the BBQ. Eric Adelizzi said that Dean Montero gave more money, but the Council of International Graduate Students apparently gave less this year, and costs rose. The Graduate School's portion therefore rose from \$800 to \$1200, and the GSG's share rose from \$600 to \$800. After some discussion on how the GSG should respond to the \$820 bill from Ulli since less than \$500 was left in the budget, it was decided that Karthick would talk to Dean Montero about the situation.

#### Item 5: Web Administrator's Report

Eric Adelizzi raised the question of open e-mail lists so that graduate students could be more informed of the topics being considered by the GSG. This issue had been raised at the August meeting, but no decision was made. Questions were asked about the PUGRAD newsgroup, a chat room on the GSG web site, and the technical feasibility of a read-only list. Lauren asked about creating a read-write list, and the assembly voted in favor of opening the gsg-active list to the entire community.

#### Item 6: Graduate Student Trustee Initiative

Karthick mentioned that the revised form of the proposal for young graduate student alumni to be on the Board of Trustees was approved by the GSG Assembly, given to Ann Halliday, and sent to the Board of Trustees, but only the executive committee of the board received copies. At a dinner with members of the board of trustees and many members of the USG, Karthick and Lauren brought up the trustee report. Janet Dickerson was sympathetic, and 2-3 trustees were also sympathetic to the proposal, but they are not on the executive board. The member of the executive board present at that dinner did not seem sympathetic to this or other issues pertaining to graduate students, such as a shortage of housing. The Assembly thought that requiring at least one young alumnus trustee would be seen as more valid this year because it is the Centennial of the Graduate School. Only one graduate alumnus currently is on the Board of Trustees aside from President Shapiro, who is an ex officio member.

#### Item 7: Referendum (Amendment for procedure of electing officers, cont. from August meeting)

It was noted that the Assembly can approve an amendment to the constitution, which would make a referendum unnecessary, but such a vote would require two-thirds of all current representatives, and attendance at the meeting was insufficient to meet this criterion. Lauren therefore asked for a short discussion on the amendment and then asked each member to declare support or opposition to the measure. Aye and Nay statements would then be drawn up by members with the appropriate position on the issue and would be made available at the referendum. The assembly would vote on the issue at the October meeting. The ensuing discussion lasted for quite some time. Some issues that arose were whether this amendment

would affect the current or proposed constitution, the procedure for the referendum, and the inconsistencies in the current amendment (what happens

if there is no candidate for an office, a provision for write-in votes, a recall procedure, a procedure for re-amending, the minimum required turnout, the establishment of an election committee, a provision for filling a vacancy due to resignation, and a provision for the lack of a majority in an election). It was noted that the vagueness of the proposed

amendment would allow stalling on issues in the future. Several members noted that in order for the administration to more fully incorporate the GSG in the decision making process for important issues (as is the USG), they believed that the GSG must appear more democratic and viewed the proposed direct election of officers as a first step in that direction. The consensus was that although the Assembly has a "moral obligation" to initiate a referendum, it also should present the best, most consistent document possible for the referendum. A poll was then taken of the Assembly to give an indication of the representatives in favor of or opposed to the amendment, and the Assembly unanimously voted to send the amendment to a committee to improve the document while preserving its intent. The committee consists of Karthick Ramakrishnan, Jim Vere, Steve Miller, Eric Adelizzi, Kevin Osterloh, and Donnell Butler.

#### Item 8: Orientation Report

Lauren announced that the GSG activities fair was attended by many interested graduate students. Seven graduate organizations were present at the campus-wide activities fair, and more bottle openers were given out by the GSG.

#### Item 9: Development of Peer Mediation Program

It was announced that this program was being developed in conjunction with undergraduates, and graduate students were encouraged to volunteer. Lauren asked members of the assembly to go to the GSG web site and look at the application. She said that there were more graduate representatives than undergraduate representatives.

#### Item 10: Graduate Student Life Initiative

Lauren announced that these concerns would be mentioned at the CPUC meeting in November. Karthick mentioned the "Visions of Princeton" survey, which he called a document of change. Five issues were brought to the attention of the assembly. Although there are two representatives for

the housing committee, neither was present at the meeting. A third representative was solicited, and Nathan Marsh volunteered. The committee

was asked to write approximately three pages on each important issue it raised. Jim Vere read a report from Betsy Wheeler concerning health care.

The survey focused on usage, satisfaction, and suggestions for change, and

a chart with the preliminary data was circulated. The parking and transportation committee (Matt Moore, Cindy Tobery, and Yesim Tozan) mentioned a letter from Dean Montero, which they would forward and bring up at the CPUC meeting. Eric Adelizzi mentioned that there is now a 2-hour parking limit near the engineering quad., and the fifth floor of the PMI garage has been ordered nearly vacant at all times because special

events, which are held very infrequently, will use that space for parking.

The committee on post-enrollment consists of Kevin Osterloh, Eric Adelizzi, and Karthick Ramakrishnan. The members on the campus relations committee are Karthick, Brian Tucker, Matt Fouse, and Tamar Friedmann.

Item 11: The next CPUC meeting will take place on Monday, September 25, 2000. Three important issues that were deflected and delayed by the Provost are cost of living adjustments, dental benefits, and the trustee initiative. It was announced that the cost of food at Frist for meal plan members would decrease. Karthick asked how many members of the Assembly present at the meeting had been in Frist. All members raised their hands since the GSG meeting was held in Frist. He then asked how many had eaten in Frist, and all members had (see Item 0).

Lauren Hale announced that the CPUC Executive board selected four candidates from among the staff to serve on the Presidential Search Committee. An election from all the staff was held to determine which one among them would be the one on the committee. The student representatives had already been selected. They are USG President P.J. Kim, Lisa Lazarus '02 (selected by the USG president), and GSG Chair Lauren Hale.

Item 12: APGA Meeting

Two people were chosen for the governing board meeting. Allison Headly was chosen as the graduate student representative on the committee to plan the party for President Shapiro.

Item 13: President Shapiro Letter

Eric Adelizzi read a suggested letter to be sent to President Shapiro on behalf of the GSG to thank him for his hard work during his tenure as university president. The letter was approved unanimously and was to be sent on GSG letterhead.

Item 14: CIT report

Steve Miller raised the question of whether a cluster will be installed in the Hibben-Magie apartments and asked whether graduate students would prefer more or better computers. Karthick suggested recommending to CIT the installation of new computers in Hibben-Magie and the New GC first and then upgrading the current computers. This motion was approved. The Assembly asked Steve Miller to use his discretion on the issue of more or up to date computers. Eric Adelizzi suggested adding CIT concerns to the Student Life Initiative, and this motion was unanimously approved.

Item 15:

Tamar Friedmann spoke on the Graduate Student Departmental Committee Issue. It was not well known what these committees could do, but they apparently can bring issues to the attention of the faculty. Also, according to Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities, proposals for major changes in graduate student programs must be referred to the GSC before the faculty acts on them. RRR also lists other rights of the GSCs (<http://www.princeton.edu/pr/pub/rrr/00/htm/41.htm#ofStudents>). The members of the Assembly were encouraged to mention the issue to their departments. Nathan Marsh said that there was good success going to the graduate student administrator. Karthick suggested only reminding graduate students about Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities. Manish advised caution and to avoid forcing an issue. Eric Adelizzi said that there should be more communication and interaction between people on these committees and the GSG.

Item 16:

Manuel Sales notified the Assembly that the second annual meeting of IGAPS would be held at Yale on the Friday and Saturday of the first week in November (a similar meeting was held in Philadelphia in the spring). He said that issues could be benchmarked at this meeting and that a representative was needed. Kevin Osterloh mentioned that he might be interested.

Item 17:

Nathan Marsh asked representatives to encourage people from their department to come and give their comments about Frist.

Item 18: Adjournment

At 7:55pm the GSG Assembly meeting adjourned, and members of the Assembly visited the new GSG office in Frist after the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled at 6:00pm on October 24, 2000 in Frist 309.