



August 13, 2014  
August Assembly Meeting  
Jadwin Hall 102  
5:54 pm

President Sean Edington calls the meeting to order at 5:54 pm.

Jonathan LeBoeuf, Associate Registrar for Reporting and Institutional Research:

- This phase of the SCORE rewrite project started in March
- This is the first time student government has been involved in this kind of project
- One goal is to have an easy-to-use landing page, where it's clear where students can find information.
- Another goal is to integrate course planning, evaluation, and registration. This would be similar to ICE (the Integrated Course Engine), which undergraduates developed as a way to manage course schedules.
- The course search tools will be upgraded
- The new landing page should be ready in time for the Spring semester
- The calendar:
  - Personal events can be added
  - Can be downloaded in iCal format
  - Teaching schedules will also be included
- Joshua Wallace (AST rep): is the project complete?
  - The advising section and academics section are not finished

Approval of the May, June and July Assembly minutes:

Angelina Sylvain (NEU rep) motions to approve the May, June and July Assembly minutes and Alexandra Pastino (MOL rep) seconds the motion. The minutes are approved by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Changes to the GSG Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules: GSG Vice President Mircea Davidescu

- These are small changes; most are indentation and formatting changes
- Some of the titles of Executive Committee members are outdated and will be changed
- Baxter Oliphant (POL rep) motions to approve the changes. The motion is seconded by Joshua Wallace (AST rep) and passes by unanimous voice vote.

### Call for a GSG Service Chair:

- The Service Chair will begin organizing service activities approximately once a month, for 5-6 graduate students. The scope of the role will increase over time as involvement grows. The Service Chair would work closely with the Pace Center.
- We're going to put a call out to the graduate student body to look for candidates
- Please let students in your departments know about this position!

### Visiting Department Social Hours:

- As an initiative to get more involved with our constituents, GSG Executive Committee members have started attending department social hours.
- Our first visit was on August 8, when we went to the Friday EEB social hour. We provided pizza. What we heard from students is that housing is their number one concern.
- Another issue that we heard about had to do with the Ivy Summit - whether this was a good expenditure.
  - Julia Wittes (Secretary): We discussed this last year at Assembly, and we all decided that this was a good use of funds.
  - Carolann Buff (MUS rep): Faculty have similar events and feel like it's valuable. The reason that this came up is because the way that this is budgeted, we have to save for it each year.
  - Kyle: The graduate school agreed to cover part of the hosting cost. The GSG covers the travel cost.
  - Sean Edington (President): If you'd like to see this discussed in an open forum, we can put it on the agenda
- Mircea Davidescu (Vice President): We're looking forward to visiting more social hours; please [get in touch with us](#) if you'd like us to visit your department.
- Sean: We'd like to go to the language departments next

### Report on Off-Campus Housing Survey Results: Tom Morrell (Communications Director)

- The GSG performed a housing survey to see where graduate students and postdocs live in the area and whether they would be interested in carpool and/or Princeton bus service to their neighborhoods. We would like to use the survey results to help back up some of the GSG's policy recommendations. We used netid information only to verify that 1) the participants were really Princeton grads and postdocs and 2) that there weren't duplicate entries.
- Transportation and Parking services is interested in decreasing parking on campus. We're going to share our survey results with them - we think this may be helpful to them in their long-term planning.
- We got 331 responses from graduate students, which corresponds to about 28% of all graduate students who live off-campus.
- Julia Wittes (Secretary): So, ~1000 students live off campus?
  - Yes

- The survey's findings:
  - 45% of respondents would use Princeton's carpool program. It's currently a faculty/staff program where gas cards are provided for carpools.
  - 69% of respondents would take a Princeton bus to campus.
  - We've got a cluster of people in Plainsboro, in town, and a smattering of people all around. It's not clear if there's enough people in any one place for a bus, but it's good to know where graduate students are living.
- Joshua Wallace (AST rep): Regularly-running bus service would be important since not everyone would want to come to/from campus at the same time.
  - Sean: A bus to Plainsboro could be a good long-term solution.
  - Tom: Maybe we can adjust some of the stops on the Forrestal line.
- Mike Helper (Special Events Officer): At other Universities, carpooling students are offered better parking spots. Perhaps this could incentivize students here to carpool?
  - Kyle Keller (PSY): How would you verify that students indeed carpooled?
  - Simon LeBlanc (APC rep): Issue each student a tag. Each person would leave their tag in the car to show that they carpooled.
- Baxter Oliphant (POL rep): I'd like the 50% bus pass reimbursement to be bumped up to 100%. This could make buses that are already running cheaper.
- Angelina Sylvain (NEU rep): There are graduate students who live very close to campus who still drive in to work. We could incentivize them to stop driving by making it possible for late ride drivers to drop them off. Currently bus drivers can't go past a certain point.

#### Summer Party on August 22: Mike Hepler (Special Events Officer)

- There are ~2600 graduate students; we usually get ~320-350 at any one of our parties. The percentage of postdocs who come are small.
- Even though graduate students pay for these parties, we think it would strongly benefit the community to invite them to this one upcoming party.
- Angelina Sylvain (NEU): There's a difference between saying "this is a graduate student party and postdocs can come too" and "this is a graduate student and postdoc event". If you do a pilot, you'll have to word it in a certain way. We don't feel included at undergraduate events where graduate students are allowed.
  - Mike: When you show up, you currently have to be a guest of a graduate student
- Are there plans to track to see how many people come?
  - Mike: yes
- Angelina: Are the Frist Summer BBQ emails sent to staff?
  - These are open to anyone. They're advertised on the summer website.
  - Tom Morrell (Communications Director): these emails largely just go out to graduate students. There is no official postdoc mailing list.
- Carolann Buff (MUS): What's the mentality behind this?
  - Sean: It's difficult to get info on what the career transition is like; postdocs are a valuable resource.
- The proposal to invite postdocs is unanimously approved by a show of hands.

### Notation of Graduate Certificate Programs on transcripts:

- Currently, completion of these programs is not noted on grad student transcripts. This is different from how the undergraduate certificates are treated.
- The Registrar's office tells us that a committee of DGSEs have to approve this and it needs to be approved at a Faculty meeting. Is there any interest from Assembly in forming a committee to draft a proposal defining 1) what these programs are 2) what programs are currently offered and 3) what peer institutions do?
  - Please contact the GSG if you or anyone you know would be interested in this proposal.
- Angelina Sylvain (NEU): You can add this to the email where you're advertising for a Service Chair.

### Executive Committee Report:

- Assembly members request to hear more about the July 10th meeting with Kim Jackson.
- Exec members brought up to Kim that we have had reports that customer service is very poor at Parking and Transportation Services. Kim says that she recently hired a new staff member to be in charge of customer service and that improving customer service is a current priority in their office. She asks students to let her know if they have a complaint. They should be specific about which staff member they spoke with and when the conversation happened.
- Exec members asked if the overflow buses (which used to serve Hibben-Magie) could be staggered. Kim said that this was not possible; a second bus is only added when a driver calls to say they've left someone behind.
  - We anticipate the route being too busy when Lakeside opens.
    - Sean: They expect buses might run over capacity the first week, but adjustments will be made quickly. However, it might make more sense to overschedule buses and reduce them in the first week.
  - Baxter Oliphant (POL rep): Are they still planning on the bus going from Lawrence to Lakeside to Campus? Before they closed Hibben Magie, those buses would fill up at Lawrence. This was a big problem in the morning; less so in the evening.
  - They're going to move students in week by week; so the bus schedule shouldn't fossilize early as the move-in will be staggered.
  - Joshua Wallace (AST rep): Can they have one bus for Lakeside and one bus for Lawrence?
    - Julia Wittes (Secretary): If they're going to have a trailing bus, they might as well just have two buses - one for each development.
  - Simon LeBlanc (APC rep): They could use crowdsourcing to optimize their routes and timetables
    - Mircea Davidescu (Vice President): The administration is reluctant to give us ridership data.
  - Carolann Buff (MUS rep): Sometimes they change the bus schedule but don't update the website. There needs to be consistent information from them.

- Julia Wittes (Secretary): the Transloc app could be a good way to deliver this information.
- Simon LeBlanc (APC rep): I have seen dark black smoke coming out of the buses. Can something be done about this?

Open Forum:

- Kyle Keller (PSY): I have a guest speaker suggestion. Mark Clemens is going to be the ACC manager/liaison to housing.
- A student asks if the buses will continue to run to Stanworth/Merwick once it reopens as faculty housing.
  - No, they're going to stop running the Stanworth bus line.

Carolann Buff (MUS rep) motions to adjourn the meeting. The motion is seconded by Simon LeBlanc (APC rep). The meeting is adjourned.