



November 12, 2014
November Assembly Meeting
Jadwin Hall 102
5:55 pm

The meeting is called to order by President Sean Edington at 5:55 pm. Alexandra Pastino (MOL rep) motions to approve the October 2014 minutes. The motion is seconded by April Williams (QCB rep) and passes by unanimous voice vote.

Presentation of the proposed 2014-2015 GSG Budget: Rachael Barry (Treasurer)

- The new budget will expand support for Graduate Writing Days at the Graduate College. This will largely be paid for with money left over from last year's budget.
- Harry Kreja (WWS rep) motions to approve the proposed budget; the motion is seconded by Joshua Wallace (AST rep) and passes by unanimous voice vote.

Revising the GSG Constitution and Bylaws: Mircea Davidescu (Vice President)

- The Constitution will be modified to note that the Treasurer will be given responsibility for GSG credit cards and travel accounts.
- Voting/Non-Voting Delegates
 - The Constitution's language will be changed to state that if these positions are vacant for an extended period of time (ie. 3 months), then they will dissolve automatically. However, they can be reinstated by a majority vote of the Assembly.
 - **Kay McGown (CLA rep): what is the logic behind removing the positions and only adding them at the request of a special interest group or organization?**
 - Sean Edington: These positions were created at a particular point in history, and then at some point these groups stopped sending representatives to Assembly. These positions have in the past prevented Assembly from reaching quorum for votes between Assembly meetings, by email.
 - Housing committee reps will still not be voting delegates.
 - A representative from the Latino Graduate Student Association (LGSA) states that their group approves of the suggested changes.
 - **Lizette Taguchi: Why don't the residential communities have voting delegates?**
 - Sean: We can revisit this
 - **Are there any measures in place to prevent tyranny of the majority?**

- Rachael Barry (Treasurer): We talked about this a lot last year and we can't find a viable way to resolve it.
 - **Lizette: What is the criteria for adding new groups?**
 - **Mike Hepler (Special Events Chair): Can we keep track of groups that are added and removed?**
 - Sean: We should keep a permanent list of special interest groups that have ever existed on GSG Website.
- CPUC Elections
 - The Constitution states that delegates run for a position on CPUC and are then placed on subcommittees following their election. Elections haven't been conducted this way in several years.
 - Sean: The Assembly gets more control over who gets elected and goes to which committee with our current election protocol.
 - Mircea: Also, In the future, certain committees (ie. Judicial committee) may need to be able to be elected to a multi-year term.
- Slush fund
 - Leftover money that remains unspent (the amount will be made known to Assembly) may be added to an endowment account that we already have and make a small investment income on. At some point, we may be able to use the income from the slush fund for a consistent useful purpose.
 - Note that the Ivy Plus Summit money is kept in a second, separate bank account.
 - The Assembly votes by a show of hands to add 50% of the surplus automatically to the new "slush fund."
 - A language change to the text is suggested: replace "endowment" with "surplus" in 2-2.
 - By show of hands, Assembly approves this.
- Kyle Keller motions to approve the CPUC Election and Budget changes; the motion is seconded by Harry Kresja (WWS rep) and passes by voice vote.
- Kyle Keller motions to approve the proposed changes to the treatment of non-voting Special Interest Delegates; the motion is seconded by Alexandra Pastino (MOL rep). The motion is approved by unanimous voice vote.

Call for comments on developments in the Lakeside transition

- It is clear that there are significant but uncertain future delays. The administration has announced that students living in Stanworth can now stay in their apartments until June 30. Additionally, the two months of rent forgiveness will apply to EVERYONE who was supposed to move into Lakeside and is now living in temporary housing. The administration has also said that they are considering approving a hardship fund.
- Comments/further problems
 - Kyle Keller: The Graduate Housing Advisory Board (GHAB) is meeting next Wednesday.

- The general maintenance and upkeep is hit or miss at Butler Apartments. We got the floor waxed but the heaters were not serviced. Standard repair procedures are not being reinstated.
- Vasyi Alba (PHY rep): They promised to send housing assignments but they didn't.
 - They don't want to send out the room assignments because people may never move.
 - However, we should be given knowledge of unit number before pre-draw retention happens.
- **What is happening with the hardship fund?**
 - I'm in a unit that is twice as expensive as my room at Lakeside. The longer they delay, the more money I spend. Housing is not good at answering emails.
 - Please keep records so that you can prove what your expenses are.
- We haven't been told what kind of apartment we would get. We were told verbally it was a townhouse and then in person a 3-bed.

Transportation Update: Julia Wittes (GSG Secretary)

- Kim Jackson has told us that she will be implementing several changes in response to comments made at Assembly last month.
- Buses will now stop at Lot 8 to drop off students who live in the Annexes, on demand.
- The Saturday shopper will now exclusively serve the shops at Nassau Park Boulevard and will no longer visit the Princeton Shopping Center on alternate weeks.

Task Force on the Future of the Graduate School

- There are graduate student members on this committee including Sean.
- They will lead focus groups to find out what grad student priorities are.
 - Current issues: housing, student center, transit
- How do you think we should run these focus groups?
 - Lizette Taguchi: I suggest adding a group to address people's concerns about job markets; allowing people to do summer internships for example.
 - Sean: There's a specific sub-committee on professional development.
- **If we can't get improved graduate housing capacity, are there ways to better use the capacity that already exists?**
 - Changing housing priority?
 - Raissa von Doenchen de Roche (REL rep): There's no communication from the Housing Department. For instance, we have empty rooms at the GC but people don't know about them and they haven't been filled even though there is demand.
 - Raissa: Also, the quad doors don't lock. We have zero rights - people can just come into our rooms.

