



December 10, 2014  
December Assembly Meeting  
Jadwin Hall 102  
5:55 pm - 7:08 pm

The meeting is called to order by GSG President Sean Edington at 5:55 pm.

The November 2014 Minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Shawon Jackson (Outgoing USG President): USG top 5 priorities

- Princeton Perspective Project: The USG and Deans of the Undergraduate Colleges are collecting testimonials from students about their struggles and resources on campus. They are building an online repository to connect people who have experienced similar setbacks.
- Eating Clubs: Enhance their relationship to the University and their accessibility to students who are not from high-income backgrounds and/or who don't drink. They want to evaluate whether the eating clubs are socially exclusive and what their social dynamics are. USG has had 1000 responses already to a survey on this topic.
- Diversity and Equity: Address institutional racism at Princeton and engage students who don't normally think about this issue, especially in light of recent events (Secretary's Note: shooting deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner)
- Mental Health at Princeton: Promote greater transparency about mental health so that students will feel safer getting help.
- Leadership opportunities: Help students learn concrete leadership skills, such as articulating your personal mission, writing effective emails, etc.

Questions from the Assembly for Shawon:

- **Sean Fraga: How can we help on the institutional racism front?**
  - Talk to graduate students and collect personal narratives. Find out who really understands these issues and can help to develop tangible solutions. Share these names with Sean and have them speak to the CPUC.
- **Rachael Barry (Treasurer): Are there any upcoming programs related to diversity?**
  - The USG has a committee addressing this topic. They are launching an awareness campaign about implicit racism on campus. They are also inaugurating a leadership summit, which will bring together 100 student leaders to train them on issues related to diversity and leadership.
- **Rachael: Is this open to graduate students?**

- We haven't considered this yet, but we can talk about it.
- **Kyle Keller: What can GSG and USG do together?**
  - Meet socially to discuss areas of common interest.
  - Sean Edington: We are collaborating on the campus pub.

Open forum on issues related to the Campus Pub:

- Lizette Taguchi: The D-Bar is facing financial problems and I am worried about the competition this could pose.
- Eric Mills (D-Bar manager): Over the past 5 years there has been a 10% drop in D-Bar revenue per year. We are undergoing austerity measures.
- Lizette: We may have to close the D-Bar every Monday.
- Genna Gilner (GCHC): The D-bar already does the things that a campus pub is supposed to do.
  - Sean: Isn't the membership fee a barrier to entry?
    - Non-resident graduate students can come to socialize. About 10% of members are non-residents.
  - Andrew Edwards (Facilities Chair): But competition hasn't caused the decline in attendance over the years.
- **Why has attendance at the D-Bar decreased?**
  - Eric: Princeton has started admitting a different type of student.
  - Genna: There has been a change in management and advertising has not been done as well and consistently. Things are improving. How would the D-Bar and Campus Pub coexist?
- Lizette: There is a space for students to socialize and drink and graduate students are underutilizing it.
  - Mike Hepler (Special Events Officer): The D-Bar's location makes it poorly accessible to students who don't live at the GC. Can the D-Bar evolve in such a way so as to become more accessible to non-GC residents?
- Rachael Barry (Treasurer): Where students live has changed over the past 5 years. Students don't want to sit on the bus for 45 minutes to go to the D-Bar.
  - Genna: We are meeting with Kim Jackson to discuss making D-Bar more accessible during peak operating hours.
  - Sean: The Executive Committee has been working on a Campus Weekend Circulator proposal, which would help with accessibility.
- **Would Cafe Vivian be the location for the Pub, or would it be somewhere else?**
  - Sean: The referendum was put together by a working group, which selected a couple of good locations, with Cafe Viv as the most promising of these. We weakly support this, but in general, we support a central campus location for the pub.
  - Carolann Buff (MUS rep): Cafe Viv is also a good space because there is already an established staff.
  - Sean: No one has yet figured out how to use this location both as "Cafe Viv" and as a pub.

- Baxter Oliphant (POL rep): I opposed making alcohol more of a center of graduate social life. I think that undergraduates want a pub so that the University will subsidize their alcohol. And the location is still bad for graduate students.
  - Sean: The pub is supposed to be a casual environment with less pressure to drink.
  - Andrew: They want a place to model responsible alcohol consumption.
- **Alta Fang (MAE rep): What about the drinking age restriction?**
  - Sean: I imagine it is the same as at a regular pub, where you will need proof of age to drink, and there will be food as well.
  - Vasyi Alba (PHY rep): Drinking at the eating clubs is poorly regulated.
- **Are there any suggested amendments to the statement in support of the USG referendum?**
  - Rachael: We should have a D-Bar representative on the Campus Pub steering committee. We must support the D-Bar.
  - Lizette: “The GSG believes that these services are not sufficiently provided” as an amendment.
  - Another suggested change: “And is a feasible and desirable way to achieve this.”
- 16 vote in favor of the motion and 5 are opposed. The motion passes.

#### Discussion of Voting Status of Residential and other Special Delegates

- Lizette Taguchi: If special interest groups have voting rights, residential community representatives should have voting rights. Giving them voting rights is symbolic.
  - Sean: We often end up missing quorum over email
- The Assembly decides that, in accordance with last month’s change to the GSG Bylaws, housing delegates can petition to become special voting delegates if they represent an underrepresented group (such as students living in the GC).

#### Lakeside Survey: Discussion and an Update: Tom Morrell (Communications Director)

- Less than half of students think the transition has been “acceptable” or better.
- The frequency and quality of communication from the University was rated “unacceptable.”
- A non-majority of students stated that temporary housing has been problematic.
- There is uncertainty about the hardship fund, which was expressed in the long-form comments section of the survey. For example, how will the transition work for people who are not here during the summer?
- **Pam Mueller (Health and Life Chair): They state that the hardship fund is not going to begin giving out funds before the end of the school year. This is bad for people who need these funds sooner, and doesn’t make sense if the fund is unlimited. Also, why is there no moving assistance for people who are not moving to Lakeside?**
  - Sean: We will keep mentioning the moving assistance issue to the administration.

- **Raissa von Doetinchem de Rande (REL rep): How much noise will the Dinky make? Will the horn continue?**
  - Baxter: They are obligated to honk by federal law.
  - April Williams (Social Chair): The parking garage is closest to the Dinky and should hopefully help dampen the noise.
  - Raissa: People are very concerned about this.
- **Rachael: I am concerned about the timeline for the hardship fund. What will happen with students who graduate before the hardship fund begins distributing funds?**
  - Pam: They should start compensating people immediately if there is not a fixed sum of money.
  - Sean: They want to review all of the requests at once.

Executive Committee Report: Sean Edington (GSG President)

- AAU Survey: Students had concerns about the methodology of the AAU survey and suggested that an in-house Princeton survey would be better. The Executive Board sent a letter to President Eisgruber, who responded to some of our concerns. The USG passed a resolution echoing our concerns. President Eisgruber will now allow the Faculty Student Committee on Sexual Misconduct to evaluate whether Princeton should participate in the AAU survey.
- Diversity: The December CPUC meeting included a long conversation between President Eisgruber and students about diversity on campus. The CPUC Executive Committee has been charged with looking into this issue. We are looking for students who have experience working on diversity issues.
- Task Force on the Future of the Graduate School Focus Groups: Topics included:
  - Students with dependents & commuters
  - Masters students
  - STEM students
  - Diversity

These groups were poorly attended, but all groups had at least one participant. The feedback was of good quality, however, and they developed a number of good ideas for addressing issues important to graduate students. These focus groups needed to be done before Winter Break and addressed issues that had previously been identified as important by the task force. Focus groups were advertised by global emails. However, due to poor attendance, they are considering trying to do ad-hoc focus groups with the USG.

Open Forum:

- Raissa: A student who lives in the Annexes was fined for putting stuff in the basement. Can tenants move furniture?
  - This isn't currently allowed in the Annexes but it can be brought up at GHAB. The student can talk to Jim Poole about the fine.

The meeting is adjourned at 7:08 pm.