



February 11, 2015
February Assembly Meeting
Jadwin Hall 102
5:56 pm

Approval of the Candidate Statements for the GSG Officer Elections

- The meet the candidates Pub Night is taking place tonight and five questions for the candidates will be posted to the election website.
- Andrew Edwards (Facilities Chair) motions to approve the candidate statements; Harry Kresja (WWS rep) seconds the motion. The motion passes.

Dean Kulkarni of the Graduate School addresses the Assembly

- The Strategic Planning Process was launched this year by President Eisgruber
- There is a Strategic Planning Website.
- Task Forces are being held on the following topics: The Graduate School, Sponsored Research, General Education Requirements, The Residential College Model, Service and Civic Engagement, Alumni Affairs, Online Initiatives, International Initiatives, Entrepreneurship, Engineering and Applied Sciences, the Woodrow Wilson School, Regional Studies, Statistics and Machine Learning, Natural Sciences.
- **Kyle Keller: What about the Task Force on Diversity?**
 - This is a new Task Force; however it is not part of the Strategic Planning Process.
- **Baxter Oliphant (POL rep): Why isn't there a humanities task force?**
 - This is covered by the Social Sciences and WWS task forces. A single task force wouldn't have a unified vision because of how heterogeneous the humanities are.
- The Task Force on the Future of the Graduate School has grad student members Carolann Buff, Janeria Easley, Sean Edington and Julio Herrera Estrada. It is addressing:
 - The mission and goals of the Graduate School and its role within Princeton
 - The size and composition of the Grad School
 - Support and outcomes
 - Distinctive characteristics and comparison with peers
- **Mircea Davidescu (Vice President): How did you pick student representatives for the Task Force on the Future of the Graduate School?**
 - We wanted representatives from the four divisions of the graduate school.
- **Where is diversity covered in the broad goals of the strategic planning process?**
 - The recently-formed special diversity task force is meeting monthly

- **Jean Nava (LGSA): If diversity isn't on any list, won't it fall to the bottom of the list of priorities for each group?**
 - We're not at the resource allocation stage yet.
- **Kay McGown (CLA rep): Are you considering reorganizing the Graduate School as part of the Task Force, given the departure of Karen Jackson Weaver?**
 - We are filling the Associate and Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs and Diversity positions, since Dean Diana Mitchell also recently left. The Task Force may generate structural suggestions.
- **Students of color want to know whether there will be difference between the Dean of Academic Affairs and Diversity and the Dean of Diversity and Inclusion positions.**
 - The Assistant Dean position has existed for only 9 months. When Dean Jackson-Weaver left, we were thinking of splitting the Associate Dean position into two positions, however, there was a lot of pushback. Now we've decided to keep the positions but call them the Deans for Diversity and Inclusion. Recruitment will remain one of their responsibilities, and they will be involved in the management of the Hanna Fund.
- The Task Force's Midterm Report will come out in March 2015; the Final report in October or November.
- **Joshua Wallace (AST rep): Has the Task Force addressed the affordability of housing for students with families?**
 - The working group on Student Life is addressing this issue
- **Akil Word-Daniels: Once the midterm report comes out, will you address graduate students as a whole?**
- **Andrew Edwards (Facilities Chair): There seems to be a sense that Princeton is going to grow over the next 10 years. Is this planning process being done with an assumption that we are growing?**
 - The Task Force's main message is that if we grow the faculty, we have to grow the graduate program as well.
 - The Wythes report recommended that we grow the undergraduate student body from 4400 to 5200. It was silent on what should happen with the Graduate School. But to remain competitive, we had to expand the grad student body as well.
- **Women in the Natural Sciences are concerned that two women of color from the Dean's office have left. Is the office a hostile environment for women or for women of color?**
 - You would had to ask the Deans who left about the climate in the Dean's office. But they left because they had other good job opportunities.
- **Julia Wittes (Secretary): Have you thought about developing a fund for graduate housing? Grad alums generally aren't big donors, but perhaps they would donate for such a project**
 - Development is expensive. There are a few routes - either the University decides to prioritize a project and does fundraising for it or a wealthy person

approaches the University to make a gift. I would love to have more resources for professional development and a graduate student center.

- **Andrew Edwards (Facilities Chair): The Dean's Fund for Scholarly Travel hasn't increased the amount of funding it provides for some time.**
 - Hopefully we will get a donation to enhance that fund. There used to be a Whiting Fellowship program, but this program is ending.
- **Kyle Keller: The PSURE program for undergraduates of color is largely funded by the Hanna fund. I was wondering if the Graduate School or someone else at the University could fund this so that the Hanna fund could be used for current graduate students of color.**
 - The Hanna fund is ultimately University money
- **Kyle: Some of my constituents are concerned that there will not be enough money for graduate diversity programs because of overspending of the Hanna fund money last year.**
 - A considerable amount of money at the Graduate School goes into diversity efforts. This year, 30 students participated in PSURE, which is an unsustainable number. Usually we have 15 students.
- **Akil: There is a lot of opaqueness surrounding the Hanna fund. We've heard that the budget has been overspent, but we don't know by how much, how bad it is, or how long it will last for.**
 - PSURE is the largest program funded by the Hanna fund. Aly Kassam-Remtulla is preparing to talk to the Diversity fellows about the Hanna fund.
- **Jean: Is it possible to look at the contracts for the Hanna Fund? We are concerned that its definition of what diversity means is outdated.**
 - Often a donor wants to use a gift for a particular purpose which becomes outdated. But we cannot spend money in ways that are not intended, or we might open ourselves up to legal action. I'm not sure how much we can share about the Hanna fund.
- **Kay: Students in my department are concerned about our housing capacity for graduate students. We currently can't house students after their 4th year. Many students don't have cars or want to remain nearby, but have to move to Philadelphia for financial reasons. Is the ability of the Graduate School to house its students being considered?**
 - One of the distinctive qualities of Princeton is its sense of community and housing is part of that. We know that this is important to remain competitive.
- **Jean: What about block leases?**
 - Sean: This is being considered by the Student Life working group
- **Vasyl Alba (PHY rep): What was the cost of building Lakeside?**
 - Construction cost \$115 million and it is expected to bring in \$55 in revenue.

Executive Committee Report:

- The administration has committed to offering two months' rent forgiveness to ALL students who were assigned Lakeside housing for 2014-2015.
- The hardship committee applications process will open in May, as suggested at last month's Assembly meeting.
- **Kay McGown: What is the mechanism by which the rent will be forgiven?**
 - Sean: We think that they will issue a credit to student accounts and that it will be tax-neutral. They are working with the finance committee on how this will work and what will happen for students who have already moved out of University housing.
- **Is it two months' rent for the upcoming year or the current year?**

Harry Kresja (WWS rep) motions to adjourn the meeting. The motion is seconded and the meeting is adjourned.