



March 11, 2015
March Assembly Meeting
Jadwin Hall 102
5:59 -7:13 pm

The meeting is called to order at 5:59 pm.

Joshua Wallace (PHY rep) motions to approve the January and February 2015; the motion is seconded by Andrew Edwards. The minutes pass by unanimous voice vote.

Election Committee Report:

- Elections were held from Feb 26-March 4; 351 grad student voted and the threshold for quorum was met. Two votes were cast after 5 pm and were discarded, although this would not have changed the outcome of any elections.
- President: Akshay Mehra
- Vice President: Mircea Davidescu
- Secretary: Katie Wolf
- Treasurer: Mike Helper
- Special Events Officer: Liz Davison
- Joshua Wallace (PHY rep) motions to approve the election committee report. The motion is seconded by Harry Kresja (WWS rep). The motion passes.

Elections:

- Communications Director: Victoria Luu
- Academic Affairs Chair: Daniel Vitek
- Health and Life Chair: Kay McGown and Sophia Li run; Kay McGown is elected
- Social Chair: Genna Gilner

Executive Committee Report:

- Feb 20 TigerTransit Focus Group - about 15 grad students attended the focus group. The need for weekend service and problems with evening Campus Circulator were discussed at length. We also discussed the On-Demand bus and Saturday Shopper bus. When Butler and Stanworth go offline, the buses that serve these housing complexes will shut down. We hope that the resources previously allotted to these buses can be used for new routes.
- Task force on diversity and inclusion steering committee meeting - 3 working groups have formed and are meeting.
 - Jean Nava: Will the minutes be published online or otherwise be made available for us to see, so we know what's going on?

- Sean: I think so, and I'm willing to come to Assembly and report on the committee's progress
- Interview - Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion
 - Three candidates are coming to campus for interviews. One group interviewing them is made up of nine graduate students, including Sean and Mircea.

Adding representatives/delegates

- Voting delegates don't affect quorum. They dissolve automatically if they become inactive for a period of three consecutive months.
- The BGC already has a voting delegate and housing delegates are non-voting members of assembly.

Ryan O'Mara, Joint degree program

- The JDP consists of students from WWS and five other departments. There are 43 students in the program. Ryan emailed them, and about 30 responded to say that they would like representation, and the program administrators are also positive about adding a JDP rep to GSG.
- Some issues: Students from the JDP are not on WWS listservs. It is difficult for students in the program to communicate electronically with other JDP students. There is also no representative to voice these concerns to administrators.
- The program is new; it has only existed for about 5 years. It is an interdisciplinary program and not a formally recognized academic program (AOS, PACM for instance, are academic programs).
- Harry Kresja (WWS rep) motions to approve Ryan as a delegate on behalf of the JDP. Lisa Yates (CHM rep) seconds the motion; the motion passes unanimously by voice vote.

Jean Nava, LGSA

- LGSA is concerned that there isn't sufficient representation of latino students in the graduate school. 17% of Americans are latinos; but only 6% of graduate students are latino.
- Sean: Are there other latino graduate groups?
 - Jean: maybe students of afro-latino heritage? But there isn't a large overlap in membership.
- Kyle Keller motions to approve Jean Nava as an LGSA representative. Andrew Edwards seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Tazukzwa Sayi, African Graduate Student Network

- This student group represents graduate students from Africa
- Not all Africans are black, so African students are not represented by the BGC
- Kay McGown (CLA rep) motions to approve Tazukzwa Sayi as a representative. Qi Li (CEE rep) seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Accomplishments and Executive Committee Farewell

- We:
- Held a special Assembly meeting to find out what issues are important to graduate students.
- Successfully advocated that all graduate students affected by the Lakeside delays should receive two months of rent forgiveness.
- Have worked on maintenance problems at Butler and Stanworth
- Have advocated for creation of the Lakeside Hardship fund
- Have established the Lakeside Provisional Committee for getting the Lakeside Housing Committee going once Lakeside opens
- Wrote a Statement on Graduate Housing
- Wrote a Statement on the Lakeside Delays
- Endorsed the result of USG referendum on the proposed Campus Pub
- Drafted a letter to President Eisgruber on the AAU Survey; ultimately it was placed under review by faculty-student committee on sexual misconduct and rejected
- Advocated that Amy Pszczolkowski should work full-time rather than half-time with graduate students; now she works with grad students full-time
- Assisted in starting the Career Services Graduate Advisory Board, which among other things, provides input to the Task Force on the Future of the Graduate School
- Advocated such that grad students will no longer have to wait for mental health appointments in the mental health lounge at McCosh
- Co-hosted events with students from various departments
- Have had excellent attendance at GSG parties and have started inviting postdocs to our social programming.
- Assisted in running the 2014 Frist Summer BBQ series, which was very successful, had high attendance, and will be expanded this year to two nights a week instead of one per week.
- Administered a successful 2014 Furniture Drive
- Have had consistently excellent attendance at Assembly
- Have broadly improved the GSG website thanks to Tom Morrell's efforts
- Successfully administered two student surveys
- Expanded the voting delegate position to expand student representation at GSG Assembly

On the Horizon:

- Transit proposal
- Diversity efforts
- Task force on the future of the graduate school

Lisa Yates (CHM rep) motions to adjourn; Jean Nava (LGSA rep) seconds the motion and the meeting is adjourned.