



GSG Assembly Meeting

May 13, 2015 5:45pm

Joseph Henry Room, Jadwin Hall, Princeton University

The meeting is called to order at 6:00 pm.

Harry Krejsa (WWS rep) motions to approve the April 2015 minutes; the motion is seconded by Kay Gabriel (Classics rep). The minutes pass by unanimous voice vote.

Presentation by Shawn Maxam, Prevention Coordinator of SHARE

(Sexual Harassment/Assault Advising, Resources, and Education)

- 1 in 10 male and female graduate students reported interpersonal violence and abuse on Princeton Campus in the last 12 months (not taken from the recent We Speak survey)
- SHARE offers several services:
 - It is a confidential resource (along with CPS and the Chaplains in Religious Life). They will not report anything.
 - They are there to help people to support others, and make sure people are not retraumatized
 - They are always on call (24 hours 365 days)
 - Can accompany people to health services or to law enforcement
 - Prevention work (trainings, meetings, etc.)
 - SHARE Peer Program offers trained peers to help raise awareness and facilitate access to resources
 - They only have undergrads now, but will hopefully have grad students in the future
 - MAVRIC Project (Men Against Violence Resource & Intervention Community)
 - They are interested in getting more grads involved (particularly those that are men)
 - 2 aspects of the project:
 - Prevention
 - Majority of aggressors are men
 - MAVRIC address men's violence against women and against other men

- Men talking about gender pressures
 - Help men be better brothers, sons, boyfriends, etc.
 - Help them become allies
- Questions:
 - Tori Luu (Com. Director): Is there a phone number?
 - 258-2330 - this will go to voicemail after 5pm that will direct you to another person to contact. You can also contact Shawn Maxam directly (contact information is on website) and can also walk into the office.
 - Harry (WWS Rep) What is SHARE's role in helping people seek law enforcement?
 - They show what the process looks like. Help people people make informed choices. If they were to contact law enforcement directly, sometimes process starts before they even go in there.
 - Kay (Classics Rep, Health and Life Chair) - When will applications be open for grad students to be peers?
 - In February of next year (always in the Spring). SHARE will follow up later as the Associate membership is always open.

Announcements

- Bimonthly meeting with U Services - Open it up to all assembly members If anyone is interested email Exec - May 21st 2pm at Campus Club
- Furniture drive - Genna Gliner, Social Chair
 - When seniors move out we work with the Office of Sustainability to collect and sell furniture. The money goes to charity, the rest of the goods get donated.
 - We need volunteers to work the tents
 - June 2nd (3pm - 7pm), June 3rd (10am - 7pm)
 - For each shift you get \$10 worth of goods (you set the prices)
 - Email will be sent out after the meeting
 - Spread the word!
- Party volunteers - Liz Davison, Special Events Officer
 - The end of year party May 22nd at Campus Club 7-11pm
 - Looking for people to volunteer to help out with the party (planning and serving)
 - Can volunteer just for an hour at the party, or to help in the planning process
 - Email directly to Liz (end@princeton.edu)

Executive Committee Report

- Graduate Housing Advisory Board (4-17-15)
- University Student Life Committee (USLC) Meeting (4-28-15)
- Lakeside update meeting (4-29-15)
 - Julia Wittes (Facilities Chair): They were hoping to offer contracts for June 1st, but they weren't sure if they would be able to fulfill all of those contracts
 - The meeting was about whether to offer contracts for June 1st, but maybe have to change some them, or to change the move in date for everyone on June 15th. It was recommended to change all move in dates to June 15th.
 - If you know anyone that has concerns about trying to move in before June 15th, let Julia and housing know.
 - Kay: Emails to lakeside@princeton.edu have not been responded
 - Julia: Will investigate
- Council of the Princeton University Community (CPUC) Meeting (5-4-15)
 - Harry: Anything fun coming out of the meeting?
 - Kyle Keller: Someone tried to extend a conversation, never seen before
 - A lot of divestment conversations that were very passionate
 - Mircea: Presentation at the end by Calvin Chin (CPS) that was interesting, we will invite him to speak at assembly later
- GC Music Room Meeting (5-6-15)
 - Michelle Frazer: Plans to fixing the grand piano?
 - Genna Gliner (Grad College Housing Rep): This is something that the GCHC has been working with facilities to get done
 - Music Room incident was about GC Housing Policies for performing during reading period.
- Healthier Princeton Advisory Board (5-8-15)

Open forum (your ideas for future policy, initiatives, guest speakers, feedback, ...)

- Akshay: Have a structured format for the open forum meetings
- Raissa (religion Rep) - Food stocked in the dining halls right up to the end of the night, then they throw some away. Have they stopped donating that food to the food bank?
 - Olivia: Just saw a documentary Just Eat It. Don't know if they ever had a relationship. At Grad College they bring waste to a pig farm. At Rocky Matthey - they were having people put waste on a scale to bring some awareness to how much food gets dumped out.
 - Angelina: There was a 2009 partnership with an organization

- Olivia: Couldn't always get drivers to help out with this. Perfect topic for university services meeting.
- Katie: Green Leaders organization (mostly undergrad), meet about once a month and work on sustainability (meeting tomorrow 5/14)
- Ryan O'Mara: other school cafeterias, 1/3 price meals for people who didn't have meal plans during the last half hour
- Akshay: we can bring this up at the U Services Meeting
- Kay: Dillon Gym Massage Room:
 - Over the next months they will be removing asbestos and putting in changing rooms/family rooms.
 - The bulk of things taking place over the summer.
 - They are taking out massage rooms to make room. Right now don't have an answer as to whether they will open the massage rooms afterwards, but can direct people to other massage places on campus if they are needed.
- Vasyi Alba (PSY rep) Dillon closes early during breaks and holidays, but always open at the same time - could be a concern
 - Over break it closes at 5:45pm
 - April (USLC Rep): In the past used to be closed a lot more. 5 years ago they proposed having gym open longer and they won. Not much we can do unless people draw up a new proposal. There are different types of workers, and some facilities work in the morning (can't change the hours they work since they are contract)
 - Kay: How do we feel about having grad students ask about changing these things?
 - Grad students are the only ones here in the summers
- Vasyi Alba: Lox at brunch at Dining Hall
 - Genna: Can leave comment cards at GC Dining

Graduate Student Opinion Poll Report

Akshay: Need to certify results (make sure it was run accurately and correctly)

- Tori: Data was pulled from the website nothing after noon on Friday, May 8, 2015 were taken into account
- Mircea: Held an open forum prior to the election. Any objections to how that was run?
 - None
- Heather: Wording of poll question not appropriate for the question.
- Akshay: Wording was voted on by the assembly.
- Sharon: What are the requirements for the poll to be certified?

- Mircea: Certification of poll is whether the way the poll was conducted in a way that the assembly voted on. A part of that is to decide if there was a conflict of interest (i.e. a person running the poll spread a biased opinion).
- Julia: We are just trying to certify it in the same context we certify our exec elections or CPUC elections. The question is simply do you want to certify that the election was run in accordance to the assembly's mandate.
- Sharon: Results won't be shown until we determine how to present them?
 - Yes.
- Motion to certify is called. Vote is conducted by show of hands: 12 in favor, 4 opposed, 2 abstain. The motion to certify the poll is approved.
- Kyle: When we present this information, we could also present information for the past 3 years of GSG polls that we have conducted. They want to show a sustained interest, so presenting this context might help them see that. Other large polls would be: elections, referendum last year, etc.
- Sharon:
 - I am with a group of people that are concerned about the poll. While we respects the GSG's role to engage the student population, we have three main areas of concern:
 - This is a departure from traditional role of the GSG
 - There was inadequate timing
 - only 2 weeks for students to learn and make decisions
 - There was a lack of neutrality in the wording of the question
 - lack of context and with charged language
 - We don't want this poll to be taken out of context in the media. Some students will take this as a referendum and an opinion of Princeton graduate students as a whole. The GSG should not release the results of the poll.
 - A proposed compromise:
 - Results only be presented to resources committee - these people can contextualize the information - give the information to relevant students groups
 - Make sure this poll cannot be misinterpreted by student groups and we can have more conversations about this in the future
- If the GSG plans to continue to play a political role, the appropriate structures need to be put in place
- Vasyl: Not showing these results is a kind of censorship. People will understand that not everyone voted and will know it is not a referendum. We should definitely show the results to everyone. The GSG is suppose to represent grad student

opinion. If there is a question of great importance it should be discussed by the GSG. 2 weeks is more than enough to discuss such a small question. We should encourage discussion.

- Akil: This vote was rushed and some people may be misinformed. There is a time crunch on relevancy as well. At the end of the semester people are not as interested in voting and making these decisions. If the percentage is very low, then we could wait until the Fall semester. Could we release the numbers?
- Sharon: Issue with this poll is that we were not given enough time. Most people were not aware of the forum, or did not know what the forum was about. We should come back to this conversation next year and map out enough time to do this all properly, where both sides have a chance to speak.
- Akshay: Can give number of students that voted: 24.7% of graduate students
 - 2013 election: (successful referendum) 47% participated
- Alyssa: The numbers in a poll would be different from a number of an election.
- Akshay: Is this a number large enough?
- Angelina: Goal was to get opinion of graduate students. What is the need to publicize this information?
- Kay: Things to say:
 - Transparency: We will get an email from the Prince asking about the poll results. If we don't present the results we will not be very transparent. This is bad governance to hold a poll and not present the results. We just spent a large time of the semester getting people involved and if we don't present the information people may say that it was because we did not like the results
 - People are engaged in politics before they come to Princeton, so it may not be fair to our intelligence to say that people had a month and they didn't have enough time to form an opinion. It is a stretch of reasoning to say that people didn't have enough time.
- Kelly: Grad students were not excluded from the previous divestment discussions that have been happening on campus all semester
- Michelle: If results are to be released, how will we do this? In every way possible the format has presented the facts as a poll. We need to put all of this forward.
- It will reflect well on the GSG to say that it was not conducted in the way that we wanted to, and that we are going to try again.
- Harry: As Michelle said, it is not practical for us to have invited this exercise in polling where 700 people voted and we do not present the results. That what appear unseemly to our constituents. If there are concerns at how it was conducted, then these opinions could accompany the results in an editorial alongside the results of the poll. Our responsibility is to present this as sterile as

possible. There is no normative as an assertion as what it said or didn't say.

- Julia: We need to release the results of the poll, however we could approve the release of the poll, with the promise to release another poll in the fall (where wording is put in terms of other side).
- Tori: More discussion needs to happen. However, we had the assembly vote to run this poll, and we did it.
- Akshay: We will conduct two votes. One to decide if we should release the information to the resources committee, and one to decide if we should release info to the public.
- Harry motions to vote on releasing the results of the poll to resources committee in the form we have decided, Vasyl seconds. 14 approve, 4 oppose, 4 abstain. Releasing the poll results to the resources committee was approved.
- The second vote it is to release the poll results to the public
 - April: My question is why is the GSG involved in this? When a governing body conducts a poll it seems politically charged. This is not a need of the graduate students.
 - There wasn't an anti-divestment side before we had our last GSG Meeting.
 - Will releasing this poll set a precedent for running these kinds of things in the future?
 - Henry: This could be the poll that puts us out of all political things. But we did vote to have it. We could present these results, and the very next meeting vote to never do this again.
 - Sharon: Divestment and BDS are not well known, whereas Israel and Palestine are well known. People may not have the information. This may not look the best if the GSG does not release it, but if we release it to PRINCO and the committee, it shows that we do care about the results and want the university to know. If it is about getting the grad students opinion, then we could do it again with more informed people. Then we could release the both sets of results.
 - Kay: There are ways we can release it to display the facts.
 - Kelly: We should release this poll publically. Merely presenting this information just to resources does not accomplish the goal. There will be multiple efforts moving forward, as the discussion does not end with the resources committee getting the results of this poll.
 - This discussion is ongoing and the issue is that this vote is not conducive to the discussion. This is a great chance to show that opinion polls may not be a great way to get a consensus view. We want to think more seriously on how to conduct a survey

- We know that the media will not present this information correctly (and that mistakes the purpose of that).
 - Akil: Motion to Vote
 - Vote by secret ballot. On whether we should present the numbers in the format that we have specified with the wording.
 - Vasyi: Is there any precedent for any other polls conducted by the GSG?
 - Julia: Not as far as we know
 - Sharon: Question on wording.
 - Harry moves to close debate. Seconded. Vote by hands: 3 opposed, the rest approve. The debate is closed.
 - Harry moves to vote on releasing the poll results with the template that was presented, Mircea seconds. Vote conducted by secret ballot on whether we will release the results of the poll in the presented format to the public
 - Tori: If approved the results will be on GSG webpage.
 - Votes are collected, and Mircea counts them. 16 approve, 3 oppose, 3 abstain. The vote on whether the poll results should be released to the public passes.
- Sharon: Motion to add a statement to the release of the results that states the GSG understands that there are concerns about its representativeness that it risks being unrepresented.
 - 4 approve , 6 reject, 7 abstain
 - The motion to add the statement is rejected.

There are several motions and seconds to adjourn the meeting; the meeting is adjourned 7:48pm.

Next meeting: June 10, 2015 5:45pm