



AGENDA

GSG Assembly Meeting

June 10, 2015 5:45pm

Joseph Henry Room, Jadwin Hall, Princeton University

The meeting is called to order at 6:03 pm.

Tori Luu (Geosciences rep) motions to approve the May 2015 minutes; the motion is seconded by Michelle Frazer (Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences rep). The minutes pass by unanimous voice vote.

Goals for Coming Year (15 minutes)

Improve graduate student experience at Princeton through services offered and the creation of community

- Social Life
 - Advocate for on-campus Graduate Student Center
 - Renovate the D-Bar
 - Improve campus discussions among graduate students about health & wellness
 - Establish mechanisms of global communication among graduate students (including dependents, partners, etc.)
 - Advocate for the inclusion of Postdoc population (policy and event invitation)
 - There is a postdoc coordinator, who has an unofficial list: Vanisha Lakhina
 - Establish Lakeside committee
 - Advocate for the recognition of grad housing residents that are not current students (e.g. spouses, families, etc.)
 - Jean Nava (LGSA Rep): It is a bit concerning that there is nothing on the list about diversity
 - Mircea: It would be great to invite you to an exec meeting to discuss any issues
 - Julia: We might need more specific ideas
 - Angelina: GSG could attend cultural group meetings on campus
- Accountability

- Oversee the Lakeside Hardship Fund
- GSG Assembly
 - Create a GSG delegate to the USG
 - They meet once a week, so getting someone at least once a month
 - Will they also send a representative to our meetings?
 - They are interested, but haven't explicitly sent someone yet
 - Publish a list of all graduate students sitting on administrative committees
 - The list is complete, and will be posted shortly
 - Increase GSG Assembly activity and involvement
 - Angelina: A large graduate student population has no idea what the GSG does, so we could compile a list of accomplishments from the last few years
 - We have done this, and a report was sent to the assembly
 - Also published an editorial from the accomplishments last year
 - Angelina: Advertise at graduate student orientation to get more people involved
 - Having a greater involvement in events around orientation
 - Kyle Keller: Best things the previous GSG did for outreach: Going to various department happy hours
 - Angelina: To help with input on diversity, GSG could attend the various cultural groups as well
- University Facilities
 - Weekend Shuttle Services (starting in July!)
 - Julia will send out an email with the details
 - Determine and address shortcomings in the Student Health Plan
 - Access clinical competency of services provided by the UHS
 - Access cultural competency of university-provided medical and psychological services
 - Angelina: How will we assess the competency? Some sort of metrics?
 - Some of the kind of questions that they ask are not open-ended and interpreted as offensive
 - Example: Instead of asking what is it that you do? They ask what is your job? - Asking who is your wife? Assuming that your partner is a woman. Those kinds of presumptuous questions.
 - Encourage people to overview the survey
 - Improve the student meal plan so it is more equivalent to off campus

options

- Academic
 - Acknowledge student certificates on transcripts
 - Create a travel fund

Amendments regarding polling

- We want to discuss the GSGs stance on polling
- Questions were emailed out:
 - Should we establish more formal procedures for polling the graduate student body?
 - Should the GSG be involved in activism not directly pertaining to graduate students?
 - Should the GSG be involved in activities that could indirectly damage the financial or material well-being of graduate students (divestment in particular)?
- Mircea: We want to present these questions and get some opinions
- Julia: A part of why I wanted to have this conversation was because during the month of May, exec board and assembly took a lot of time to focus on the divestment issue. A lot of that was because we don't have rules in place, so we don't know what we can do and what we should do. Is the GSG a political body? We should address this.
- Akshay: If there was a procedure in place, do you think it would still impact the governing abilities of the GSG?
- Daniel: I was in charge of the Divestment forum, and it was a very difficult week for me, and I didn't get other work done. There are much more specific procedures in place for referenda, but not for polling. So we should determine procedural changes to allow grad students to speak for themselves, and figure out how to determine how to allow students to say what they want to say.
- April: I was involved in GSG for 5 years. The GSG should represent graduate students on different issues related to graduate student life. Even with Lakeside opening, we only talked about divestment the last couple of months. These different organizations can run their own polls and collect their own data. If it is not a GSG position then the GSG should not conduct a poll on it
- Melissa: What is the difference between and poll and a referendum?
- Mircea: In regard to April's comments (GSG should not be involved), we can write a formal Article that states our position on polling. Run it through assembly and pass it into the by-laws. This is why we could use a committee to have assembly input in the drafting of the by-laws.
- April: I didn't like divestment, but there other things that I would want to be a part

of. So we should codify that this is something that we do not do. The GSG has run polls in the past to get a better sense of graduate student life and to better represent graduate students. We should have something that says we will not run polls for other organizations.

- We should get away from using the word “political”.
- Jean: Another issue, what if we were asked to run a poll about the police on campus. Would that be appropriate?
- Kyle: One distinction that we could make, advocacy towards the administration vs. advocacy for PRINCO. PRINCO is outside of the GSGs reach or range, while other things that would be more central to the GSG (housing, transportation, UHS, etc.) One way to say it: The GSG won't poll to get info for PRINCO, but we will can for other things.
- Daniel: In the case of divestment, we were trying to get a sense of graduate student opinion when we didn't have knowledge on how the graduate students felt on divestment.
- Julia: The GSG should just not do divestment polls. We are happy for student groups to run polls. Specifically banning divestment polling wouldn't prevent us from doing the kinds of polling we have done in the past.
- Melissa Verty: Should we create a focus group to discuss this further?
 - Contact Mircea if you are interested in getting involved in that (mircea@princeton.edu)
- If we can put together a committee, we can talk about it in the next month and the committee can join us at a Monday exec meeting.
- Jean: Is there a matter of numbers for voting and approving this? There are only a select number of people around for the summer.
- Michelle Frazer: One idea is to ban all divestment polls, the other idea is to put restrictions and rules on how to go about conducting these controversial polls. Would it be useful to have something in place for some way to do a formal debate when we talk about these contentious issues.
- Mellissa: Send out an email to members to say we are creating this focus group and we welcome people to join from afar
- April: We should keep in mind that there are a lot of things we would have liked to poll on (the past GSG), but people get sick of taking polls, so we should be strategic about the polls that we conduct.
 - Daniel: Could tie polls into the elections, like the USG
 - April: We have done that in the past

Executive Summary (10 minutes)

- Treasurer's Funding Update

- End of year party
- GSG Furniture Drive
- Lakeside
 - Lakeside Provisional Committee
 1. This is the residential committee (Julia, Rachel, and Mircea are working on it)
 2. They will hold an election and pass off Lakeside to that governing committee.
 3. Email developed for the committee: lakesidecomm@princeton.edu
- Frist Summer Cookout Series
- Dissertation boot-camp
 - This summer dissertation boot-camp is currently canceled, but we are working on reinstating it. Email Daniel if you are interested.
 - It was supposed to happen in June, but it might happen August

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

- Transition to Lakeside
 - It would be good to have a tent central at Butler to drop off furniture in order to avoid an overflow of furniture at the dumpsters
 - The network situation at Lakeside is not good. We are not on University network and it is much slower. Butler data cap was 100 Mbps, Lakeside is capped at 20 Mbps (bandwidth cap)
 - Julia: Because Lakeside is run by ACC, they have contracts with internet providers that they have agreements with. It would cost them a lot of money to change it. If you can let Julia know the speed, we can maybe do something about it.
 - Perhaps we could just increase bandwidth instead of trying to change servers - speed at least important for streaming video conference with advisors
 - There is Princeton Network in the clusters in the Commons
 - Let the committee know if there are any issues with Lakeside
 - Lakeside rule book - there are issues that we are trying to address
 - Email Lakeside committee
- April: Submitted thesis to have it embargoed, and they said that embargo is really only for social science.
 - Contact Daniel for issues with the academic issues

Motion to adjourn by Jean Nava (LGSA rep) and seconded Michelle Frazer (AOS rep); the meeting is adjourned 7:15 pm.

Next meeting: July 8, 2015 5:45pm