



## MINUTES

GSG Assembly Meeting

**January 13, 2016 5:45pm**

Joseph Henry Room, Jadwin Hall, Princeton University

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

Joshua Wallace (Astro Rep) motions to approve the December Assembly Meeting Minutes.

Yuan Shi (PPPL Rep) seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

### Call to order, Welcome

- Akshay: If you are a representative or delegate, make sure to send emails to your constituents about what is discussed at the GSG meetings

### James “Jim” Poole (Manager of Graduate Housing) (15 minutes)

- Housing for the first time going forward will be consistent, what is available this year, will be available next year
- This will allow the housing office to track better statistics
- The current systems for the housing draw are very outdated but will work for this year. The new system was supposed to be used this year, but has been delayed due to customizations taking longer than planned
- This year it will go the same as usual, next year the new system will be up and running
- Advice for those entering the draw: Apply on your application to as much as you would consider:
  - There are 34 Studio Apartments (roughly  $\frac{2}{3}$  are eligible to retain), so not much left. If people only apply for studio then they may get rejected entirely from housing
- September has the highest occupancy, and each month it goes down. If you don't get your first choice right away, there is a chance you could move during the semester
- If you are a fifth year student and you know you will be here for next year, and you don't want to take the risk with housing for next year, you can find a place to live now, they will release you from your contract early without fees
- Calendar:
  - January

- Behind the scenes setup and testing of housing system
- February
  - ~ 2/1 Documents available
    - financial hardship application (reviewed by GHAB)
    - medical needs application (reviewed by a committee)
  - ~ 2/15
    - All 1st and 2nd year students will get a contract for renewal for their same unit
      - They are allowed to pull in any 1st, 2nd, or 3rd year
    - To pull in older students, need to go into room draw (if they are at the top of the draw, then they may be able to keep their same unit)
- March
  - ~ 3/15 Room Draw Deadline
    - Once offers go out (all should go out on the first day), they have 7 days to accept/reject
- April - Deadline for incoming students
- May - Wait list

#### Questions:

- G1 is for a current 1st year (will be 2nd year next year)
- Katja: If you apply for a 4 bedroom, do you have to have all 4 people?
  - You have to have all four people or apply to have a random roommate.
  - For lottery numbers - the lowest numbers will be selected first, and in a group of people it will always be the lowest in the group
- If 500 beds are reserved for incoming students, are they particular beds set aside? Is there a mix?
  - Yes there are a variety of units set aside. We should be able to estimate this better going forward. There are usually families coming in, so we need to set aside some larger apartments, and not just apartments at the GC.
- Summer Housing?
  - Summer housing is housing during the summer in the graduate college, since apartments contracts are 12 months
- What percentage of people get what they want?
  - The students that are 5+ years in oncampus housing are typically those that have priority through committees and GSG
  - Anyone that is current 4th will have roughly 50/50 chance
- How does the number of beds work with families?
  - Family is defined as a students or couple with children.

- Behind the scenes, the students on committees are coded with a #10, G1 with #9, etc.
  - Within the class the families will have slightly more priority.
- Students with families will take up more beds, than single students, but we have to factor that in.
- If anyone has other specific questions feel free to email Jim.

### Calendar Reform

- Shannon Osaka (USG incoming Academics Chair)
- Princeton is unique in that it has the final exam period after the winter break.
- Dean Jill Dolan has been working on altering the calendar
- The USG would like to conduct a survey (early March) to address aspects of the current calendar
- In particular for graduate students: How are general/schedules working for graduate students in the current calendar?
- Changes: The fall semester would start 2 weeks earlier and would be over (finals included) in December, followed by 3-4 weeks of winter break
- It would be great to have the GSG involved in forming questions for the survey
- Akshay: Would that be a survey that the GSG would run or the administration?
- There is a meeting tomorrow with admins to talk about the survey
  - Akshay: Can we send a grad student to attend?
    - Yes: David Walsh Volunteers
- Joshua: Princeton has a shorter semester (12 weeks). How would this fit in? Wasn't this voted on before?
  - Faculty voted 2007/2008 but the faculty was split on different calendars
  - Hope to have one choice for the calendar change this time around
  - We would probably have to shorten the reading period
- Tori: Would the Spring semester also start earlier?
  - Spring would begin roughly late January
  - There would be at most 3 days of summer that would be lost
- Reading period+Finals goes for 3 weeks
- The approval process for the new calendar. What would a vote on this mean?
  - The faculty sets the calendar, so in order to make a large change, there would need to be an all faculty vote and decision
  - What they want is substantial undergraduate (and grad) student support
  - By showing them the support they would then vote
- Currently, there is the general education task force which has been charged with addressing the academic calendar
  - Task force has been funneling this information and will present it to the

faculty

- Current USG isn't sure if this is the best way to go about this change
- Tori: Who are the administrators involved?
  - Dean Dolan (chairs general education task force) and Dean Collogini

#### Election Plan (5 minutes)

- There are 6 elected positions and 4 appointed positions (appointed at the March meeting)
- Deadline for nominations for elected positions is February 1st
- The February pub night will be a "meet the candidates" night
- Election will take place Feb 25th - March 2nd
- You can put your name in for the appointed positions up until March 9th
- Both positions have housing priority, so if you are interested the housing office needs to know by Feb. 21 so they can arrange for you to have priority
- If you have questions: [gselect@princeton.edu](mailto:gselect@princeton.edu)
- Election plan was emailed out and is also posted
- Candidate Nominations deadline: Feb. 1st
- Candidate Statement due: Feb 7th
- Meet the Candidates: Feb 10th
- Question and Answer: ????
- Julia Wittes motions to approve the election plan, David Walsh seconds the motion. The election plan is approved unanimously.

#### Budget Follow Up and Vote (5 minutes)

- The final budget from last year is in and there was a surplus of \$5868.02
- In the past, we have proposed to put half of it into an endowment fund that will hopefully grow and at some point be able to fund a travel fund or something along those lines
- Mike proposes submitting half into the endowment
- Yuan (PPPL Rep): Who manages endowment?
  - Treasurer manages the account as well as the GSG account and Events Board account
  - Lily: Each year the GSG gets an amount deposited that is what the endowment earned. It is managed by PRINCO and they give us the return.
- How much is in the endowment?
  - We get roughly \$500 each year
  - MIKE TO FILL IN
- We are proposing to add \$2900, which would make a substantial difference
- Our total budget is around \$45000.
- Is it routine for there always to be a surplus?

- No
- Joshua Wallace proposes putting all of it in.
- Want to be careful of liquidity, it might be hard to pull it out.
- We have increased some costs this year (departmental outreach), so it would be good to have some padding for next year.
- Daniel motions to put ½ in the endowment for this year, David Walsh seconds
- The vote to put half of the surplus in the endowment passes unanimously.

#### Bus to Forrestal and PPPL

- Julia: The bus to Forrestal and PPPL goes from 7am - 7pm. We have gotten two requests to increase the hours.
- To extend the line, they have proposed taking 2 hours off of the weekend shuttle.
  - 9-10pm on Saturday, 4-5pm on Sunday, since they are not that busy
- Get graduate student opinions:
  - Josh: I don't ride the bus, but I have noticed that on weekends, not many people ride
  - Yuan: PPPL don't typically take the 7am bus, but others might
- Julia will pass the information onto Kim that taking the weekend hours would be okay.
- Don't forget to let constituents know about weekend buses!
- Vivian: Equad bus goes from the GC but gets to EQUAD just after 9pm (when classes start at 9)
  - Kim knows that, let us know if there are other times that they should work around
  - They will be working to change the hours so that it gets in before 9am

#### Executive Committee Announcements

- Transition surgery annual cap update (Kay)
  - Heard from Janet that the cap is being removed
  - Will there be an announcement?
    - Once we get an official announcement we can pass it along
- DCE and ET/DCC reorientation (Daniel)
  - Most people have 5 years guaranteed funding, after that you are DCE (typically for two years), if you don't finish then you go into ET/DCC
  - What happens when the clock starts running out?
  - More information to come soon about the reorientation workshop

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

- There was an occupy movement on campus, and one of the demands was to rename the Woodrow Wilson School. You should let your constituents know that there is an online comment section where you leave your feedback about Woodrow Wilson's Legacy

- Those comments won't be public, but will go to the committee
- Comments anonymous? Yes, but they do want to know your affiliation.
- Joshua Wallace: There was a taskforce for the graduate school (posted online). Josh spoke with a lot of people on the task force about the cost of housing for families (which has jumped dramatically with Butler closing). Now spending 55% of stipend on housing. Not sure if there is anything to do now, but it would be good to let the administration know that this is a concern. Are there any ideas about what we can do?
  - Jim mentioned Family Hardship Fund, but maybe there could be some sort of funding to help subsidize family housing? Funds issued through housing that are dedicated to family.
  - Dave Walsh: Might be able to look at the state of NJ and what the laws here are for affordable housing and housing subsidies. Could maybe use state housing codes to push Princeton into doing something
  - The report also mention that 70% of students were being housed, which is a decrease
  - The taskforce are still soliciting commentary, so we can still go to the with our concerns.
  - Dave Walsh: To make a broad statement: graduate housing does not satisfy the needs or the demands (there are only 34 studios - and we just built a new housing development with no studios!).
  - Akil: Speaking to Jim Poole about what can be done. They don't necessarily hear everything. We could join together and send out a survey about housing.
    - Could write more letter to highlight the issues and speaking with specific administrators
    - PRICOM (CPUS Priorities Committee - we have 2 reps on it) is what sets our stipend
      - Reps: Daniel Choi (Mol Bio) Collette Johnson (English)
    - See if we can speak to them about what has been discussed about stipends, and what we might be able to bring up there
  - Between now and next Assembly meeting we can layout a plan for what we can do going forward.
- Tori: President Eisgruber had a conversation with grad students
  - Mental Health came up and the limitations to CPS
    - A lot of the barrier of CPS support is the cost of going off campus
    - If it is possible to find money in the University budget, we could possibly subsidize the cost of having those off-campus appointments. Is this something that we could do going forward?
    - Elise: there are funds available (email Diane Cook [dcook@princeotn.edu](mailto:dcook@princeotn.edu))
      - The information is not widely available

- It is not a full-on fund
- Kay: You aren't billed for services at McCosh and that is the difference
- Julia: The process for going off campus is pretty easy. Rather than try to push to expand McCosh, we should focus on subsidizing the amount that insurance doesn't cover

Joshua Wallace (Astro Rep) motions to adjourn the meeting. Michelle Frazer (AOS Rep) seconded. The meeting adjourns at 7:05PM.

**Next meeting:** February 10, 2016 5:45pm