



AGENDA

GSG Assembly Meeting

March 9th, 2016 5:45pm

Joseph Henry Room, Jadwin Hall, Princeton University

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

Daniel Vitek (Academic Affairs Chair) motions to approve the February Assembly Meeting Minutes. Josh Wallace (Astro Rep) seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

Election Results Approval - Daniel Vitek, Elections Committee Chair

- Election results:
 - Mircea Davidescu was elected president
 - Max Hirschberger was elected treasurer
 - Bradley O'Brien was elected special events
- Any questions on the content of the election report?
- Next year's election committee will have to work to fix a couple of little bugs with using Qualtrics to do the election.
- Alexandra Pastino (Molecular Biology Rep) motions to certify the results. Will Smith (Politics Rep) seconds. The Election Results are approved unanimously.

Chair and Open Position Elections - Mircea Davidescu, GSG Vice President

- Open positions: Vice President, Secretary, Communications Director, Academic Affairs Chair, Facilities Chair, Health and Life Chair and Social Chair
- Call for nominations:
 - Social Chair is the only positions with no nominations. Mattias FitzPatrick nominates himself for Social Chair
- Katja Luxem (Geosciences Rep): It seems like facilities position has a large role dealing with housing, transportation, public safety, etc. Could we break the facilities position into multiple positions?
 - We could form a separate committee that has a different person focusing on different aspect of facilities. However, right now the position is just a single person, and the housing priority is just for that person.
 - This is something the next board could look into.
- What does the Academic Affairs Chair do?

- Daniel: Academic Affairs Chair oversees Graduate Writing Days and I have worked this year to advocate for DCE and ET/DCC students. Dealing with their loss of health insurance and developing programming so that students changing into this status know what to expect (along with the Health and Life Chair).
- Kay: Health and Life, Academic Affairs, and Facilities are all similar positions in that you sit on certain committees, but your duties are not spelled out for you. You can take on advocating for aspects that are important to you, while also assisting students that have issues in those particular areas.
- Who can vote?
 - Department Representatives, Special Representatives, Delegates
 - Guests and Exec Members cannot vote.
- Candidate Statements (each nominee gets 1 minutes to give a statement (or have read if the are not there).
 - Secretary Nominations:
 - Daniel Suo
 - Jose Ferreira
 - Levi Goldston
 - Health and Life Chair:
 - Hendia Edmund
 - Academic Affairs Chair:
 - Daniel Vitek
 - Facilities Chair:
 - Christopher Wordingham
 - Genna Gliner
 - Merle Eisenberg
 - Vice President
 - Akshay Mehra
 - Communications Director
 - Jonathan Balkind
 - Social Chair
 - Mattias Fitzpatrick
- Mircea Davidescu recommends that Liz Davison (outgoing Special Events Coordinator) and Katie Wolf (outgoing Secretary) count votes. No one disapproves.
- Results of the vote (to begin their term after this meeting):
 - Vice President: Akshay Mehra
 - Secretary: Jose Ferreira
 - Facilities: Genna Gliner
 - Communications Director: Jonathan Balkind
 - Academic Affairs: Daniel Vitek

- Health and Life: Hendia Edmund
- Social: Mattias Fitzpatrick

Graduate Housing Project: Survey Proposal - Akil Word, Graduate Housing Project Chair

- Akshay Mirah (President) summarizes survey proposal: This is the first survey to follow the new rules put in place over the summer; invites Akil Word (Lakeside Rep, and chair of Graduate Housing Project) to present.
- Akil: multi-step process; survey for grads and spouses of grads;
 - Survey was created by a 12-person committee
 - Hope to get a wide sample of populations (departments; families; off-campus)
 - Survey: proposes using qualtrics; 66 direct questions
 - Already tested: 5 minutes average testing time
 - Survey research centre, housing office have seen these;
 - Asking \$395 from GSG Budget for incentives
 - Every question is optional
 - Proposes survey March 23 - April 6
- Kay Gabriel (Health and Life Chair) brings up that the WeSpeak survey will be released March 21; suggests postponing the housing survey by a week
- Olivia Martel brings up a challenge for purchasing film tickets as a reward, since it is like a cash equivalent
 - Suggests a backup plan
 - Mike suggests a cap on the reward and contributing some portion of that towards small prizes
- Will Smith (Politics): proposes ending before room draw results are posted on April 4;
- Julia Wittes (Facilities) proposes starting in the middle of spring break (a week earlier)
- Genna Gliner (Social Chair) proposes moving it entirely after room draw (all students including G1 will have been through the project)
- Concerns raised about survey length
- Akil proposes that assembly vote on a time-range and allow the committee to suggest dates to be approved by the executive board
- David Walsh (History Rep): asks about reminder emails
 - Daniel Vitek (Academic Affairs Chair): send an initial email, one halfway through, and one on the final day
 - David: targeted reminders?
 - Akshay: survey plan already specifies targeting folks who haven't filled it out
- Further discussion on Genna's proposal:
 - Pro: all students will have gone through room draw
 - Con: more politicized
- Mike: Is there a time you want to release the data by?

- Akil: By the end of May for sure
- Akshay: Let's vote on the proposal contingent on the timeline, and with a cap of \$365 on the rewards. Daniel Vitek motions to approve. David Walsh seconds. The survey proposal passes unanimously.

Unionization Fact-Finding - Akshay Mirah, GSG President

- The University filed an amicus brief coming out against unionization, when there are currently no unionization efforts at Princeton.
- At this meeting we don't want to discuss the pros/cons of unionization.
- At this time, we don't know how graduate students feel about unionization or what might have prompted the university to sign the brief.
- The executive board proposes to create a committee that would:
 - Go on a fact finding mission.
 - Establish what the climate is like amongst graduate students, administrators and faculty when it comes to unionization
 - Look into other universities and what has been done with unionization
 - Report the information at next Assembly meeting, or if there is something urgent to report, then send updates via email between now and then
- Questions:
 - Anyone meet with administration yet?
 - Not yet, but that is something that this committee could do.
 - David Walsh (History Rep): To your knowledge, has the faculty issued any statement? It might be good to report a collective statement.
 - This is also something the committee could do
 - Currently, we don't want to issue anything as we don't know how grad students feel
 - How do we gather information?
 - Reach out to other universities, faculty, administrators, students, etc.
 - David Walsh volunteers to chair the committee
 - It would be good to get clear parameters about what information to gather. Each department has different funding requirements, so views of students may be different across the board.
 - Mike: It is up to the committee to determine which questions are relevant. Seems like you have a good start
 - Other volunteers: Jonathan Balkind, Kay Gabriel, Julia Wittes, Daniel Vitek, and Will Smith
 - Will the GSG send out some statement? Akshay already talked to the prince, but they didn't say as much as maybe should have been said.
 - Angelina: You can always send an email out as the GSG, and post on the FB

page.

- David Walsh: This is an issue that may get national attention, so there are other ways to present this information (other newspapers that may be willing to publish something)
- David motions to have the GSG publish a statement saying that we are looking into this. Will Smith seconds. It passes unanimously.
- Joshua Wallace motions to form the proposed Unionization Fact-Finding Committee. Laura Bustamante (Neuroscience Rep) seconds. The motion to form a Unionization fact finding committee passes unanimously.

Executive Committee Summary

- If you have international students in your department that have not yet gotten their tax forms, Davies International Center will be emailing out information on it.
- Mental Health Resources Meeting with Dale Trevino, Lisa Schreyer, Calvin Chin, and Julie Yun - Tori (Communications Director)
 - There is talk to make some resources (funds) available for students that are referred outside of CPS.
 - They are interested in centralizing the referral process
 - The executive committee encourages you to send out an email with the election results, unionization committee, and any feedback that people have on CPS Services.
 - When you send an email, please CC the GSG: gsg@princeton.edu

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

- Vivian: If you live in GC, the GCHC is having a focus group on dining services this Friday at 6:00 pm in the coffee house.
- Lakeside Recycling:
 - Talk to facilities and see what the official answer is on how recycling is being taken care of. There seems to be a disconnect on what the policies are.
 - Facilities Chair can follow up at the GHAB meeting

Will Smith (History Rep) motions to adjourn the meeting. Laura Bustamante (Neuroscience Rep) seconds. The meeting adjourns at 7:22pm

Next meeting: April, 13th 2016 5:45pm