



MINUTES

GSG Assembly Meeting

April 13, 2016 5:45pm

Joseph Henry Room, Jadwin Hall, Princeton University

The meeting is called to order at 5:52pm.

There is a new signup system on an iPad. If the name of any Representative or Delegate is not on the list, they should contact Akshay Mehra (Vice-President).

Rochelle Calhoun, Vice President of Campus Life

- Started in position on September 1st, 2015
- Offices represented in campus life include: Athletics, Club Sports, Intramurals (includes Dillon Gym - Sports & Rec), Career Services, Office of the Dean of the College, PACE Center for Civic Life, Office of Religious Life, Health Services, Dean of Diversity and Inclusion (Carl A. Fields Center, LGBT Center, Women's Center)
- Meets regularly with the Deans of the Graduate School and of the College
- Goals are to engage and support learning environment by providing opportunities for personal and professional development
- Currently rethinking policies and procedures regarding interactions with graduate students
 - E.g. Will no longer have to pay for ticketed varsity events (starting in Fall 2016)
- Q&A:
 - David Walsh: Is the graduate student center on the radar?
 - Not just on our radar, but also on that of campus planning. However, in the end there will be more need for space than spaces, so will have to prioritize. Campus plan includes both a 10 year and a 30 year plan.
 - David Walsh: I don't recall seeing the campus center on the plan. Is it on the 30 year plan?
 - Rochelle Calhoun: We're trying to make it a priority. Either late in the 10 year plan or early in the 30 year plan, unless something gets vacated.
 - Angelina Sylvain: What is your office planning to do to address resources for graduate students? E.g. career services has only 1 full-time employee vs. 8 for undergraduates, space for graduate students at Frist, care bridge, health plans and healthcare (encouraged to only have limited number of sessions at CPS, adopted

child not accounted for in health plan), payment scheduling (students coming in September only get paid at the end of the month).

- Rochelle Calhoun: These are exactly the things we want to be attentive to.
 - Regarding healthcare: the GSG has a representative on the healthcare program - concerns can be brought forward through there
 - Regarding career services: first time hearing it has been a problem.
 - Amy Pszczolkowski's schedule very full, and shouldn't expect a single person to know about 20+ disciplines
 - We have a regular meeting with USG, so maybe we could set something up with the GSG
 - Mircea Davidescu: We should have meetings and would invite Assembly members who raise issues

March Minutes

William Smith (Politics Rep) motions to approve the March 2016 Assembly Meeting Minutes. Michelle Frazer (AOS Rep) seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

Vacating Inactive Representatives

- Akshay Mehra (Vice-President): We want to vacate representatives that are inactive (not present in the last 3 meetings - GSG By-Laws)
 - Daniel Vitek (Academic Affairs Chair): Should we have at least a list of departments?
 - David Walsh: What is the motion for, exactly?
 - Akshay Mehra (Vice-President): we have departments with no representatives, and others where representatives have not shown up to meetings and are inactive
 - Mircea Davidescu (President): operationally, we need to vacate inactive seats in order to make a call for another representative
 - Amitesh: Do you usually contact people when they become inactive?
 - Mircea Davidescu (President): We have in the past
 - Akshay Mehra (Vice-President): I will contact members who are currently inactive
- Noah Apthorpe (Computer Science Rep) moves for the GSG Executive Committee to contact inactive Assembly members. Max Hirschberger (Treasurer) seconds. Motion passes by majority (0 votes against, 1 abstention)

CPUC Election

- Akshay Mehra (Vice-President): We have to fill 7 general council slots. General council

meets once a month and it's a great time to engage with upper figures in the administration (President Eisgruber often the one speaking) and a good way to remind them that we have not been consulted on an issue. We also have 6 committees on which graduate students can serve.

- We can only submit a rank-ordered list (but the CPUC ultimately decides who will take these seats), and some of the students currently on these committees might remain in those positions. If someone gets nominated by the GSG, it is not guaranteed that they will serve in the position.
- Candidates:
 - General Council: Mircea Davidescu, Akshay Mehra, David Walsh, Amitesh Datta, Michelle Frazer, Noah Apthorpe, Chunan Zong, Shuk Ying Chang, Julia Reed, Sophia Chin
 - Priorities: Katja Luxem, Vivian Chang
 - Judicial: Akshay Mehra
 - Rights and Rules: Max Hirschberger, Noah Apthorpe
 - Resources: Seong Woo Ho, Colette Johnson
 - Governance: Daniel Vitek, Phillip Gleissner
 - Executive: Mircea Davidescu, Mohammad Shahrap
- Questions:
 - Michelle Frazer (AOS Rep): When does the General Council meet?
 - Akshay Mehra (Vice-President): Meets on a Monday every month at 4:30PM
 - Mei Zheng (CPUC Executive Committee and General Council): Graduate students can just show up for the General Council meetings if the agenda is of interest to them
 - Can a candidate run for more than one position?
 - Candidates can only run for one committee position, but can, in addition, run for the General Council
 - Amitesh Datta (Mathematics Rep): What are the responsibilities for the General Council position?
 - To attend the meetings
 - Yuan Shi (Plasma Physics Rep): Do we know how many people they will be taking?
 - Akshay Mehra (Vice-President): No. They will do their appointments in the summer
 - Mircea Davidescu (President): We will submit a rank-ordered list. If they choose someone not in accordance with our list, we will ask why our preferences could not be accommodated (GSG By-Laws)
- Candidates present in the room each give a short speech on why they want to serve. A

paragraph is read for those candidates who are absent (and who wrote a paragraph).

- Voting protocol:
 - All candidates should be assigned an integer from 1 (worst) to 5 (best). Scores will be added up for each candidate and a rank-ordered list of the candidates for each position will be produced accordingly.
- Results of the CPUC election:
 - General Council: Akshay Mehra (1), David Walsh (2), Julia Reed (3), Noah Apthorpe (4), Amitesh Datta (5), Michelle Frazer (6), Chunan Zong (7), Sophia Chin (8), Shuk Ying Chang (9)
 - Priorities: Katja Luxem (1), Vivian Chang (2)
 - Judicial: Akshay Mehra (1)
 - Rights and Rules: Noah Apthorpe (1), Max Hirschberger (2)
 - Resources: Colette Johnson (1), Seong Woo Oh (2)
 - Governance: Daniel Vitek (1), Phillip Gleissner (2)
 - Executive: Mircea Davidescu (1), Mohammad Shahradsad (2)

Projects Document for the 2016-2017 Executive Committee

- Mircea Davidescu (President): We want to ensure that the will of the Executive Committee agrees with that of the Assembly. At the end of the document, we have a listing of other projects and ideas, and we want the Assembly to propose additional goals that we should have in mind. We are also looking for volunteers to assist in completing these projects.
- Discussion:
 - Robert Decker (French and Italian Rep): Will the activities-based social events inhibit those of us who just want to organize a regular party?
 - Mircea Davidescu (President): Short answer is no. We intend to make it so that if you don't want to take part in these activities you can still hang out, listen to music, etc.
 - Daniel Vitek (Academic Affairs Chair): Traditionally our parties are in the evening, so if we move some of these during the day it will be favorable for students with families, but shouldn't preclude having a party atmosphere.
 - Elspeth Green (English Rep): Would this be like the pub trivia without beer?
 - Akil Word-Daniels (Lakeside Delegate): The reason for mocktails was that Lakeside cannot provide alcohol.
 - Max Hirschberger (Treasurer): Example would be the casino party. Students can still enjoy the party and don't have to play the games.
 - Angelina Sylvain: I think it's important to be inclusive and to have spaces

for people on campus where drinking isn't the main activity.

- Michelle Frazer (AOS Rep): Several students I know do not attend GSG parties because they're late in the evening and mostly about drinking.
- David Walsh:
 - As an official policy statement, should focus on issues that have a major impact on graduate student representation (E.g. changing the composition of the Board of Trustees)
 - Mircea Davidescu (President): Goal is to have Assembly rank the goals electronically and use that to guide the document
 - Department head is pushing for funding into the 6th year (under DCE status). If that is a faculty priority there might be a chance to push for it:
 - Michelle Frazer (AOS Rep): Additionally, some departments only have funding for 4 years, and extension to 5 years is a major issue
 - Noah Apthorpe (Computer Science Rep): But also want to ensure that departments can put enough pressure on faculty to keep students PhDs moving along and guarantee completion times remain short.
 - Elspeth Green (English Rep): There are definitely departments which are *de facto* 6 years yet there is only funding for 5.
 - David Walsh: Purpose of the GSG is to advocate on behalf of the entire graduate community. There has been conversations about DCE status, which suggests that DCE funding is needed.
 - Max Hirschberger (Treasurer): I think it strongly depends on the department.
 - Mircea Davidescu (President): Not just DCE, summer funding is also uneven across departments. In terms of funding, approaching as a department-specific solution might be more productive.
 - Daniel Vitek: Could have solutions that don't require extending funding to DCE (like allowing for different program lengths)
 - Suggested goal: Evaluating affordability of graduate school for students with families.
- Mircea Davidescu (President) motions to add "Exploring options for extended funding to DCE status" to the projects document. David Walsh seconds. Motion passes by majority (0 against, 2 abstentions)
- William Smith (Politics Rep) motions to give Assembly a week to provide project and goal suggestions to the Executive Committee, who will compile the responses and

produce a new version of the document at the May Assembly Meeting. Daniel Vitek (Academic Affairs Chair) seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Unionization Panel Update

- Daniel Vitek (Academic Affairs Chair): Op-ed draft will be submitted to the Daily Princetonian soon. Are there any issues with the current draft?
 - Robert Decker (French and Italian Rep): Concern about sentence that reads “The GSG is not taking a position ...”. Was this brought to the GSG and voted on?
 - Daniel Vitek (Academic Affairs Chair): We will wait on the NLRB ruling (May or June). It’s been 15 years since the last brief, and that brief is very hard to find it, so we find it rude that they did not consult the graduate student body.
 - David Walsh (Head of Unionization Taskforce): The purview of the committee on Unionization Taskforce was to gather information and provide the GSG with a recommendation for further action. The recommendation is that they should publish this Op-Ed.
 - Sentence is altered to: “The GSG is yet to take a position...”
- Additional feedback should be sent to gsg@princeton.edu, or directly to Daniel Vitek (dvitek@princeton.edu) or David Walsh (walshd14@princeton.edu)
- Request for electronic approval will be sent out after changes are made

Campus Dining Updates

- Vivian Chang (WWS Rep):
 - Met with dining services about several issues (vegetarian options, etc.)
 - There is a survey out about dining in cafés
 - (Not all seem to have received the survey invitation)
 - There will be a cooking competition on Friday (April 22) for Earth Day

Housing Taskforce Update

- Akil Word-Daniels (Lakeside Delegate):
 - There will be a mass email for a final push about the housing survey
 - Currently have about 900 responses, but would like to push it to 50% of the graduate student body
 - There will be focus groups (April 20) and a meeting with James Poole (HRES) - information about when and where these will be held will be available

Executive Committee Summary

- University Services Meeting - extension of summer hours
 - What will be extended?

- Frist will be open 7 days a week and with extended hours. Transit might also be extended.
- There was a focus group on April 12, and they are gathering information on students' experience over the summer
- Water Quality Concerns
 - Students can contact Environmental Health & Services directly for information on particular instances
 - Response to Executive Committee is that they are updating their website with additional information about lead in drinking water, and are currently waiting for the most recent lead testing results from the University's water supplier (New Jersey American Water)

Open Forum

- Angeline Sylvain: Board of Trustees is the most powerful body existing above the faculty. They have 4 slots for young undergraduate alumni, but 0 slots for young graduate alumni. This might be part of the reason why graduate student needs are not addressed. We should get a task force to try to ensure a slot opens for us.
- Max Hirschberger (Treasurer): The Events Board has a yearly budget of about \$40,000 to distribute every year, and is looking for more members. Anyone who is interested should contact mhirschb@princeton.edu directly, or gsg@princeton.edu
- Mike Hepler: Local farms are partnering with Lakeside and the University to bring CSA shares to Lakeside. Currently heavily underutilized as it is only open to Lakeside residents. The concern is that if it was open to everyone there could be a flood of students, but opening to more graduate students would likely be a good thing. It would be good to have additional advocacy.
 - Katie Wolf: program will start at the beginning of June, and end in November. Boxes will be delivered every week.

Robert Decker (French and Italian Rep) motions to adjourn the Meeting. Brad O'Brien (Special Events Officer) seconds. The meeting adjourns at 7:45pm.

Next meeting: May 11, 2016 5:45pm