



Minutes

GSG Assembly Meeting

June 8, 2016 5:45pm

Joseph Henry Room, Jadwin Hall, Princeton University

The meeting is called to order at 5:45pm.

May Minutes

No quorum; postponed to future GSG Assembly meeting.

Priorities Committee Report - Colette Johnson and Daniel Choi

- Colette Johnson:
 - There are three modes of funding for units within the University:
 - Direct funding
 - Cost share
 - If neither of the above applies, initiatives go before Priorities Committee
 - This year there were two requests, both for undergraduates
 - A \$500 fund to help furnish dorm rooms before first paycheck from campus job, for students whose parents cannot contribute
 - Increased funding for international students to travel home (equivalent to two trips, instead of one)
 - This request was denied due to several structural issues (e.g. there is no guarantee that money is used for travel)
- Daniel Choi
 - Approved 3% increase in graduate student base stipends motivated by increased cost in living and competition amongst schools
 - Funding dispersal:
 - Humanities students funded over 12 months
 - Science and engineering funding broken into academic year and summer funding (limited to a total of \$8000)
 - Sources of funding come from first-year fellowships, sponsored research (e.g. grants), and teaching. Teaching funding is given directly by the departments, and departments have autonomy on how they choose to allocate their funds.
 - Graduate School has a minimum rate
 - Students can give feedback to departmental administrators to try to

increase it

- Julia Wittes: What is the base rate?
 - Not clear - some statistics available from the PriCom report.
 - Colette: differs department by department, and they have a lot of control over how this money is distributed. The Priorities Committee approves an increase to the entire pool of money available for graduate students
 - Daniel Vitek: Does that affect the base AI/AR rates?
 - Daniel: This is the pool of funds, not the base rate paid to graduate students.
 - Colette: Administration recommends rates for stipends, but the department has control.
- Joshua Wallace (Astro Rep): Is it common for only two things to come before the Priorities Committee?
 - Colette: No. But Priorities Committee only approves things that are optional and not necessary.
 - Daniel: A different system was tried where the Provost receives reports and requests and then decides what goes before the Priorities Committee.
- Akshay Mehra (GSG Vice-President): Is the travel money just for underprivileged students?
 - No, it applies to all students receiving any amount of financial aid.

Approval of Events Board Members

No quorum; postponed to future GSG Assembly meeting.

Election Reform - combining Officer, Chair and CPUC elections

- Akshay Mehra (GSG Vice-President): The GSG is looking to combine elections for Officer, Chair and CPUC positions into a global election, instead of determining CPUC and Chairs at an Assembly meeting. Amendment on this will not be voted on until September.
 - Joshua Wallace (Astro Rep): Would this mean we spend less time voting?
 - Akshay: Yes. Another motivation is the undergrad model of two elections per year, with the goal of increasing turnout since elections for Officer positions are usually uncontested or have no candidates. We are hoping to get more people to participate in elections.
 - Yuan Shi (PPL Rep): Would combining two votes not be time consuming and prevent people from voting, instead of encouraging them?
 - Daniel Vitek (GSG Academic Affairs Chair): We will think about how to

reduce the amount of reading voters will need to do.

Dates for GSG Summer Assembly Meetings

- Daniel Vitek (GSG Academic Affairs Chair): We would like to hold GSG Assembly Meetings on dates that don't conflict with the Frist BBQ. Could we change the day of the week for the July and August meetings to either Tuesday or Thursday?
 - Discussion on preferred dates ensued, with 10 votes in favour of moving off Wednesday, some preferences expressed in favour of Tuesday and concerns raised due to proxy arrangements.
- Olivia Martel (Graduate School): There is time to make the meeting and still attend the BBQ.
 - Akshay Mehra (GSG Vice-President): We can move the meeting to start earlier
 - Yaritza Perez-Hooks (Psychology Rep): could regular assembly meetings be moved to an earlier time?
 - Akshay Mehra: We are thinking about starting at exactly 5:45pm, with pizza out at 5:30pm
 - Akil Word (Lakeside Apartments Delegate): could move to virtual meetings, since there is never quorum during the summer months.

Executive Committee Summary

- Furniture drive happened on May 31st and June 1st. This was the first year where items were free.
 - Jelena Radovanovic (NES Rep): I was disappointed with how it went. It was very chaotic at Pine, and undergraduates left a lot of trash, including medication and razors, which was spread out across the floor. There was no organization.
 - Genna Gliner (GSG Facilities Chair): more support is needed from University Services - setting up the platform, hanging banners, etcetera
 - Daniel Vitek (GSG Academic Affairs Chair): most of the problems seemed to be at Pine, because it didn't have a stage.
 - Julia Wittes: donation bins and trash bins should be clearly labeled, and Facilities reminded so they keep stages in place and hang banners and signs. Undergraduates should be emailed by the USG with instructions on how to donate.
 - Genna Gliner: the banners were not posted everywhere this year, only at some locations.
 - Olivia Martel: Planning needed to start earlier. It would have been easier for the University to help.
 - Genna Gliner: We primarily need assistance with things like stages and banners, which students don't have the capability of doing.

- Akshay Mehra: Maybe there should be a meeting in January?
- Graduate Student Center Updates
 - Campus Club Tap Room is reserved for the summer. However, most events take place during the semester, so reservation of the Tap Room then would be more useful.
 - GSG might be able to subsidize part of the costs of organizing meetings (e.g. meetings with food).
 - Daniel Vitek: Campus planning survey asked where students run into people serendipitously. Undergraduates said Frist, but graduates don't have such a place. Campus Club already has coffee event sponsored by the graduate school (Coffee & Connect), so perhaps there could be an extension of this?
- Young Alumni Representative on the Board of Trustees
 - APGA board members on board with the idea, so what should be the next step?
 - Have reached out to graduate alumni on Board of Trustees about why there is currently no young graduate alum on the board.

Open Forum

- Xiaoyu Tang (MAE Proxy): There used to be a happy hour every week in our department, but it has recently been reduced, allegedly due to a Graduate School policy on alcohol events. Is there any way to bring back alcohol to our happy hour? The event is organized by the department's student committee.
 - Olivia Martel: I don't know anything about this. Lily Secora approves events, so the department's representative should get in touch with her. This might just be a misunderstanding.
- Joshua Wallace (Astro Rep): A friend of a friend was told that the GSG once voted not to set aside 3-bedrooms for families:
 - Genna Gliner (GSG Facilities Chair): This is not a policy, but rather an issue of housing inventory. This came up last month in GHAB. Currently, 3- and 4-bedroom apartments are retained and not available to incoming 1st years. Housing draw system is going to change next year (moving to an electronic system). Retaining system will be the same next year. We are currently trying to figure out how not to avoid making 3rd years move if they are successful in room draw but don't automatically retain.

Daniel Vitek motions to adjourn the meeting. Hendia seconds. The meeting adjourns.

Next meeting: July 13, 2016 5:45pm