GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

GSG Assembly Meeting
November 9, 2016 5:45pm

The meeting is called to order at 5:51pm.

Review and approval of October 2016 minutes
Will Smith (Politics Rep) moves to approve the minutes, Noah Apthorpe (Computer Science Rep) seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

Susanne Killian, Associate Director, Graduate Student Center Advising
- (recently appointed after Amy Pszczolkowski became Assistant Dean for Professional Development)
- Interested in understanding what graduate students need, tailoring events for graduate student needs and getting student groups working together. Particularly interested in groups that can create relationships between grad students, and with alumni and professionals
- Career services caters to all students and grads are invited to come to all events. Currently attending all these events to differentiate between the undergraduate and graduate facets.
- Has anyone attended career and life vision?
  - Two people attended and reported positive experiences
  - Susanne: It is designed to get you thinking about yourself and your values. These are transferable skills, whether you're looking for a career in academia or industry.
- How many present use handshake?
  - Very few
  - Susanne: This is a service that provides information about events, such as campus recruiting. This is something we can discuss in person. Could arrange a visit to your departments to discuss with the students.
- Career services currently offers 1-on-1 appointments. In the future, would like to have industry-specific workgroups, and to invite industry experts to come in and give students first-hand information.
- Contact Susanne if you have any ideas - susanne.killian@princeton.edu
- Questions
  - Akil Word-Daniels: Do you have any plans to send out your email to the GSG, or through Lisa Schreyer and the graduate school, just letting everyone know that

you exist?
- ■ Susanne: Met with the graduate school and the information was included in the professional development bulletin. Also met with department assistants who were meant to send out department-specific emails.
- ■ Akil: I was suggesting a separate announcement, because bulletins have too many points
- ■ Mircea Davidescu (GSG President): Susanne could send us a summary of the initiatives and the GSG can distribute it to the graduate students at large
- ■ Susanne: How many know about the graduate student meetup on November 16th, from 11am-2pm?
  - ● About half the room
  - ● Mircea: We're planning to send a global email about this
  - ● Genna Gliner (GSG Facilities): Social media is also a good idea
  - ● Lily Secora (Graduate School): The bulletins send out by MaryEllen Trapold and Amy Pszczolkowski could work.

Dana Moorhead, Princeton Club of New York
- ● PCNY is a club for the entire Princeton community (not just alumni, and it includes the graduate school)
- ● It's a Private university club located in Manhattan, and the only Princeton club with a physical location.
  - ○ The building is a 9-story clubhouse, which includes a hotel
  - ○ It can serve as a good place to set-up shop in between meetings, if you're in NYC, or a way to balance work-life balance in the city. It can also be convenient if you need to charge a laptop or print something.
  - ○ The club features a restaurant and a bar, a gym, squash facilities, and a lounge.
  - ○ PCNY is known for its ability to bring people together and networking, and has a large programming list of panels, talks, and happy hours. It could be a great opportunity for students and alumni to present a new idea, or a chapter of a thesis.
- ● Questions
  - ○ Noah Apthorpe (Computer Science Rep): What is the current membership rate?
    - ■ Dana: It's a few hundred dollars per year - you can get an exact quote from the website, and it varies per time of the year.
    - ■ Dana: The initiation fee is waived for current graduate students, and we can host an open house for current grads. Many of the services are free for members, although there is a fee for certain events, like New Year's Eve.
    - ■ Genna Gliner (GSG Facilities): Could you give an overview of price ranges for some of those extra services?

- ■ Dana: For example, room fees are around $200 (below industry average in Midtown Manhattan). It's a small hotel, and you know you'll be with club members.
  - ■ There are also reciprocity deals with over 200 clubs around the world.
  - ○ Mircea Davidescu (GSG President): Have previously discussed the idea of PCNY doing organizational memberships - e.g. could the GSG be a member and then host events?
    - ■ Dana: That would come from the Graduate Dean's Office, but yes, the GSG could host on behalf of the whole organization. I could also host an event on your behalf.
  - ○ Dana: If we hosted an open house, would you be interested?
    - ■ Several attendees expressed interest.
    - ■ There is an off-campus housing representative who also represents students living in NYC - she could be a good point of contact.

GSG Electoral Reform

- ● Akshay Mehra (GSG Vice-President): We tend to run an internal CPUC election after the GSG elections each year, which typically takes up an entire meeting. In the hopes of a) getting rid of that process, and b) getting graduate students more involved, we're hoping to move CPUC to be something that graduate students will vote on.
- ● Akshay: We also want to remove the title of chair for GSG positions (moving those to the officer list) and pushing all members of the executive board to be on the ballot (instead of appointing certain positions internally).
- ● Three main points of action:
  - ○ Removing the chair title
  - ○ Defining separate election procedures from Article III, and creating a new article specifically for general election procedures (Artive IV)
  - ○ Creating a new Article VI for appointments to the CPUC
- ● Questions
  - ○ Michelle Frazer (AOS Rep): Regarding the chairs - what was the original intent?
    - ■ Mircea Davidescu (GSG President): Chairs were originally created to preside over standing committees. The structure of the GSG has changed since then. Rather than having separate committees, we have a 10-man executive board who reach out to Assembly to recruit help.
    - ■ Akshay: As a separate point, there is zero distinction between Officers and Chairs within the Exec Board.
    - ■ Michelle: My naive impression of why the chairs were separate was that you could run for the chair positions if you didn't get an executive

position

■ Julia Wittes (MoBio Rep): One advantage of having GSG appoint certain positions is that we have some experience, and we know some of these people so we make sure the people appointed have earned some trust from us.

● Akshay: Are you proposing that we retain those positions as appointed positions, or that we retain the power of Assembly?

● Julia: Either would be an improvement over the current proposal.

■ Another concern is that people don't like to read long candidate statements, and that may cause decreased turnout.

■ Akil Word-Daniels: I disagree with Julia's statement of having Assembly appoint positions, and would be worried the consequences of that.

○ Michelle: The CPUC voting is score-based (and produces a ranked-ordered list). Also, would you be able to run for both officer and CPUC?

■ Akshay: Yes, that would be specified in the bylaws. Under the CPUC, we can specify explicitly that we would be using the percentage of votes to construct a ranked-ordered list.

■ Mircea: We should definitely discussed the consequences of changing the scoring function.

○ Genna Gliner (GSG Facilities): Could you explain why we're proposing to move from making appointments to doing an election?

■ Akshay: This is an important point. We usually have to run a 2-hour meeting so we can make the appointments, but people have to be present at the meeting, which imposes additional constraints. We'd like to make it open.

○ KatieAnna Wolf: It was my understanding that the names that we give for the CPUC are just a suggestion

■ Akshay: Yes. We'd have to be very clear that this is just a suggestion, but we do have to report it if someone we propose gets rejected, and to determine the cause.

Recruitment

● Graduate Student Meetup

○ Collaborating with career services for this event. They request that we try to recruit two or three more students to help on the day of the event. We need volunteers from 8:30am to 3pm (for set-up, morning, afternoon, and clean-up shifts)

■ Noah Apthorpe volunteers.

○ Interested people should contact the GSG at gsg@princeton.edu

- ○ There will be an email about this sent to Assembly, which Reps should forward to their constituents
- Wine and Cheese
  - ○ Happening on Saturday (November 12) - don't need many more volunteers, but interested people can check the email that was sent recently and sign-up.
  - ○ Event will be held in the Frick atrium from 7-11pm.

Executive Summary

- Upcoming Presentation at CPUC and Board of Trustees
  - ○ Mircea Davidescu (GSG President): Asked by Rochelle Calhoun to present on GSG initiatives. Have been working on presentation and will send out the current draft after this meeting. Would appreciate feedback from Assembly by Friday, if possible. The presentation will be on Monday. This is for Assembly members only, and should not be distributed further.
- Board Plan Review
  - ○ Genna Gliner (GSG Facilities): There is a taskforce that is underway to review undergraduate meal plans. As of last week, it only included undergraduates. We petitioned to VP Calhoun and they will be including graduate students in this discussing. Looking forward to focus groups and to providing input.

Open Forum

- Akil Word-Daniels: Going back to the discussion about CPUC appointments. Since these are suggested positions which the University does not have to accept, could we have a call for volunteers earlier and then do the appointment at Assembly through a streamlined process?
  - ○ Genna Gliner (GSG Facilities): The issue is the amount of time at our meetings that is taken away from other important points.
  - ○ Akshay Mehra (GSG Vice-President): We could advertise, and send statements to Assembly electronically two weeks before the meeting. People could sign up as write-in on the day if they really wanted.
  - ○ Mircea Davidescu (GSG President): Regarding the tradeoffs and benefits of a completely online system for the CPUC - the idea is to improve voting turnout, which we could do by putting more names on the ballot. The same idea holds for the chairs. The other issue is the legitimacy of the recommendations. We are the representatives, but there might be more gravitas for the CPUC if a large number of students voted.
  - ○ Akshay: We could write up amendments so we have both options:
    - ■ Option 1: Push advertising
    - ■ Option 2: Open it up to all graduate students

- - ■ Would recommend going back to your departments and help determine if people feel strongly one way or the other
    - ○ Michelle Frazer (AOS Rep): Could the Exec Board draft some language?
      - ■ Akshay: Would be happy to write a little bit about what we're doing.
  - Noah Apthorpe (Computer Science Rep): Could there be a summary of what was discussed at the unionization Town Hall?
    - ○ Jose Ferreira (GSG Secretary): It won't be a word-by-word transcript, but a summary of the main points of discussion will be distributed soon.
  - Ali: I'm a coordinator from SPEAR (Students for Prison Education and Reform), which is encouraging Princeton to divest from private prisons. We're interested in doing a survey. From my understanding from reading the bylaws of the GSG, we first have to draft the survey to be discussed by Assembly. How does the process work?
    - ○ It will be a month-long process. The survey must be drafted first, and then you will be given time at the next Assembly meeting to present. Approval would be decided the following month, and it can either be sent back with revisions or rejected. If it fails approval twice, it won't be considered again.

Will Smith (Politics Rep) moves to adjourn the meeting, Michelle Frazer (AOS Rep) seconds. The meeting adjourns at 6:54pm.

Next meeting: December 14, 2016 5:45pm