



GSG Assembly Meeting
Jadwin 102
September 13, 2017 5:45pm

The meeting is called to order at 17.54.

Approval of previous meetings' minutes

Jonathan Balkind (President): Welcome everyone, on Summer we moved to digital format, we need to approve minutes from May, June, July and August.

Will Smith (Politics Rep) motions to accept all at once. Joshua Wallace (Astrophysics Rep) seconds. The motion passes unanimously. Robert Decker (French and Italian) motions to approve them, Will Smith seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

Introduction of Assistant Dean Nicole Barkley

Jonathan Balkind (President): We want to give our welcome to Nicole Barkley, new Assistant Dean for Student Life.

Lily Secora (Assistant Dean for Student Life): Assistant dean for Student Life. Some of you already know me, for the rest of you: I'm happy to be here, and I want to introduce a new Assistant dean for Student Life (so there are two of us now). Nicole will come to represent the Graduate School at Assembly meetings with Olivia Martel.

Nicole Barkley (Assistant Dean for Student Life): Hello, I met some of GSG members in interview process. I am originally from Philadelphia, did my undergraduate studies in communication, got a JD and practiced in Philly as an assistant District Attorney on sexual assault and family violence (SVU), then transitioned to higher education and I have been doing this for 6-7 years. Looking forward to meeting everyone and working with you.

Jon: I was able to be part of hiring committee for 2 last candidates, very pleased we chose Nicole.

Families Initiative white paper

Jonathan Balkind (President): Next item is to talk about families initiative. Josh Wallace (Astrophysics Rep), Hendia (Health and Life Chair), Emily (Communications Director), Mai (Facilities and Transportation Chair), and Merle Eisenberg (Lakeside Apartments) have worked on it. This has been going for a few months but echoing things we've heard for a long time, families have a different experience, they are 14% of grad student body. In several of the digital meetings we presented several iterations of proposal.

Merle: There are 3 things, one is the process, two are some of the goals, three are the outcomes.

- This has been an ongoing discussion, Josh has been on interactions to amend and update and improve family policies (you can see them in the website). This came about with personal discussions with members of Graduate School, brought it to GSG exec committee who was willing to discuss further and we met with Lisa Schreyer and Emily Kern and other members of GS. I brought it to the rest of Assembly and to Tigers with cubs and they added a lot of very helpful stuff. we couldn't reach a consensus on everything but we reached a 6 plank paper. We had a meeting with Cole Crittenden and Lisa and Mary again with our proposal and they told us they had their own. This has been going on since end of June which was a good timing both for students and GS.
- 6 planks:
 - Same level of stipends for DCE students.
 - Expand SCCAP policy, which gives a certain amount for childcare cost with a sliding scale. Right now it's the same as faculty and staff. This has not been changed in 10 years, and the CPI has gone up 33%.
 - Give leave for secondary caregiver, right now you are not given time off in the lab if you are the secondary caregiver and the supervisor demands it.
 - Cost for labor and delivery is quite high with SHP 2000\$, we wanted to do something for that.
 - Subsidization for premiums, if we go to ACA what would the cost be compared to SHP?
 - Subsidization for campus housing.
- Received document an hour ago,
 - It is not possible.
 - All increased cost could be subsidized under a larger range (5000\$?). Jon: I would also add that the parts of SHP are going to be put forward to the SHP advisory board, Josh and Hendia are both in that committee and it will be discussed. UHS will be tasked with looking into what improvements can they make, will they request additional funding to the university? This could happen next academic year but also the following, if this discussion goes through. We're also hoping that the undergraduate student community also contributes.
 - Audience 1: could you repeat where can we find this information?
 - Merle: The grad school has a website, but you can google "Princeton Family Support Initiative".
 - Jon: The documents for today (second document with changes) haven't been shared yet.
 - Will Smith (Politics Rep): I understand our stipend is there to support us through grad school, don't understand why would a grad student want a second bedroom.
 - Merle: By NJ law with a child over 2 years old we need a second bedroom.

Graduate School SCAAP Expansion

- Response from Grad School: Meeting was Josh Wallace (Astrophysics Rep), Mai Nguyen (Facilities Officer), Merle Eisenberg (Lakeside Rep).
 - Block grant up to 5000 \$, until now you are only able to get money if you have a child in childcare, and for example if you are a J1 you would get nothing. As it stands now, Princeton gives you only credit if you put a kid in childcare, this policy would address these concerns by granting anyone with children up to 5000.
 - Adam Fisher (Special Events Officer): Is it per year? What age?
 - Merle: Per year, per child, prekindergarten but this is an ongoing discussion. Right now Capped to 2 children, this would also be under discussion. Again this is under a sliding rule. Childcare costs amount up to 25000 \$ a year.
 - Jonathan Balkind (President): From my own view of things this was brought in around 10 years ago when DCE status was being rolled out. It's likely that for staff and faculty this is fine because of salary and even for graduate student body it's likely that financially some families won't need it, but this may open the possibility for many students and this could potentially save 15000 a year. The benefit is you can spend the money however you want. There is not any guarantee that there will be money for child and for student. Recently costs of childcare are growing a lot, the number adjusted to today would be 6800 instead of 5000. I personally have concerns with going to Priorities committee and giving GSG support without making it clear that this is a first step, particularly because it has been stagnant for so long and our stipends are much lower than what faculty and staff receive, and in these last 10 years the amount of money you receive is decreasing in proportion to the stipend. I think this is a good start but if we will write a letter to the priorities committee we should discuss which contents of our proposal we would include, which are particular to the committee. The recent unionization efforts (according to council) make it not possible to open new paths of discussion like status of DCE students or secondary caregiver. I would like to put forward that we write a letter to the priorities community saying this is a priority, and that this will provide support to many families but that we would like to see an increase in the stipend rate, perhaps tied to a particular index. Additionally I would say that 5000 \$ is not sufficient after 10 years, particularly when this could be used for other purposes. My expectation is that we would approve writing a letter today and then we work digitally on the details.
 - Josh: From meeting with administration they said that a letter from GSG would give support for the priorities committee. I think it is possible to word the letter in a way that doesn't close off the other things we want to see changed. The GS

proposal just covers this but it also opens the possibility to expand this more in the future.

- Jonathan: Additionally I believe the costs discussed in expansion of SCAAP, right now SCAAP pays 2mil \$ and this would be 400000\$ extra dollars.
- Michael Zhang (Art and Archaeology rep): It seems to me that it is only for children born to a nuclear family.
- Merle: Apologies if language was sloppy, this works for adoption, monoparental or same sex marriages.
- Merle: In the Graduate School's new proposal there are winners and losers, certain families will get something from this policy (anyone with 1 working spouse), but if you already receive SCAAP policy you won't get more, so you will not have a cost of life level increased by SCAAP.
- Jonathan: The few families with older children (if there is a change in age limit) or families with more children will also benefit.
- Robert Decker (French and Italian rep): Timetable for implementation?
- Jon: There will be 2 meetings a year with priorities committee, this would be put in place for next year, but health care plan may be 2 years depending on complications.
- Audience 2: Does this cover all types of work? E.g. teacher?
- Jon: my understanding is the only difference is whether or not you work a full-time job and the salary.
- Robert: It seems like one of the big parts of this is expanding use of grant process to things beyond healthcare. Is this something that grad students with children will use? Is it often the case that people use the entirety of SCAAP for childcare?
- Jon: If the expansion comes for students with partners that cannot work, they may not be able to use the money if it is only for child care because they will not be using child care (maybe).
- Josh: In my view families with only one parent working have more financial need than families with two parents working and the current SCAAP policy is more helpful for families with less financial need, this expansion would help more families with more financial need.
- Emily Kern (Communications Director): This is reflective of the cost of childcare in NJ, 5000 is helpful but doesn't even make a dent.
- Adam: Is there any bad story of a family that has had a bad time? I don't understand the difference and would like to learn.
- Josh: Student spouse is unable to work currently because of visas and their kids are american citizens but spouse doesn't qualify for ACA so they can't afford health insurance. This grant would enable health insurance.
- Audience 2: This was one of the reasons I came to Princeton in fact.

- Lily: This money could also be used for 2 bedroom apartments.
- Jon: During time Lakeside was being planned there was a discussion on whether Lakeside should support grad students with families and subsidizing housing came up. Parents form 4% of the student body but there wasn't a lot of appetite for seeing that the cost was less for parents. This provides something different that lets you decide how you live and how you spend your money. We should really think about visa status as well (46% students are international) and there are many steps for everything, a lot of financial burden, etc.
- Emily Kern: Jane Bialek from Tigers With Cubs made an amazing analysis of costs of raising a child with 2 stipends, 65K a year. 5K of SCAAP stipend makes a huge difference. This analysis is in the white paper for families initiative.
- Motion for writing a letter in support of grad students supporting proposal to priorities committee and we can discuss additional pieces later. Robert Decker Motions, Joshua Wallace seconds. Passes unanimously.
- Emily: I'd like to propose conditions that GS tells more about prekindergarten age and commitment to follow CPI.
- Josh: Would this language be in the letter to priorities?
- Emily: It's apparent to me that the letter we received 2 hours ago should be more definite on this information, we can reword but these are two big flags and I have concerns with the proposal without asking for these conditions.
- Pallavi Podapati (History of Science) motions
- Jamie Pelling (Near Eastern studies) seconds
- Motion passes with only one opposed (Mohammed Shahradsad EE) and one abstention (Erin Match AOS)
- Jon: In our meeting yesterday we talked about support for including content on numbers from the families initiative white paper. There's general support. We need volunteers to put together text for this letter. We'll send this to GS for review (not censorship) and the final draft will be sent to assembly. This is standard practice and it has fallen out of fashion but the Priorities Committee would appreciate. Jon, Merle, Emily, Josh volunteer.

Call for Participation (5 minutes)

- Calls for participation:
 - Kate Pukhovaia (Academic Affairs Officer): We need people for the Unionization facts committee. In the Summer there was only one person (Robert) and I cannot work on it at least 2 months. We need 3 - 4 people, we'll share documents, I will be there to facilitate interactions, anybody who is interested is welcome, we intend to make it neutral. E-mail me at ep5@princeton.edu, we need people, it will be an ongoing work.

- Kate: As Academic Affairs I want people to work with me on an informal guide on opportunities for learning how to write. I need people to go to events and write summaries on these events. The more people the better (preferably humanities), we need people who will attend the event.
- Michael Zhang (Art and Archaeology Rep): Can PGSU affiliated people join the Unionization Facts Committee?
- Kate: Yes.
- Adam Fisher (Special Events Officer): For upcoming GSG event (23rd) we need people to check IDs at the door. You can do any number of hours, it's a paid position, e-mail me (aefisher@princeton.edu), just have to check they are over 21. We can't throw these events if there are not students helping.
- Jon: Myesha Jemison (USG President) and myself were in a meeting with some committee to organize meetings of CPUC, these are meetings where various parts of the university will address the community. This is an opportunity for grad students to ask questions (e.g. to President Eisgruber). The CPUC meetings are posted in advance and they put out the agenda so you know what is going to be discussed, it is an opportunity to ask about anything. If you have questions feel free to send them to gsg@princeton.edu and we can pass them on or you can attend. Next meeting is Mon 25, at Friend Center. This month we'll discuss Resources committee report on a proposal by a group of students to divest the endowment from private prisons.

Open Forum

- Will Smith (Politics rep): Lawnparties, great that USG let us buy lawnparties tickets. Is there any amount GSG can contribute grad students to get guest tickets?
- Jonathan Balkind (President): This is a conversation we could have, part of the issue is that there is a known attendance to Lawnparties and most of it comes from undergrad organizations, the number of grad tickets is already limited but we can discuss.
- Myesha Jemison (USG President): We can definitely talk about it.

Will Smith (Politics) motions to adjourn meeting. Gabriel Moore (Black Graduate Caucus Rep) seconds. The meeting adjourns at 6:40 pm.

Next meeting: October 11, 2017 5:45pm