



GSG Assembly Meeting

Jadwin 102

**October 11, 2017 5:45pm**

The meeting is called to order at 17.54. Introduces Susan Killian from Career Services

Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Motion to approve last meeting's minutes passes unanimously.

Introduction of Susanne Killian, Career Services

Susanne Killian introduces new program on data science. Very few students here have used Handshake or have used Career Services. Susanne Killian has just started here and they are trying to gauge grad student engagement and outreach on career services.

Career services can help not just with non-academic jobs, but also academic-track jobs. Career services will support GS with any career path forward. Only about 50% max of grad students continue on in academic track, with some departments in only the 10-20% range. Career services thus wants to start reaching out earlier to students and have students start thinking about career paths earlier. This is particularly important because an applicant's "cache" goes down once you graduate--recruiters are most excited to talk with current students. In addition, they encourage students to start earlier because there are so many resources on campus. Resources for people in early stage or late stage.

What do they do?

- One-on-one appointments. Small staff though
- Workshops and panels (often multiple per week)
- Resume review
- Interview prep
- Professional development: networking in academia
- Industry speakers
- Info sessions from industry
- Career fairs

Q: what resources best for early grad students? A: one-on-one appointments, info sessions, career fairs. By meeting with people, can help with narrowing down research topics. Attend career fairs to see what resources/trends are available

Q: How to interact with department on career issues? A: always contentious issue, whether

should talk to adviser about industry careers. Career services is reaching out to faculty to see how they can better support students. Trying to do it covertly so that they don't think it'll just focus on industry/careers. Recommends talking to students in department as some PIs are very supportive. That being said, "it can go very, very wrong" if you misstep in the department.

Q: Can you subscribe to the events outside of Handshake? Students missed some events because didn't sign into Handshake? A: Many ways to get information. Grad student-oriented events are mostly advertised on Handshake and Grad Bulletin from Amy P. Events page on Handshake also have many events, which are open to everybody but might not be exclusively towards grad students. Career Services emails Graduate Program Administrators a lot as well, and they try to tailor email content to department, though there are limitations here because some GPAs don't pass on all the information. Finally, there are also listservs: social science, natural science, humanities. Field-specific events, etc get sent out to these lists.

- Susanne would like to start a system of "Student Liaisons" in each department. This person would be responsible for passing information along to peers. Would department assembly members be interested or willing to be department liaisons? Every 2 weeks or so, Susanne would send them information to pass on to their department peers.
- Hopefully would help with communication, as many people don't seem to be reading professional development emails or even know what Handshake is.
- Susanne will give these people a special "prize" for participating

Assembly member suggests mailing list or subscription for events. Susanne says that people don't read emails, and that the field-specific emails are there. There isn't an engineering-specific email list because don't know what careers they are interested in.

Q: How do you subscribe to the listserv? Susanne will send email with subscription information

Q: Services for international students? Career services doesn't work specifically on visa requirements, but they will run events on business culture/practices for international students.

Susanne: hears a lot from people who aren't sure why they got their PhD, or didn't realize that the academic track was so difficult. She wants to make sure these people know they can get resources from them, and that they can start early so that they are as best prepared. They also are here to support the grad students headed towards academic careers as well. She has worked with many people on assembly, and she looks forward to working with grad students. People do get good jobs.

### 2017-18 Budget Review

Treasurer will be discussing next fiscal year's budget, which begins in November (after receiving student fees in October). We will need to vote to approve this.

GSG treasurer: Sent out GSG budget from the previous 5 years, summarizing spending. High level comments: we have more influx of income because student fee increased + more students in GS. We will have approximately \$2200 leftover from past fiscal year. Half to endowment, half

to next year. Will have approximately \$48,000 for next year. Will increase Events Board contribution to \$8500, which hope will get Grad School to contribute more. Adam, special events officer, was under budget for all socials in the last year in order to adjust for the fine incurred at last wine & cheese event. Propose to also create fund (\$1000) for health and life so they have own budget for events. Increasing discretionary funds.

Question: what is discretionary usually used for? President: this year used for Grad Student Center pilot, and based on that pilot, we will be opening a new, more permanent center this year. Will use discretionary funds on this in upcoming year, which will require more money. Additionally, small other things: Lakeside signage, housing summit food, etc. Have small things coming up, and it's more likely that we'll have more things coming up in the future.

Treasurer presents budget for this year. Vast majority of budget is going back to grad students in the form of events board, writing days, social events, special events. Majority of remainder is Exec discretionary funding. This year we will get approximately \$3000 more than last year, so Treasurer will recommend that half put into endowment, which then pays out quarterly. Vice president: we have to vote on budget, if want to give more, need to vote on it.

Treasurer updates on events board. Contributions: 7500 from GSG, 5000 from GS, 6000 from VPCL. Funded \$11,672, which successfully makes up for the deficit from the previous year. Largest group that received money was international groups (Treasurer will therefore ask Davis Center to help contribute), then affinity groups, other groups.

Q: What's the size of endowment and return on it? Treasurer: return was \$700 last year. Same return as larger endowment, which was reported was 12.5%

Q: What was the \$750 fee? Zach: wine got spilled at the wine and cheese.

Q: Under "infrastructure," we have a positive. We made money? Treasurer: we got money for the GS pilot and we didn't spend it all.

Q: \$5000 is a lot for discretionary funds. Can we just make a line item for GS center? President: We don't know yet what the Grad Student Center will be, and we've been spending more on discretionary events. VP: if we can get grad school to pay out for the Grad Student center. If we keep money in discretionary funding, then we can spend it on other things. As Jon says, we also keep getting new expenses. President: we also want to avoid adding new line items because they keep changing. We used to have office expenses, performers for orientation BBQ. So want to keep line items to be things that we want to be there in the long term.

Q: We get to vote on budget, but don't get to vote on discretionary items. Vice President: there is a bylaw that if we want to spend more than 5% on any item, have to go to assembly for approving it.

Motion: Put \$1000 for Graduate Student Center line item. Seconded. For: 6 Against: 9.  
Abstentions: 5. Motion does not pass

Motion: pass budget, with 50% of surplus going to endowment. Seconded. For: 19, Against: 0,  
Abstentions: 0. RESOLVED: Budget approved.

#### Families Initiative PriComm Letter

Merle Eisenberg speaks on the Family Initiatives.

Put together letter to support Graduate School's proposal to expand current SCAAP grants to pay for needs outside of child care, including healthcare and housing. Many more students will also be eligible for the SCAAP grant, which was previously restricted to families where all parents are full-time workers. Will help lots of people, in particular international students. We support it, but stress in our letter that a lot more needs to be done. We refer to the Family Support Initiatives white paper, which provides a lot more ideas/policy proposal. Grad School has come back with some changes as they go through pre Priorities Community process, so we will be moving forward working with them. It is a large amount of money, and we are hopeful that it will go forward in the next academic year.

A point is made that the letter goes over the white paper which could be just referred. However, since this letter is to PriComm, we want to make sure they have all the information. Furthermore, the original FSI had a lot more planks (6), and this Grad School proposal only touches on one of these planks. If this letter is presented this fall, this is also a way of providing them information about other issues that we have. We want the letter to address these issues explicitly, and also act as a response to the Grad School's UNOW childcare costs. The GS is making moves to support parents, but do not seem to be taking Graduate Students as much. The UNOW publicity says this is an affordable option for graduate students, when it fact is is not.

Motion: To approve letter. In favor: 18. Disapprove: 0. Abstentions: 1. RESOLVED: Letter approved.

#### Exec and Assembly Membership

We need more assembly representatives. Vice President will send list to assembly of open spots.

Could Tigers with Cubs be a voting member? We've done this in the past with BCG, IQI. Also, if there are other groups that should be voting members, now is the time to invite them. New voting members just have to be approved by Assembly.

Motion: to make Tigers With Cub a voting member for the upcoming academic year.  
Vicepresident: the group will have to be voted on every year unless we put it into the constitution. If approve Tigers with Cubs, they will always be invited.

In Favor: 22. Opposed: 0. Abstentions: 0. RESOLVED: The president of GSG will invite Tigers with Cubs and they will be a voting member.

There are 42 representatives in Assembly. If a representative misses more than 2 meetings, they can be removed from voting privileges.

Vicepresident: we spoke to GHAB about getting housing priority for a new executive member. Assembly has say over whether we do that and what that person does. Proposed to GHAB because current exec members are already overloaded, and would be nice to have new member to take some of that load. President: for context, spent 5 hours in GSG meetings in one day, and the expected commitment should be on the order of 10 hours. Last year Social Chair tried to do lots of things, but not enough time/resources with other responsibilities. Want to have new exec member in order to take care of logistics. Next month, VP will make proposal to GHAB. GHAB will make a recommendation, which will then go to GS, which then goes to Assembly in order to approve it.

### Open Forum

Norbert (Neuroscience): Norbert is Puerto Rican and he is trying to coordinate events to send help to PR. Already have event planned in order to to raise money and gather donations to send to PR, though there are problems with sending items there as donations often don't reach people who need help directly. President: If anyone has suggestions for how to help or coordinate, can email GSG directly. Are there any suggestions now? GSG can help organize events, logistics, booking rooms. If you want to provide assistance or know someone it would be good to connect, email [gsg@princeton.edu](mailto:gsg@princeton.edu)

For events that need advertising or anything, assembly members can help by sending ads to departments. Executive board can send as well.

For funding, if a group is registered they can apply to the Events Board.

Vladimir: Lives in Lawrence. Lawrence Committee which is in charge of social events, but he has very concrete suggestions like putting a bench somewhere or having a workout area. Has reached out to committee, but they haven't responded. Is there a different venue for solving practical issues? For example, how to get ideas out to the Lawrence community and then how to go to the university about that. President: Mai is Facilities Officer, Nicole Barkley and Lily Secora are the assistant deans for student life. Lawrence Committee can also request

infrastructure funding from GSG. Vladimir: funding is too tight for Lawrence Community to do this kind of changes and doesn't think they are interested in these kinds of responsibilities. President: they do have the avenue for making these kinds of requests, but they might not be able to fund it directly.

The meeting is closed by unanimity at 19.03.

**Next meeting:** November 8, 2017 5:45pm