



GSG Assembly Meeting
Jadwin 102
November 8, 2017 5:45pm

Meeting called to order at 17.51.

Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Motion to approve last month's meeting minutes passes by unanimity.

RESOLVED: Last month's meeting minutes approved.

Ad hoc Committee on the Calendar

Elizabeth Colagiuri (Deputy Dean of the College) speaking. Members of Assembly received presentation on 11/09/2017.

Speaking on behalf of Calendar Reform Committee. Committee formed by faculty, administrators, and students. Report last year asked Princeton University to rethink the academic calendar. The Committee wants to find something viable across campus. The faculty owns calendar, and therefore has to vote on calendar. A proposal will be sent to faculty but need approval from all other members of the community.

There are several conversations right now (Assembly one of those).

Timeline:

- There will be January surveys, asking if students and faculty would support it.
- On March a proposal to Faculty Advisory Committee will be sent.

Problems with current calendar:

- Fall Term continues over winter break. Winter break doesn't feel like a break for students.
- Multiple breaks over Fall term.
- Out of sync with external activities.

Suggested changes:

- Move Fall exams to December, finish semester before break. Start and end Spring term one week earlier.
 - Better alignment with opportunities outside of Princeton.
 - End of lectures closer to start of exams.
 - Give a true holiday break.

- Create parity between Fall and Spring semesters.
- Create “Wintersession” (2 week period in January).
 - Optional
 - Non-credit bearing
 - Opportunity for exploration, hands-on learning, reinforcement.
 - Examples:
 - Academic bridging.
 - Teaching opportunities for Graduate Students.
 - Maintain space for departmental activities:
 - Graduate admission
 - Faculty search
 - Generals.
 - Faculty expected to stay in January.
 - 8-day instead of 9-day Reading Period
 - 11-day Exam Period (Exams may need to be shortened depending on start of classes).
 - Start of classes: Early, Midway, Post Labor Day (Late). Early start implies less time in Summer for research, late start implies having to shorten exams.
 - 2 week instead of 1 week Wintersession
 - 1 week fall break, 2 days, or 0 days.

Trade-offs between Start of Classes, Fall break, Summer length, Examination Period.

It is important to keep Fall Break for many departments, furthermore midterm week usually is before that break and students appreciate it. Moving Fall Break to Thanksgiving would probably be problematic in those aspects.

Factors under consideration:

- Duration and policies of exam period (some grading overlapping with holidays)
- Fall TAs and grading, how to pay for Wintersession instructors.
- Child Care issues.
- Orientation.
- Commencement and Reunions.

There is interest in putting half unit courses during 2 weeks of Wintersession, as well as giving the opportunity to do other things.

Open question: Could it make spring term less effective than it is now?

Early start and no Fall break could be interesting in order to keep the same Summer length. No

Fall break would imply 2 weeks of midterms. Fall break doesn't make that much of a difference for grad students. One proposal is to move away from midterm week (i.e. have midterms along the semester)

Grad Students are disproportionately international, longer breaks would be better for them.

Q: Would this affect deadlines of Generals, proposals, etc.? A: It's on our radar. What kind of activities are needed leading to generals and what would be optimal? If you have grading done in early January can you prepare?

Why 9 days of reading days when a lot of peer institutions have 3-5? A: We're running a semester system, 12 weeks of instruction, 2 weeks of reading are necessary (has to get to 14 weeks). Other institutions have 13 weeks. There is no support in Princeton to move to a 13 week system.

E-mail gsg@princeton.edu with concerns or questions.

Public Safety

Executive Director Paul Ominsky and Captain Kevin Creegan will talk about Public Safety initiatives.

The vision of Public Safety is that of Community Caretaking. We have communication center, patrol, security for firestone and museum. 120000 calls last year. Very busy department. We see ourselves as resources, not as police departments.

Number one crime: Theft of unsecured, unprotected property.

What can we do for graduate students?

Initiatives:

- Changed university building hours, people have more access. Should this also be on during Summer?
- Bike theft is the biggest crime. We have 113 bikes stolen annually, putting out bait bikes, putting trackers on them and advertise it with the idea that people stop stealing bikes. Is it a good idea for grad students? (general agreement). If someone steals a bait bike they will get arrested. Other campuses reduced to 10-15 bikes a year taken, so it seems a good idea.

Being on campus is a great opportunity to meet people of the community, and we would like to have more interaction with grad students. If you see an opportunity to have a Public Safety officer to come with you please let us know. It is our job to make you safe and secure while you

are here.

Q: Mail theft? A: It is significant. We're working on it very actively, we have met this week to talk to grad school, housing, mailing providers... This is a nationwide problem. What is unusual is that it is happening in Lawrence, we'd love community to help. We're paying attention to this. Maybe putting a liaison between Public Safety and Lawrence community.

Q: Lock-out procedure in Grad College. It is infantilizing for graduate students to have to walk from Grad College to PSafe office in order to not get charged. Any change in mind? A: There are 7-8 thousand lockouts a year. Current policy was developed to try to bring down the number of lockouts. Housing would have to be involved but it would be a good conversation, maybe through GCHC.

Republican Tax Proposal Discussion

GSG exec had an e-mail ready to send before acting Dean Cole Crittenden sent his, want to have a conversation about this with assembly. What do we want to do as the GSG? Should we have an External Affairs committee? MIT has one and they have achieved development of graduate student housing.

Q: Why does university not say tuition is zero? A: Especially in STEM, faculty justify grant amount with tuition. In Masters programs, students have to pay.

Q: We need more clarity about what is going to happen. A: That is something we can ask in the letter.

Q: If we draft a letter, it may be a good idea to send it to office of legal counsel. How does tax bill affect grad students and how does it affect endowment? These two are related but different, we should state that these two should be taken with the same concern and effort. A: Issue was brought to USLC also.

Q: It seems that we are aligned with the university. We should know what the university is doing and contribute to that.

Q: What are other Graduate Student Governments doing? A: National Association of Graduate and Professional Schools work on these things, if we wanted we could talk to them about this. We could also reach out to other Ivy+ schools.

Q: Could we coordinate such a statement with other schools? A: Would be difficult because we all have different organizational structures. We could definitely coordinate when is the statement sent out to the media.

Point: Whatever is done we should communicate as soon as possible.

Associate Dean of Graduate Student Life Nicole Barkley: We do take both issues at the same level. It is difficult to give clear answers but it is not a finished document, it changes every day. Don't minimize talking to your senators, let them know you are doing something about it. Happy to help in drafting any letters. We may even want to get undergraduate students involved.

Point: Efforts may be better put to writing letters to senators, representatives than university, because university probably won't be able to give better answer.

Point: University should say that graduate students will not be affected, but since they won't say that, we should coordinate with other Ivy+ and communicate with representatives.

Point: Also short statement to university.

Three volunteers for subcommittee on writing letter to representatives.

Exec will communicate with administration.

Executive Summary

- I. Graduate Student Centre
 - We've been assigned space in Green Hall (3N4), currently coming up with plan for asking funding to run events. We have the space all day (while university is open).
 - Want to show this is a priority. Reach out to GSG with proposals and ideas.
- II. Health Summit (Nov 1)
- III. Ivy+ Summit (Oct 29,30)
 - Discussions on relations with Alumni, Administration.
 - D&I, Wellness and Mental Health.
 - Communications and organization of larger projects.
- IV. GSG Office
 - GSG will be assigned the Den in Campus Club.
 - Den will have card access.
 - Construction may take longer than promised (January).

Open Forum

Sexual Harassment Policy

Point: If professor is found guilty of sexual harassment by Title IX only one Dean of Faculty is in the tribunal, and there are no guidelines to action taken by Dean of Faculty. Abigail Novick: I'm Trying to get some momentum going to change the policy. Maybe have a panel of students and faculty members. Have University support students who have spoken against

professors. Make University policy that it is not allowed to have sexual relations between grad students and faculty. Q: Isn't that the policy now? A: It should be clearer as in Brown. Needs more checks and balances.

Other universities are doing better, it is time for Princeton to do better.

Family Initiative

PGSU: (Letter can be found in e-mail sent to GSG Assembly on 11/08). PGSU believes that graduate students are the best advocates for graduate students, and so there is no way that PGSU would file a ULP for this policy (of DCE students and secondary caregivers receiving support). Moreover, in other universities where students have been organizing for a longer time there have been plenty of policies implemented by universities without any complication. PGSU is in favor of the full version of the proposal for Family Initiative.

Point (Facilities): This is a decision recommended by their office of legal counsel, who said that any such decision could sway votes. We asked for legal memos and they declined. This decision affects exclusively to the decisions on DCE students and secondary caregivers. DCE status is very new, and the promise was that this wouldn't be a 6th year, even without legal prohibition it would be difficult to pass this part. University defines for themselves what is unionization related issues and what is not. That may be why other universities have been able to improve situation of students. They can introduce changes but not anything perceived as disproportionately affecting AIs or ARs.

Point (President): In the Ivy+ summit other peer institutions mentioned similar things happening in their universities.

Point (PGSU): We'd like to emphasize that we would never file an ULP for something so clearly beneficial to graduate students. ULP has to be filed by PGSU with support and without an actual card drive there's no precedent of anything allowed to be passed. In any case we want to make clear that we will not file a ULP.

Point (Nicole Barkley): The university can't take your word on this legally, they are opening themselves up for liability. From my understanding the university did not deny the entire proposal; part of it was easier to do quicker, part would take going through bureaucracy of university. The goal of the administration (including myself) is not putting obstacles in your path or make your life difficult, but there are constraints on legal ramifications and organizational issues, and I hope we can have discussions on which are these constraints. As we move forward please give us the opportunity to tell you why we can't do something.

Point (Facilities): A lot of the components of Family initiative are moving forward.

Motion to close the meeting. RESOLVED: Meeting closed.

Next meeting: December 13, 2017 5:45pm