



GSG Assembly Meeting  
Jadwin 102  
**November 14, 2018 5:45pm**

Meeting called to order 5:51

### **Approval of previous meeting's minutes**

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

RESOLVED: Last month's meeting minutes approved.

### **Formation of Election Committee**

- Need to start forming committee today so it can be approved in December
- Bernat (Internal VP) is not running for office again and will be chair
- only criteria is that you're not planning on running for office
- If you are running for CPUC, does this also make you ineligible
  - Yes
- When will the work commitment be?
  - Work will be next year; election will occur at end of February
  - You would have to draft the email to solicit nominations & statements, then place the statements on the website
  - In March, you will have to put up flyers and encourage people to vote
- No volunteers during meeting. GSG execs will send out solicitation for volunteers

### **Update on Voting Seats for House Reps**

- Adding voting seats for Lakeside, Lawrence, GC, and off-campus housing
- Need to amend the GSG Constitution to make this happen
  - Requires vote on referendum by grad student body
  - Will add this as a referendum to general GSG election in the spring
  - If approved, the new voting housing seats will start in March, 2019

## Discussion of Budget Surplus

- Large budget surplus this year
  - Placed half in endowment and half in discretionary fund
  - Assembly was hesitant to place that much in discretionary
    - One option was to have a separate fund that assembly has to vote to spend
    - Another option was to decrease the threshold for discretionary spending by exec before assembly needs to approve
- Would lowering the limit affect events board?
  - No, events board is under other spending rules
- Having two separate funds would increase administrative burden and make it difficult to decide whether exec or assembly pays for discretionary items
- Instead of capping exec spending at a percentage, we could cap it at a fixed value, and after this spending amount, assembly has to improve
- Could we add it to the endowment? Would it be accessible?
  - yes, and yes, because we have enough money from >5years ago in the endowment
- Could we do more frequent updates to assembly with how much was spent in the past month?
- The spending limit for execs without assembly approval is 5% of the budget. This is in the bylaws and could be changed with notification and  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of assembly
- Proposal: Debt ceiling style
  - After spending the first \$5000, execs have to report to assembly for a vote to unlock the rest of discretionary
- Proposal: reduce cap from 5% to 2.5% before assembly approval
  - If there was a big project, we wouldn't necessary need assembly approval if all the purchases were <2.5% of budget
    - the debt ceiling plan would prevent this problem
- Should reporting happen before or after purchases?

### Summary:

- Execs will start adding discretionary spending summary in monthly pre-assembly emails
- If anyone has a strong opinion, they can write down the different proposals and we can vote next meeting
- Would anyone like to spearhead the proposal writing?
  - Adam

## Course Evaluations for Graduate Courses

- Suzie:
  - We have overview of all programs that do not opt-in to do course evaluations
    - The majority of humanities programs do not do course evaluations
  - There has to be at least 6 students in the course in order to do the evaluation
  - Entire programs need to opt-in or out
  - When you go see your department chairs, bring this to their attention

### Concerns:

- Why is this valuable? Isn't there known bias in course evaluations?
  - Karina: The professors get this information, which can be used to see how teaching and student opinions are changing over time
- What is required for departments to opt-in? If a certain number of students want to opt-in, do the departments have to?
  - No, it's up to the department
  - Dean Crittenden says that this has to be a bottom-up change
- Is it a problem that this is public feedback? Some people won't want to provide feedback if they know the information is public
  - Are we conflating 2 issues: helping future students make course selections vs. reporting more serious issues with courses
  - Maybe we need a different opportunity for reporting more serious issues?
- In the psychology department, there is a yearly survey when people can provide anonymous feedback that is then compiled and given to the DGS
- The Sociology department has done something similar with respect to department climate for minorities

### Summary:

- Does your department want evaluations? In what form?
- Suzie will create a survey for reps in departments that have not opted-in to send to their constituents to see what type of evaluations are desired

### **Open Forum**

- Last election cycle there was a referendum on making GC membership an opt-out membership as opposed to an opt-in membership
  - There is a GCHC referendum open for voting now
    - Some assembly members didn't get the email about the vote
- When will the Gmail transition occur?
  - OIT says that we will be transitioned by the end of this academic year and new grad students next year will be given gmail to start
- Could we get an OIT printer in Chancellor Green or Firestone lobby?
  - Noah will contact Jay Dominick to ask if a new printer could be installed

### **Meeting Conclusion**

Motion to close meeting passes.

RESOLVED: Meeting closed

**Next meeting:** May 9, 2018 5:45pm