



GSG Assembly Meeting  
Jadwin 102  
**May 09, 2018 5:45pm**

Meeting called to order 5:54

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

Motion to approve the March meeting minutes passes by unanimity.

Motion to approve the April meeting minutes passes by unanimity.

RESOLVED: March's and April's meeting minutes approved.

### **Digital summer assembly meetings vote**

- We have held digital meetings in previous summers with digital voting
- This has allowed us to achieve quorum during the summer (June, July, August)

Concerns about referendum:

- What is the digital meeting like
  - The agenda and all relevant information will be posted online
  - There will be a comments period followed by a digital vote

Motion to hold digital meetings for June, July, and August passes by unanimity.

RESOLVED: June, July, and August GSG Assembly meetings will be held digitally

### **GS Assembly retreat proposal**

- It would be good for the assembly representatives to get together in smaller groups in a less formal setting to discuss differences/issues relevant to individual departments
- This would also help improve engagement of assembly representatives with the GSG
- Facilitators for small groups would be needed
- Assembly interest and willingness to attend is necessary for this to be a success
- This would be an opportunity for fact-finding to give the GSG a better perspective about how grad life works in different departments

Concerns/Thoughts about referendum:

- This would be a good idea and could be combined with another survey about grad student life

Informal vote to determine interest:

- Approximately 7 in favor, 7 indifferent

### **Safety walk update**

- The safety walk with PSafe, the Grad School, and multiple students happened last week
- Update from Laura Bustamante (Facilities Chair)
  - Administrators on the walk were receptive to students' input but noncommittal about actually addressing issues
  - Many issues discussed at Lawrence apartments
    - Improving signage to indicate appropriate pathways for pedestrian use
      - This could come at the expense of parking spots
    - The administrators are aware of safety concerns about golf balls near Lawrence
    - Lighting issues (including flashing lights) should be reported to facilities (8-8000) if noticed by students
    - Clearing hedges to improve visibility at turn into Lawrence from Alexander
  - Several problem areas at intersections (many along Alexander Rd) were noted
    - The crosswalk at the Dinky station on Alexander is poorly lit, but admins claim nothing can be done due to "through road" regulations
  - Roundabouts on Faculty and on Elm have large hedges that impair visibility
    - Traffic experts claim that the bushes keep drivers' focus near the roundabouts
    - They will look into improving visibility at the crossroads by these roundabouts
  - Blue light placement
    - The architecture office says that existing blue lights follow regulation
    - They asked for students to indicate areas that are poorly served by the blue lights
    - However, the blue lights are going out of vogue in favor of smartphone-supported GPS safety tracking
  - Insufficient and flickering lighting on Elm drive
    - They are aware that this is an issue
- They want to have another safety walk in the fall and make it an annual event after that

- Since the last walk, new lights have been added along Alexander from Lawrence to the campus and along the pathway through the woods from Lakeside to campus

Concerns about referendum:

- Did the admins say anything about how often the blue lights are being used?
  - They are really only used for broadcasting emergency messages
- Are they keeping statistics on how many accidents occur and are they publicly available?
  - The University does keep stats on crimes (legally mandated), unsure about pedestrian and vehicle accidents
  - If these were made publicly available, it could help reduce accidents

### **Events Board request**

- The GSG events board has about \$19,00 each year to fund student events
- Requests for more than \$1150 must be brought before assembly
- So far, the events board has allocated an average of about \$600 per event this year
- There are criteria for funding events
  - Breadth and appeal to grad students
  - Quality of event
  - Uniqueness of events
  - Open and advertised to all grad students
- Presentation from Princeton Opera Company Board:
  - Trying to resurrect a student-run opera company from the early 2010's
  - Want an opportunity for student-run operas independent of the music department
  - Having graduate student mentors for the students in the opera company would be beneficial
  - Putting on an opera involves many moving parts and people, which means that having older student mentors makes the success of the group more likely
  - POCO has created an organizational structure that requires both undergrads and grad students on the board to prevent segregation into just an undergraduate group
  - Planning an ambitious first show at reunions including a professional director and "lavish" costumes
  - Rehearsals are already underway involving grad students, undergrads, and Westminster Choir College students
  - The Music Department has already given some money
  - There are contingency funds from the previous iteration of POCO; don't want to spend down to \$0

## Concerns about referendum:

- Questions to POCO from GSG Assembly:
  - How many grad students are involved?
    - Current board has 3 grad students and 2 grad students in the cast
  - What is up with the orchestral player stipends?
    - Some are local professionals and others are students
    - Want to eventually have an entirely amateur orchestra
    - So decided to pay orchestra members to ensure quality
  - What will the \$500 allocated towards publicity go towards?
    - Advertising in town
      - Printing costs for poster and flyers
      - Ads in local newspapers
  - The costs are high for this year, but will they remain high in future years? How do you plan to make savings for future events?
    - Plan to charge for tickets in the future
    - Also plan to build up contingency funds so future requests for funds are smaller or less essential for the success of the organization
  - Isn't the group supposed to be independent of the Music Department?
    - Yes, but the Music Department funds independent music groups/events
  - Have you asked Westminster Choir College or others for funding? What about asking for donations at the door?
    - Have not reached out to WCC for funding
    - Will ask the Music Department if it's okay to ask for donations (the funding from the music department prevents ticket sales)
  - What other groups have you asked for funding from?
    - Just Music Department, Lewis Center for the Arts, GSG Events Board
  - Concerned that they didn't ask the USG for money (they have more money than the GSG) and that it took so long to come and present at GSG
  - Your estimates of ticket sales won't make up the cost of the production? How will you deal with this?
    - We will still need donations from the Music Dept and others to supplement ticket sales
    - Will also fundraise by reaching out to alumni
  - How did you come up with the cost estimates on the budget?
    - Based on previous experience in music theater
  - What were the circumstances under which the undergrad-only POCO dissolved in the past?
    - The last undergrad president wasn't able to successfully recruit so the

group folded

- If you want to make this a long-term project, you need to find a revenue base.  
How was the former POCO company funded?
  - The previous version was previously funded through ODUS
- Why don't you have ODUS funding?
  - They didn't apply early enough in the semester
- How much of the \$8000 could be used to re-do the same production next year?  
How about reusing costumes?
  - This budget is just for the 2 shows (and then would still have the contingency budget)
  - Most of the costumes are borrowed, hopefully won't have to spend entire costume budget and can save for future
- What is the demand for people to attend these events?
  - Reunions events are typically well-attended
  - Have heard enthusiasm from students in other music groups
  - Interest in alumni from previous version of POCO
  - Chose "Pirates of Penzance" because it will be popular with alums
- Do you think that it makes sense for the GSG to fund 50% of the cost of the Events Board budget when there are only 5 grad students involved and it is mostly targeted toward alumni and community members?
  - We submitted a funding proposal for their needs, they just want whatever the GSG thinks is reasonable to give for an event of this type
  - Hope that is an investment in the future
- Events Board presentation
  - Amt available to spend: \$19,000 for the year
  - Have already allocated \$11,470
  - Have already dispersed \$5,542
  - This leaves \$9800 left to allocate for the rest of the fiscal year running through October 2018
  - The Events Board suggests that the GSG should fund POCO \$1,000
    - This in addition to the external funding should cover the expenses for external sources
    - Do not recommend that the GSG funds them fully
      - Their event is unique, but potentially too ambitious for a first event
      - The Events Board has never met a request this big
- On average, we spend roughly \$4000 to \$4200 per GSG party, which serve roughly 300-500 graduate students
- The original request was for \$9000, which they have since decreased
- Isn't it concerning that this production is happening in a couple of weeks but they haven't

gotten funding?

- Informal raise of hands of who would go to an opera?
  - Roughly 40% of Assembly
- Could we put a contingency on the funding on the number of grad students who attend?
  - Probably not
- Did they seem surprised when informed about the magnitude of the event compared to the normal request?
  - The initial communication was over email
- How many events actually get \$1000 in a typical year?
  - Examples include Seafest, Spring banquet for Association of South Asians, improvement of gardens at Lakeside
- So they've already spent the money from their contingency funds?
  - All Events Board funding comes after receipts are submitted
- Does it matter that they spent the money before requesting?
  - It's ok as long as they submit the receipts within 1 month of the event
- What is the anticipated allocation from now until the end of the fiscal year
  - Even if we give the \$1000, the Events Board should still be fiscally sound for the year
- Want to be sure that the questions we ask for this event are the same as the questions that are asked for other events, even though this one is unique
- What happens if the Events Board has extra money?
  - It rolls over into next year's Events Board budget

Motion to fund POCO at \$1000 - 13 in favor, 5 disapprove, 3 abstain.

RESOLVED: The GSG Events Board will fund POCO for \$1000

### **Paid volunteer for furniture drive**

- Need a paid grad student volunteer to help with the furniture drive
- No details about hours or times yet
- Contact Gabe (Social Officer) if interested

### **Rally in support of Xiyue Wang**

- There will be a rally this Friday (May 11) at 7p at Frist North Lawn

### **Open Forum**

- Grad student mental health

- Victoria (grad student in Psychology)
  - Recent studies of graduate student mental health show that 40% of grad students have depression (compared to 6% in general population)
    - Adviser/student relations
    - Mental health stigma
  - It would be good to have more effort to study and address grad student mental health issues at Princeton
    - Training for advisers
    - Examples of healthier work/life balance
- The USG is working on mental health initiatives, and we want to collaborate
- Survey/studies to see how grad student mental health changes between year 1-3/4
- Ellia (Health and Life Officer)
  - Been in contact with UHS and USLC about mental health initiatives for grad students
  - Calvin Chin (Director of CPS) has a mental health training that he wants to bring to the grad students and faculty
- Students interested in working on mental health issues:
  - [sbruno@princeton.edu](mailto:sbruno@princeton.edu)
  - [jbalkind@princeton.edu](mailto:jbalkind@princeton.edu)
  - [ryanph@princeton.edu](mailto:ryanph@princeton.edu)
  - [szorowil@gmail.com](mailto:szorowil@gmail.com)
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  - [anovick@princeton.edu](mailto:anovick@princeton.edu)
  - [bkraus@princeton.edu](mailto:bkraus@princeton.edu)
- Nancy Wu (Lakeside Representative)
  - How do we get voting rights for housing representatives?
    - It would require a change in the bylaws
    - We can put this on the agenda for the September assembly meeting

### **Meeting Conclusion**

Motion to close meeting passes.

RESOLVED: Meeting closed at 7:21

**Next meeting:** Digital meeting in June