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 $19,000 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 postering and flying
      - 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 Seasfest, 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 1-¾
○ 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:
  ■ smbruno@princeton.edu
  ■ jbalkind@princeton.edu
  ■ ryanph@princeton.edu
  ■ szorowi1@gmail.com
  ■ vej@princeton.edu
  ■ blacy@princeton.edu
  ■ anovick@princeton.edu
  ■ 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