



GSG Assembly Meeting
Jadwin 102
October 10, 2018 5:45pm

Meeting called to order 5:52

Approval of previous meeting's minutes

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

RESOLVED: Last month's meeting minutes approved.

Approval of Events Board members

- Two students have volunteered to sit on the Events Board for the upcoming year:
 - Ryan Herbert
 - Sori Baek

Motion to approve 2 new student members passes by unanimity

RESOLVED: 2 new student members approved to be on Events Board

Budget presentation and approval

- Budget document handed out to Assembly
- Grad student fee increased by 3.1% in 2018/19
- Approx \$18000 left over from previous year.
 - Will deposit \$9000 in endowment and move the rest forward to next year's budget
 - Increase Events Board to \$10000
 - Increase Graduate Writing days to \$3000
 - Increase Health budget to \$2000
 - Increase Social budget by \$1000
 - Increase Discretionary to \$7500
 - Exec has found it very helpful to have money in discretionary for miscellaneous expenses
 - Will keep Special Events budget the same, allowing for purchasing higher-quality food/beverages & decorations at events

- On average student groups were given 83% of their requests by Events Board

Concerns about referendum:

- Could you provide details about financing of Ivy+ summit?
 - Every year, a few GSG execs go to this summit
 - Traditionally \$1000 budgeted to go to the event and \$1500 to save for when we host the event
 - Ivy+ is changing funding model, such that each school contributes each year rather than saving until they host
 - We have a verbal agreement with the Grad School that they will pay for this contribution each year, so the GSG will not need to budget for this expense
- Where did all this extra money come from?
 - Careful accounting found ~\$3000 difference in money in versus money out
 - Below budget spending on parties in the previous year
 - Re-alignment of parties with the fiscal year means that we didn't have to pay for the Wine & Cheese party with this past year's budget
- Will we get more from the Graduate School for the Events Board?
 - Will follow up with them to see if they are willing to give more
- Should we have a line item for money to go to Tigers with Cubs? Due to organizational reasons, they have trouble getting guaranteed funding
 - Why can't they just use the Events Board?
 - They can, but many of the members aren't students, so they can't always apply for Events Board money
 - Did they apply to Events Board in the past year?
 - No, they didn't
 - Since the problem is more outreach focused, could it be possible for them to have a seat on Assembly or similar body that would increase representation without necessitating a line item on the budget?
 - Mai:
 - I'm concerned about prioritizing this student group over other student groups. Other groups may ask why they don't get a special line item
 - Also, if Tigers with Cubs don't use the money, and it's a line item, we can't re-allocate the money to anything else
 - Emily:
 - The Events Board doesn't require requests to be from grad students as long as grad students are involved
- What is the reason for the increase in the Events Board budget?
 - The same groups often request Events Board money each year, and the Events Board wants to increase outreach, necessitating more money in order to meet all

demand

- We can't just use "amount requested" as a heuristic for "amount needed"
 - Agreed. Events Board usually gives less than the full amount requested because we know that groups over-request.
- What does the money for Graduate Writing Days cover?
 - Coffee, snack, pizza during meetings
 - Hosting digital environment for remote students
 - Manager (grad student) of the GWD program is paid hourly
- How has money for health and life been spent?
 - Mental health week is a big new initiative this year, which is co-funded by many departments besides just GSG
- Why allocate so much money to discretionary?
 - We traditionally put 50% of leftover in discretionary and 50% in endowment, which is what this budget proposes
 - Last year, we put \$5000 in discretionary partially to fund events in a new graduate student center, which ended up not working as a space. We also used discretionary to buy TruckFest tickets, GSG water bottles, speakers for parties
 - There is still a limit to how much the Exec Board can spend at once, still need Assembly approval for large purchases
- Is there a big thing on the horizon that we think we'll need which is driving the \$7500 allocation?
 - Nothing in particular. This is just 50% the leftover money from last year as has typically been divided between endowment and discretionary
- Does discretionary money roll over to next year?
 - Yes, but we can re-assign it then
- How much is currently in the endowment?
 - ~\$49000
- The endowment currently underperforms a cash account (~2%), maybe we should keep even more money in discretionary to put it to work for students
 - Having too much in discretionary makes some uncomfortable and if lots of initiatives get started without the same amount of money in discretionary each year, it makes it harder to keep them all going
- Could you look into how the endowment works, because we should have expected to see more return from the endowment than we did
 - Emily: I'm in contact with the administrator. Will follow up with him to see what happened this past year
- Could we put some percent of this money in fund that is "Assembly Discretionary" (as opposed to "Exec Discretionary") which would require Assembly approval to spend, but could still be used for any purpose

- What would be different between this and Events Board?
 - Assembly doesn't vote on Events board expenditure
- Will continue discussion next meeting about decreasing the minimum amount of discretionary purchases before Assembly needs to vote

Motion to provide \$500 line item for graduate students with children and reduce Events Board additional contribution by reduce FAILS: 6 No, 4 Abstain

Motion to increase contribution to Events Board from \$8500 to \$10000 PASSES: majority yes, 1 abstain

Motion to increase graduate writing days funding PASSES: majority yes, 2 abstain

Motion to increase budget for social chair by \$1000 PASSES: majority yes, 2 abstain

Motion to increase budget for health and life PASSES: majority yes, 1 abstain

Motion to allocate \$7500 to discretionary fund PASSES: majority yes, 4 oppose, 1 abstain

Motion to approve overall budget PASSES: majority yes, 1 oppose

RESOLVED: The presented budget for the upcoming fiscal year is approved

Young Graduate Alumni Trustee proposal vote

- Want Assembly position on term length for Young Grad Alumni Trustees and on whether there should be mandated representation of Ph.D. and Master's students

Concerns about referendum:

- We should make sure that everyone has the chance to run regardless of their degree program
 - Yes, regardless of term length and mandated Ph.D. alum representation, everyone will have a chance to run

Motion to propose 2 year terms with annual elections PASSES: majority yes, 2 abstain

Motion to propose always having at least one Young Grad Alumni Trustee be a Ph.D. alum PASSES: 9 yes, 5 no, 2 abstain

Motion to approve young grad alumni trustees proposal PASSES: majority yes, 1 no

RESOLVED: The GSG approves the proposal to create a program for Young Graduate Alumni Trustees

New housing policies discussion and vote

- 2-year pilot program to allow students with a domestic partner to live in shared occupancy with single students in multi-bedroom apartments
- New policy to have in-absentia time not decrease housing priority

Concerns about referendum:

- How many partnered students will be allowed to live in each type of unit?
 - Max 1 partnered pair in 2 or 3 bedroom units and max 2 partnered pair in 4 bedroom units
- How is rent calculated?
 - The same: One student in the partnership would get the contract. The charges would be leveled per-bedroom

Motion to approve change for partnered students PASSES: majority yes, 1 oppose, 1 abstain

Motion to have in-absentia time not decrease housing priority PASSES: majority yes, 2 oppose

RESOLVED: Both proposed changes to housing policy approved

Special election for Health and Life Officer

- Elia had to step down
- Sarah Marie was appointed
- 2 Candidates:
 - Mira Nancheva
 - Sarah Marie Bruno

Election won by Sarah Marie Bruno

RESOLVED: Sarah Marie Bruno is the Health and Life Officer for the remainder of this Executive Board cycle

Voting seats for housing representatives

- Nancy (Lakeside Rep): the housing representatives would like to be able to vote in

Assembly

- Lakeside, Lawrence, GC, and Off Campus representatives
- A proposal to amend the Constitution will be drafted and sent out before next meeting

Concerns about referendum:

- Does this require a Constitutional change?
 - The Constitution allows for voting membership for representatives from groups with unique minority viewpoints, but would probably be better to amend the Constitution to specifically provide voting seats for housing representatives
 - Amending the Constitution does require a written proposal sent to graduate students before the meeting

Call for volunteers

- Graduate Housing Retreat
 - Email Laura if you're interested in joining the housing retreat on Nov 16
- Fall Mixer is this Friday
 - Need volunteers for ID checkers -- is paid \$20/hour
 - You get to meet everyone at the party!
 - Ask your constituents if they are interested
 - Talk to Gabe or Karina at the end of the meeting or via email
- Changing charter of USG USLC
 - Would like to have some grad student reps to attend meetings with the USG and faculty USLC
- Need a new off campus representative to replace Sarah Marie Bruno

Open Forum

- Nicole Barkley:
 - Introducing Kevin Fleming
 - GCAP: Students can get up to \$5000 for child-related expenses, but not many people have applied to this recently. There is a blurb on the Graduate School website. Will forward it to Exec to send it to Assembly

Meeting Conclusion

Motion to close meeting passes.

RESOLVED: Meeting closed at 7:21

Next meeting: November 14, 2018 5:45pm