



GSG Assembly Meeting
Jadwin 102
April 11, 2018 5:45pm

Meeting called to order 5:54pm
No quorum

Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Will have an online vote to approve previous minutes

Discussion of graduate housing policy changes

- Graduate housing working group has proposed changes to housing policy
- All changes discussed today would take effect for 2019 draw (next year)
- 2 proposals for Assembly feedback (not voting on approval)
 - Grad students with partners and no children
 - currently, couples are not allowed to live with other single students
 - policy change would allow couples to live with single students (e.g. couple in one bedroom, single student in another)
 - limit to number of couples depending on number of bedrooms
 - rent would still be split by bedroom (although students could come to other agreement)
 - no change to how partners are defined (currently lax, e.g. joint banking account)
 - all members of the draw group would have to agree
 - couples do not get any priority in the draw
 - Priority decreases with years of residence
 - Many students are away doing fieldwork or studying abroad during G2 or G3 then have lost their high draw priority when they return
 - Change would cause priority not to decrease for students in absentia, so they could have a high priority in the draw when they return

Concerns raised:

- Couples policy

- Was the current system set up to prevent people from gaming the system?
 - Mai: No, the current system is just antiquated, was set to prevent overuse of resources, i.e. 2 people per bedroom use more water, etc.
- Utilities should be split evenly among people instead of among bedrooms (because a couple will use more electricity, etc. than a single student in another bedroom)
- What about breakups
 - No change to current policy, the students could apply for different status/housing
- Is there any reason why the current validations of partnership are in place? For a normal lease, you don't need a joint bank account, etc.
 - Prevents gaming (although not an issue in this case)
 - Access to University buildings
- Priority in absentia
 - Doesn't apply to people who are regularly enrolled and elect to live off campus (or are unsuccessful in the draw), only those enrolled in absentia
 - Seems fair; everyone gets the same chance at having high priority
 - Would it be possible to make a system that you have to apply for this rather than have it automatically happen?
 - You might not know whether you will need housing when you get back
 - An opt-out system would be more fair, otherwise people might not be aware that they need to opt-in
 - Would this push out ~100 3rd year students who otherwise would be successful?
 - Yes, the supply is staying the same
 - This could be a problem b/c third-year students often have to be on campus for their programs

Informal vote for couples policy: approve unanimously

Informal vote for priority in absentia: approve unanimously

Discussion of Calendar Reform Report

- Report will presented to faculty for vote on April 23
- Main changes
 - Fall semester exams will be before winter break
 - Fall semester will start earlier
 - 2-week Wintersession
 - General exams will continue to be in January

- Spring semester starts and ends one week earlier

Will have an online vote to approve the recommendations

GSG Assembly summer meetings

- 3 Assembly meetings in the summer
- Typically well short of quorum
- Would like to have digital meetings as we have in the past
 - Agenda and all materials will be posted online with a period for comments
 - Digital votes
- Will vote on this at next Assembly meeting

Concerns about referendum:

- Will there be Qdoba if we have digital meetings? No
- Could the funds that would have otherwise gone toward food be used for an “assembly get-together?”

Open Forum

- Are any Grad College dorms pet friendly?
 - No, except for emotional support animals
 - If a specific set of dorms in the GC could be made pet-friendly, that would potentially help some 1st years get housing
- Should there be an agreement between roommates about pets before the start of the semester?
 - This came up when more units in Lawrence were going to be made pet-friendly

Meeting Conclusion

Motion to close meeting passes.

RESOLVED: Meeting closed at 6:30pm

Next meeting: May 9, 2018 5:45pm