



GSG Assembly Meeting

Jadwin 102

April 10, 2019, 5:45pm

Meeting called to order 5:55pm

Approval of previous meeting's minutes

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

RESOLVED: Last month's meeting minutes approved.

Discretionary Spending Report

- Spent \$835 purchasing truckfest tickets to distribute to grad students. Further information will be emailed out soon.

New Exec Introductions

- Karina Alventosa (**Vice President**):
 - Increasing graduate student and assembly member involvement (i.e. committee and volunteering positions).
 - Filling all assembly member positions.
- Laura Bustamante (**Facilities and Transportation Chair**):
 - Pushing university to focus on safety issues experienced by students (e.g. cross walks, poor street lighting).
 - Working on issues with housing (e.g. heating at Lawrence).
 - Fixing existing transportation issues, as well as those that will arise with future campus plan.
- Emily Cuddy (**Treasurer**):
 - Increase funding for events board
 - Push sustainability for events board via education and support of existing groups
 - Adjust calendar budget to make more sense for policy and priority
- Sarah Marie Bruno (**Health and Life Chair**):
 - Expand mental health campaign to a month-long event. Recently submitted proposal for up to \$10k funding. Money would go towards both new events (e.g.

keynote speaker, movies of impact series) and old programs (e.g. puppies, meditation and mindfulness).

- Advocating for student concerns with health plan.
- **Lauren Feldman (Academic Affairs Chair):**
 - Following up on projects from predecessor
 - Looking into systematic way to have graduate course reviews.
 - Work with department representatives to systematically document common issues across departments (e.g. stipends, AI issues).
- **Mai Nguyen (Vice President for Internal Affairs):**
 - Family support initiatives
 - Grad mental health initiatives
 - Sexual misconduct/climate
 - Advocacy for Xiyue Wang
 - Grad student parity with undergrads (e.g. two undergrad speakers at graduation, but no grad speakers)
 - Helping smooth transitions for long term projects.
- **Gabriel Moore (Special Events Officer):**
 - Make parties more appealing to graduate students
 - Create additional spaces and events with non-alcoholic activities
- **Brandy Briones (Communications Director):**
 - Timely responses that address all comments and concerns sent to GSG.
 - Will be joining the IT committee. Looking to enhance access to education for software/libraries that would benefit graduate students.
 - Interested in mental health advocacy. Previously worked for non-profit that sought to spread mental health education to combat suicide on college campuses.
- **Madalina Vlasceanu (Social Chair):**
 - In charge of catering events.
 - Seeking to continue cinematic conversations at Campus Club but also try to start new events at garden theater.
 - In charge of weekly summer bbqs, each themed.
 - Want to add weekly social hour at campus club.
 - Interested in intramural sport coordination, skate nights, Lakeside/Lawrence furniture drive.
 - **Needs volunteers to help with all of the above!**
- **Noah Apthorpe (President):**
 - Primarily supporting existing initiatives.
 - Advocating for GSG with administration, elevating GSG to be primary advocate for grads on campus.
 - Making sure GSG voice exists for all decisions regarding graduate students.

Campus Life Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

- Campus life embodies the out of class experience for all students. Covers a very broad spectrum (e.g. career services, university health, athletics, etc.) with 375 employees.
- Want everything to resonate as much for graduate students as it does for undergrads
- Five initiatives that are being focused on:
 - Increase students' sense of belonging to Princeton across all identities.
 - Ensure health and well-being are institutional priorities at the broadest level.
 - Develop students for a life of meaning and service by increasing opportunities to explore passions, interests, and skills.
 - Enhance campus life communications and collaboration
 - Strengthen campus life staff development and engagement
- Shared this to ask if anything was missing, and how to specifically involve grads.

Discussion

- To what extent are faculty going to be involved?
 - Difficult to get them involved, but it is definitely the goal. Examples of engaging faculty directly include talking to committees with faculty, and presenting to heads of residential colleges.
- How are you seeing the limitations of the town of Princeton. For example, there is no grocery store in walking distance. Additionally, many students don't have cars and need to use Uber/Lyft to get to doctors. Can campus life reduce some of these barriers?
 - As campus is expanded, notably with the Lake campus, a big priority is the addition of a grocery store. Starting the grocery store conversation with "how do we make getting to grocery store easier".
 - Public transport at Princeton isn't great, but improvements are often difficult because they require working with the town itself.
 - Other universities have partnerships with Uber/Lyft, USG is already exploring this as an option.
- Are there any specific examples of short term goals to bring grads into the Princeton community, and how can GSG help?
 - Had the graduate school articulate all programming and services that are either open to grads, or specifically for grads.
 - Working on identifying all vehicles of information dissemination to graduate students
 - By September hope to have better platform for grads to understand events and services for them
- There is a lot of demand for funding for student groups, but GSG can typically only fund a single flagship event even though interest for more regular meetings exists. Having an

additional funding source would greatly increase graduate student activity.

- Undergrads often come and ask for money from Campus Life, graduate students are encouraged to do the same. Campus Life likes to use funds to get an idea going.
- Campus Life is seeking to raise its monetary contribution

Consensual Relationship Policy

- Recently faculty voted to change existing policy in order to prohibit relationships between faculty and graduate students. This brings graduate policy in line with several year old undergrad policy. Wanted to provide history of how this came to be.
- Started as initiative from Deans Leslie and Kulkarni. They developed two proposals to either prohibit relationships on a department-wide basis, or prohibit them across the entire campus.
- Conversations began approximately 8 months ago. Students from the Exec board and GSG representatives on the Faculty Student Committee on Sexual Conduct were invited to discuss policy. Students were allowed to share their opinions here, which ranged from pro full ban, to against any ban.
- Following this, the Faculty Advisory Committee on Policy considered the policy in their meetings. Members of FACP are also the faculty members of Committee of Princeton University Community. At least one faculty member reached out to the students in their department for opinions. Following review by FACP, the final proposal was shown to all faculty, which was voted on and passed nearly unanimously. The departmental ban was voted in first, followed by the campus wide ban.
- The policy was put in place by faculty vote, with student feedback solicited. If there are further concerns, reach out to the graduate school directly.
- Note that this policy does not preclude current GSG work on sexual assault and harassment on campus.

Discussion

- What can GSG do regarding transparency of future policy? Although Graduate School noted that students were consulted, the policy changed appeared out of nowhere for many
 - There are always two graduate students on the sexual misconduct committee. They were aware of the policy when it was in its infancy, but were asked not to discuss it at such an early stage.
 - Hard to provide more information in this case because this was a Dean's initiative that was voted on by faculty, making it somewhat out of graduate student hands.
- There are so many committees that people are involved with, but we rarely hear back from them. Has there previously been a GSG report from the committees? How could

something like that be done without taking all the time allotted for Assembly meetings?

- Don't recall there ever being a formal way to report in at least the last four years. Can think about how to do this in exec meetings.
- One idea: Committees write short reports that are sent out, with short time slot during Assembly meetings to discuss.
- Should be communicated to someone in the Graduate School that saying graduate students were consulted is an imprecise and misleading term in this case.
 - Graduate School aware that graduate attendance is generally low (e.g. lake campus meeting only had 5-6 graduates). They hold meetings, see no graduate students, and decide outreach might not be worthwhile.
 - Email Town Hall thoughts to Lisa Schreyer if you can't go to meetings.
 - Could use more consideration of event timing as they often seem to be at poor times/overlapping
 - Trying to offer lunchtime and also after work meetings to avoid this.
 - Can communicate to Lisa that assembly would like easier way to have digital communication
 - Events sometimes seem to be capped.
 - Not well advertised who will be at these meetings (e.g. architects). Not everyone understands gravity of meetings from the emails.
 - GSG website update to make finding events easier in the future? (Brandy)
 - Would make it easier if all emails are combined and listed somewhere so it's not a hunt for the right email.
 - Twitter?

Assembly Attendance

- Karina will be cracking down on assembly attendance and wants to make sure that other departments recognize what an opportunity it is to be on Assembly.
 - Will ask assembly members to describe why they joined as Assembly members in order to gauge what would get members involved and why some members meetings.
 - Sending out emails to departments to make them fill spots. Will do what it takes. Want motivated students.
- Looking to make assembly members send out monthly emails about assembly discussion to their departments to engage student body.
- Seeks to make all assembly members more involved. This includes volunteering for events and committees. This is a good way to motivate departments to be involved.

DOB on TigerCard

- University is considering adding date of birth to TigerCards and is soliciting feedback

Discussion

- Losing your card somewhere now provides a bigger security issue
- With DBar moving to the new opt-out system, most people won't even need to show birthdate.
- Unofficial vote:
 - For: 5
 - Against: 15
- Will report that assembly is not in favor of this change, and will bring the topic up again in a later meeting when more information is available.

Call for Volunteers

- I. Lake Campus - Forum Tuesday and Friday
 - II. Weekly social hours in campus club
 - A. Drinks/food/themes will all require coordination
 - B. Start planning these over the spring and summer, hoping to kick off in fall
 - III. Intramurals
 - A. Many students involved, but have trouble forming full teams with their friends
 - B. Looking for students to help coordinate large scale graduate school teams
 - IV. New social events (Skate nights, movie nights, etc.)
 - V. Farmers markets
 - A. Potential for moving boxes, or just hanging out and manning a table
 - VI. IT Committee
 - A. Continue previous work with OIT to transition to Gmail (coming soon™)
 - VII. Transportation Advisory Board
 - A. Work on problems with current transportation, new bus routes, etc.
 - VIII. Events Board
 - A. Help decide where funding goes
 - IX. University Student Life Committee
 - A. Meetings with USLC to discuss dining plans, housing, mental health, women in STEM, etc.
- Please email GSG if you are interested in volunteering in any of these initiatives.

Open Forum

- During Reunions, graduate students can obtain a free wristband only if they graduate between September and early June. This leaves a three month period which doesn't provide a free wristband. Additionally, if, for example, you graduate in September, you don't get a free wristbands to attend reunions with students that are graduating just a few months before you
 - Will discuss this with APGA
 - The reasoning is that reunions happen right before graduation, so even if you graduate in September, you would need to come back to the university in June for graduation anyway.
 - Can we somehow add flexibility to this? Perhaps choosing when you get a free wristband?
- One particular change of the student health plan involves out of network coverage switching to a 70/30 plan from the 80/20 plan. For someone who lives out of state, it is very inconvenient to go to New Jersey to find in network coverage. Will there be a chance to discuss these changes before set in stone?
 - Others have brought up this exact issue, and it was brought up to the committee. It was suggested that students in this situation can provide proof of being out of network, allowing them to receive out of network care at the new in network rate.
 - This could be a big issue for those who do research off-campus
 - In network benefits apply to all of Aetna. Princeton has additionally created its own network to reimburse students at some additional places
 - Is there any sort of exemption for pre-existing providers that are out of network?
 - This was more-so for those living outside the Princeton community.
Pre-existing providers were not discussed.
- Can Assembly minutes be sent out earlier? It is difficult to remember what was discussed weeks ago.
 - Assembly minutes will now be sent out within a week
- Can we formalize the discussion on committee reports now?
 - Will discuss at executive meeting and bring up to a vote in Assembly in the very near future. Will set as agenda item for next Assembly meeting.
- Regarding the recent cases of Arson, the "Timely Warnings" seemed to come very late. Who in the University do we direct these issues towards?
 - GSG Executives will be going to a University Services meeting tomorrow and will bring this up. A representative from public safety will be there.
 - There needs to be a person to talk to when there are these kinds of issues.

Meeting Conclusion

Motion to close meeting passes.

RESOLVED: Meeting closed at 7:29pm

Next meeting: May 8, 2019 5:45pm