



GSG Assembly Meeting
Lewis A. Simpson International Building A71
September 11, 2019, 6:00pm

Meeting called to order at 6:12 pm (after GSG introduction)

Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Motion to approve June, July, and August digital meeting minutes passes by unanimity.
RESOLVED: June, July, and August digital meeting minutes were approved.

Discretionary Spending Report

- Nothing to report over the summer

Summer Activities and Upcoming Events

- Recent Grad Alum Trustee
 - Starting last year, we proposed to add a recent graduate alumni to the board of trustees.
 - Undergrads have long had a program with four recent alumni serving on the board to ensure representation of recent undergrads, but there was no corresponding grad student.
 - A proposal was created, voted on, and pushed through to approval.
 - Graduate students will now have one graduate alumni trustee.
 - Currently accepting applications.
 - Requirement is graduation within last 5 years.
 - **Q:** Didn't we vote to create two graduate alumni trustees last year?
 - We did, but the accepted proposal only allows for one. This is something we would like to revisit in the future.
 - **Q:** Are applicants required to be local?
 - Their only requirement is to travel back to Princeton approximately four times a year.
 - A budget is included for travel.
- Gmail for graduate students

- Graduate students can now get gmail accounts.
- First years automatically have gmail accounts.
- Previous students must follow a process to convert to the new gmail.
- Conversion is not required.
- **Q:** Do we keep gmail after graduation?
 - This is unclear, but will ask at our next OIT meeting.
 - Undergrads have automatic email reply linking to new email address.
 - At a previous OIT meeting we were told that our email switches to @alumni.princeton.edu.
- **Q:** One of the restrictions of switching to gmail is that it is not accessible from China
 - We will ask OIT how this will be handled.
- **Q:** Everything was stored on princeton servers with the old Outlook. Is this also the case for the new outlook 365, or is it stored on Microsoft servers? Is Gmail stored on google servers?
 - Unclear, we will ask OIT. Gmail was implemented with FERPA compliance in mind, but we are not sure how this was done exactly.
 - Questions can also be directed to Jay Dominick and helpdesk@princeton.edu.
- “Princeton Things” summer party
 - Huge success, nearly 500 people came, largest summer party.
 - Changed party schedule by adding reunions kick-off party.
 - Trying to increase non-alcoholic options at all parties.
 - Brought in an extremely successful ice cream truck for “Princeton Things”.
- Next party October 11th.
 - Theme to be decided.
- GSG-PDC monthly happy hour
 - Happens every last Wednesday of the month at Ivy Inn at 6pm.
 - Mingle with grads and postdocs.
- Weekly Summer Frist Barbecue
 - Rained often, but was very successful.
- Mental Health Month
 - Three weeks packed with nearly daily events.
 - Starting November 4th with an art reception from grad students, postdocs, staff, etc.
 - Posting in the gallery on the 200 level of Frist for students to see.
 - Further events include:
 - Relationship skill-building workshops

- Mindless meditation
 - Workplace relationships
 - Work-life balance in grad school
 - Keynote address on thursday Nov. 21st - discussion on mental health followed by lunch discussion with speaker
 - Movies for mental health - 3 short films related to mental illness presented and discussed.
- Received a campus conversations grant for \$9000, allowing us to expand from last years single week event.
- Weekly happy hours
 - New weekly event, Thursdays at campus club at 5pm.
 - Partnering with other offices on campus for each one.
 - Some of these will be very informal, with visitors just hanging out, others may be more formal.
 - Next week, we will be teaming up with career services which is running the undercover bosses event.
 - Can still come to happy hour without being part of undercover bosses.
 - Combined events will help cover refreshments.
 - Looking to bring in variety of university administrators.
 - **Q:** Policy on non-princeton partners visiting?
 - Same as regular parties
 - **Q:** Where is the den?
 - Campus club, on the second floor
- Grad College Barbecue
 - Coming up in a week, September 25th in the Graduate College

Call for Volunteers (please email gsg@princeton.edu for all opportunities)

- Weekly Happy hours
 - Help setup/bartend/check IDs, clean at end.
 - Asking for once a semester contribution.
 - Looking to advertise different weeks by department based on volunteers.
- IM sports coordinator
 - Grad students have been less active in IM sports over the last few years, but used to be powerhouse.
 - Looking for someone to handle coordination of graduate student teams.
 - Want to help remove barriers to entry for those without full groups.
 - No need to play, just coordinate.
 - Each undergrad college currently has a sports coordinator, so the systems are already in place.

- Transportation Advisory Council
 - Office of transportation is putting together university level transportation advisory council.
 - Goal is to completely revamp tiger transit.
 - Focus on bus system, but also looking at bikes, pedestrian, uber/lyft solutions as supplements.
 - Group meets 5 times per year
 - Thursday, September 26th is the kickoff meeting with external consultants.
 - Five grad representatives
 - Especially looking for someone from Lawrence, and someone who commutes
 - **Q:** What is the commitment?
 - One long kick-off meeting, followed by 4-5 one hour meetings throughout the year
- Mental Health Month
 - Looking for volunteers to help set up and organize events
- University student life committee
 - The committee has five graduate representatives on it and is a very easy volunteer opportunity.
 - Four-five meetings each year.
 - Topics include sustainability, sexual misconduct, etc.
 - This committee is where a lot of GSG initiatives were started, so potentially very high impact

Open Forum

- Cars are not stopping for pedestrians around campus, dangerous situations
 - We've been talking with housing regarding this for years. Still working on it.
 - Current efforts include a night-time campus walk specifically where we walk around campus and look for dangers. Happens twice a year.
 - Housing and transport safety come along for these
- Administration announced changes to SHP. Most are unambiguously really good, but out of network coverage decreased from 80% to 70% to offset the improvements. Currently there is a reimbursement procedure, but no qualifications for what determines if someone can get in-network case. Does GSG have plans for any informational sessions?
 - We have been talking to Lisa Schreyer about these changes. She is working on changing the language on the website to become more concrete. It's generally a case-by-case thing that she wants students to submit applications for. Must show

it's not reasonable to get in-network care and then you can get in-network rate for out of network care. We definitely agree that it is currently vague.

- **Q:** Who is reviewing this?
 - Lisa Schreyer
 - We received recent information at a meeting a few months ago and have slides that we can share that may have more information.
- Nicole Barkley (Assistant dean for student life): The information is generic by design in order to exclude as few people as possible. The more concrete the wording gets, the more students may be excluded. There are no cases of students submitting legitimate applications who haven't received money.
- There is a lack of humanities and social science students on boards because they are commonly off-campus for research, so these departments have less information about these kinds of things.
- **Q:** What is the scale of the budget for these kinds of reimbursements?
 - NB: Don't know, but the sense is that they just find more money if they need it. Do not want students to have issues because of health concerns, so they bend over backwards to find more money. Have never said that they don't have anymore money.
- Blood drives?
 - Karina was in communication last year with the group running them. GSG was sending out special emails for them, and are in communication with that group.
- An important issue for graduate students is personal finance and saving for retirement. It would be great to have an automatic 401k, 403b, etc. Additionally, educating grad students about personal finance would be helpful. There were recent panels discussing these topics, but it would be good to see more.
 - Cannot speak to specific account questions, but education opportunities are something we're interested in.
 - The university is working on more transparency regarding how/how much we get paid.
 - Anecdote: I switched from fellowship to DCE so funding changed. I emailed grad school finance office, and received a quick response and instant phone conversation which was helpful. Highly encourage students to do the same with their questions.
 - In the immediate term, we can send out contact info for finance admins through global email. Long term, we will discuss at exec meetings.
- There are delays in funding for international students over the summer. Can the university give advances or help students in some way? Also, international students have to apply for an OPT which allows you to stay in the US to be able to work. There have been a lot of delays due to Trump Administration, so students couldn't work. The

university came up with some ad-hoc solution, but it was unclear what they did. Can the GSG clear that up?

- We will look into it.
- There is a hardship fund available for students when they need money.
- NB: If there is a financial issue, reach out to the graduate school. We have tons of funds to help alleviate these issues.
- A common theme seems to be that there are a lot of resources available that students don't know about. Having one place would be very helpful.
 - We overhauled the GSG website last year, and would like to make it more useful for people. This is definitely something to think about including.
 - If you have specific resources you'd like other people to have more available, send us an email.
 - The university is working in some places to centralize certain resources
- There are a lot of green initiatives on campus but everything evaporates during reunions. Can we push for any green initiatives during reunions?
 - There is a reunions sustainability group. There is also a new graduate student eco-reps program where grad students can get paid to work on sustainability. Looking for volunteers for both!
 - Reunions is primarily organized by the alumni association. We can't necessarily convert to electric golf carts overnight, but we're working on all sorts of initiatives.

Meeting Conclusion

Motion to close meeting passes.

RESOLVED: Meeting closed at 6:57

Next meeting: October 9, 5:45pm