



GSG Assembly Meeting
Aaron Burr 219
October 16, 2019, 6:00pm

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm

Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Motion to approve the September meeting minutes passes by unanimity.

RESOLVED: September meeting minutes were approved.

Discretionary Spending Report

- Purchased a refrigerator to replace the recently purchased ice maker for about \$500. The ice maker is being returned. The refrigerator is in the GSG office at campus club, and has been helpful for all GSG parties and happy hours.

J. Jarett Messina - University Health Services New Building

- Visitors from the university architects office, UHS, and facilities.
- Since January, architects have been working on design for new UHS building.
- Thus started some time ago with meetings with executive committee during concept design to get feedback from grad students
- Currently, at the end of schematic design phase
- Architect from WRNS here, and provided the remainder of the presentation
- Major concerns received from students
 - Privacy, natural light, openness, warmth, feelgood spaces
 - Natural light was the most important topic
 - Second most important topics involved the space being calming, and providing views of nature
- What students currently like about McCosh is that it doesn't seem like a medical building
- Students did not like the lack of privacy and confusion about where to go/wait
- Students want shared waiting room for different services
- The new site will be just south of current McCosh healthcenter, between Wilcox and Guyot

- New east/west pedestrian access just south of McCosh
- Major restructuring, including removal of parking lot and demolition of building
- Sustainability features
 - Thermal comfort using radiant piping instead of HVAC.
 - Q: Humidity control?
 - Starting design of that soon
 - Triple glazed windows and sunshades
 - Mass timber framing - CO2 sequestering and improved views
- Questions
 - CPS will have a different zone from waiting area?
 - Yes
 - Waiting room area where you can avoid sick people? (if you aren't actually sick)
 - Medical services on level A and 1. Sick visitors will be brought into different waiting areas
 - Timeline for construction?
 - Scheduled construction in summer 2022, completion 2024
 - Currently requires a demolition of 1938 hall, so that has to happen first
 - Perhaps people in crisis will want a more private space to sit? E.g. not out in the open?
 - These exist. Also, there are locations right near the entrance where counselors can wait with people
 - Analogous types of spaces for health crises, and anyone in distress

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

- Events Board
 - Only student is currently GSG treasurer.
 - Ideally, there should be several students experienced with different parts of the student body.
 - Monthly hourly meetings, no prep work required.
 - Student groups present, meet with board afterwards and decide funding.
 - Good way to interact with a variety of on campus groups that you may not be familiar with
- Safety Walk
 - One of the ways GSG interfaces with administration on campus safety is with the safety walk, which occurs twice a year.
 - First walk of the year will be on November 5th.
 - Admins and grad students walk around campus following a list of potential concerns.
 - The walk allows admins to directly interact with the outlined safety hazards.

- Please send in any safety concerns that you've seen or want investigated further (gsg@princeton.edu).
- Looking for more grad students to actually come to the walk.
 - These walks lead to formal reports that reach the highest levels of administrators.
- Q: What do you mean exactly when you say "safety"? Are cyclists and scooters a concern?
 - Good example, cyclist and scooter concerns might lead to, for example, signage for certain modes of transportation.
 - Undergrads are also concerned with this same issue.
 - Duality of concern from undergrads. Some are scared of scooters, but others are concerned that the sidewalks are smooth enough to safely use scooters
- Q: Not many grad students at campus planning committee. Hopeful that the current process adequately takes graduate students into account. Worried that these kinds of safety concerns won't be addressed, and that instead the planning committee will focus on, for example, Tiger transit predominantly.
 - Laura will be on that committee, but always looking for more volunteers
- Q: Want something to be done about outside lighting on campus. Southern part of elm drive for example.
 - Seconding elm drive
 - This is already slated to be touched on during this safety walk
- Q: What's going to happen during Alexander bridge repairs?
 - Spoke to UServices, they're aware it will be a hassle. Still working out exact details. We are additionally concerned that more traffic will be routed in front of Lakeside. We've suggested to add lights where crosswalk signs currently exist. They were open to this idea. Will unfortunately reroute any tiger transit, but it may take a while. NJ transit may increase dinky service.
- Q: The bridge repair will add a 45 minute detour for bikers/walkers. Can the university pressure the state to add, for example, a temporary bridge?
 - This is a state project, but university is concerned. Will continue pressuring them.
- Q: Where will the construction cut-off be?
 - Unclear
- Financial Literacy Working Group
 - Dean Schreyer starting up a working group on financial literacy. Looking for volunteers to help with programming for this topic
- Mental Health Month

- Mental Health Month is coming this November, and is full of multi-week mental health activities
- Looking for volunteers, please pass the word around to your departments,
- Remember to attend activities you're interested in.
- IM Sports Coordinator

Fall Party Recap

- Sleepover in candyland, 490 guests at campus club, very similar to the summer party
- Made the party more family friendly by adding a “pregame” for families with children
 - Tigers with cubs crafting event attended by 10-15 families
- Life imitates art is the theme of the upcoming wine and cheese party, no save the date yet
- You are encouraged to use the suggestion box on the GSG website
- Definitely looking for help and ideas for more non-alcoholic events

Weekly Happy Hour Recap

- The happy hours have reached at least 100 guests every week
- 211 guests showed up last week
- We partner with an administrative office every week, and get administrators to interact directly with graduate students
- Looking for volunteers
 - Checking ID's at the door
 - Bartending
 - Setup/cleanup
- Q: Is there a calendar to see administrative partners?
 - Sent one out at the beginning of the semester, will send it out again
- Q: Training necessary to volunteer?
 - No
- Also looking for any administrators that you may like to see
 - Office of technology licensing?
- Sign up/check the schedule for GSG happy hours below:
 - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ICmK0gbyY9gXCSYLyU_PL03WqmVaYZcTxj43AF-nMBo/edit#gid=0

Roommate Contract Recap

- If you're in the middle of your housing contract with Princeton and a roommate leaves, the room would previously become vacant and could be filled according to waitlist resulting in a randomly assigned roommate.
- Housing has found that random roommates lead to tricky situations.
- At our urging, the new policy is that you will now receive an email that your roommate intends to vacate, and you have 7 days to bring in a new person, with no restrictions on year of study.

Gmail Followup - International Access

- Follow up from last month regarding access of new gmail specifically when visiting China.
- OIT says they can create travel accounts for graduate students.
- This is a burner account and access credentials that you can use if security/access is an issue.
- This has been thought about a lot at OIT, but has not been communicated well.

New Academic Calendar Discussion

- Starting next year, the new academic calendar will start earlier in the fall, end earlier in December, and provide a 2 week break period and earlier start in January.
- The changes should have minimal effect on graduate students.
- Students will get paid in the same style, but summer months will switch to June/July.
- New students will get their first paycheck in August, which will hopefully help with some of the issues brought up last meeting regarding new arrivals.
- Currently guaranteed 60 months of funding.
 - If the new calendar were to mess you up by one month due to the transition, graduate school will take care of it and pay you regardless.
- New director of wintersession will present at assembly soon to talk about graduate student programming for wintersession.
- Q: Grad school claims to have thought edge cases through, but the mechanism is unclear in the document provided to us, and usually says to talk to your graduate administrator. What about departments where the admin might not go out of their way to handle it? Can we get concrete details from the graduate school showing that they've clearly thought about this mechanism?
 - Will reach out to Cole Crittenden and iron this out.
- Taking a precept lowers your official pay, such that the precept pay essentially makes up for it. How will we be paid during wintersession?

- GSG is currently consulting about this. Appears that for first wintersession, everything will be optional and on a volunteer basis. We are aware that this may not be effective and that graduate students consider teaching to essentially be labor. We are throwing around ideas such as wintersession reducing your required teaching load rather than providing pay. Everything is being workshopped and any ideas would be appreciated.
- Q: If there is an opportunity for departments to try to get more students through these types of classes, worried that it may translate into a pressure for grad students (e.g. advisors hinting it'd be nice if they taught a class)
 - Noted
- Q: For summer, will we be getting paid at a summer rate? Regular semester rate?
 - Pay will be at the summer rate, but the months considered summer have changed
- Q: Unclear on the 60 months of pay. The new calendar may move the graduation date, essentially cutting a month of pay for e.g. June?
 - All students receive a guarantee of up to 60 months of pay, not necessarily telling you when to graduate. If the academic calendar change somehow requires you to take 61 months to graduate because of the transition, graduate school will cover you.

Open Forum

- At some times, undergrads are flooding library and making even quiet areas loud. Can there be some designated library type area for graduate students?
 - Will find someone to talk to about this.

Meeting Conclusion

Motion to close meeting passes.

RESOLVED: Meeting closed at 7:02

Next meeting: November 13, 6:00 pm, Aaron Burr 219