



GSG Assembly Meeting
Aaron Burr 219
January 8, 2020, 6:00pm

Meeting called to order 6:01 PM

Approval of previous meeting's minutes

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

RESOLVED: Last month's meeting minutes were approved.

Discretionary Spending Report

- \$42.00 for four thermometers to collect temperature data at Lawrence apartments (more later on)

GSG Election

- Election committee met over the winter break and put together a plan for 2020 election
- The plan follows the same schedule as last year, but the dates have been updated to match this year's calendar
- First, there is a period for solicitation of nominations
- This is followed by an open period of questions for the candidates
- Finally, the election occurs
- After the election, the Assembly will vote to approve the results
- Dennis Schaefer volunteered to be chair of committee
 - Vote of approval among Assembly:
 - Unanimously approved
- Questions about election plan that was submitted:
 - Q: The plan mentions a deadline for nonmembers to pay 16 dollar fee to be eligible to run, what is this about?
 - A: In the past it was possible for grad-student affiliates (who are not actually graduate students) to run. This covered the student fee for them.
- Vote of approval of the election plan:
 - Unanimously approved

Wine and Cheese Retrospective

- The party was a big success, and GSG is no longer considered “banned” from hosting at Frick
- There were 740 attendees total
- We have a comment box on the GSG website under special events - feedback is helpful to make sure we’re catering to everyone
- Upcoming spring party will be in March (6 or 13)
- Q: Any chance of a day time party?
 - A: Possibility, will consider it

University Parking Updates

- Exec had a meeting this week with the head of the parking and transportation office
- There will be changes made over the next two years that will affect graduate students
 - The area around the stadium and lot 21 will have a lot of renovations over the next few years for a few reasons
 - When the new lake campus is built, there will eventually be a pedestrian bridge that lands near lot 21
 - More people will traffic through this area, so the university wants to expand roads for pedestrian crossings
 - When the new engineering neighborhood is built, some parking will be removed, and the university is aware that more is necessary
 - A parking garage is expected to be added near lot 21
- Expected completion of construction around 2022, but in the interim parking is expected to be tight
- Lot 21 is currently for grad student commuters
- Starting in Feb/Mar, the university will begin closing off spaces in lot 21 through the spring
- By summer, only 100-200 spaces will remain out of ~700
- The university wants to minimize the effect on commuting grad students.
- Currently ~100 grads in engineering who are off campus commuters, so they want to make sure they will still have spots in Lot 21.
- Other divisions who commute will be unlikely to have spaces in Lot 21.
- The plan is to start giving students specific parking lots that they are allowed to park in with the goal of spreading students out to reduce any sort of load.
- Any complaints about parking should be sent to exec board
- Parking office is very willing to make individual changes and assignments - communicate with them about specific issues

- Everything will be communicated to students by the university in late January.
- Parking permits have recently been getting extended - this preempts a tagless permit system based on license plate rather than tag.
- Should go live this month, and there will be an email to all students urging them to register.
- Q: Employees of the university have a benefit for carpooling, is there an extension to students?
 - A: Don't think so. As a note, staff in Lot 21 will be moved to old butler track and bused to campus.
- Q: There are some spots in Lot 20 for carpooling, assume students can use those?
 - A: Will look into it.
- Q: Has there ever been a survey done to figure out which off-campus residential communities host the majority of commuting grad students? Can potentially lead to shuttle bus from communities.
 - A: Good point, will think about this

GSG Intramural Coordinator Position

- Exec has put together a position description for IM coordinator based on last meetings feedback that was sent out to assembly recently.
- The compensation model is based on the community associate position run by the graduate school and on graduate writing days coordinators.
 - This makes it easy because we can slot in employees without needing to change any bylaws.
- Money would come from discretionary funds this year - plenty currently available
- If it's a success, we can move it into the budget next year
- Q: GCHC didn't have any signups when they ran a similar program, so while this is worth trying students may not be interested
 - A: Outreach will be a big part of the job and will hopefully help garner student involvement
- Q: Regarding the compensation schedule, large chunks may not be the best.
 - A: It's easier to do small number of payments for GSG - less approval necessary. Can change the pay period to March/May if there is a worry about completing work.
- Q: If this is paid through grad school, shouldn't that work for any visa?
 - A: Will look into it and make it clearer.
 - A: This is on-campus employment, should be ok for those with an F1-VISA
- Vote to approve creating the position
 - 16 in favor

- 0 opposed
- 0 abstained

Breakout Session: Improving GSG Election Turnout

- Only 13-18% of students have voted during the last few elections
- We are interested in this partially to get more students involved, and partially because we can't make certain changes without at least 30% of students voting
 - Key example is the student fee - currently \$17.50 which is slowly increasing with inflation.
 - This fee is extremely small compared to other universities
 - We are proud of how much we can achieve with this amount, but are interested in being able to provide more to clubs via events board etc.
 - GSG can't change this fee without a global referendum, which requires 30% of students to vote yes.
- We aren't looking to push a student fee referendum this year, but want to figure out how to get more students involved so something like this can happen in the future.

Discussion

- If the election involves a referendum, that alone will lead to higher output. More referenda will lead to more voters, so we should encourage constituents to submit referenda.
 - This has been true in the past, but still never went past 25%.
- Changing the schedule to election during re-enrollment and make voting a re-enrollment requirement.
- More outreach from department reps
- People at GSG events discussing voting with attendees
- Swag as thank you for voting
- Department reps with ipads in common rooms able to quickly help students vote in person
 - Can allocate money for snacks?
- Raffle
- Pizza party to department with highest turnout

Lawrence

- Surprise trip to Lawrence to take temperature data
- Have had complaints for an extended period that temperatures are below legal limits in

old Lawrence buildings 2-7.

- Housing is aware, but simply asks students to send a maintenance request to facilities
 - However, issues still persist
- Looking to take actual data for ourselves to get an idea of what's actually happening at Lawrence.
- We have a form, and are looking to find out if residents have children or pets
- There is a state mandated minimum temperature (65 F)
- Q: Won't that data be skewed because they give you electric heaters that work off your own electricity?
 - A: Good thing to add to the survey

Open Forum

- No comments

Meeting Conclusion

Motion to close meeting passes.

RESOLVED: Meeting closed at 6:53

Next meeting: February 12, 2020 6:00pm