GSC April 2014 Meeting
4/9/14

2nd to last GSC Meeting
The elections go first
Ilana is the parliamentarian, will explain how the voting will occur
For the elections we will go in order of each candidate
Each position will have nominations first off the floor
  Then go over spelling
2.5 minutes allowed for speaking, but for President through Secretary will have about 3 mins.
Brief questions and answers afterward (after all speeches)
If there is only one candidate, then just use cards, no writing necessary on the ballot
If there are more than 3 candidates – then rank the candidates
For candidates, have 15 and 20s cards (don’t worry about time)

Start with president we have Summer and Shelley, any nominations? No

Elections

President:
Summer Shafer
Current president, laid out 3 basic reform roles
Cut time in meetings
Departmental GSOs
TF issues

The crimson will next week publish issues about the TF meetings. 2 weeks ago, sought and received support about a cap for the section size.
“revolutionary”
Maintained a good relationship with admins, and will defend us in confrontational issues
  Other admins, have listened to these issues
Want to address all these issues brought up in teaching
2 year term limit – steep learning curve
Has been on GSC since 2011

Next year
Departmental GSOs
Shorter meetings
Use the data to make everything

Shelley Liu
Current VP
Always been interested in student govt – came to the meeting with an open VP position
There is a lot to be said about being a part of this org
Teaching campaign – resolutions have been started
  Also cap the limit on grad level classes
Borrow best practices from other schools
  TA pay across the dept
Increase the departmental communication
Good communication with admins
Meet with exec members individually
Anonymous suggestion box
Cross school engagement
  Bring students form the Kennedy schools, etc
Work with Harvard grad council – to elevate the issues
  Bring attention to the administration

Question:
Both have served on GSC – concrete terms what you have done?
Summer: followed through with the teaching campaign, updated website, monitored the email boxes, mini courses (entirely), committee meeting voice for graduate students (committee on graduate education, student health planning committee)
Shelley: working on the mentoring award ceremony, chaired the committee for selecting the mentors, sent out invites, work on the conference grants (big part of GSC budget), help streamlining the process

Other grad schools? Other students don’t have stipends, don’t have the same health care, maybe confuse issues…?
Shelley: not combine, but borrow the best practices from the other schools, other interactions with them. All exec boards meet together and bring everything to a Harvard wide issues
Summer: there is HGC, but we do need to include practices from other schools

The resolution to cap section was brought up by undergrads (Shelley) but summer said that it was brought up by grad students…clarify?
Shelley: not sure if I was mistaken. But think we should also apply it to grad students
Summer: adopt a similar resolution by undergrads.

Approach to solving various issues. Heard many complaints that summer is not very diplomatic, how would you respond to that complaint?
Summer: Question from a person that was fired
Shelley: Jay has helped a lot with mentoring awards. We did have a situation arise about the GSC and admins with issue about cost of the event. Had to make dramatic response because the lead’s response was too confrontational. There is an important part of this job, is when to say certain things and when to not say things.

Executive meeting with us as individuals. Only will take up issues with a mass backing of students. What would be the benefit of hearing individual grievances?
Shelley: as departmental reps you are a representation of your views and your department
Go from the ground up and see the major issues to get fresh ideas and ways to improve the best practices. With the surveys – it comes later, need to get fresh ideas
Summer: do agree with one-on-ones. When an interested body that was interested in the student government or involving themselves in an issue.
Shelley: at large reps and execs meeting and those in the department to get the fresh ideas
Summer: Prefer one on ones to be an hour

Winner:

Vice President
John Gee

For the last year serving at large rep for social sciences
Went to a couple meetings last year, didn’t really know what was going on
Thought it was distributing funds, but what got me into this org, was because there is a real sense
of change in the air and we can make this body a better advocate to admins
Better prong
Building teaching survey is something I’ve worked on
Dealing with issues on a committee and put my most effort into
Bring the resolution to undergrads (see tonight), very proud of the strides we have made this year
Moderated the teaching town hall. Keep getting info from you all and meeting with admins on
issues important to you

Questions
How do you get your hair like that?
Wouldn’t be a mystery

Winner: John Gee

Treasurer
Janis Calleja
Withdraw nomination and nominate Jordan Smith as treasurer

Jordan Smith
Accounting, who doesn’t want to talk about that?
As the social chair now
Have been working on the funding committee

Winner: Jordan Smith

Secretary
Darcy Frear
Current Sec. Joined to get more involved in community and make an impact, other leadership
roles within program; IT Committee is a plan, so is organizing the office; discounted MBTA
pass, keep attendance. Vote for me.

Questions: what is your necklace?

Winner: Darcy Frear
At-Large Representative for Natural Sciences
Jack Nicoludis
G2 in chemistry and chem bio
And on student council for his program
Good set of data about what students are interested in now
Look at the data and see what issues they face (outreach and teaching survey)
Issues with advisor and advisee relationships
Issues with funding
And teaching concerns – represent student’s voices

Winner: Jack Nicoludis

At-Large Representative for Longwood Medical Area
Will take nominations from the floor
Shelley - no
Winner:

At-Large Representative for Humanities
Caley Smith
Been part of GSCs – very prolific
Our alliance with Harvard teaching campaign is great
Respond to my peers to help form a GSO or set up an iSite or an emergency sub or increasing pay for mini courses
Learning curve, but I have gotten the hang of it
Helped some people find sections to teach – but it would be great to have a systemic solution.
System in between shopping week reform – access to all gen ed courses

Are you talking about a centralized database?
Yes
Snopp Dog lyrics?

Winner: Caley Smith

At-Large Representative for Social Sciences
Laine Stranahan
G3 in linguistics
Started and overseen a lot of positive changes
Made demands for office space and was heard
Made a wiki – help navigate our program and Harvard
Course feedback for teachers
More participation in grad student government
Had to deal with interdept issues
Take student’s need into account
Some of the most achievements made at Harvard
Put things into use at a larger scale
Keep the expectations there, and make sure that our voices re heard at GSAS level
Question: GSC member got in touch with me about info for a wiki that was hacked. Any way to resurrect that?
Yes! Just need some technically help

*Winner: Laine Stranahan*

**At-Large Representative for Interdisciplinary Studies**
Rachel Poser
Nominate Zachary, no

Rachel:
Studies greek and roman archeology
Also have a strong interest with law, work with Kennedy school
Motivated to run, b/c at a home department but found she was considered less b/c she wasn’t really a part of that department – very confusing, hit lots of barriers
Want to listen to different people’s concerns
Interdisciplinary colloquium

Questions? No

*Winner: Rachel Poser*

**At-Large Representative for International Students**
Will take Nominations from the floor:
Jae
Happy to see that there are a lot of people interested improving international relations
Chaired 2 committees, relatively low experience, but not translate to incompetence
And ready to learn a lot
Problems in English communication, new culture
Many problems are not known – not usually discussed and would like to bring these concerns to the main concerns
Organize workshops for international students and create network group for each country (good resource)

Dora
G1 in linguistics, been an international student in many countries.
In Greece, china, Canada and US
Came up with a lot of systems and dealt with a lot of problems, and done a lot so far
Will commit to finding out what the problems are and find out how to best address them
Social skills may seem awkward and will see things through

Rachel
Student from Singapore
Been an international student for a long time
Now a master’s student rep
Now very familiar with the issues
Push the inaugural funds for master’s students
Want to continue to stay and keep going
Talked to current rep to see what needs to be done to continue her initiative
Look into tax issues and mental health issues
Seminar sessions so they don’t have to cope with their stress in

Paul
Used to be dept rep in first year – but took a break
Issues – not all the same, very diverse group
Start with – what are the specific concerns
English communication may be a problem for some but not England students
Continue
Not prepared much

Huan
G4 in east asian lang and civilizations
Really excited to see that my vote had an impact
Be more involved
Initiatives: to address the differences in international students, look into legal status, now that I’m a G4 now I know what to do (so now I can better prepare students coming in)
Survey about what students want to see be done
International students as TF – very strict restrictions – on how many sections you can teach
Put into teaching campaign
Work as Dudley fellow – so build stronger bridge

Questions:
Dora – problems only in states? – taxation is quite different, changing of status
And married – figure out legal tricks
Jae – seem to be very angry towards Summer, the board depends upon communicating – will be more of an effective member to make positive changes
Huan – great that you will be a Dudley fellow, what will you be serving as? How will it help? – social service – great for volunteering and giving talks that way we can build a bridge
Huan – Dudley fellow on gsc, issue with time commitments, how to plan to manage? – specific description to an at-large rep, but since I’m here, will be able to make this work
Dora – all reps, rep GSAS, are there are issues on campus that need to be addressed? – lots of issues that concern everyone, get a survey and see where you belong
Everyone: great ideas about workshops, curious if you have any thoughts if you can piggy back off the orientation events?
Paul – very convenient, not specific events for international students when I came, give students more info in the year
Dora – there was an orientation, very clear advice, lots of support
Rachel – agree with international orientation – want to sustain this communication
Jae – great idea, but we should have workshops during the semester that would address different issues
Huan – important to continue the connection, very important for indiv connection
All – issues with peers and faculty with ethically questionable advice. Can we talk about that with anyone? How to get better info? -

Winner: Rachel

At-Large Representative for Masters Students
Paola Mariselli
CS grad student
Different needs than PhD students
Opening communication
  Fostering a sense of community around master’s students
  Programs specific for master’s students
First event – having a panel discussion during orientation week for just master’s students to have a sense of community and know where to go with concerns
Master’s rep for the master’s student council

Question: now a fund for master’s student conference grant, how to make sure people know about this? Since everything is spread out
Jane- now there is a list on the Dudley website for master’s students
It’s already solved!

Winner: Paola

Mentoring Awards
In Dudley House, tomorrow from 5-7 in Dudley House
Great ceremony, interact with students, and admins

Resolution on Section Size Cap Endorsement
Introduce you to this meeting, to vote on for next meeting
*Reading of section*
I hereby introduce this resolution to be considered next time, unless it is moved (not moved)
Bring it back to the people
Teaching survey is ending soon – great prizes! – please take your time and it is anonymous!

Spring and Summer Grants due by April 18th

Open Floor
Will still be able to vote on the resolution next time