

GSC Open Meeting Minutes for February

Call to order: 6:38pm, Cammi

- (1) Welcome and introductions of officers and executive committee.
- (2) Garth (student affairs) and Ellen (student services).
 - a. Garth:
 - i. Survey of name recognition from monthly GSAS emails.
 1. Most people recognized his name from emails/else.
 - ii. Responsible for working directly with students (fellowships, affairs, etc.).
 - iii. Day-to-day interaction with grads.
 1. Meetings.
 2. Fellowship reviews.
 3. Face-to-face student meetings/support.
 - iv. Conversations are confidential (they don't get back to departments).
 1. Issues that are touchy with DGS/adviser/chair, etc.
 2. Will, however, go back to department if requested.
 - a. Degree progress issues, department issues, etc.
 - b. Ellen:
 - i. Responsibilities:
 1. Supervisor of grad dorm RAs.
 - a. Survey re. living in dorms (less than ¼ present ever lived in one).
 2. FAS Safety Committee.
 3. "Go-to person for students."
 - a. Available to talk about anything.
 - i. Literally... anything.
 1. E.g. similar to Garth issues.
 2. Loneliness, disconnectedness, lack of cohort cohesion, imposter syndrome, competitiveness, relationships, roommates, partners/spouses, adviser/faculty, financial, health, safety, etc.
 - ii. Conversations are confidential (except for concerns re. student safety/breaches of university policy).
 - c. Open questions from floor: none.
- (3) Announcements.
 - a. Winter conference grants.
 - i. 3 rounds of grants each year. Deadline 8 Feb, 17:00.
 - ii. Up to \$750 (travel, hotel, registration, etc.).
 - iii. Question: "What does 'winter' mean?"
 1. Reimbursement basis... earlier the better.
 2. Departmental limit on grants (3 per).

- 3. Department must be eligible (GSC attendance).
- iv. Question: "Eligibility re. summer research funds?"
 - 1. Separate. One doesn't exclude the other.
- b. Student group funding deadline 15 Feb.
 - i. Question: "Wrong deadline on website."
- c. GSC open forum with Provost Garber 1 March.
 - i. Submission for questions to be posted online.
- d. Mentoring award nominations deadline 9 March.
 - i. Multiple nominations allowed/encouraged.
 - ii. Posters... distribute in departments.
- e. Commencement Marshal nominations deadline 2 April.
 - i. Considering nominations: service to community/student body.
 - ii. Beyond academic considerations.
 - iii. Posters... distribute in departments.
- (4) Constitution and By-laws Revision Committee.
 - a. Presentation of amendments and process.
 - b. Motion and second to open documents to change.
 - i. Unanimously in favor.
 - c. Lauranne read through proposed amendments.
 - d. Question: "Specific amendment questions?"
 - i. Next time.
 - e. Question: "More to this next time?"
 - i. No. Might add more, but won't be discussed next time.
 - f. Comment: can table things for future meetings, if necessary.
 - g. Question: "Individuals and/or committee amendment proposals?"
 - i. Propose to committee, not the floor. Join the committee!
- (5) Old business.
 - a. GSC role in politics. Ability to make resolutions.
 - i. Lauranne summarized voting procedure as outlined in by-laws/constitution.
 - 1. Further described logistics of voting for tonight.
 - 2. What are the proposals again:
 - a. Lists article one section one of the constitution describing the objects and purposes of the GSC
 - b. The question of the first motions is that some people did not feel comfortable voting on the unique resolution proposed because they were not elected by their departments. Unique as defined here refers to the fact that such a resolution pertains to all students and not just to graduate students. Therefore, the motion was put last session to determine whether or not we have the position to vote on such a resolution.
 - ii. Comments/Concerns from attendees on this topic:
 - 1. Summer – says that she thinks our body should speak to any issue that we feel is important

2. What about accountability for the votes/Who are we really representing? (Ex/ accountable to people who attended the meeting, all graduate students that paid their dues, the entire student body, etc.)
 3. What will be/Will there be a long term impact of this resolution on us in the future as academics?
 4. The opinion was raised that the representation system of the GSC body is flawed and that we should be able to speak broadly on topics of concern
 5. Many feel uncomfortable with the word political
 6. Do we require a motion to talk about topics that are on the agenda? No.
 7. Regarding the wording of the document – The document becomes a political statement because of the presence of the clause saying that the GSC “stands in solidarity with...”
- iii. Loreanne reads from the constitution to define the responsibilities of the student representative
1. Poll of Astronomy students regarding the ability of the GSC to pass resolutions
 - a. By a 2/3 majority students decided that issues general to all should be items that we can vote on
 2. The idea was raised that we can use a google poll to survey the graduate student body
 3. Motion to make a vote was made and seconded
 - a. Wording for the motion (as the issue was raised that the motion was not distributed in writing to the representatives):
 - i. **Shall graduate student representatives be empowered to vote on resolutions that are of a political nature not uniquely related to graduate school or graduate student concerns?** This is the wording of the motion that will be voted on in the next meeting.
 4. Regarding Rules: If the first motion is tabled, then the second motion is still on the table.
 - a. Q: If a motion was proposed in the open floor can it be voted on then – no it needs to be sent out.
 - i. Motion: Move to table discussion on original motion because I do not know the opinion of my student body – voting on the the actually resolution of non-violence?
 - ii. There it no motion written to table, this motion has been now worded
 1. There has been a motion to put off a vote but we haven’t gotten there

- b. Students have put forth the idea that they have come here prepared to vote on the resolution as they have gotten guidance from their department.
 - i. Motion to move onto the next item (i.e. the vote) of the agenda. Seconded.
 - 1. Loreanne is handing out voting slips based on the attendance sheets
 - 2. Representatives will write pass or oppose or abstain
 - 3. Votes are cast, collected and tallied
 - 4. Number of votes: Hannah is double checking
 - a. Yes - 29
 - b. Abstain - 8
 - c. No – 9
 - 5. Vote results are announced and meeting is concluded