

GSC Open Meeting 9-11-2013 Minutes

1. Introductions

Exec Board Introductions: Caley, Ashim, John, Janis, Lilei, Summer, Jordan, Jane, Ben

Summer: Want to be on time, move through the agenda. Next meeting there will be open floor for the majority of the meeting, to talk about the year ahead. Might not have time this meeting. Distributed sign-in sheet and printer access survey

2. Representative Welcome Guide (Jack, Anna, Nico)

Read Article 1 of the GSC Constitution. These are our purposes, important to keep them in mind and be self-critical. 1-3 members per dept, need to attend meetings for grant eligibility. Role is to communicate what happens at these meetings to your department. We follow Robert's Rules of Order, but don't be shy if you don't know them. Participation is more important. GSC has high turnover so we want to give you a rundown of last year. Outreach Survey conducted by outreach committee. Lot of problems identified but also pushback against GSC involvement at departmental level. GSC priorities most often identified were: GSAS level problems e.g. parental leave policies, other material concerns; representing graduate student voice to faculty and admin. Sense that grad students lack voice.

Jen: There is a department-level breakdown on the website and a summary of the meeting with administrators discussing the survey, could we send the link out in an email?

Funding committee issue, there was a concern about conflict of interest last year. We passed a bylaw requiring funding committee members to recuse themselves from votes on their organizations. This is important because it's your money we disburse. This year we think the GSC is interested in pursuing its representative voice function more earnestly. Any more victories or failures for people to talk about?

Jen: Constitutional amendment establishing GSAS student body referendum procedure.

Can someone talk about parental leave? Summer: Last year we'd ask the deans what was going on, they'd always say "we're working on it." Worked on it all year, they came out with something at the end of the year. We would like something more like Yale's, this one is progress but not robust enough. Will we wait five more years for more change? We didn't achieve this alone, HGWISE did most of the activism. New policy is 6 weeks off, if you're teaching you have to TF for only half the semester, they stop your G clock. They're still figuring it out though. Karen: Policy now in the sciences at least is that you have a one on one meeting with Garth and others, it's intentionally flexible and we're still working on it. Summer: We'll take names of people interested in joining the committee next meeting.

Standing committees, ad hoc committees, student groups. SCs: admins and faculty sit on them, good facetime if you're passionate about an issue. Ad hocs are formed throughout the year. Any questions?

Q: in psychology, we're asking dept if we can have representatives on dept committees. Think reps can enlarge their roles by intradepartmental activism. Ask to be on just one meeting, don't have to compromise confidentiality?

Anna: how many people here were told they had to come? (about a dozen).

3. Pub Crawl Announcement (Summer and Jordan)

Last year we didn't do a pub crawl, people from previous years said we should bring it back. We don't want to be doing just parties all the time, but sometimes it's necessary. Please take posters if you can. We're about half-booked by now. \$20 gets drink ticket and t-shirt. Pub Crawl is 9/20 at 9PM.

4. HGC announcement (Philip Harding)

VP events and VP comm also present. This is my 4th year in studgov, thanks to you guys for your commitment. We represent all the grad schools at Harvard. GSAS is the biggest and most variable. Our big message is to get out of your bubble and experience all of Harvard. WE have lots of social events. This is our first Welcome Back Harvard event, this Saturday. Streets closed, multiple stages, lots of activities, there'll be food and vendors. 1-7 in the Square, 7-12 at Queen's Head. This Saturday.

HGC: four reps from each school, elected/appointed by studgovs. Please run! First meeting October 1. Every other Tuesday. Committees and subcommittees, lots of leadership opportunities. INcreases academic and social network. Email with questions

5. Elections

Honor system for voting, only vote if you're a dept rep. Electing new VP and Sec, ours resigned over the summer due to personal issues. VP and Sec responsible for conference grants, can't do those without them.

VP noms: Shelley

Speech: G3 longwood, from Chicago. I'm interested in reaching out to Longwood, doing more programs there. Q: Background in studgov? A: student leadership circle as part of Center for LEadership Dev. Organized events with e.g. Sebelius as speaker.

Yes or no vote. By acclamation.

Summer: Secretary is a very crucial position, we need someone to keep records and do some archival/preservation work as well as take minutes.

Sec Noms: Darcy

Darcy: G1, willing to get to know people. Went to ASU with a BE degree, president of BE society there. Would like to get involved. In DMS in speech and hearing.

Yes or no vote. By acclamation.

Director of Public Relations (formerly Publicity Manager).

DPR noms: Will

Will: Mol/cell bio. G2. Just joined a lab. No one I talked to knew what the GSC was or stood for. Need to raise awareness.

Yes or no vote. By acclamation

Finance committee: show of hands, who's interested?

Rudi: History G3. Did this last year. Member of Henry Adams in History dept.

Soren: G1 government program. No student group affiliation. Active in undergrad

Marina: G1 in urban sciences. Originally from UCLA. Previously worked on the other side of the grant-giving business, have won public works grants.

Greg, G1. Talked really softly and there was a lot of rustling

Jordan, currently on the finance committee, served on it last year.

Yes or no vote on each candidate. By acclamation.

Is anyone interested in being Parliamentarian? Position in charge of constitutional committee. Most substantive conversations happen through this position. It's appointed, so email with interest. Please email your constituents.

HGC reps. 4 positions open. anyone interested? No interest.

Safety committee reps. Meeting Thursday the 19th 3-4 PM. Bike safety, general safety issues. 2 spots open. No interest.

IT committee reps. They want to get rid of study cards but they need student input and assistance to do this. Meeting this Friday 2-3 pm, can join if you can't make the meeting. No interest.

Rudi: Motion to extend for 10 mins. Jen seconds. Motion fails.

Open floor

Some folks haven't gotten their summer funding checks from GSC yet. A: talk to Janis, treasurer turnover was rough.