

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 confirtational 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 from 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

Quesitons

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 technical 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 last 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 inequal 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