

GSC March Meeting
3/5/14

- Asked about Longwood rep (no volunteers)
- Lilei: briefly talked about mental health roundtable tomorrow
- Jay: Introduction as publicity manager, Dudley café committee
- Ilana: asked for five volunteers to help with counting votes at the next meeting; committee members were approved by the representatives
- Voted to approve the GSC group funding (only Singaporean/Malaysian society and Mahjong didn't have a rep)

Club Funding

Everyone approves the funding

Last cycle for this year

Next year – once the funding rounds are decided – we will accept reimbursement for past events

Masters Grant Fund

Previous issue regarding masters students not receiving funding for conference and summer training grants

Let Jane and Rachel discuss our current policy that will be implemented in April.

In order to better serve the community we have now allocated a separate fund just for masters programs. This is for those who want to go to conferences that are masters students.

Start off with \$500 this funding round

All reps from terminal masters programs to spread the word

All info on GSC website

DoubleTree Hotel Issue

On Monday the undergrad council endorsed a resolution nearly identical to the one you were given

The exec board voted to endorse this topic

Introduce Gabrielle Bayard and colleagues in student action program

 This has been their project for a long time

 They can answer questions and speak to the importance

Gabe:

Hi! This is a worker who is at the hotel and a few other colleagues.

Brief overview: since March of last year in Harvard DoubleTree employees have attempted to receive better treatment

 Workers on Harvard's campus are treated better than the Harvard owned property of DoubleTree

Santra – worker at hotel – worked at the hotel for 22 years

 Health insurance – she has health insurance, but other family members do not b/c I don't make enough money for my family members

 Little girl doesn't have health insurance – just applied to get her some

 Her husband also doesn't have health insurance b/c his salary doesn't cover it

Many of my coworkers have the same issue – not fair that Harvard makes so much money on my back
Looking for your support so we can get a right to this fair process

Worker called for a fair process – student worker action group have been leading several actions
Met with the president, drafted a layout of the problems, endorsement of many student groups

Just to close out: these employees are taking the brave step of asking people to boycott their own hotel. That means they think this is an important issue.

Asking for endorsement of boycott, the money for student groups to not be used at the DoubleTree hotel, and the GSC to send out an email to all GSAS students to not go to the hotel while this boycott is going on
All the workers on campus have a great labor standard elsewhere

Questions?

Could we get an idea of how the president responded? Why aren't they supporting the union?
Harvard says it doesn't have a relationship with the hotel
But that's not true – Harvard is contracting Hilton to contract employees
Two examples – first in 2011 the law school café the workers asked for a fair process and Harvard responded positively despite being employed by another entity
Sustainability – on website stated that Harvard installed an energy saving device at the Hotel
There are union operated Hilton hotels

If Harvard support the fair process doesn't Hilton have to support as well?

The workers are also taking action at the hotel now. The owner has final say though. The owner has to say yes before Hilton can do anything. When the owner says yes, then it leads to a yes at the hotel. We are focusing on the Harvard side of things b/c the students can do something.

More specific about what you are asking Harvard to do? And what Hilton can do?

Asking Harvard to publicly to state that they want a fair process at the Hotel and tell the Hotel the same. From the past, this is all that is necessary.

Explain the fair process system works?

This is the process of endorsement for the workers to have a union process without harassment, not supporting a union exactly. When more than 50% of workers say they want a union, they will have one

According to official policy the resolution must be read aloud. (Found on GSC website)

Takes 51% of student reps in this room to vote for passage. Do accept abstentions

Discussion

Do not completely agree with the wording of the first resolution. I do not want anyone at the hotel to feel like they have to walk out on their job. That is why there is a clause in there, “if the workers boycott” instead of saying that they will.

We really shouldn't boycott if no need to do that

Clarification is sufficient

I'm on the exec council – so you know that I support this.

The thing is that if this was on Harvard campus – there would be no problem. If it was owned by Hilton – no problem. The issue is it is on Harvard property but hosted by Hilton.

So weird issue and I don't want to have this weird juxtaposition be the excuse for why they can get away with this.

We have a good relationship with Harvard but the weird symbiotic relationship is creating the abnormality.

Because this is a weird double owned entity that the ball keeps passing between them

Do not want the money to be coming from Harvard to be from poor treatment of these employees

What will happen if the workers want a union: In this process – the workers must sign the cards in order to obtain a union. The elections are another option, but not very good. Workers are intimidated by their bosses. Common tactic is to only schedule workers that are against it so they know who votes – despite being illegal.

Even having an agreement – it is difficult.

Bring back to resolution – not about helping Hotel about helping workers unionize, only to help support the workers that are brave enough to boycott their own hotel despite their personal expense of their livelihoods

Move to vote on this matter and stand with the USG and GSC exec board. Vote for those in favor..

Must have a vote to vote and then have a 2/3 majority after

Move to vote on this resolution tonight. Seconded

Vote: all agree

Move to approve the previously read resolution as read to you. Seconded

All in favor: more than 2/3rds

Everyone should pat themselves on their back b/c they did something tonight!

Talk about iPad minis and other prizes: if you fill out the teaching survey. 32 prizes! Spread the word.