

**GSC General Meeting**  
**Minutes for October 1, 2008**

**THOSE PRESENT**

***Officers***

President—James Doyle (Anthropology)  
VP, Administration—Dina Obeid (Physics)  
Treasurer—Alptekin K p u (Computer Science)  
Technology Officer—Jadrian Miles (Computer Science) – Not present  
VPs, Social—Craig Yennie (Chemistry), Jesse Davis (Chemistry)  
Secretary—Benjamin Philip (Neuroscience)

***Department Representatives***

Malgorzata Rymysza-Pawlowska (AmCiv)  
Leah Nahmias (AmCiv)  
Stacey Vandenhurst (Anthro)  
Sohini Kar (Anthro)  
Nathaniel Lepp (BM-MPH)  
Sharon Chakkalackal (BM-MPH)  
Alex Valm (BM-MBL)  
Omar Lansari (BM-MCB)  
Racquel Sherwood (BM-MCB)  
Graham Poage (BM-MPPB)  
David Valenzuela (BM-Neuro)  
Victoria Ruiz (BM-Patho)  
Jeanmarie Stinson (Classics)  
Gideon Goldin (Cog Ling Sci)  
Stefanie Sevcik (Comp Lit)  
Andy Bartholomew (Comp Sci)  
Emilio Guterrez (Econ)  
Elizabeth Richards (Edu)  
Nitin Jadhav (Engin)  
Asha Nurse (Engin)  
Corey McEleney (English)  
Khristina Gonzalez (English)  
Allison Fong (French Stud)  
Laura Kerber (Geo)  
Bethany Ehlmann (Geo)  
Michael Powers (German Stud)  
Tatiana Gottlieb (History)  
Will Brucher (History), proxy for Will Tatum  
Roberto Bacci (Italian Stud)  
Alex Knodell (Joukowsky IAAW)  
Cengiz Pehlevan (Physics)  
Wanchun Wei (Physics)

Sophia Beal (Port Brazil Stud)  
Anthony Evans (Psychology)  
Sonam Shah (Pub Pol)  
Takuma Nakamoto (Pub Pol)  
Paul Robertson (Relig Stud)  
Weiwei Zhang (Sociology)  
Brandon Drea & Christopher Berry (Theatre)  
Ryan Hartigan (Theatre)

#### I. Approval of the Minutes from the September Meeting

*Approved*

#### II. Invited Speakers

*i. Dean Karen Sibley, Summer and Continuing Studies – “All Call” for summer 2009 course proposals*

*Opportunities for graduate students to teach in continuing studies year-long and summer courses for variety of audiences. Handout with detailed information. Early information sessions coming soon, to provide syllabus-construction and other introductory information. This talk to create awareness of opportunity; flyers should be posted in departments.*

*ii. Dean Sheila Bonde, Graduate School – Conference funding and URC meeting*

*Graduate School trying to get external grants to increase available funding for graduate student travel. Presentations to Development Office to help gather more funding, fellowships, etc. Building alumni database. Hoping for increased summer support. Some discussion about: ability for GSC to contact all graduate students, Campus Life board, summer funding, dissertation mentors, Open office hours Monday 1-2:30 in Horace Mann.*

#### III. Group Recognitions

*None scheduled*

#### IV. Funding Requests: Group—Amount—Event

*Salsa Classes - special – Marie-Laure Couët*

*Described salsa classes; beginner and intermediate classes available. Each level meets 1.5hrs weekly, 10-15 people at each. Approved.*

#### V. Executive Reports and Announcements

*i. President: BUCC meeting (Brown Univ Community Council)*

*More undergrad freshmen; not much affect on graduate students, except less housing and maybe larger classes.*

*ii. President: Oct. 3 conference travel discussion (5-7pm, Peterutti Lounge)*

*University Resources Committee (URC) will soon be meeting, our rep Omar Lansari will help push for more funding to the Graduate School for this purpose. At the*

10/3 event, grad students can sign petition for increased travel funding: for 6<sup>th</sup>-years, for Masters' students, >500\$/conference. This is important! Interest in this event may help increase our odds of funding. (You can sign up for the petition by emailing the GSC President, if you can't make Friday.)

iii. President: Boldly Brown upcoming partnership

They want to increase awareness for what the Boldly Brown capital campaign is doing for graduate students. Watch for events! Also, may be developing ways with Dean Bonde for the Graduate School to work with Development to raise funding.

iv. President: 1<sup>st</sup>-year Lunches

Everyone 1<sup>st</sup> year gets invited to these, GSC president will be at all of them to get the pulse of the first-years.

v. President: Elsevier foundation grant

Information and resources for parents at Brown, i.e. graduate students with families.

vi. Treasurer: GSC income, new Lounge chairs, etc.

Question at last meeting about GSC income. Comes from \$20/semester that graduate students pay. Varies from day to day. Spring 2008 we had ~32k, fall 2008 we have ~34k. Last year we spent 60k, providing a surplus. Last semester + summer we spent ~30k, leaving us ~40k for this semester: more than usual.

We have spent some of this money for new chairs in the Lounge; old ones disappeared. New ones locked with periodically changing code. Access can be acquired by request.

Other surplus will be spent on Lounge outdoors (trim tree, maybe get rain-cover). Hopefully fix TV soon; various challenges getting that done.

vii. VP Admin: contacting graduate students

Plan to put all graduate students automatically on GSNOTICE listserv. Ideas for subcommittees.

## VI. External Committee Reports and Announcements

i. Omar Lansari – University Resources Committee

No grad school proposal from dean yet, not with numbers. The URC normally wants its members elected from the whole student/relevant body; we've informed them how the GSC works and picks its representatives. Provost office needs to approve our choice; we certainly aren't letting them have an actual veto power.

ii. Nitin Jadhav – NEASC Steering Committee (New Engl Assoc of Schools & Colleges)

Main job of NEASC is to check in on schools and see that their quality is good, to create transparency and accountability and provide accreditation. Trouble in 1998 because of immense undergraduate flexibility; couldn't show that students didn't abuse system. This year, Brown makes stronger case for merits of system. 10-year cycle.

Steering committee leads and integrates Brown's response and interaction with

*NEASC, especially self-study report available at <http://www.brown.edu/Project/NEASC/>.*

*iii. Elections for positions on external committees*

*Included brief presentations from current members, for committees that have both currently filled slots and empty slots.*

*Computing advisory board (humanities/social sciences): no volunteers. We may just get a second physical/natural-science person instead of leaving it empty.*

*Campus Life Advisory Board: elected Hsin-Chiao (Joy) Wang (AmCiv).*

*University Resources Committee: elected Bethany Ehlmann (Geo)*

*Graduate Council (Humanities): elected Paul Robertson (Relig Stud)*

*Campus Center Planning Advisory Group: elected Allison Fong (French Stud)*

*Alcohol and Other Drug Subcommittee (of CLAB): Stefanie Sevcik (Comp Lit)*

**VII. Other News**

*Next GSC General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 5, at 7 p.m. in the Graduate Student Lounge.*