

GSC General Meeting
Minutes for November 5, 2008

THOSE PRESENT

Officers

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

Department Representatives

Malgorzata Rymysz-Pawlowska (AmCiv)
Leah Nahmias (AmCiv)
Aiko Takeuchi (AmCiv)*
Sohini Kar (Anthro)
Nathaniel Lepp (BM-MPH)
Alex Valm (BM-MBL)
Graham Poage (BM-MPPB)
Victoria Ruiz (BM-Patho)
Jeanmarie Stinson (Classics)
Gideon Goldin (Cog Ling Sci)
Stefanie Sevcik (Comp Lit)
Elizabeth Richards (Edu)
Nitin Jadhav (Engin)
Corey McEleney (English)
Khristina Gonzalez (English)
Allison Fong (French Stud)
Bethany Ehlmann (Geo)
Daniella Wittern (Hispanic Stud)
Will Brucher (History), proxy for Tatiana Gottlieb
Roberto Bacci (Italian Stud)
Steffen Marcus (Math)
Bradley Hanson (Music)
Dana Howard (Philosophy)
Cengiz Pehlevan (Physics)
Wanchun Wei (Physics)
Michael Antosh (Physics)
Sophia Beal (Port Brazil Stud)
Anthony Evans (Psychology)
Sonam Shah (Pub Pol)
Takuma Nakamoto (Pub Pol)
Lisbeth Trille Loft (Sociology)
Ryan Hartigan (Theatre)

Others

Rosemary Branson Gill (Am Civ)

Felicia Salinas (Am Civ)

Miel Wilson (Am Civ)

I. Approval of the Minutes from the October Meeting

II. Invited Speakers

None scheduled

III. Group Recognitions

i. History Graduate Student Association (Will Brucher)

Approved unanimously.

IV. Funding Requests: Group—Amount—Event

i. \$400 – Art+History exhibition (Rosemary Branson Gill)

Major interdisciplinary art exhibition. Total event costs ~\$30,000, many sources of funding. Approved unanimously.

ii. Women Students at Brown - \$400 – Girl in a Coma concert (Felicia Salinas)

Spring concert event for Womens' History Month (3/7/09). Approved unanimously.

iii. \$400 – Finding Her Way Home exhibition (Miel Wilson)

Artwork exhibition on womens' history, memory, and the legacy of slavery. Total budget \$9100. Approved unanimously.

iv. MPH student committee report on supported lecture (Nathaniel Lepp)

Event budget \$2100, brought chief of hematology at San Francisco General Hospital to talk on a variety of topics and present to RI state legislature.

V. Executive Reports and Announcements

i. Secretary: Teaching and Research Assistants Collective Bargaining Rights Act

Law in US congress (H.R. 5838) that, if passed as written, will consider graduate students (and all students) receiving pay for work as “employees.” Link to the law’s text: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=h110-5838> . Information provided and brief discussion.

ii. President: Referendum on conference funding

Letter in support of Dean Bonde’s request for increased conference funding, to describe this as the graduate school’s highest priority. To be presented at various budget-related committees. Approved unanimously.

iii. Social and Treasurer: Lounge status and sign-in policy

TV now working. Sign-in policy will allow us to track the origin of any damage.

iv. Social chairs: Social events

573 people at Halloween social. Rock climbing next weekend. Planning grad/med winter ball, in conjunction with medical student senate Unrelated to whatever “biomed” event may or may not also be going on (that has happened past 2 years independent of GSC). May be 12/5/08.

v. President: Opening nominations for 2009 officer elections

Nominations opened. Elections will occur at the December meeting! One nomination today: Nitin Jadhav for VP-admin.

vi. PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

Ideas arose from officer trip to Ivy Summit, meeting of ivy league graduate student governance organizations. Purposes: provide value to the graduate school, and reward departments who send representatives. **These are not final changes to bylaws; bylaws changes will be discussed in the following month and finalized at December meeting. All votes here are to approve a draft document. Document attached separately, or contact Secretary.**

a. Secretary: “Good standing” rules (Article I, sec. 7; Article VII, sec. 7)

Extensive discussion on attendance rules and exceptions to them, on old and new rebate procedures, on the purpose of providing rebates, on providing incentives for departments to send reps.

(I, 7) amended to add “or their proxies.” Passed, 24 to 4.

(I, 7) Amendment passes: 25 to 3.

(VII, 7) amended to add appeal policy: unanimous.

(VII, 7) Amendment passes: 28 to 1.

b. President: Conference travel funding (Article XV, sec. 8)

Discussion on restrictions, on individual vs. department responsibility for good standing, on using GSC money to benefit individuals rather than groups, on changing graduate school policy versus GSC taking on burden.

(XV, 8) Struck subsection c, item b.

(XV, 8) Struck subsection c, item a. Vote: 20 to 7.

(XV, 8) Added “first years” as subsection a, item d. Vote: 28 to 1.

(XV, 8) Added “two conferences” as subsection a, item e. Vote: 23 to 3.

(XV, 8) Added “but not limited to” at end of subsection a. Unanimous.

(XV, 8) Amendment passes: 27 to 1.

c. Treasurer: Departmental Rebate (Article XII)

Discussion of incentives for officers as part of these rules, on incentives provided at other ivy league schools, on value of rebates vs. fees, on specifying the amount.

(XII, 1) Strike “or GSC representative count”. Vote: 22 to 1.

(XII) Addition passes: 24 to 1.

VI. External Committee Reports and Announcements

Bethany Ehlmann – URC

Brief discussion of attempts to get and maintain conference funding.

Tony Evans & Alison Fong – Campus Center Renovation committee

Utilizing Faunce House. Graduate students desire rooms for office hours, reservable study spaces, better food, good computer cluster, etc. Space for these things is limited.

Stephanie Sevcik - Subcommittee on alcohol & drugs

Note that if you call someone on campus for help, they have to take you to emergency room.

VII. Other News

Next GSC General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 3, at 7 p.m. in the Graduate Student Lounge.