



04/06/16 Open Meeting Agenda

Start: 6:38

Elections

Procedure: Ilana will announce position, tell you who is already running, will call for nominations from the floor, must accept nominations; ~2.5 minutes to give a little speech about why you want to be involved; then we will vote, if contested then paper ballot, elections committee will count; if uncontested will just use rep card; are allowed to abstain from all votes

President

Darcy: g3 is shbt in DMS, current present, secretary for 2 years before; helped update website to clarify it; clarified funding for GSGs; attended leadership meetings including Ivy+ and incorporated some ideas; get GSC name out more, social events like brunch in the dorms; PhD2 movie screening; discussion points in meetings at the deans, tax forms and retirement savings, mediate discussion about unionization effort; next year want to continue with GSC recognition, better email system, more advertisement variety; more regular events like monthly brunches; set up office hours; host a summer event; want to involve reps more as voice of department, encourage to work more with DGSO; continue working with admins to ensure student needs are met; dental plan incorporation looking like possibility; continue discussion around unionization effort

Peter: G2 in public policy, international relations; dep rep for 2 years; social sciences rep now; VP for events in HGC; lectures that last, women's entrepreneur Day, tying in with other grad schools; really diverse student body with many different needs; interdisciplinary program, experience with social sciences and sciences; studied abroad in Beijing, appreciate international student perspective; student needs #1 priority, being responsive to things that come up, office space is one, talk to provost office about smith center and get some of that space; job security for teaching fellows, esp with shopping days, come up with a compromise that gets us to a better place; writing and mentoring resources for international students; increasing volunteer opportunities, percussion with Dudley orchestra, elementary concert was great, develop program that facilitates connections with grad students and local kids; searchable database for events and talks that match our interest; interdisciplinary opportunities; not obtrusive, but open door to increase opportunities

Q: what has been your previous involvement with GSC, how do we know you'd be better than Darcy?

Peter: Primary involvement with HGC as a representative for the GSC, formal representative; have also repped for the social sciences and reached out to other social sciences reps as well

Q: what other commitments are you planning to have next year?

Peter: president is priority; would no longer be in HGC, not leadership position with Dudley orchestra

Darcy: treasurer for Dragonboat, that's summer; President is priority

Darcy is elected

Vice President

Peter nominated from the floor

Elizabeth: G3 in DMS. Secretary this past year, previous year –At large rep for longwood. Organized the tax talk for longwood. Organized transportation for students in the event of medical issues. Wants to narrow the gaps between the longwood students and main campus students – Talking to administrators about accessibility to healthcare for longwood students. Talking to other students about things like teaching. Cares about retirement savings and making sure that students get through different programs in a quick way and be prepared for a wide range of jobs. Also using the Ivy+ summit as a way to learn about things to help out the GSC and the current graduate students at Harvard

Peter: G2 – same from president speech.

Question: How is this different from the role of president? John answered. Fills in for the president in the event of absence. Serve on university wide committees, serves on the commencement marshall and travel grant committees.

Question: Grad Student Unionization – How will you support grad students involved in the unionization?

Elizabeth – Students have the rights to unionize and if the administration want to punish the students, not sure how gsc can formally do anything but would be against any retaliation. In support of the resolutions that were made.

Peter – GSC needs to remain neutral and make statements through a democratic process. Need to make sure any issues students face should be documented. Thinks that those on the council are there to look out for the students.

Down to the re-vote (tie on first count)

Q: if you do not win, will you stay involved with GSC?

Peter: probably departmental rep, HGC still

Elizabeth: would also like to stay involved, maybe at-large rep or parliamentarian

Q: what would you do for SEAS? Want more reps?

Peter: seems like you guys should have more

Q: you spoke about volunteering, how would it be different from Dudley public service reps?

Peter: could connect and partner with them to increase visibility; one-on-one mentorship opportunities would be unique and maybe involve more people; step outside our academic environment

Q: what would you do for international students?

Elizabeth: continue working with Gbemisola on her initiatives, she had a great tax talk; know it's immensely complicated to work here

Peter: also increasing mentoring and English services

Q: thoughts on the amicus brief proposed by the current VP?

Peter: important to leave it to the students to decide

Elizabeth: not about what the union is, about whether students have the right at all, which they definitely should have to decide who can best serve them

Elizabeth wins on the re-vote

Secretary

Dawn – G3, at-large for natural sciences; filled in for Elizabeth at previous meetings, so has some secretary experience; worked closely with Laura Stark about PhD2 Movie showing

Dawn is elected

Treasurer

Chinmay – international student from India in BBS, lab in Cambridge and at Dana-Farber and in biostats; involved in Indian Student group which has grown a lot in the last 2 years, COO of that group, increased revenues, events, and outreach; talked to Darcy and Rohan already about things we can do; really like numbers and accounting

Chinmay is elected

At-Large Reps for:

Humanities

Rosanna – dept representative for religion, interested in being for involved, improving academic and non-academic, talked to Clarisse about the position; advocating for all GSAS students; issues that are prominent in the humanities; lack of non-academic career support and guidance, enable easier to get info on alternate career path

Natural Sciences

Jack (nominated self off floor) – G4 in Chemistry; was department rep all 4 years; was at-large rep before the other year; supportive of union; planning events for natural science students, union and funding; grad student post-doc council, faculty-student

relationships, sexual harassment, re-energizing department; work in MCB, on liaison committee

Q: will continue union efforts as at-large rep?

Jack: should be able to represent students on both sides of the issue, but don't see a problem with still personally working in support of it

Q: where would you stand if the students end up voting against unionizing

Jack: can personally support something without it affecting representation; vote to represent what my department wants

Jack is elected

Longwood

Sabin – international student from Nepal, BBS, cancer biology; want to increase interactions between students in longwood and Cambridge; don't really interact with students here, got to do that through science policy group and learned a lot about what others do and what issues they are having; looking forward to interacting more with people in Cambridge

Q: ideas for events or something?

Sabin: in the policy group, organized career fair for international students on both campuses interested in science policy, good turn out from both; organize events that matter to students on both campuses

Sabin is elected

Social Sciences

Peter is nominated from floor – declines; wants to focus full efforts on HGC

Holly (nominated from floor by Peter, accepts)– G2 Public Policy; would be very excited to participate

Holly is elected

Interdisciplinary Studies

Masha – G1 in education policy program, works on educations, psych, many other things; interdisciplinary important to her; interested in building community

Masha is elected

International Students

Gbemisola – served as international students rep for the past year; organized the international tax talk event; committee for mini-courses; concerns about visas, funding

and fellowship opportunities, center for writing; setting up events that would address these other needs based on success of tax event with consultants who are experienced with this; set up a blog as a safe space to talk about needs etc; lots of groups for specific subsets of students (Chinese, African), but something that will serve all international students

Gbemisola is elected

Masters Students

JJ is out sick, but no one else is nominated and she will run next time

Appointed Positions:

Social Chair/Documentarian

Organizes social events, takes pictures

Parliamentarian

Runs voting, bylaws and constitution

Not elected; both great positions to start getting involved in the GSC, not too intensive; let Darcy know if interested

Voting

Funding for ArcUrbLan

Requested: \$1010 Awarded: \$700

Leftover from last time; passes

Proposed Amicus Brief Resolution

-This fall we passed a resolution calling for Harvard to not impede union activity, to stay neutral; this spring Harvard signed on to an amicus brief filed to NLRB saying they did not think grad students at private universities had the right to form a union; if the board rules that way students at private universities will not be able to even vote on a union; rationale based on previous resolution, sending a signal that we meant what we said before and that the administration should be better about letting us decide democratically

-brief is being submitted to a legal case that is asking the question should private university graduate students be recognized as workers and have rights as such; public university grad students have this right; question of whether Harvard considers what we do work; showing a W-2, with Harvard as employer; doesn't make sense to not consider us workers; important to condemn amicus brief; Drew Faust even said though she is personally against the union we have the right to vote on it; we have the right to democratically vote; feel my work is being devalued

-against the resolution; the resolution is on the premise that democratically students should be left to themselves to decide; this argument is on insufficient ground; democracy requires

information, engaging in good faith and using reason and evidence; current labor law says we do not have the right to unionize, leaders agree and students disagree; the question is a political one; when people disagree, they go to the proper institution to decide, which in this case is the NLRB; the university went to them, and we should not condemn them for taking the action to the right level; a way university leaders have taken place in the conversation, and condemning them would be suppressing their voice; no student so far has been disciplined for their support of a union, and we should appreciate that

-is there any avenue for the union effort to send a similar document in to the NLRB instead of going through the GSC?

-the deadline for filing amicus briefs has passed; there were briefs filed for the pro-unionization side as well

-this body passed a resolution in the fall that committed us to anti-union activity on the part of the university, the question is is that what this brief is; this is not just an opinion, but an action in a legal case that has important material consequences in whether we can unionize at all

-it's not democratic if we're not even allowed to decide; which the Harvard does not want us to do, they want to make the decision for us by supporting this; not saying we don't think it's good, saying we shouldn't be able to hold the election; don't need Harvard telling me what the right choice is

-question is obligation under last resolution; spirit of last resolution was to support students in this process, and Harvard has not done anything against that; this is a different case in that Harvard took a legal road; we are going to make a political statement, we are here to support students, not as activists; GSC is not the place to do this, hampering efforts with administration; this is crossing the line from being an independent body supporting students

-what is the consequence of doing this?

-this does not commit us to advocating for the union more, just a statement, a signal to the university, our stance to let the university know that we have taken note of its actions and does not find it acceptable, act of publicity; just a resolution of the

-is illegal to suppress union activity, so they wouldn't be allow to do that

Motion to vote

Seconded

Vote to end discussion unanimous

Vote on the resolution:

Total – 39

Yes – 33

American Studies

Architecture

Astronomy
OEB
Biostats
Classics
Celtic
CCB
DMS
DMS
Econ
Edu
EALC
Eng
Film
Gov
Gov
German
Health Policy
History
History
History
HEB
Linguistics
Music
Phil
Public Policy
Psych
Romance
Slavic
Social Policy
SAS
Religion

No – 6
Classics
History of Art and Architecture
Physics
SEAS
SEAS
SEAS

Committees

FAS Commission of Inquiry – need one graduate student

The Commission of Inquiry is a panel of three members of the Faculty and two students that serves as a clearing house for inquiries, suggestions, or complaints brought to it by members of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences or of its student bodies concerning matters of fact and policy within the purview of the Faculty. The Commission is not charged with the responsibility of

resolving substantive issues, but is responsible for expediting the resolution of problems submitted to it, by assuring that they are brought to the attention of, and in due course dealt with by, the appropriate agencies of the University. The Commission may stimulate the creation by the Faculty or Faculty Council of ad hoc arrangements for dealing with questions that fall outside the mandate of existing mechanisms, and seek through the Faculty Council appropriate means of addressing problems which fall outside the purview of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

University Committee on Rights and Responsibilities - need one graduate student

In June 1970, while recognizing that responsibility for student discipline should remain with the Faculties, the University Committee on Governance recommended to the Governing Boards the creation of a University Committee on Rights and Responsibilities to serve as an advisory body and a forum for the consideration of University-wide (or cross-Faculty) policy problems related to discipline and, in certain situations, to coordinate disciplinary actions. Membership on the Committee includes members and students from all Faculties, drawn, wherever possible, from the Administrative Boards or such other faculty committees dealing with cases involving rights and responsibilities.

Ilana and Chinmay volunteer

Committee on Graduate Student Family Life

Clarisse and Jae are on it now, Clarisse is leaving, have some data for people to look at; let Darcy know

Student Health Planning Committee

ACA Grad student employee subsidy is illegal for Harvard to pay you money to buy its health insurance; they have to something by 2017

HUIT Committee

Need people to serve next year; input on major university technology decisions; just got gas email extended after graduation to what undergrads have (270 days), email or talk to Laine, 4 meetings a year

HGC – need senators for next year

Two meetings a month, free food! Collaborate with other schools
Changing to one official rep and an alternate for GSAS, Peter volunteers

Announcements

Student health insurance survey – due 4/8!

Search your email for the subject line:

“Complete this student health insurance survey to win a Center for Wellness chair massage”
tell your friends! Particularly interested in how people provide for their families if not Harvard; also helps us, is anonymous

Master Students Nonacademic Career Panel and Networking Session

Friday, April 15th from 6-9pm at Graduate Student Lounge in Dudley

Spring Conference Grants and Summer Research Grants are due April 15th

Harvard-wide Sexual Assault Prevention Convening of Student Leaders

Contact Zachary Herrmann at zsh121@mail.harvard.edu by Thursday, April 7, in order to apply

Harvard Graduate Council Leadership Conference: <http://hlc2016.com/tickets>

April 8 from 4:30-8:30pm at Harvard Northwest Building

Mayor of Quincy, SWAT officers, entrapeneur, healthcare experts, sign up soon and get the word out!

Office of Student Services Graduate Assistant: Part time position on campus from 6/6-8/31

Contact Jackie Yun for more information, jyun@fas.harvard.edu

We have printouts of job info

Follow GSC on Twitter (@HarvardGSC) &

Facebook (Harvard GSAS Graduate Student Council)

We can help publicize your events on social media!

Adjourned 8:12

RESOLUTION - PASSED

Whereas the Graduate Student Council has passed a resolution in support of the graduate student workers of HGSU-UAW, and

Whereas graduate student workers at Harvard ought to decide freely and democratically whether they wish to unionize and bargain collectively, and

Whereas Harvard University has joined an amicus brief advocating against the legal right of graduate student workers at private universities to unionize and bargain collectively, and

Whereas this action by Harvard interferes with the democratic rights of graduate student workers, including those of HGSU-UAW,

Be it therefore resolved, the Graduate Student Council condemns Harvard's actions in joining this amicus brief and opposing the right of graduate student workers to unionize or not unionize by a democratic process