

11.04.2015
Start 6:41pm

Funding results update – Rohan

Few groups didn't get their funding; should be resolved now

American Studies
Global Study of Food

Motion to approve this new funding (Rohan)
Jack seconds

Unanimous approval

Committees Report Back

Harvard College Safety Committee - Marissa Grunes

Thursdays, 3-4 pm, Straus Common Room, Harvard Yard: 11/19, 02/18, 03/10, 04/14

Has to be transparent information on safety on campus, including affiliated and nearby
Timely warnings and statistics

Compile report every year ("Play it safe"), get it in our email, lots of statistics on crime (murder, arson, burglary, etc), don't necessarily involve Harvard Students

Steve Catalano is the guy who sends out the emails you get

Safety walk – identified potential dangers, if you notice something around campus call it in
Campus Escort Program – can call somebody to walk you to your destination if you feel unsafe, don't have anyone to staff it so looking for new people; thinking of integrating with the Harvard app

Can email Shireen Hamza (shireenhamza@g.harvard.edu), Marissa (mgrunes@fas.harvard.edu),
Marissa is especially interested in bike safety

Library Standing Committee

Darcy went but isn't here

Library staff gave notes on how they interact with undergrads

Main issue is taking in books and metadata so books are searchable

Graduate Student Family Life – Clarisse Wells

Mostly collecting data on Ivy schools that have better childcare

Prohibitively expensive childcare here

Trying to find ways the university could subsidize

Looking for more people to research as well as parents who would use it – contact Clarisse if interested in helping with either (cwells@fas.harvard.edu)

Student Health Planning Committee – John Gee

Interested in know where people get insurance if not Harvard (probably mostly people with spouses and dependents)

Want to know if there are better family plans than Harvard's

Q: Related to ACA changes?

Yes, thought a lot of families would go to that but they didn't, assumption is that they are just sticking with what's easy, want to make sure they have support for those people

HUIT Committee – Laine Stranahan

Meetings: Fridays – 11/20, 2/5, and 4/22 at noon and lunch is provided

Started a spinoff meeting each following Friday because of low grad student representation (12/4, 2/12, 4/29)

Open to anyone who wants to come

Just had the first GSAS only meeting

Difficulty of sectioning has been a problem in the past, new MyHarvard and Canvas actually link the process, please give feedback, still being polished

Any possibility of a post-graduate email address?

Have one, not sure about GSAS alums, Laine will check

Harvard's Developing mobile apps; not sure whether to split it like under and grad or one app with sections

Please let Laine know if you have any ideas or input

HGPSG

Need senators! Two meetings a month, free food! Collaborate with other schools

Going through some potential restructuring, a lot of events coming up

Could definitely use more representation

Get in touch if interested

Announcements

Nov 20th – Deadline for January Mini-courses

We provide generous financial support, up to \$750 per course, for graduate students to create the two-week course of their dreams. Courses can be related to a student's research interests, or his or her personal talents and pleasures may direct the organization of the course.

Good practice for students who haven't taught yet, more low-key

What's the money for?

Both for materials and payment of teachers; about compensating people for the time they are putting into it; one week vs two week kind of thing

GSAS Master Students Survey - Junjie

Survey for Masters students

Sent out in the last email

John:

Paul Barreira, Director of HUHS is forming a patient advisory council to advise on how they provide care to graduate students

Conversations about how to improve conditions of care

Envisioning 3-year appointment

Can email us or Paul if interested

Must have received care

Voting**At-Large Rep for social sciences**

Awards selection committees, deans exec and open meetings, Mentoring and Commencement awards, Represents social sciences

Please contact us if interested

Social Chair

Organize the pub crawl – in and around campus

Please contact us if interested

Documentarian

Take pictures

Help with website stuff (nothing intense, already constructed)

Please contact us if interested

Vote: Removing the waivability of the GSC fee**Proposed Amendment:**Constitution:

Article II. Membership, Section 2: Students in Degree Programs

Students in advanced degree programs will automatically be members of the GSC unless they decline their membership in writing by waiving the annual GSC Fee.

Bylaws:

ARTICLE VII: GSC Fee, Section 2.

GSAS students wishing to decline their membership in the Council must submit a written request to the Council by the date included in materials distributed in GSAS registration packets. Those waiving the fee may not participate in GSC programs and services. Those who have already participated in Council activities may not decline the fee. Only those students who have paid the fee shall be considered "members" of the Council.

Proposal to change:

[Modified version \(accepted friendly amendment\)](#)

Constitution:

Article II. Membership, Section 2: Students in Degree Programs

Students in advanced degree programs will automatically be members of the GSC and must pay the annual GSC fee - [unless demonstrating financial hardship](#).

Bylaws:

Removal of ARTICLE VII: GSC Fee, Section 2.

Extra Information - Harvard Schools Fees:

School	Amount	Mandatory?
GSAS	\$25 /Year	Opt-out option
HBS	\$250/year	Yes
HCSPH	No fee	n/a
HDS	\$70/year	Yes
HGSD	\$150/year	Yes
HGSE	\$50/year	Opt-out option (rarely used)
HKS	\$175/year	Yes
HLS	no dues	n/a

Discussion:

What is financial hardship?

Planning on doing case-by case basis

Will talk to financial aid office about this

Would it be possible to make the option to waive more clear?

It is on the website and in the student handbook, but we could certainly make it more clear (like in an email)

What about people not on campus?

Traveling scholars are automatically not assessed the fee, will have to request to have fee taken if they want to apply for funding

How is the money spent, is that available?

Yes, we have the information and it is available, not sure it is online yet but we can put it there; is also in the minutes from previous meetings; we show you the budget to vote every year

The new wording inherently contradicts the traveling scholar exception?

That's in a separate part of the constitution

Jack Nicoludis motions to vote

Seconded

6 opposed

3 abstentions

Motion passes

Vote: Resolution for GSC to Support the Union

GSC Resolution to support the organizing efforts of HGSUUAW

Original Resolution:

Whereas graduate student workers at Harvard University do vital research, teaching and administrative work for the University;

Whereas H GSUUAW is an organization composed of graduate student workers and advocates for the union and collective bargaining rights of graduate student workers at Harvard;

Whereas the GSC represents the interests of graduate students before the Harvard administration in an advisory capacity;

Whereas the GSC has previously passed resolutions in support of the working rights of other Harvard employees, namely the Harvardowned DoubleTree Suites in Allston, Massachusetts;

Whereas unionization of graduate student workers has improved the working conditions and lives of graduate employees at other universities as well improved the graduate programs at a variety of universities;

Whereas employers sometimes engage in illegal activity by threatening or intimidating workers in an effort to discourage unionization;

Be it therefore resolved: The Graduate Student Council supports the efforts of HGSU-UAW to advocate for the working rights of graduate student workers;

Be it therefore resolved: The Graduate Student Council will work alongside HGSU-UAW to increase awareness of the unionization campaign;

Be it therefore resolved: The Graduate Student Council will issue a statement requesting Harvard remain neutral during the unionization of graduate student workers;

Be it therefore resolved: As a representative body, the Graduate Student Council stands in support of the graduate workers who support HGSU-UAW.

Accepted Friendly Amendment (Jack and Zach):

Whereas graduate student workers at Harvard University do vital research, teaching and administrative work for the University;

Whereas H GSUUAW is an organization composed of graduate student workers and advocates for the union and collective bargaining rights of graduate student workers at Harvard;

Whereas the GSC represents the interests of graduate students before the Harvard administration in an advisory capacity;

Whereas the GSC has previously passed resolutions in support of the working rights of other Harvard employees, namely the Harvardowned DoubleTree Suites in Allston, Massachusetts;

Whereas unionization of graduate student workers has improved the working conditions and lives of graduate employees at other universities as well improved the graduate programs at a variety of universities;

Whereas employers sometimes engage in illegal activity by threatening or intimidating workers in an effort to discourage unionization;

Be it therefore resolved, the Graduate Student Council recognizes that advocacy for graduate student workers by HGSUUAW is complementary to the role of the Graduate Student Council;

Be it therefore resolved, the Graduate Student Council endorses the efforts of HGSUUAW to advocate for the union and collective bargaining rights of graduate student workers and stands in support of graduate student workers who support HGSUUAW.

Disclaimer: Though Jack has previously been on the GSC Exec Board (At-Large Rep for Natural Sciences) and Elizabeth currently is (Secretary), their statements do not reflect the views of the executive board in general, which has no official position.

Pro (Jack): HGSU is advocating for GS worker interests, Most people will work as a TF and/or researcher, but no one negotiated on the terms of that contract, can improve our lives by negotiating and improving things like wages and benefits; cannot promise a specific benefit, but does promise a voice in the decision; has helped other schools
GSC responsible for representing student interests, UAW as pertains to us as workers, complimentary relationship

Con (Elizabeth): GSC represents all students, not just those in favor of the union; by endorsing the union we pick one side, when we should be more neutral and help students find information to decide for themselves

Discussion

Pro – not everybody has had the chance to think about this, but most she talks to (DMS) come down on their side; GSC doesn't not support others by supporting this; shows the GSC supports these conditions

Con – not enough information to the general graduate student body, esp at the engineering school, esp about the relationship with the UAW, slightly over 50% that responded to one poll did not support, but only 20% responded, so don't think we've had sufficient time

Do we know how many people have responded positively out of all the students?
Information about the UAW and all that is on the website, most want to sign a card that they talked to, and some want more time to think about it, just want to get to the other 3000, (over 1000 cards signed)

Pro –no GSC rep (economics), strong support for the union there 40% of the department overall (70% of contacted); would appreciate this statement of support, might put GSC on their radar

Con – some people have signed the cards and continue to have reservations; doesn't mean they are against unions; doesn't mean GSC doesn't support graduate student rights, just feel there's a lot of pressure to decide quickly, which isn't quite right for this important of a decision; would like a more open decision; would align the GSC very closely with the union which may be more pressure and make people feel over looked

Q: Are leaders paid by UAW?
Is this relevant? Decided not

Pro – Andy; in English only 3 people have straight up said no (70% of 75%); work as a part time employee, working extra and getting paid for it for the union; UAW is in favor of expanding visas

Con – we are conflating many things in this discussion; students and workers is not resolved on a legal level; ideologically where is the separation as well; also conflating Union in general and UAW specifically (which feels like it was decided on without the student body)
Was open to a vote of 200 students
Decided irrelevant

Q: does the HGSU-UAW have formal leadership?
Has organizing principles, no leaders, will elect bargaining committee when we have a union

Pro – recognizes the union can do things the union cannot

Con – in support of the idea that we need more time to figure out whether we support this resolution and for each member of the GSC to get an idea from the students they represent how they fell; conflating signing the cards with supporting the movement; personally signed a card but still need more time to figure out if really support it; also as SEAS need more time to disseminate information to their students

Q: how much is more time?
All known is that the time we had (one month) was not enough; at least another month

Pro – still defining exactly what will be involved here; UAW has an excellent history at Columbia and others, have to get involved to help shape ideas

Con – good to hear that it's flexible; but sense is not just enough time but also not enough information in general for students to reference; imbalance of information and ability to voice these opinions

Q: why haven't there been more efforts at town halls?
Have had several of these events

Pro – see resolution as a beginning to all these conversations; specifically says it would compliment each other, and also supports the process of the union effort to advocate

Con – why is this conversation silencing cons?; why are we moving forward on this specific organization when there are clear oppositions in the student body I represent

Comment: legal process requires designating a specific organization

Pro – no way to be neutral, vote sends out a clear message either pro or con, if it doesn't pass it will send out the message we are against, even if we postpone, don't know everyone's opinion but seems a vast majority from people spoken

Con – as representatives, the decision is not do you support the union, it's whether you can look at this statement and happily defend it, not about the union

Procedural Point – is possible to vote to postpone it for a specific time; amendments can also be voted

Q – does last part of the last be it resolved statement exclude students who do not support? Or neutral and not mentioning
It's meant to address the last whereas statement

Pro – other places don't have good stipends and such, not just to improve our positions, but as Harvard we have a leadership position; not just a gesture to our community, but also to others solidarity to other schools; endorse student rights

Con – don't know how people know what the people they represent want if they haven't even spoken to a majority

Comment – someone wanted the GSC to have her back before she went and spoke to others about the union; sometimes universities don't make people feel safe discussing this; this could make people seem safe

Motion to amend the last statement in the resolution – Dawn Graninger

Be it therefore resolved, the Graduate Student Council endorses the efforts of HGSUUAW to advocate for the union and collective bargaining rights of graduate student workers and stands in support of graduate student workers who support HGSUUAW.

Becomes:

Be it therefore resolved, the Graduate Student Council stands in support of graduate student workers of HGSU-UAW.

people seem to generally favor the students, but maybe not endorsing the advocacy; motion to amend that last line; might really exclude a lot a students; our role as GSC is to support the students

Elizabeth Jaensch seconds

Accepted as friendly amendment

Q: What does the first *Be it therefore resolved* statement mean?

Means we are not groups that are competing or related, representing as workers vs as students

Pro – consistent con has been “willfull” ignorance, avoiding meetings and such and if we postpone people will continue not educating themselves, if we vote we have to start considering the question

Con – been aware of effort for over a year now; not willfull ignorance, just a few weeks that it was dropped on our doorstep to talk to people

Pro – right now no union so no way to support those who support the union, in order to do that we need to support this resolution; even if just one person is in favor of the union, would you be okay with telling them you voted against this

Motion to postpone vote for two open meetings (until Feb 3) - Kevin

Seconded by Zach

Amendment to motion (Abby) – if we postpone everyone has to organize their department to set up a town hall meeting (neutral open discussion, reps for both sides) between now and Feb 3rd

Supporting this now does not foreclose these conversations, it's to make people feel safe in advocating

Vote on postponement on vote on resolution to February 3rd, also to have town halls in departments (simple majority)

Yes – 14

No – 23

Abstain – none

Motion does not pass

Move to postpone until December 2nd instead – Andy

Kevin seconds

Yes – 14

No – 23

Abstain

Motion does not pass

Motion to vote (Tina Groeger)

Seconded (Jack)

Passes

Will vote by collecting cards

Yes – 37

No – 4 (SEAS, Classics, DMS, EPS)

Abstain – 4 (Math, Inner Asian, EPS, SEAS)

Yes

Architecture -1

Astronomy – 2

OEB – 1

Celtic – 1

Comp Lit – 1

ChemBio – 1

CCB – 1

Classics -1

DMS – 1

Education – 2

EALC – 1

English – 1

German – 1

American Studies – 1

Health Policy – 2

History – 2

His. Art and Architecture – 1

HEB – 1

Linguistics – 1
Music – 1
Philosophy – 1
Psychology – 1
Public Policy – 2
Romance Languages – 2
SEAS – 1
Slavic – 1
Social Policy – 1
Sociology – 2
SAS – 1
Religion - 1

**Follow GSC on twitter (@HarvardGSC) &
Facebook (Harvard GSAS Graduate Student Council)
We can help publicize your events on social media!**

Meeting adjourned 8:20

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