



GSC Open Meeting

April 3, 2019

Graduate Student Lounge, Dudley House, 6:30 pm

1. Introduction

2. Elections

- President: Zach Hayworth runs uncontested and wins
- VP: DeAnza Cook runs uncontested and wins
- Secretary: Michael Ortiz runs uncontested and wins
- Treasurer: Jason Anesini runs uncontested and wins
- Advisor to the Council: Blakely O'Connor runs uncontested and wins
- At-large Rep for the Humanities: Davide runs uncontested and wins
- At-large Rep for the Natural Sciences: Austin Garner (OEB) runs uncontested and wins
- ***At-large Rep for SEAS: no nominations***
- At-large Rep for Social Sciences: Alexis Turner runs uncontested and wins
- At-large Rep for Interdisciplinary Studies: Michael McGarrah runs uncontested and wins
- At-large Rep for Longwood: Harim (Harry) Won runs uncontested and wins ***At-large Rep for MA Students: no nominations***
- ***At-large Rep for International Students: no nominations***

3. [Proposed Resolution](#): Support of The Harvard Prison Divestment Campaign (HPDC) for Endowment Public Disclosure (See Appendix 1)

- Jarrett Drake and Ishmael spoke about the aims of the HPDC in general (disclosure of endowment investments; divestment from prison industrial complex; reinvestment of the money formerly invested in prison industrial complex) and the aims of the present Resolution (in support of the administration disclosing the investment of its endowment).
- Questions:
 - i. Did the Administration give reasons for not disclosing its investments?

1. Answer: Harvard as a private university so it claims it does not need to disclose its investment. However the IRA classifies Harvard as a public charity.
- ii. Have there been cases of other schools divesting?
 1. Harvard itself divested from the tobacco industry earlier this century and a partial divestment of South African apartheid. Harvard has considered fossil fuel divestment.
 2. HMC.edu: Harvard has advertised all of its similar divestments.
- iii. Is there a collaboration between this effort and other divestment efforts?
 1. Yes, conversations between HPDC and similar movements supporting Harvard's divestment from other controversial industrial complexes (i.e., Hedge Funds).
- iv. What ideas does HPDC have for reinvestment?
 1. HPDC has not yet fully planned this out. Talking with similar organizers at the University of Chicago.
 2. One idea: The university should invest in the research of alternatives to imprisonment. Across the university, where harm and violence are part of course curricula, police and prison systems are implicated.
- v. Do you expect the endowment to take a hit as a result of the divestment.
 1. Jarrett says he does not have a background in finance but understands it to be nearly impossible to predict the behavior of the market and its effect on endowment performance. JP Morgan has recently pushed for a halt to investing in the Prison Industrial Complex. The reason for this was partially because the success of the Prison Industrial Complex as an industry to invest in is closely tied to political climate and therefore not a reliable industry to be investing in anyways.
- vi. Comment from Michael McGarrah: Most mutual funds fully disclose their investments, so it is not unusual for investment portfolios to be fully disclosed.
- vii. Do you think Harvard is thinking morally when it is investing or just economically?
 1. For at least 90% of the endowment, Harvard is not thinking at all. It allocated billions of dollars to Wall Street to administer its endowment. The shift to paying attention to the moral implications of the

endowment has only been made in recent years. Part of what our movement is aiming for is to do away with the willful ignorance on the part of endowment administrators regarding the moral implications of where the endowment is invested.

4. **Proposed Amendment to GSC By-Laws** (See Appendix 2)

- The proposed resolution aims to strike Article IX, Section 4 from the GSC By-Laws, effectively eliminating the departmental representative attendance requirement.
- Michael McGarrah presented views in favor of the change (selected points):
 - i. If GSAS students are all paying the Student activity fee, then all of us should be eligible for conference and research grants, regardless of the attendance of one member.
 - ii. The attendance requirement threatens too severe a penalty: research is a stake, which should be the highest priority of the GSC.
- Counter-arguments:
 - i. Most other peer institutions have this rule for awarding funding
 - ii. We need a way to incentivize attendance at GSC Open Meetings
 - iii. The vast majority of departments have no trouble meeting the requirement
 - iv. We are implementing new measures to ensure transparency of attendance (sc. attendance tally posted with meeting minutes and contacting at mid-year dep. admins of those programs in danger of losing eligibility)
 - v. Attendance tally posted with meeting minutes
 - vi. If the departmental representative can't come, any alternate or substitute can attend to fulfill the attendance requirement

5. **Upcoming Funding Deadlines**

- Spring Conference Grants, Summer Research Grants, and GSG Funding due 4/12

6. **Committee Updates**

7. **Open Floor**

Harvard Safety Committee

Hans and Alexis attended the April Safety Committee Meeting on March 28. Sexual Assault Awareness Month preparations for April include an awareness campaign that has been well-received by student test audiences. Anyone interested in sharing awareness materials with their departments can contact OSAPR for posters. We also got a Housing Day debrief. Good news! No undergraduates had to be admitted to the hospital this year. Security and crowd control planning is underway for YardFest, Boston Calling, and Commencement. They will be stringent

on the latter because Angela Merkel is the speaker. Any grads attending Commencement will want to familiarize themselves with procedures and notify guests.

Committee on Graduate Education

The FAS Faculty Council met on April 2nd and heard proposals to (1) establish an S.M. Degree in Biotechnology: Life Sciences to be combined with an M.B.A. from the Harvard Business School, (2) establish a Standing Committee on Undergraduate Policy and the Graduate Policy Committee to improve the current system of registration, and (3) replace the Undergraduate Educational Policy requirement

The CGE met on April 3rd. We heard a proposal to change the name of the PhD program in Systems Biology to Systems, Synthetic, and Quantitative Biology. We also held our joint committee meeting with the Committee on Undergraduate Education to discuss the Report of the Committee on Course Registration. We discussed aspects of the proposal that undergraduates should focus on, including streamlining course lotteries, condensed shopping week or course previews, difficulties with assigning teaching assignments, and general education requirements.

Appendix #1: GSC Resolution in support of The Harvard Prison Divestment Campaign for Endowment Public

Disclosure

Whereas the prison-industrial complex includes not only, jails, prisons, and other mechanisms of carceral control such as probation and parole but also encompasses “a set of symbiotic relationships among correctional communities, transnational corporations, media conglomerates, guards' unions, and legislative and court agendas,” and

Whereas incarceration rates for women now surpass those for men, and people of African descent constitute 40% of the incarcerated population but only 13% of the US population; police are twice as likely to use force against people of color; sixty percent of people in US jails are awaiting trial, many of whom are simply too poor to post bail, and

Whereas the Harvard Prison Divestment Campaign (HPDC), a reparatory justice initiative organized by more than a dozen students from multiple Harvard schools, seeks to sever Harvard University’s financial ties to the prison-industrial complex, and

Whereas the research initiated by HPDC has revealed that among fifty of the largest companies comprising the prison-industrial complex, Harvard holds a tie to each of them for an amount totaling more than \$2 million dollars, and

Whereas the \$2 million dollar figure is drawn from Harvard’s Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filings, which account for only 1.21% of Harvard’s endowment, and it is therefore probable that the true valuation of Harvard’s financial investments into the prison-industrial complex approximate anywhere from tens of millions of dollars to hundreds of millions, and

Whereas Harvard is classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a “public charity,” implying accountability to the public, and

Whereas public disclosure of Harvard University’s investment portfolio is supported by more than 3,400 petition signatories, including faculty and student governments and collectives at the College, Kennedy School of Government, Law School, Medical School, Divinity School, Graduate School of Education, and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences,

Be it therefore resolved, the Graduate Student Council supports the Harvard Prison Divestment Campaign for public disclosure of the endowment of the university's investment portfolio in order to investigate Harvard University's investments in prisons, jails, police, and related economies.

Appendix #2: Proposed Amendment to GSC By-Laws:

GSC By-Law Article IX, Section 4, reads: "In order to be eligible to receive a GSC Conference or Research Grant, an applicant must be a GSC member (i.e., the applicant must have paid the annual GSC Fee) and be enrolled full-time *in a degree-granting program which has been represented at at least half of the regular monthly GSC meetings in the previous semester.*"

Proposed changes: Remove GSC By-Law Article IX, Section 4.