



GSAS Student Council Open Meeting

November 6, 2019

Graduate Student Lounge, GSAS Student Center, 6:30PM

1. Introductions

2. Updates from Committees and Liaisons:

- **Committee on Graduate Education,**
 - i. Tyler, G2, Sociology: met to discuss the role of the committee and voted on a new group GSUSS (GSAS Society for Underrepresented Students in STEM)
- **GSC Conference Grant Committee**
 - i. Awarded just under \$11,000 in grants!
- **Union Liaison**
 - i. Strike Authorization Vote passed by 90.4%; strike deadline has been set for December 3
 - ii. Admin has not moved on main issues; BC is focusing on three core issues: fair & equitable pay, comprehensive health coverage, #NoCarveOut
- **HGC Liaison**
 - i. Harshil is sending out monthly newsletter--lists all the events that are Harvard-wide
 - 1. Harvard-Yale game!
 - 2. 'Black Panther' (21st November)
 - 3. DACA Protest, Mem Church (11th November)

3. Voting matters

- Vote on strike authorization vote resolution
 - i. Passes by majority vote

4. Ivy+ Update

- Annual leadership conference, brings together Ivy League schools plus UChicago & MIT
- "Grateful" and "Jealous" lists
 - i. Active commitment to financial security
 - ii. Database of 'best practices in mentoring' (MIT)
 - iii. Expedited reimbursement process

5. Advocacy:

- **October: Financial Wellness**



- i. Take-away from October Deans Meeting
 - 1. A lot of people are struggling financially; people are incredulous that the 'richest university in the world' can't fund initiatives
 - 2. Admin line is that the endowment is 'underperforming'
 - a. "Austerity"
 - b. Tuition paying MA students?
- o **November: Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment**
 - i. Survey Results and Divisional Highlight
 - 1. 497 responses (~10%); high percentage of respondents from Natural Sciences & domestic students; big G1/2 presence
 - 2. Alarming number of people who report having experienced some form of "micro-aggression" and/or harassment
 - 3. Q: For groups that say 'prefer not to say', what does the data look like?
 - 4. Rates of harassment increases with G-year
 - 5. Hostile experiences and Encounters
 - a. We solicited testimonials from students
 - b. Language mirrors language frequently used by Title IX office
 - ii. Guest Speaker: Xavier du Maine (GSAS Diversity & Inclusion Fellow)
 - 1. Diversity and Inclusion Fellow in the Office of Diversity & Minority Affairs
 - 2. Resources
 - a. Top 3 commonly used resources: CAHMS (50%); a Title IX coordinator (28%); Admins/channels within the department (25%)
 - b. Re: CAMHS: mixed testimonials
 - 3. Student experiences with Title IX are largely very negative (pervasive sense of protecting students)
 - 4. Student experiences with departments/programs (mixed bag; some positive results, others are incredibly negative)
 - 5. Comment: Discrimination & Harassment in Health Services/Resources (Julie)
 - a. Second: University's position is that care providers are equipped to provide care for all but discrimination is pervasive (Daniel)
 - b. People didn't perceive that this was a distinct survey from last year's and disincentivized people from taking the survey (Sarah)
 - 6. D, E, & I Workshop question: a lot of people demonstrated interest



- a. Workshops with HGSE fellows will take place next spring!
- 7. Resources from the D&I fellows in ODMA
 - a. They touch base with minority groups across campus
 - b. Working on beefing up recruitment programs, particularly in the Sciences
 - c. Piloting workshops during orientation
 - d. Aaron: why are diversity fellows concentrated in the sciences? Focus on recruitment vs. experience in school & drop-out
- o **December: Mental Health**
 - i. **Alexis Turner**
 - 1. Met with Paul Barreira, now at OIR; no survey will be circulated--Barreira will be sharing information with the GSC. An OIR colleague will come and report at the next meeting
 - 2. Loneliness is a big problem (45% feel isolated)
- 6. **Treasurer's Corner**
 - o Proposal to consider increasing student activity fee increase from \$25 to \$50
- 7. **Announcements**
 - o GSC DEI Workshop Canceled for Fall (will be held in the spring)
 - o Each year during January@GSAS, we fund mini-courses! Deadline is on November 11th
- 8. **Open Floor**
 - o Is there a guide for resources? We're working on a white page!
 - o LSA vote of support (resolution here)
 - i. Passes by majority vote!