Agenda for October 7, 2009

Officers
President—Heather Lee (American Civilization)
VP, Administration—Nitin Jadhav (Engineering)
Treasurer—Anthony Evans (Psychology)
Technology Officer—Stefanie Sevcik (Comparative Literature)
VP, Social—Ratnesh Gupta (Engineering), Sumit Kumar Soni (Engineering)
Secretary—Michael Antosh (Physics)
Master’s Advocate: Courtney Hardwick (Education)

Attendance: 39 of the 60 filled seats, 70 seats total. 31 of the 42 departments with at least one representative slot filled, 47 departments total.

I. Approval of the Minutes from the September Meeting
Approved.

II. Invited Speakers
i. None scheduled

III. Executive Reports and Announcements
i. Proposal: Advanced Graduate Student Funding Report
Grad school funding for post 5th-year grad students seems to vary between departments – the grad school claims that all 6th-years received funding, but some grad students have reported otherwise. GSC officers decided that best way to find information on this is to ask the reps. Reps, please answer the questions at the end of this agenda and send it to GSC_President@brown.edu sometime in the next 2 weeks. Feedback is always welcome from anyone! Information will end up with student Ryan Hartigan, who is writing a report on graduate student funding at Brown. President calls an ad hoc vote on whether this is a good idea; all reps think it is a good idea.

ii. Graduate School: TA assignments, Academic Standing
Be your own advocate – fill out the forms for TA assignments for next semester as early as possible. Academic standing is going to be standardized by the grad school – this could be really good or really bad and we will discuss it with Dean Bonde at next month’s meeting.

iii. Campus update: H1N1, FY2011, Organizational Review Committee
FY2011 – our endowment was a little better than anticipated. The organizational review committee will check the university’s efficiency. The president says that some employees may be eliminated. H1N1 – all students will be vaccinated, starting perhaps around January. Grad students’ shots will be free, although students with special needs will come first.

iv. Master’s Student Funding
Some programs are getting funding from the grad school, while others are not. The master’s student advocate is looking into this – these questions are also on the form mentioned above (at the end of the agenda). Please help us answer these questions as well.

v. Upcoming Socials
People under 21 want to go to socials, and they can’t if there is alcohol. We are hoping to have some more non-alcoholic socials. A barbeque is coming up THIS FRIDAY, and a Halloween party at the end of the month.

vi. NAGPS update
GSC treasurer moved that we leave the National Association of Graduate and Professional Schools - $1000 membership fee for no clear goals. The GSC has left the NAGPS, and the regional head of it has asked the GSC to come back. They think it is a good way to share information about grad student life at different schools, and also they claim to lobby for students, particularly international students. Our money pays for regional officers to go to conferences (we would have to pay for our own). The regional head had asked us to particularly reconsider becoming re-involved with the regional meetings instead of national (but no vote unless we pay). The GSC treasurer thinks that this is unnecessary, particularly in light of the Ivy Summit. The Ivy Summit is this weekend in Ithaca, NY – the GSC is sending a contingent.

vii. Vote 2: Bylaw Amendment, Article XXV: Conference Funding
Students cannot ask for money for conferences that they have already gone to. This has been passed once, and a second vote will put it into the constitution. Vote: passes with 1 no.

IV. Funding Requests: Group—Amount—Purpose

i. Anchal—$400—Henna Workshop
   No one from Anchal showed up, so no money.

V. External Committee Reports and Announcements

i. Election: College Curriculum Council
   Jason Becker – 5th year (including undergrad) in Urban Education. Was an undergrad on this. This committee reviews new course proposals. Vote: pass unanimously.

ii. Election: Graduate Council- Physical Sciences
   Xiaojiao Yu (engineering) is nominated. She was on the parking appeal board last year. Xiaojiao says that this committee reviews the courses taught at Brown. She wants to create more opportunities for graduate students. Vote: pass unanimously.

iii. Election: University Disciplinary Council.
   One time when grad students get to discuss policy. Last year for example, they dealt with the students who protested the corporation meeting, which had political and university disciplinary implications. Also date rape is dealt with by this committee, according to the GSC President. Stephen Chambers (History) is nominated – he will be inclined to give people the benefit of the doubt, when it’s right to.

VI Group Recognition

i. The Left Forum
   Sean Dinces – grad student in American Civilization. They hope to invite speakers and show films with a new perspective. The goal is to get under grads involved as well. They want to provide a safe space for these discussions. They will be analogous to groups like “college democrats”.
Films include “Salt of the Earth” and “Hearts and Minds”. They want to be a group so that they are allowed to use rooms at Brown to meet in. Vote: pass with 4 nos.

VII. Other News

i. Open floor

Is there an OktoberFest this year? No, because the officers were stressed by the Ivy Summit overlapping with it.

We already offer 7 classes, but would you like to see any more next semester? Maybe something artistic? Suggestions: photography, cinema club, something to get us downtown for a social, downtown pub crawls, a Federal Hill walk, camping.

Pizza place for GSC meetings: Pizza Pier (previous), campus catering (current).

Grad student lounge speakers are broken but will be fixed. Anything else we want in the lounge?

Proposed “Iron Chef competition” postponed.

Anything for officers to specially communicate or learn at the Ivy Summit?

Unionization of grad students (GSC president says that we can’t even do this at a private school yet, perhaps with help of NAGPS as mentioned above), quality of life, health coverage (dental), whether we should be seen by Brown as employees, the same questions listed below for reps to ask their departments, whether we could be given contracts by Brown.

ii. Next GSC General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 4 at 7 p.m.** in the Graduate Student Lounge

---

Bylaw Amendment, Article XXV: Conference Funding

Section 11: Applicants may only request funding for prospective conferences.

Advanced Graduate Student Departmental Questions

1) What is the usual process for advanced graduate funding in your department?
2) Did the funding process for the academic year 2009-2010 deviate from the usual process? If so, in what ways?
3) What forms of funding did advanced students receive for academic year 2009-10?
4) Does your department offer funding to master’s students? If so, how many students received funding in the academic years 2007-2008, 2008-2009, and 2009-2010, and in what forms?