Agenda for November 4, 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: 36 representatives from 28 programs.

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

II. Invited Speakers
   i. Dean Bonde—Academic and Social Climate Survey, Advising Forms and TA schedules

   NEASC report released today. New England Assoc. of Schools and Colleges, accredited the grad school. Overall report was good! They wanted to make sure that the grad students were made aware of all the services available to them. There will be a group looking into this, with a grad student on it. Any student can ask Dean Bonde about this, or email her about any services you feel should be more publicized.

   Responses to academic and social climate survey will be released soon. We as grad students took this survey in the spring. Dean Bonde wants departments to talk about the results with their grad students. Some common concerns were space, levels of respect for students, climates for genders and availability of services. Dean Bonde will be visiting programs. All responses were anonymous. Departments (there are 69 total) with under 5 students answering were not released, for concern over guessing who wrote a given survey.

   Dean Bonde urges the grad students to use the student writing center. “A safe place” if you have writer’s block and don’t want your advisor to know about it. One concern listed in the survey is the grad student/mentor relationship (also postdoc). An agreement form is being distributed – feel free to bring it to your advisor if you want to start a discussion. Similarly, an IDP (Individual Development Plan) is being distributed – a chance for you to remind your advisor what you have done and what skills you want to learn.

   One grad student in the audience asks why the agreement is not mandatory. Dean Bonde says that required new ideas from Deans don’t tend to be listened to. This is instead a “soft launch”.

   One more heads-up from the Dean. Appointments (TA, proctor) are being decided earlier than usual. This should not affect us other than deadlines for accepting them being earlier.

   On sixth year funding, the Dean is trying hard to find as much of it as she can. Last year the demand for it almost doubled (38 or 40 to 78). The deadline for departments to recommend students for sixth year funding is April 1. The answer from the grad school will come by May 15. These deadlines will be made known to the departments. Some of the people who are denied funding (if any) could be
given money after that if it comes available. If you have an issue with anything, email Dean Bonde. Also, if any students win outside funding at any point (Fulbright, etc.) they are guaranteed a sixth year of funding. Students with visa issues should make those known to the deans for consideration in the sixth year funding decision. Be sure to check morning mail for updates from the Dean.

III. Executive Reports and Announcements

i. Self Study Report Ryan Hartigan
   Ryan was hired in the spring to write this. It looks into the history of funding at Brown, how decisions are made, and how to present our funding issues to the grad school. Do we want to use answers in the report from specific departments? The five year guarantee was started here in 2006, in part because many schools like Brown had it. The grad school website says that students are not expected to graduate in 5 years – average graduation time since 2004 is 6.67 – 6 in physical sciences, 5.6 in life sciences, 7 or over in humanities. Summer funding has not been great, at any point in the recent past. NEASC response, out today – as discussed by Dean Bonde. Brown is beginning to become transparent on sixth year funding. A few responses on sixth year funding has revealed some departments that are not as open to sixth year funding. Please write to Ryan to let him know how your department deals with this, or have your GSC rep do it. Ryan is working on a cost of living index, including rent and utilities, to use as a talking point with the grad school.

ii. Upcoming Socials
   Rock climbing social in the next few weeks. Winter ball near the end of the month. Med school wanted to collaborate with us on the Halloween party, but it was too late in planning. Should we do the winter ball with them? We can’t tell them apart from us based on IDs. One comment is, if they are going to sneak in anyway, should we have them help us out both with effort and finances? They have much less money than us. Informal poll shows most of the GSC wants to meet the grad students at some point. There is a similar question to this with undergrads. The Brown card office says there is no way to scan cards and know grad students from others. Nitin: grad students have a “G” on their GCB (grad center bar) cards. This could be a possibility.

iii. Lounge update
   Stereo system was broken, then fixed. Then the speaker broke. Do we want to buy new ones? They cost $600. Something could happen to them too. We should get whatever speakers we have better secured.

iv. Open Access Compact
   The argument: a group of schools want us to join them in supporting a bill in congress that would make all government funded research freely available six months after publishing. Publicly funded research should be available to all. Counterargument: angry publishers could review less or stop accepting some research. Will they? All students who vote want us to look more into this.

v. Ivy Report
   Two main lessons from the Ivy Summit: All schools are doing research on their stipends. MIT uses their stipend report to get 3-4% increases in funding every year, including last year. In addition, all other grad student organizations have been structured into
specialized subcommittees. We want to pitch four different subcommittees for us, in order to stop details from holding us back. The 3 tier model is: representatives, specialized committees, executive board. The idea is to make things more efficient.

Our new structure will look like this:
8 officers, up to 72 reps.
Each subcommittee would be 2 officers and 3 reps. These would be voted in as well as the officers. They will meet for one hour per month.
4 committees are finance (Treasurer, President), nominations (VP Admin and Master's Advocate), communications (secretary, tech officers), social (VPs social).
Meetings: 3rd Wed of Month for committees, 4th for officers, 1st for GSC general meeting. Things can still be brought to the general meeting if it is requested.

GSC's reaction to this: appointments to committees will be for half a month. We could elect them in September to get some overlap. It is not specified who can come to the committees, only who can vote. We could always make new committees if we want.

vi. Vote: Constitutional and Bylaw Amendments – listed at the end of this document.
Vote on whether or not to vote – passes with 2 nays. Voting is pass unless objection.
Constitution: article 5 – pass
Article 6 – pass
Article 7 – pass
Article 13 – adding a veto to override the committee-pass
Bylaws: article 2 – meetings – pass
Article 3 – pass
Article 4- pass
Article 5-pass
Article 6-pass
Article 7 – pass
Article 8-pass
Article 9-new for master's student advocate
Article 11-pass – note budget is still passed by general body
Article 13-pass
Article 15-pass
Article 16-pass
Article 17-new sections, which define internal committees-pass
Article 18-pass
Article 19-pass
Article 20-pass
Article 21-pass
Article 25-pass

IV. Funding Requests: Group—Amount—Purpose
i. Grant Funding—Elena Gonzales
   Not here.
ii. Grant Funding—Hollis Mickey
   For equipment – 10 yoga mats and blocks. Hollis has 15-25 students for her GSC yoga class each week. The 7 donated mats and blocks Hollis bought with her money are not sufficient. This is a lasting investment. $286.30 total cost,
including reimbursements for the blocks Hollis bought. This equipment will also keep class safer. Vote: pass unanimously

iii. Grant Funding—Mario Sifuentez
    Not here.

iv. Cityscapes in Fiction—$400—Sophie Beal
    A conference on April 10th in Pembroke Hall. Topic is literature having to do with cities – multidisciplinary. Students and professors will speak. Open to all, the money is for lunch. Total budget is about $6400. Vote: pass unanimously.

v. Conference Funding—$200—Qussay Al-Attabi
    Second year in comp. lit. His advisor in Arabic literature left. (Brown is hiring someone). The conference will be a chance to meet new people in his field. Total budget is $320. He is not presenting, so ineligible for grad school funding. Vote: pass unanimously.

vi. Conference Funding--$200—Nitin JadHAV
    The VP. Materials Research Society. Last year they had 2800 grad students at the conference, so it is a great chance to meet people in his field and try to find a job. Vote: pass unanimously.

vii. Conference Funding--$200—Lyra Monteiro
    Archaeological Institute of America. The major conference in her field. Her second conference of the year, so ineligible from the grad school. Conference in Anaheim. Important because she is going on job market next year. Paying for the rest herself. Vote:pass unanimously.

    Total budget is $2900, most of our money for food and receptions. Vote: pass unanimously.

ix. Conference Funding - $200 – Elizabeth Bennett
    Northeast Political Science conference in Philadelphia. Presenting in the spring, which is grad school money. Presenting here on research on Italy on G8 summit protests. Vote: pass unanimously.

    Andrea G – Mock senate on…(in my email). Police is $388, total budget is about $1000. Open to the public. Vote: pass unanimously.

V. External Committee Reports and Announcements

i. Election: Campus Planning Advisory Board
    Stefanie Sevcik: Campus Planning. Wants to advocate for us to get more than a lounge. Vote: pass unanimously. Pass unanimously.

ii. Election: Campus Life Advisory Board
    No nominees.

iii. Election: Parking Violation Appeals Board
    No nominees.

iv. Election: Dean’s Advisory Group

v. Arsalan Ali Faheem – master’s student in public policy. The Dean requested someone from sociology or political science, and someone who has been around for a while. But he will help broaden their views to master’s students. Vote: pass with one no.

    Kimberly Damm, a master’s student. Her involvement on this committee will help her thesis research. Vote: pass unanimously.
Nominations for GSC officers open today.

VII. Other News
i. Open floor
ii. Next GSC General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 2 at 7 p.m.** in the Graduate Student Lounge

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS, AS DISCUSSED ABOVE.

CONSTITUTION OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

- **Section 6:** The GSC internal committees shall meet once per month. These internal committees are: Finance, Nominations, Social, Communications

ARTICLE VI. FINANCES

- **Section 3:** At the first GSC finance internal committee meeting of the academic year, the Treasurer shall present a report of the previous fiscal year's budget, revenues, and expenses.

- **Section 4:** At the first GSC finance internal committee meetings of the academic year, the Treasurer shall submit a budget of expected revenues and proposed expenses for approval by a vote of the majority of the representatives present. The proposed budget shall be made publicly available before the first meeting.

- **Section 6:** Upon majority vote of the committee representatives present at any finance internal committee meeting, the GSC shall provide funds from the revenues specified in the budget to support events or activities that are of interest to the graduate student body or graduate student groups.

- **Section 8:** In an emergent situation, reserve monies may be spent if approval of a 2/3 majority of representatives present at the next GSC finance internal committee meeting is secured, or if approval of a 2/3 majority of the officers is secured, after disseminating the critical information to the representatives..

ARTICLE VII. EXTERNAL COMMITTEES
Section 1: The GSC nominations internal committee shall elect graduate student representatives to University committees, referred to as "external committees."

Section 3: If a position on an external committee must be filled before the next meeting of the GSC nominations internal committee, the GSC Board shall appoint a representative to that committee.

Section 4: Representatives to external committees are elected for 1-year terms. After 1 year, the positions as representatives to external committees are open for general election at the next GSC nominations internal committee meeting. Veteran representatives may run for reelection.

Section 5: Representatives to external committees shall deliver a report at a GSC nominations internal committee meeting at least once per academic year.

Section 6: A representative may be removed from service on an external committee by approval of a 2/3 majority of the voting members present at a GSC nominations internal committee meeting.

Section 7: Representatives who fail to report to the GSC nominations internal committee are considered delinquent and forfeit their positions as representatives to their respective external committees. A representative is “delinquent” if he or she does not respond to an email from the GSC Vice President regarding their respective committees within one month. Once a representative is deemed “delinquent,” his or her position as representative is open for general election at the next GSC nominations internal committee meeting.

ARTICLE XIII. VETO

Section 1: If graduate students objects to a decision made by a GSC internal committees, they may ask for a review of a specific decision at the general GSC meeting.

- The support of 5 students is required to bring a motion to review an internal committee decision.
- The support of at least 25% of GSC representatives in attendance is required to bring a review of internal committee decision.

Section 2: The internal committee whose decision is being challenged shall give a brief presentation about its decisions at the same meeting.

Section 3: There shall be a discussion at the same meeting.

Section 4: The support of at least 50% of GSC representatives in attendance is required to overturn a committee decision.
BY-LAWS OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

ARTICLE II. MEETINGS

- Section 10: The GSC Board shall generally meet on the fourth Wednesday of a month in the academic year.
- Section 11: The GSC internal committees shall generally meet on the third Wednesday of a month in the academic year.

ARTICLE III. THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

- Section 7: The President shall co-chair the GSC finance internal committee with the Treasurer.

ARTICLE IV. THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATION

- Section 7: The Vice President of Administration shall co-chair the GSC nominations internal committee with the Master’s Student Advocate.

ARTICLE V. THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT OF SOCIAL EVENTS

- Section 7: The Vice Presidents of Social Events shall co-chair the GSC social internal committee.

ARTICLE VI. THE OFFICE OF TREASURER

- Section 6: The Treasurer shall co-chair the GSC finance internal committee with the President.

ARTICLE VII. THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY

- Section 8: The Secretary shall co-chair the GSC communications internal committee, with the Technology Officer.

ARTICLE VIII. THE OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

- Section 6: The Technology Officer shall co-chair the GSC communications internal committee, with the Secretary.

ARTICLE IX, THE OFFICE OF MASTER’S STUDENT ADVOCATE

- Section 1: The Master’s Student Advocate shall co-chair the GSC nominations internal committee, with the Vice President of Administration.

ARTICLE XI. BUDGET

Section 2: A statement shall be attached to the budget explaining the purpose and meaning of each section and sub-section, enabling the GSC finance internal committee representatives to understand the budget before voting.
Section 3: The budget shall be distributed to all representatives at least 1 week before the first GSC finance internal committee meeting of each fiscal year.

Section 4: At the first meeting, the GSC finance internal committee representatives may amend the amount of money allocated to each section and sub-section.

ARTICLE XIII. EVENT FUNDING

- Section 4: The individual or a representative of the organization requesting funds from the GSC must be a currently enrolled graduate student and make a brief presentation at a GSC finance internal committee meeting detailing their funding request.
- Section 5: The GSC Treasurer shall notify the GSC representatives of all pertinent information about the funding request at least 5 days before the GSC finance internal committee meeting at which voting will take place.
- Section 6: If the funding request is denied, the individual or organization may attempt to alter their funding request or advertising campaign and re-petition for sponsorship at a later GSC finance internal committee meeting. Only one additional petition shall be allowed per fiscal year.

ARTICLE XV. GRANT FUNDING

- Section 3: The individual or a representative of the organization requesting a grant from the GSC must be a currently enrolled graduate student and make a brief presentation at a meeting of the GSC finance internal committee regarding their grant request.
- Section 4: Voting on a grant request shall take place at the next GSC finance internal committee meeting following the one at which the initial proposal was heard. The individual or a representative of the organization requesting the grant shall return at that meeting to answer questions before voting takes place.
- Section 5: If the grant request is denied, the individual or organization may alter their grant request and re-petition the GSC finance internal committee at a later meeting. Only one additional grant request or funding request shall be allowed per fiscal year.
- Section 7: Once the equipment has been purchased or the project is underway, the individual or a representative of the organization who requested the grant shall return to give a brief status report at a subsequent GSC finance internal committee meeting.

ARTICLE XVI. GRADUATE STUDENT LOUNGE

- Section 1: The Graduate Student Lounge, hereafter referred to as the "Lounge," shall be maintained under the auspices of the GSC social internal committee,
including custodial arrangements and fire safety regulations.

ARTICLE XVII. INTERNAL COMMITTEES

Section 1: Any standing committee or ad hoc committee of the GSC, henceforth referred to as an "internal committee," shall meet at the discretion of the members of that committee.

Section 2: Any internal committee may be disbanded by majority vote of the members of the committee or at the discretion of the President.

Section 3: The GSC shall have the following internal committees:

- The finance internal committee shall vote on all expenditures and related manners, including those specified in bylaws articles 11, 13, 15 and 25. It will be co-chaired by the GSC President and Treasurer.

- The Nominations internal committee shall vote on group membership, awards and graduate student groups, as in bylaws articles 18, 20 and 21. It will be co-chaired by the GSC Vice President of Administration and Master’s Student Advocate.

- The Social internal committee shall assist the Vice Presidents of Social Events in organizing, planning and executing social events, as in bylaw article 19. It will be co-chaired by the GSC Vice Presidents of Social Events.

- The communications internal committee shall ensure that the GSC’s communications stay current, including but not limited to the GSC website and GSC event advertising.

Section 2: The internal committees must submit a summary of each meeting to the GSC secretary, who will distribute the summaries to the GSC main body at least one week before a GSC general meeting.

Section 3: At a GSC general meeting, any representative may motion for the GSC main body to consider any order of business voted on by any internal committee in the previous meeting. In this case, the decision of the GSC main body will replace the decision of the internal committee.

ARTICLE XVIII. EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

- Section 1: In the event of a vacancy on an external committee, the Vice President of Administration shall send a call for a representative within one week from the notice of the vacancies or within five days before the following GSC nominations internal committee meeting, whichever is sooner.
- Section 3: When an external committee carries out activity that impacts the graduate student community, the representative(s) of the committee shall report such activity at the next GSC nominations internal committee meeting in writing or orally.

- Section 4: If there is any complaint about an external committee representative, the Vice President of Administration shall present such complaints anonymously in the GSC nominations internal committee meeting and make a motion of no confidence.

- Section 5: If a motion of no confidence for an external committee representative is passed as outlined in Article VII, Section 6 of the Constitution, and the representative is duly removed from office, an election shall be held at the same GSC nominations internal committee meeting to fill the vacant position.

ARTICLE XIX. SOCIAL EVENTS

- Section 3: All officers and internal committee members of the GSC shall be certified as social event managers by the Student Activities Office before the first social event of the year.

ARTICLE XX. GRADUATE STUDENT GROUPS

- Section 1: The GSC shall have the power to recognize official graduate student groups by approval of a majority of representatives present at a GSC nominations internal committee meeting.

- Section 2: A graduate student group shall meet the following criteria:
  - That it has at least 10 members
  - That a majority of its membership be graduate students, faculty, or staff at Brown University
  - That it has at least one officer who is a graduate student
  - That it does not duplicate the stated purpose of an existing graduate student group.
  - That it should seek recognition from both Graduate Student Council nominations internal committee and Office of the Chaplains and Religious Life if the graduate student group concerns mainly religious activities.

- Section 3: Any group meeting the above criteria in Section 2 and seeking recognition by the GSC shall submit an application for recognition to the GSC Vice President of Administration at least 1 week prior to a GSC nominations internal committee meeting. The recognition application shall include:
Section 4: The GSC Vice President for Administration shall notify the GSC nominations internal committee representatives of all pertinent information about the recognition application at least 5 days before the GSC nominations internal committee meeting at which voting will take place.

Section 5: A graduate student representative of the group seeking recognition, preferably an officer, shall make a brief presentation applying for GSC group recognition at the GSC nominations internal committee meeting, after which the vote shall take place.

Section 8: Each officially recognized graduate student group must renew its recognition each year by the December meeting of the GSC nominations internal committee by submitting a current membership and officer list to the GSC Vice President for Administration. Group recognition shall be renewed if the group continues to meet the criteria set out in Section 2 of this Article.

Section 9: A graduate student group's recognition shall be rescinded for any of the following reasons:

- If it is unable to maintain the criteria for application stated in Section 2.
- If it does not renew its recognition as prescribed in Section 8.
- If the GSC Vice President for Administration cannot contact any of the group's contact names by the December meeting.
- If a majority of the representatives present at a GSC nominations internal committee meeting vote to rescind their recognition.

ARTICLE XXI. AWARDS AND HONORS

Section 3: Nominations for both honors shall be opened during the February GSC nominations internal committee meeting and shall be valid in written or oral form upon receiving a second.

Section 4: Nominees for Graduate Speaker shall present an excerpt of their full speech at the April GSC nominations internal committee meeting before the vote is taken, unless another selection process is specified.

Section 5: Voting for both honors shall take place at the April GSC nominations internal committee meeting, and the winner shall be decided upon approval by a plurality of representatives present at that meeting.

ARTICLE XXV. CONFERENCE FUNDING

Section 2: Requests for funding must be made 1 week prior to a GSC finance internal committee meeting to be considered at that meeting. The grant request shall include:

- Amount of money requested
- Description of conference and how your participation advances your
education at Brown
  o  A complete budget

- Section 3: The individual requesting money from the GSC must be a currently enrolled graduate student and make a brief presentation at a meeting of the GSC finance internal committee regarding their request.

- Section 4: Voting on a funding request shall take place at the GSC finance internal committee meeting at which the initial proposal was heard. The individual making the request shall be present at that meeting to answer questions before voting takes place.

- Section 5: If the funding request is denied, the individual may not repetition the GSC finance internal committee until the next school year.