Agenda for December 2, 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: 33 program representatives out of 55 filled seats; 68 total seats. 28 programs represented out of 40 that currently have representatives; 47 total programs could send representatives.

I. Approval of the Minutes from the November Meeting
Approved unanimously.

II. Invited Speakers
i. Alex Evans, NAGPS National President-Elect (MIT)—NAGPS—Open Access Presentation
NAGPS: National Association of Graduate and Professional Students. Founded in 1986 after Reagan tax change, for networking and collective bargaining. Legislative action days are when NAGPS representatives go to Washington DC to lobby Congress. Main issues this year:
1. H-1B visa reform - cap increase or removal, for foreign students. NAGPS research shows 1 foreign “job” creates 5 American jobs.
2. Open Access - discussed last month in GSC meeting – has votes to pass Senate committee and a sponsor in the House of Representatives
3. tax exemption of grad student stipends - received favorably
4. student loan and healthcare reform,
5. Iranian students’ lack of multi entry visas.
There are also regional and national conferences.

Mr. Evans says that NAGPS is being reinvigorated at the national level, after years of being more based on the 5 regions.

Discussion on open access in particular:
Open access designed for schools with not enough money to eventually be able to see research journals. This is especially important for projects funded by the US government. Profit margins are “astronomical” for publishing companies. Jon Barchi (Neuroscience) says that existing open access equivalent for health sciences has been unsuccessfully challenged in the US Congress in the last 6 months. Support for open access is expressed, led by Jadrian Miles (Computer Science). Any student in a member school can run for office.

Discussion on NAGPS membership (Brown was a member but is not):
Mr. Evans says that networking has provided information and ideas, as well as the opportunity to shape the NAGPS. About 40 active schools. Fee is $500 per year – half toward national conference. About 25% to travel and 20% to advertising. There is
lobbying, but also collective bargaining and networking. Some data is accessible to all, but some will be only for members (for example some statistical data on stipends and healthcare, usually averaged between multiple schools). Unionization has been discussed in NAGPS, with no leaning. There is a year 2000 NAGPS quality of life survey available on their website.

Discussion on NAGPS membership will be at the next meeting, in February.

III. Executive Reports and Announcements

i. Vote: Constitutional and Bylaw Amendments
   Passed unanimously as one large group. All amendments must be passed twice to become official, these were debated in November and no one had anything new to say. See second file for the amendments.

IV. Funding Requests: Group—Amount—Purpose

i. Grant Funding—Pilates—$450—Elena Gonzales
   She has been teaching Pilates this semester, this money is for the spring. Elena thanks the GSC for previous support. All money for equipment: light weights, tennis balls for stretching, mats, a secure cabinet. This will be for the GSC to use with future classes too. There are GSC mats for yoga, but they are in the Hillel House. Pilates and yoga overlap in time, which has caused complaints this semester.
   Jadrian Miles wants a bigger storage cabinet (proposed is 42” by 32” by 18”, Jadrian wants one the size of the left side of the TV/speaker cabinet). We can’t store outside, things will freeze. Elena says that a cabinet that bigger size may be roughly $100-$150 more. Discussion of how to make this happen: find a new hand-built cabinet or increase her budget. Decision is to do the cabinet separately, taking money from lounge maintenance – voted on and passed unanimously (taken down to $450).
   Final vote: passes unanimously.

ii. Event Funding—Euterpe—$100—Josh Blaylock
   Interdisciplinary grad student gathering once per semester since 2004: reading of creating work, singing, music. Asking for food money, which is entire budget. Music room at Rochambeau, December 9 from 6-9pm. Josh also needs more performers. Vote: pass unanimously.

iii. Event Funding—Exhibit—$400—Amy Johnson
   At Johnson and Wales, going to Chinese Historical Society of New England and Boston. It took a year to make, money is to frame it and otherwise prepare it to be in other exhibits. It will be for exhibitions. The subject matter is Chinese food, including family histories. Total cost is $400 for this iteration, maybe $1000 total. Vote: pass unanimously.

iv. Lyra Monteiro – Westminster Stories Project
   Wants $400 to create cardboard cutouts for stories for December 31 (Bright Night). Vote: pass unanimously.

V. Elections

i. GSC Officers
   Master’s Advocate: 1 semester appointment (the rest are one year)
   Courtney’s experience was that people were really open to hearing masters students’ perspective. Two candidates – Katelyn in public humanities masters
program. She was an undergrad at Brown, and feels Brown should do more for the masters students. Communication is there but not suggested. Ryan McGee in public policy was inspired by seeing someone in a one year program go through Brown. Ryan was in the Peace Corps. Katelyn is in her second year and an undergrad. A classmate of Ryan voices his organization and leadership – she thinks he will ask the right questions. Amy Johnson (American Civilization) knows Katelyn and says that she is equally organized. She has worked with financial aid and Brown deans before. Katelyn’s program is not fully funded; Ryan’s unclear. Vote: Katelyn – 14, Ryan – 16.

Social Chairs: Organize events, satisfy various needs for social engagement, meet with the other executives. 3 candidates for 2 positions – the current tech officer, Stefanie Sevick is first. Stefanie has served on external committees, has worked with the deans. Stefanie votes to go back to the expensive pizza. Shawna Sullivan is a first year with 5 years of public relations experience in Boston. She’s organized hundreds of events for 5-100ish people. Paul Robertson, religious studies major, has been to every social except one in the past 4 years. Paul thinks Providence is awesome – he wants to do things downtown with big money. Experience throwing parties is big for all. Stefanie served on the drug and alcohol policy committee at Brown. All candidates commit to socials that don’t involve alcohol; Shawna suggests community service. Stefanie is 2nd year, Shawna is 1st, Paul is 4th. Discussion: Paul has contacts downtown and can throw parties that are fun without alcohol. Stefanie is great to work with. The paperwork is very important here. One last recommendation for Stefanie – very well prepared.

Tech Officer – deals with technology (the web, listserv)
One candidate – Jadrian (the 2008 tech officer). Jadrian has been on GSC for 3 ½ years, was like an officer this year as well; trained Stefanie. Made our website this year. He wants to help make committees work. Vote: pass unanimously.

Secretary – deals with membership, attendance, the constitution and minutes.
One candidate – Mike Antosh (the current secretary). Mike loves his job! Mike is elected.

Treasurer: Almost everything in the GSC involves money. You set the budget, interact with almost everyone involved in the GSC.
Chair the finance committee, with the President. Time commitment is not “too much”. Shawna (ran for social chair) is nominated. Vote: pass unanimously.

Vice President of Administration: involves external committee lists, award nominations. One nominee – Ryan Hartigan. Ryan has been a strong advocate for the GSC. He was very important in the making of our quality of life/stipend survey this year. Vote: pass unanimously.

President: Leads the GSC. Runs the meetings, meets with the deans, consulted on for other organizational decisions. He or she should have a vision for the GSC’s future. Heather is running for reelection in order to oversee the running of committees. She wants to get that stipend report out! Running against Heather is Stephen Chambers (History), who doesn’t like Presidential
unopposed elections. He thinks Heather will do a great job – he would take a more activist bent, and push for unions, childcare, basically the same rights as other Brown employees. Stephen asks questions and is a faithful GSC member. He would increase the beer budget for meetings. Heather thinks a union could be a good idea – it is harder at private schools. She would like NAGPS to pursue it further. She wants more effective advocacy, however it comes about. She is modeling her ideas on MIT. Stephen says he would be “louder” with the deans and their plan to lay off 20% of the staff. Support is expressed for Heather’s loud representation and Stephen’s pro-union ideas. Heather dealt with 6th year funding and was very dedicated/future vision minded this year. Vote: Stephen – 3, Heather – the rest.

ii. Internal Committee Members – any unfilled will be voted on in February

   Financial committee: grant funding, event funding, the budget. Chaired by the President and Treasurer.
   Mateo - 1st year in computer science. Wants to help out. Petros is a 6th year in economics. He is excited to be a part of the 3-tier structure. Petros is more conservative with finances than most of the GSC. Vote: Mateo – pass unanimously, Petros – pass unanimously.
   Stephen Chambers is later nominated by Heather Lee. He is interested. He could provide a more liberal perspective. Vote: no objections.

   Nomination committee: nominations, awards
   Tam – amciv grad student. Wants to make sure our ideas are communicated.
   Sara Emmenecker – amciv master’s student - went to Brown, graduating in 2004. Has lived in Providence for the past 3 years. Has had public service jobs around Providence. Wants to advocate for masters students as well. Candidates approved without a vote.

   Communications: website, membership and more
   One nominee – Jon Barchi, 2nd year neuroscience. Is a CIS admin, interested in new uses of technology. Wants to interact with social, get it well advertised. Voted in unanimously.

   Social: lounge responsibility, event planning
   Joanna Roberts – 2nd year in public policy. She went to school outside Boston, so she knows New England, and she has experience throwing events. She wants to throw dance parties but also rock climbing, going to the beach towns, going to Boston and going to sporting events. Vote: no objections.

VI Group Recognition
   Jim Liu (Physics) – Grad Student Badminton
   Started 2 years ago with 4 people, now has 28, mostly in physics but looking to expand. The volleyball and track teams have overbooked their court, and this will allow them to reserve court time. Vote: pass unanimously.

VII. Other News
   i. Open floor
   ii. Next GSC General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 3, 2010 at 7
p.m. in the Graduate Student Lounge
Appendix A: constitutional amendments. New language is in **bold type**.

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

i. **Section 1:** The GSC **nominations internal committee** shall elect graduate student representatives to University committees, referred to as "external committees."

ii. **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.

iii. **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.

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

vi. 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 X: Elections [NEW SECTION]

- Section 1: Elections for GSC officers shall take place at the December meeting of the GSC.
- Section 2: Nominations for GSC officers shall be opened at the November meeting and shall be heard until the election takes place.
- Section 3: All those running for office shall be made aware of the general responsibilities of that office before accepting their nomination.
- Section 4: Elections for GSC internal committee positions shall take place at first meeting of the academic-calendar year.
- Section 5: Nominations for GSC internal committee positions shall be opened at the May meeting and shall be heard until the election takes place.

ARTICLE XIII. VETO

i. 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.

   b. The support of 5 students is required to bring a motion to review an internal committee decision.

   c. The support of at least 25% of GSC representatives in attendance is required to bring a review of internal committee decision.

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

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

vi. 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

i. 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.

ii. 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.

iii. 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.

iv. 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
ii. 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:

   ii. 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.

   iii. 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.

   iv. 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.

   v. 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.

   vi. 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.

   vii. 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

iii. 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.

iv. 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.

v. 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.

vi. 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

iv. 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

v. 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.

vi. Section 2: A graduate student group shall meet the following criteria:

  g. That it has at least 10 members
  h. That a majority of its membership be graduate students, faculty, or staff at Brown University
  i. That it has at least one officer who is a graduate student
  j. That it does not duplicate the stated purpose of an existing graduate student group.
  k. 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.

xii. 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:

xiii. 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.

xiv. 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.

xv. 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.

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

q. If it is unable to maintain the criteria for application stated in Section 2.

r. If it does not renew its recognition as prescribed in Section 8.

s. If the GSC Vice President for Administration cannot contact any of the group's contact names by the December meeting.

t. If a majority of the representatives present at a GSC nominations internal committee meeting vote to rescind their recognition.

ARTICLE XXI. AWARDS AND HONORS

i. 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.

ii. 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.

iii. 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
iii. 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:
   d. Amount of money requested
   e. Description of conference and how your participation advances your education at Brown
   f. A complete budget

vii. 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.

viii. 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.

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