Minutes for February 3, 2010

Officers
President—Heather Lee (American Civilization)
VP, Administration—Ryan Hartigan (Performance Studies)
Treasurer—Shawna Sullivan (Public Policy)
Technology Officer—Jadrian Miles (Computer Science)
VP, Social—Stefanie Sevcik (Comparative Literature), Paul Robertson (Religious Studies)
Secretary—Michael Antosh (Physics)
Master’s Advocate: Ryan McGee (Public Policy)

In attendance:
The officers
Robin Schroeder (AmCiv)
Paul Dias, Sarah Newman (Anthropology)
Stephanie Parker (Bio Med Masters of Public Health)
Kim Sherwood (Bio Med Molecular Biology, Cell Biology and Biochemistry)
Graham Poage (Bio Med Molecular Pharmacology, Physiology and Biotechnology)
Jonathan Barchi (Bio Med Neuroscience)
Anne Rabe (Classics)
Gideon Goldin (Cognitive and Linguistic Science)
William Fysh (Comparative Literature)
Matteo Riondato (Computer Science)
Petros Milionis (Economics)
Roxana Del Campo (Education)
Asha Nurse (Engineering)
Corey McEleney, Khristina Gonzalez, Andrea Actis (English)
Josh Blaylock (French Studies)
Angela Stickle, Rocio P. Caballero Gill (Geology)
Stephen Chambers (History)
Danielle Carmon (Italian Studies)
Carolyn Swan (Joukowsky Institute, Archaeology and Ancient World)
Andrew Lison (Modern Culture and Media)
Wanchun Wei (Physics)
Myra Brielle Harbín (Political Science)
Thayse Lima (Portuguese and Brazilian Studies)
Anna Hartley (Psychology)
Matt Rusteika, Joanna Roberts (Public Policy)
Lisbeth Trille Loft (Sociology)

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

II. Invited Speakers

none

III. Executive Reports and Announcements

i. Vote: Constitutional and Bylaw Amendments

Constitution Article X (Additions): Note: it's actually the bylaws, not the constitution

- Section 4: Elections for GSC internal committee positions shall take place at first meeting of the academic-calendar year.
  Passes with no objections.
- Section 5: Nominations for GSC internal committee positions shall be opened at the May meeting and shall be heard until the election takes place.
  Passes with no objections. Both of these now become official, as it is their second approval.

ii. Announcement: Masters Students Focus Group

March 10. If you are a master's student, or just interested, you should really come! Please help Ryan McGee to help master’s students.

iii. Announcement: Haiti Relief Efforts

Volunteer opportunities: Help at BEAR day this Friday. Sell lollipops on Feb. 10 and 11. Looking for people to write letters to people in Haiti. Search “Haiti response” in the brown website for more.

Discussion: could the GSC be more involved? We could ask for donations at the next social. We should publicize that we're doing it, if we did.

Orly: 3rd year in Sociology. She is a 2nd generation Haitian immigrant. She has been overwhelmed by Brown’s great response. She would like to see some more attention on grass roots organization – things to rebuild Haiti over 10-15 years, after the Red Cross leaves. She supports the following groups:

An-n Eder (Let's Help) Organization: anneder.org

Eideyo Organization-http://www.edeyo.org/

Albert Schweitzer Hospital-Haiti: http://www.hashaiti.org/

She will be working for fund raisers and cultural events, one of which will happen on April 9. She hopes to show Haiti’s richness and history to Providence, in hopes that will help to inspire more help. Perhaps this is an opportunity to work with undergrads (so no alcohol with some).

iv. Discussion: NAGPS (National Association for Graduate and Professional Students)

Note: see December and other 2009 minutes for more on this.

We're considering to not join it for next year, and to watch it for possible joining next year. They will advocate on health care and open access (see December 2009
minutes) among other things. This would save us $1000 (the one year membership fee). It’s a good idea to have advocates though, for grad students in general at least. Another benefit is access to more of their statistics on student issues in member schools. There seems to be a core of involved people working on NAGPS for the first time in awhile – should we support them? It was frustrating paying a group that didn’t do much before. Do we care enough about having an advocate on national issues? Would leaving NAGPS sour our relations with neighbor schools? Perhaps – NAGPS was presented about at the Ivy Summit last year. $500 for good faith would not be a lot of money. There is a lot of important legislative action this year. I think they pay lobbyists, as opposed to grad students lobbying.

We want financial accountability from NAGPS. We will ask them about this and discuss again. **NAGPS will be discussed in the nominations committee next month – see below for next meeting.**

IV. Social Committee

1. **Protocol**

   Meeting time: 3rd Wed of every month in GCB (but there will be dry events too). Event manager training necessary for those running – next one is Feb 15 5:30-6:30 pm in Smith-Buonano Hall.

2. **Volunteers**

   There will be many events. If you take training and then volunteer to help, you can earn credits to the GCB - $20 for the first 2 hours and $10 for each 2 hours after. All you have to do is check IDs and look out for people too intoxicated.

3. **Upcoming Socials**

   **First social: Friday in the grad student lounge.** Happy hour at Abe’s last month was just an appetizer. Reps, please help us advertise these socials. Feb. 14 at Abe’s! Feb. 16, Tuesday, at the Cable Car Cinema (free admission) at 9pm. Probable movie is the *Hurt Locker*. More movies to come as well, one per month! Unlimited refills on popcorn. Upcoming: local food tasting – classier; cheese will be had. We’ll have a sign up and lottery so only a small group can come. Also, a 3-4 course beer tasting dinner in mid-March. And, Boston social/sports events tickets for cheap resale!

4. **Election: 2 Social Committee Members**

   Sarah – 2nd year AmCiv. Sarah would like to see a trivia night where departments face each other, and the chance to take groups on subsidized restaurant tours. Sarah was the promotions manager for her radio station; booked 2 parties per year with bands.

   Andrew – 1st year MCM. Organized a concert festival in San Francisco every 2 years for a decade. Wants to show cheesy fun films for free. Debate: they are cool and also have experience!

   Vote: both elected with no opposition.
V. Finance Committee

i. Protocol
President, Treasurer, 3 other members. They will meet 2 weeks before GSC meetings, on Wednesdays at 7:30pm. Finance committee digest will be sent to GSC reps – funding requests granted. New funding request process: fill out an electronic form from the website and email it to GSC_Treasurer@brown.edu. Treasurer will review it, and finance committee will vote. After the event, we want a testimony and photo of how the money was spent. We will start to give out IOUs for up to $200 (conference) or $400 (event), in order to save the change.

ii. Classes – salsa, yoga, pilates, Greek dancing, flamenco, jiu jitsu, poker. We talked with instructors and took attendance, and kept only the most popular (at least 10 per class). 3 classes only have 3 weeks to reach this number – jiu jitsu and poker (new). If you have ideas for new classes, contact the GSC!

iii. Vote: Budget
The extracurricular classes have become a big increase. We also added a small food budget for committee meetings, and upgrading the food for GSC meetings (more beer, better pizza). Officer meetings have not been kept track of well in the past, but will be now. Allowed is $30-$45 per semester – the food is the reward for the officers. Money is available for conference and event funding. Overall maximum budget is about $43,000. Displeasure is expressed for the extra food at GSC meetings. But more reps could show up than have been, and we need food for that. The event funding budget is often only half spent. Please check out the finance committee meetings if you’re interested.

Vote: by line item: social – pass (no objection as with the rest); instructions – pass; NAGPS (zero) – pass; officer’s meetings – pass; committee meetings – pass; GSC meetings – pass; department rebates – pass; conference funding – pass; group funding – pass; lounge maintenance – pass; supplies and operating costs – pass.

iv. Departmental Rebates
Departments get money ($5 per student each year) – see the GSC website for the requirements. The reps can get this money from the GSC treasurer as they use it, instead of the old system that involved department secretaries. Money can roll over between years.

VI. Nominations Committee

i. Protocol
Very relevant – for example, Brown will hopefully increase our stipends! Meets 2nd Tuesday each month at 4pm. RIGHT NOW we need one more person for University Resources Committee – very important! Reports to the highest leaders of Brown. One person volunteers; come and run against him if you’d like!
Back to the nominations committee – we want to market nominations and actually fill all our external committee slots. We will monitor rep activity. We will also try to find departments without GSC reps.

ii. Elections: Nominations Committee Member
No nominations.

VII. Communications Committee
i. Protocol
Secretary, Tech Officer. We want to facilitate GSC/community communication, as well as internal GSC communication. We are interested in standardizing record keeping as well as promoting socials. We meet Tuesdays 2 weeks before GSC meetings at Blue State Coffee. We will do listserv management, gathering statistics on the community. We basically want to make the GSC transparent. You don’t have to be a GSC rep to be a committee member!

ii. Elections: Communications Committee Member

iii. Elections: Communications Committee Member
No nominations

VIII. Other News
i. Open floor
Matteo (Computer Science) – asks if officers cannot be reps. They cannot! Note: it appears that they can, for purposes of good standing, but they cannot vote.
Could we vote next meeting to donate to Haiti? Propose it to the finance committee, but we’ll talk about it now. We could focus it to make a bigger splash. We could match the amount from a fundraiser we run. We could have a fund that people could contribute to at socials, then add to it. Maybe our cause should be educational. There is a grad student in Haiti, maybe we could use her with this. Overall questions are: which organization(s), how to collect money, how much GSC should add. Heather charges the social and finance committees. We’ll start a collection at this Friday’s social.
Fund raiser for Haiti (existing) – Feb. 26th in Grad Student Lounge.

Opportunities in general for grad students to have community service – check out the Swearer Center. We could nominate (committee) for someone to organize a community service event.

ii. Next GSC General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at 7 p.m. in the Graduate Student Lounge