Minutes for March 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)

Attendance: 29 representatives (out of 70), representing 25 departments
The officers
Robin Schroeder (American Civilization)
Caitlin Fisher (American Civilization)
Amy Johnson (American Civilization)
Graham Poage (Bio-Med: Mol. Pharmo/Physio/Biotech)
Jon Barchi (Bio-Med: Neuroscience)
Anne Rabe (Classics)
Gideon Goldin (Cognitive & Linguistic Sciences)
William Fysh (Comparative Literature)
Matteo Riondato (Computer Science)
Petros Millionis (Economics)
Roxana Del Campo (Education)
James Rice (Engineering)
David Cipiletti (Engineering)
Aron Buffen (Geology)
Rocio P. Caballero Gill (Geology)
Silja Maehl (German Studies)
Adam J. Sacks (History)
Kristen Oehlrich (History of Art & Architecture)*
Danielle Carmon (Italian Studies)
Noah Giannisiracusa (Mathematics)
Andrew Lison (Modern Culture & Media)
Thayse Lima (Portuguese & Brazilian Studies)
Anna Hartley (Psychology)
Matt Rusteika (Public Policy)
Joanna Roberts (Public Policy)
*Note: Kristen attended Feb. 2010 Meeting as well; she forgot to sign in

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

II. Social Committee:

i. Frances Mantak—Drug and Alcohol Policy
Director of health education at health services. She spoke last year about resources in her office available to grad students. The policy has been revised, and will be sent out with the minutes. The draft changes will be taken to the University Community Council for approval. She wants to highlight the parts really relevant to grad students. Her office has confidential services. Know that you can seek treatment for intoxication at Brown – both are treated confidentially, and there is only one meeting with her office, confidential.

Large scale containers of alcohol (kegs) are not allowed without a professional bartender, because of damage, but small ones are in the right circumstances (see section 4). The times allowed clause is much more flexible for grad students. There is a discipline policy for off campus incidents, but this is really more for undergrads.

Jon Barchi points out that the wording of clause 6 could be interpreted to not allow wine and cheese-type events. But the idea of the rule is not that at all. Some events will be inspected – usually big things that require registration and professional staffs.

Faculty and staff have a different policy – should ours be more similar to them? The staff one is based on workplace behavior, very different.

In section 9, it says that fundraising can’t be done with alcohol. This severely interferes with our Haiti fundraising efforts. We can still do what we want to, though – the idea is to not charge per drink in order to promote heavy drinking.

ii. Update: Socials

Monday March 8 – Cable Car Cinema: Free Screening of Sunset Boulevard.
March 16 – Beer tasting at Julian’s – email Stefanie to be in the raffle to go.
$10 for a 3 course meal with beer.

We’re trying for something on St. Patrick’s Day – lots of beer, pizza and then a pub crawl. Keg would be good, but we need a Brown-affiliated bartender.

III. Nominations Committee

i. Update: Community Service, Swearer Center
Will be discussed at the next meeting (next Thursday) of nominations committee. Plenty of “shovel ready” opportunities.

ii. Update: Wilson DuBlois Award
Several nominations received – for exceptional service to grad students as a staff member. Will be decided next meeting. Want to nominate someone? Contact the VP admin or Master’s Student Advocate.

iii. Update: Commencement Award
The speaker from the grad school – we need one! Want to do it? You have to be graduating and we'll help you out with it – it's usually funny.

iv. Announcement: Master's Meeting
Next Wednesday 3/10 in grad student lounge. SEE WEBSITE AND MAILINGS AND EMAILS FOR MORE! Very important.

v. Elections: Nominations Committee Member
No one will do it!! It is helpful.

vi. Quick vote: Energy and Action Committee:
Aron Buffen – first year in geological sciences. Brown committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. Putting two $10 million payments towards it. Some faculty and undergrads on it, but no grad students – there were two open spots originally. Aaron wants them to be more vocal. This committee could provide seed funding to green projects around campus. Next meeting is on Friday. A group to eliminate plastic water bottles at Brown wants a rep too. Aaron studies climate change and will be happy to report back. We like his motivation. Vote: elected unanimously.

IV. Communications Committee
1. John Spadaro—Google Apps for Education
Director of technical architecture for CIS. He was here in 12/2009 to talk email. Brown undergrads have moved to google apps. A poll is taken and about 80% of the GSC uses gmail anyway. The 200 MB email quota is nice but still “lame”. Brown has recommended moving grad students to gmail. It's getting through administration, should pass in a few weeks. The chief of security signed off on this change. The big issue for other email services is calendars – important for administrators. About $750,000 is saved per year by switching us to google from Microsoft Outlook. We were concerned about security and privacy of data. Google Apps for Education is different from gmail – no ads, mail from you comes as coming from your Brown address. There are fewer apps but there still is mail, documents, chat, calendar and a couple more. But new ones come! Right now it is hard to share documents with undergrads. We will have a new contract with google – specifies who owns the data (Brown). Consumer gmail users essentially sign over their data. Email capacity is 7.4GB plus 1GB for each google document type. Now you can upload any file type (“other” is one google doc type).
Concerns: where is my data – what does google get from this deal? Google wants you to associate email with google only – when you make $1 Million, you'll use their services.
The switch over will be hopefully over the summer. We have separate passwords for google, so that they don't have our computer passwords.
Right now all Brown graduates get to keep their emails! It goes to firstname_lastname@alumni.brown.edu (or first_last@med.brown.edu for med students), and they are working on transferring data between the two accounts.

**Our Feedback:** one grad student doesn’t trust google. Emails are spread in parts and google is world class security. But they’re a bigger target. The thing is, can we trust google? Their fuzzy image does not make everyone trust them. But, most of us already use gmail anyway. There is no search function in our current email. *No strong objection from us.*

**More info in the communications committee minutes on the GSC website.** John_Spadaro@brown.edu.

2. **Update: New Websites**

Brown and Brown grad school – grad school website will reference ours now.

V. Finance Committee

i. **Haiti Relief**—goal $10,000

Most funding now is for immediate aid. Heather wants to focus on long term aid – specifically one group: [www.annader.org](http://www.annader.org) - we want to meet with them first. They want to rebuild schools in Haiti. We want to do raffles at the two dances, and in addition we have one $2500 committed from a local store. We also plan on using our surplus money for the semester ($8,000 maybe?). If anyone wants to help ask businesses, let Heather or Shawna know. We hope to have departments raise money too – you could defer your departmental rebate or have the rep lead efforts. There will be a party for the department that raises the most.

ii. **Update: $64 Gym Usage Fee**

We have no say, already passed by the corporation. It pays to keep the satellite gyms open. It’s an annual fee. They say enough of us use the OMAC to warrant this. This fee will not decrease in the future. Is it really going toward varsity sports? Heather sat in a meeting where they discussed almost nothing but that. Let’s watch it.

What can get us out of this individually? Seemingly nothing. We could draft a letter to the corporation for October. We could ask the grad school to cover it – the officers will talk with the deans. Can we use our new paying to get some improvement in the OMAC? The OMAC directors told a 4th year engineering grad student (Jim) that without money from us they can’t do much for us.

We weren’t asked because it was “urgent”, yet it’s permanent. The nominations committee will take this on. Someone should write a letter.

Some of the grad students don’t use the gym because they don’t want to work out with their students – could we have our own satellite gym?

We were going to be charged a $365 fee when the new facilities open. Faculty and staff will still pay it. Undergrads pay $64 too. One GSC rep is asked to draft a letter.

iii. **Update: Financial Status**
Things are going well. We have allocated almost all of our conference funding budget. If you still want some, email Shawna – one or two left! Group funding is on track to spend it all too. Department rebate forms are being processed with our new system. If you applied for one, you should hear from us this week. You can of course still apply if you are in good standing.

iv. Update: NAGPS
Finance committee discussed finances of NAGPS – most of it goes toward conferences but they weren’t totally open with us (we are non-members currently). We wanted to elect a liaison in order to interact with them. Jadrian Miles volunteers. We will (maybe) pay them in the fall.

v. Elections: NAGPS
Jadrian cares a lot about open access – one cause that NAGPS champions. Jadrian wants our money to count for something, and looks forward to attending the conference. Jadrian is elected with two “no”s.

VI. Other News
i. Open floor
Next: gym usage, supporting Chile? We may spread ourselves thin? Damage in Chile was 0.3% (1/300) that of Haiti – from Sarah Fine.

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