Graduate Representative Organization
GC Meeting Minutes
Date/Time: 18:00 PM ET January 29th, 2024
[Zoom](#)

Meeting Agenda:

I. Call to Order and Agenda Review

II. Approval of December 11th Meeting Minutes: [GC Minutes 12.11.23](#)

III. Elections: Advocacy Chair (20 min)
- A. Nomination form: https://forms.gle/fNFqqQ9nYrk6J2DY9
  1. Congratulations to Arman Farazdaghi on becoming our new Advocacy chair!

IV. GC Meetings and Election Schedule: Spring 2024
- A. Google calendar [link](#)
- B. Earlier elections this year to allow for onboarding

V. Meetings with Admin Offices and Meeting Prep (20 min):
- A. Student Health and Wellbeing - Feb 12th GC Meeting
  1. Prepping beforehand to make meeting more productive
  2. Notes:
     a) Lieb: What data do they collect and can tell GC about? Can they tell us about the new transition to the electronic health system?
     b) Gabby: We should have two meeting leaders to collect and collate questions. Qiong andRichard (biophysics)
     c) Serene: More conversations about what determines the SHWB hours? Issues with lack of weekend availability and night-time availability. More/different hours?
     d) Arman: Can we keep a document to add questions to later? Michael: let's crystallize something here
     e) Richard: Timely appointments, especially for VISA related health-screenings.
     f) Arman: What are they doing about wait times?

(1) Lakshmi: From our last conversation with them, seems like they're more focused on external referrals to tackle this.

g) Gabby: Mental health services are regarded asoverloaded and bad. I think we need someone to ask them for specific action steps, and put the screws on them to actually make progress.

h) Ariel: Maybe they can remind us of dental and vision check-ups being overdue, as they do for vaccines.

B. President Daniels - Feb 19th EBoard meeting

1. Michael: We might want to ask these questions carefully and not get too specific.

a) They talked a lot about undergraduate experience, but graduate student excellence. An example of one way in which our discussions led to greater accountability.

2. Kevin: The union is clearly doing something well. Maybe we could ask him about union negotiations? There are some really blatant topics that they're not willing to address (e.g. increased accessibility??) We should address this- just not sure what the best way is.

3. Gabby: I think we need to make it explicit that we are on the side of the union.

4. Arman: We should meet with the union- I'm sure they're more combative but they've been doing this successfully for 8 months.

5. Kevin: Maybe we should approach every issue as a "voter issue." We can frame our questions as student-led, student-driven, and student-interests.

6. Gabby: Remind him that we are summarizing these meetings and people will know what he says- he will be held accountable.

7. Arman: Possibly in need of student spaces outside of the library… posting of class times so students can occupy rooms?

C. Provosts - March 6th EBoard Meeting

D. WSE Deans - Feb 14th 12 - 1pm

E. KSAS Deans - Feb 15th 12 - 1pm

F. Advisor Advisee Relationship System (Gabi + Michael) - Feb 5th

1. Developing and implementing a system that's in the best possible interest of the students together with Sabine Stanley (VP- Graduate education) and Stephanie Brehm (Director Graduate Education).

a) Without interfering in the union!

2. SoM has a survey like this already

G. Counseling Center: TBD

II. Department Data Collection Updates and Focus Group Discussion (15 min)

A. [Sign up link](#)

B. Department survey (Alex)

1. We got 34 departmental survey responses!
2. Main interests are communication, available space, OIS, JHPD, and advisor-advisee.
   C. Focus groups:
      1. Available space:
         a) Maybe individuals in this group can go around and identify available space.
      2. OIS
         a) Can we compile info for students before they get to Hopkins?
      3. JHPPD:
         a) We dont have a GRO rep (as per our vote)
         b) Not always clear what the latest policies are
         c) Can we have a focus group to investigate and summarize the current policies?
      4. Advisor advisee relationship system
      5. Lab safety (optional)
         a) Not always the highest priority, lab equipment bought themselves.
         b) Goal: make productive proposals based on current policies and procedures
      6. Environmentalism (optional)
         a) Divesting from fossil fuels?!
      7. Daycare (optional)
         a) Pushing university to have alternative locations for on-campus daycare, which has been removed due to the expansion of other initiatives.
   D. [Focus groups](#) should meet once a semester with a leader.

III. GRO Town Hall Discussion (10 min)
   A. Let's incentivize with food, etc.
   B. General agreement- this is a great idea!
      1. Even negative feedback will be useful, overall.
      2. Let's think about good dates- when exams aren't going on.
IV. Chair Updates (5 min):
   A. Winter Conference Grant and Group Funding
      1. Mihir: Application is online! Last day to apply is Feb 16th.
      2. Ayo: Why are we allocating this kind of responsibility to one person…?
         a) Gabby/Caroline: This is a constant topic, the secretary makes sure that everyone knows, at the very least. But we can devote real time to addressing these concerns.
   B. Important Updates from Fall WSE Dean Meeting
V. Open Discussion & Questions
   A. Should we give the union discussion time here?
   B. Richard: Can we send out these slides?
      1. Michael: Yes.
   C. Michael: We also want to make sure we're prepping for our upcoming meetings. So be aware of that!

1. Gab: Can we share a form where we have what we're thinking of for upcoming discussions?
2. Lakshmi: If there are additional meetings you all want, please let us know!

VI.   Vote to adjourn
    A. Motion to adjourn, passes (Voting ID: 90)
    B. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM

VII.   Voting Results

Voting Motion ID	89	90
Motion	Approval of 12/11 minutes	Adjournment 1/29
Anthropology		
Applied Mathematics & Statistics (AMS)	Yea	Yea
History of Art	Yea	Yea
Biology	Yea	Yea
Biomedical Engineering (BME)		
Biophysics	Yea	Yea
Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering	Yea	Yea
Chemistry	Yea	Yea
Civil Engineering	Nay	
Classics	Yea	Yea
Cognitive Science	Yea	Yea
Computer Science	Yea	Yea
Economics	Yea	Yea
Electrical & Computer Engineering (ECE)	Yea	Yea
Engineering Management	Yea	Yea
English	Yea	Yea
Environmental Health and Engineering (formerly DOGEE)	Yea	
EPS (Earth and Planetary Sciences)		
Modern Languages and Literatures (Formerly GRLL)	Yea	Yea
History		Yea
History of Science and Technology	Yea	Yea
Comp Thought and Literature	Yea	Yea

Voting Motion ID	88	89	90
Motion	12/11 Adjournmen	Approval of 12/11 minutes	Adjournment 1/29
Information Security Inst		Yea	Yea
Materials Science & Engineering		Yea	Yea
Mathematics			
Mechanical Engineering			
Near Eastern Studies (NES)	Yea		
Philosophy			
Physics and Astronomy		Yea	Yea
Political Science		Yea	Yea
Psychological and Brain Sciences	Yea	Yea	Yea
Sociology		Yea	Yea
Writing Seminars			
Robotics	Yea	Yea	Yea
Co-Chair 1		Yea	Yea
Co-Chair 2		Yea	Yea
Secretary		Yea	Yea
Treasurer		Yea	Yea
Admin & Funding			
Social 1	Yea	Yea	Yea
Social 2		Yea	Yea
Advocacy 1	Yea		
Advocacy 2			
Communications		Yea	
Diversity			

Diversity			
Graduate Involvement Chair		Yea	
Professional Development			
Intercampus Co-ordinator			
Intercampus Chair			Yea
Summer sports coordinator			
Health & Wellness	Yea	Yea	Yea
Security Concerns Chair		Yea	Yea
Yea	**14**	**34**	**33**
Nay	**0**	**1**	**0**
Abstain	**0**	**0**	**0**