

GSC Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 6, 2004
6:30 p.m., Graduate Student Lounge, Dudley House

Introductions

Zoe Trodd, GSC president, explained the *role of the GSC* as the voice for graduate students in GSAS. The GSC represents students to the Deans, awards grants to students traveling to conferences, funds student groups, and runs the Mentoring Awards program to encourage better advising. The monthly meetings are meant to be a forum for discussion of graduate student issues.

Melanie Adrian, last year's president, described some of the GSC's *successes last year*, including extended library privileges for G1-G3s, evaluations for graduate student courses, and an in-depth look at teaching fellow issues to be continued this year.

Members of the executive committee were introduced and Mike Westover, GSC secretary, explained the roles of the *department representatives*. Josh Yaphe, GSC vice president, discussed the *conference grant* and *mentoring award* programs, the possibility of an open forum on teaching fellow issues, and course evaluations.

Matthew Mosca, at-large representative for the humanities, described the roles of the at-large representatives from each GSAS division.

Executive Committee Positions

Luigi Adamo was elected to fill the vacant position of At-large Representative from the Division of Medical Sciences.

Lashkar Kashif was elected as the Parliamentarian / Ombuds coordinator.

The position of Information Coordinator remained vacant.

Committee Positions

Students elected to committee positions:

GSC Budget and Funding Committee — Imad Kordab, Fan Zhang, Pascale Lafountain, Ernst van Nierop, and Diana Valencia

FAS Library Committee — Richard Short and Sarah Carter

Graduate Student Health Advisory Committee — Rob Cliver and Carrie Thiessen

Committee on Graduate Education — Sally Marshall and Christine Thomas

Housing Committee — Allison Binns and Ernst van Nierop

GSC Social Committee — Ruwan Ratnayake and Hsiu-Chen Daphne Liao

Harvard Graduate Council

Dominic Longo described the *Harvard Graduate Council's* roles including fostering communication between schools. Zoe Trodd emphasized that the GSAS representatives must communicate well with both the HGC and the GSC. There was a question about the relative roles of the two organizations. The GSC has been around for a long time and represents GSAS students directly to the GSAS Deans. The HGC is newer, represents all graduate students at the University, and is just starting to address advocacy issues; their contact with the University administration is mainly through the Provost's office.

Dominic Longo, Ben Lee, Josh Yaphe, and Ernst van Nierop were elected as the GSAS representatives to the HGC.

Other Issues

Carrie Thiessen was chosen as the representative for interdisciplinary students.

The position of international student representative remained vacant.

There was a question about health insurance coverage for students with families living outside Massachusetts. The Blue Cross / Blue Shield plan only allows three out-of-state visits per year, and other insurance is expensive.

Ben Lee and Josh Yaphe requested that any students having problems with Harvard's policies on patents or copyrights contact them.

Adjourned at 7:32.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Westover