



Harvard Graduate Council
The Representative Body for All of Harvard's Graduate and Professional Students

HGC General Assembly Meeting Minutes (Proposed)
2016 / 10 / 11
Harvard Business School, Aldrich Hall – Room 109

- Introductions for new members
 - Lindsay Pinkus (HGSE)
 - Sohini Mukherjee (HSPH) MS global health and population
 - Stacy Rogers (HSDM) 1st year, taking over for Sam
 - Aaron Axe (MPA @ HKS), temp rep
 - Rafael Santiago (HES), visiting
 - Aaron Roe (HES), President of Harvard Extension Business Society
 - Colin Rudd (HES), Chief of Staff w/ Misan
- Peter Dyrud gives overview of the e-mailed structural proposal, with paired down roles for most areas, except for Finance (at present).
 - Operations, Finance, Events, Advocacy, Information as functional areas, plus Leadership (P/VP) & Governance (Reps)
 - Original mandate of single primary voting rep for each school and only primary voting reps allowed for officer positions (Provost's office).
 - This has been relaxed to being 4 core officer positions must be primary voting rep (Pres, VP, Governance, Finance).
 - Primary voting reps given priority for elections purposes, but others can run.
- Elections for Officer Positions
 - Procedure
 - 2 minutes for each candidate to speak, 1min Q&A. If not elected, eligible for next position(s)
 - Simple majority required. In event of tie, top 2 candidates, additional 2-min Q&A, followed by revote.
 - Voting Reps:
 - GSAS – Peter Dyrud
 - GSD – Carla Ferrer Llorca
 - HBS – Simeon Bochev
 - HDS – Sana Saeed
 - HES – Misan Oteri
 - HLS – Robin Ladd
 - HKS – Aaron Axe
 - GSD – Lindsay Pinkus
 - HSPH – Sohini Mukherjee

- HMS – Mark Zaki
 - HSDM – Stacey Rogers
 - SEAS – Kevin Tian
- Structure Voted in:
 - 10 Yes. 2 Abstain. Simeon requested that anyone abstaining speak with Peter/Simeon to address concerns.
- Chair of Internal Operations
 - No candidates. Election for this position postponed.
 - Position primarily meeting logistics, meeting agenda, contact, information management, VP fill-in if needed.
- Chair for Governance (Must be voting rep)
 - Robin Ladd (HLS)
 - President Student Government Assoc @ OCU, President of Council of Presidents, Oklahoma
 - Vision on governing documents, give the body the rights to represent all graduate students. Formalize governing structure, increase admin efficiency. Create bill/resolution format for formalization (for communication to other bodies).
 - Q: How long do you think it will take to formalize this structure?
 - Aim for something done by March; solid but enough time to have everything ready for next year
 - Q: How do you balance the time?
 - “Very loose concept”. Dedicated to everything, will have extra time schedule-wise
 - Q: Logistically, how will things play out from now til March?
 - Want to formulate a committee of 5; similar to what happened at HLS. Biweekly meeting, what to be incorporated from drafts and other student bodies to get to finished product.
 - Vote:
 - 12 votes for **Robin**
- Chair of Events
 - Tracie Gordon (HES)
 - Director of Events at HES, previous year and re-elected for this year. Has Bubbles.
 - Plans to work closely with Chair of each event for giving advice and direction
 - Q: How would you alleviate scheduling overlaps on events from different schools?
 - Encourage going from one event to another (building on both).
 - Duty to bring people together. “Party hop”.
 - Krishna Rajendran (HBS)
 - Would like to bring in speakers/professors for events. Likes to plan. Very interested in Lectures that Last Chair position.
 - Q: How would you alleviate scheduling overlaps?
 - Structure events such that events have breathing room, not have things back to back.
 - Q: Previous experience in event organization?

- Organized a soccer tournament, 150 signups. “World Cup of Soccer”.
 - Voting:
 - 4 for Tracie, 6 for **Krishna**, 2 Abstain
- Vice Chair for Social Engagement
 - Sana Saeed (HDS)
 - 2nd year student @ HDS, also second year with HGC. Rep for HDS previous year, chaired LTL event (coordinating volunteers for events, training, etc.) and co-chaired Leadership Conference. Current Social Justice Chair of HDS.
 - Vote:
 - 12 for **Sana**.
- Chair of Advocacy and Diversity
 - Steven Núñez (HDS)
 - Grew up in Lesbian household, Biracial (Father=Dominican Republic). Special Weapons Sergeant@20 in Army. Enrolled at UNCW, active in StuGovAssoc (~15k undergrad). Served as VP of governmental relations (UNC-SGA) for wider population. Served as Vice Chair for Diversity and Inclusion @ UNCW. Dedicated to social/racial justice. Organized “Thicker than Water” speaker series. Involved with HDS racial healing initiative.
 - Q: What are your priorities for the coming year?
 - Racial equity, externally and internally. Working with Houston Institute at HLS. LGBTQ issues.
 - Q: How do you plan to balance people’s perspectives and (safe) spaces for conversations
 - Diversity is meaningless without inclusion. Need to navigate many different beliefs; must facilitate inclusive environment while respecting one another.
 - Natalie Wang (GSD)
 - Risk/Resilience program at GSD. Biracial (Chilean/Taiwanese), raised in Chile and Vancouver in First Nations Reservation (Mapuche). Social innovation degree in Design and Business. Worked in India with design firm and law firms for empower students. Projects in South Africa in biodiversity, education for youth, inequality. Worked in NYC serving youth using hip-hop/beatboxing to overcome disabilities. Developing program for GSD students for diversity initiative.
 - Q: What are your priorities for the coming year?
 - Racial issues highly important in America, but international community has many aspects to develop as well. Focusing on “Empathy” and “Challenging Perspective” in race, LGBTQ, able-ness.
 - Q: How do you plan to balance people’s perspectives and (safe) spaces for conversations
 - Creating safe spaces is a personal experience as well. Need to understand them first. Using facilitation tools for each school

(e.g. HDS, HKS, HSPH, etc.). Discipline as origin of techniques, using their professionalism to found movement.

- Voting:
 - 3 for Steven, 9 for **Natalie**, 0 Abstain
- Chair of Information
 - Andrey Berezin (HES)
 - Became involved with HGC 3 years ago, volunteered for Leadership Conference. Helped to publicize friend's documentary, using information systems at Harvard (Crimson, Harvard Gazette, etc.)
 - Q: How do you see tech playing role in connecting organizations at Harvard?
 - Open platforms can help bring people together that already exist; just need to bring awareness of the many mechanisms for information transfer.
 - Demo of European indoor soccer league website
 - Aaron Roe (HKS)
 - Managed tech department at company as VP in Real Estate (hardware, server migration, website, agent tech). Current Pres of Harvard Extension Business society (HEBS), voted Young Professional of Year in U South Carolina
 - Q: How do you see tech playing role in connecting organizations at Harvard?
 - Need for authentication, alignment of data to make things easier for everyone. Information and media to be shared amongst all.
 - Demo'd a managed website for HEBS (didn't have online designed one)
 - Votes:
 - 6 for Andrey, 6 for Aaron.
 - Additional Q&A due to tie.
 - Q: What is your vision for the HGC Website?
 - Aaron - "Beacon of Information" from all different schools. Would like to push for active ways to get involved. Other news sites (crimson and others) struggle in this regard).
 - Andrey – More than just website, would like to increase awareness of events through other avenues. Website is the main source, but other sources such as Crimson/Gazette should be utilized.
 - Vote #2:
 - 7 for **Andrey**, 5 for Aaron
- Vice Chair for Communications
 - La'Toya Jackson (HES)
 - Masters Dramatic Arts candidate. Worked student operated radio show (first student operator). Helped ballet company run their kickstarter, managed media content, social media. Want to bring more presence to Organization.
 - Votes:
 - 12 for **Latoya**

- Chair of Internal Operations
 - Tracie (HES) puts forth name after final Call
 - Votes: 10 for **Tracie**, 2 Abstain.
- Advocacy
 - HUDS Local 26 Strike – Presentation from colleagues
 - Medical students on behalf of HUDS workers.
 - On strike for salary and health-care benefits being cut. Working with undergrad campus, HLS, HMS, HSPH campus.
 - Analyzed the proposed plan by Harvard, working to advocate for work plan and health-care benefits.
 - Asking of formal support for HUDS workers. Asking of communicating to student body, graduate schools in particular. Petition is being pushed around.
 - At HMS/HSPH, managed boycotting of dining services.
 - Q: Given this detailed analysis, how much of this has considered the University's perspective? More contracts are being considered in near future. Mediators from MIT, Econ dept @ Harvard. University is trying to share external raises to the workers (externally).
 - Belief that regardless, healthcare that is affordable should be advocated on a 12 month basis. However not all workers are present for 9 months.
 - From community, want affordability standards to be met (Harvard).
 - Response to Admin Plan
 - Reimbursement plan is touted as better. \$6k out of pocket necessary for medical crisis in short-term.
 - Q: Harvard appears to be seen as leader relative to university communities. Are there alternative ways of support that do not require disregard/implications of decisions now?
 - Highlight support for specific policies, rather than complete support (stronger statement but more difficult to justify)
 - Q: If costs would necessarily be passed on to students, would you still support it?
 - Perspective of health care as human right, imperfect proposal being put forth by administration.
 - HKS is currently voting on the support of HUDS workers tonight. Results unknown.
 - Response to Harvard's official statement requested by Saturday. Further discussion necessary, an expedited. Difficulty in getting responses from individual student governments/populations in time for HGC response. However need full polling response before signing on or disseminating information/petition. Individual student government responses may be better/faster.
 - Harvard/Yale Letter to Faust
 - Feedback from voting reps, letter will be sent tonight.
- Events
 - Halloween Party
 - Funding proposal expected, but reps not present. (HBS, HKS, HES, HGC)
 - Holding downtown venue, HBS taking lead in getting people there. HGC taking lead on recruitment. Club will get 50%, Student Govs get 50%.

- Primarily led by Sara Egozi (HKS)
 - H-Y Tailgate
 - HBS/HSPH combination event being looked into, however Athletics being consulted about capacity. HSPH requested to have their tent moved adjacent to HBS'. Ticketing will be separate.
 - Harvard Graduate Commons is also planning separate event on campus. Standalone tailgate doesn't make sense.
 - HEAA (alumni association @ HES). An event may be in the works.
 - Safari Dinner
 - No current lead. Suggestion that this event be turned into an international food festival. Krishna, Carla, Tracie, Okyu on board.
 - Lectures that Last
 - Krishna will lead this event.
 - Leadership Conference
 - Sana & Andrey interested in leading.
 - Masquerade Ball
 - Misan currently lead, Planned for Feb 11th 2017
- Advocacy
 - Sexual Assault Convening – Nov 5th, Saturday
 - Recruiting emails being sent out this week, Lola Fagbami (GSAS) will be in contact regarding this process. General buy-in with Admin, desire to see this continuing as ongoing event.
 - Schools with penetration issue in HBS, HKS, HSPH.
 - Q: Climate Change programming?
 - Climate Week did not happen in 2016 (billed as annual event). Harvard has usually dedicated research to climate change, but not as much to awareness. HUCE exists, aim to see HGC serve similar arm
- Finance Update (Kevin), gave overview of rough budget
- Smith Campus Center Furniture Showcase announcement
 - Furniture showcase next Monday at 7:30pm, please RSVP with Tracie Gordon.
- HUHS Programming board
 - Call for reps, to review benefits and copays: Samuel Lee agreed to represent HGC
- HKS Boat Cruise, This Thursday @ 9:30pm
- Open Meeting
 - Indigenous People's Day Petition – Columbus Day. Suggested to work with Natalie on matters.

In attendance:

- GSAS
 - Peter Dyrud*
 - Lola Fagbami
 - Marissa Grunes
- GSD
 - Carla Ferrer Llorca*
 - Oliver Curtis
 - Natalie Wang
- HBS

- Simeon Bochev*
- David Chan
- Krishna Rajendran
- Oyku Akkaya
- Mike Contillo
- HDS
 - Sana Saeed*
 - Aric Flemming
 - Steven Núñez
- HES:
 - Misan Oteri*
 - Tracie Gordon
 - La'Toya Jackson
 - Jasmin Frankel
 - Henry Moodie
 - Aaron Roe
 - Colin Rudd
 - Rafael Santiago
- HGSE:
 - Lyndsay Pinkus*
- HKS:
 - Aaron Axe*
- HLS:
 - Robin Ladd*
- HMS:
 - Mark Zaki*
 - Michael Lindborg
 - Eve Roth
- HSDM:
 - Samuel Lee*
 - Stacey Rogers
- HSPH:
 - Sohini Mukherjee*
- SEAS:
 - Kevin Tian*

* Voting Representative