



**HARVARD  
GRADUATE  
COUNCIL**

12 GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS, ONE HARVARD.

**THE HARVARD GRADUATE COUNCIL**

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

October 25, 2021, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**Location:**

For those attending in-person, we will be meeting at the **Research and Education building (REB) Room 109** at **Harvard School of Dental Medicine (188 Longwood Ave, Boston, MA 02115)**. The directions to the school will be in the following link (<https://hsdm.harvard.edu/directions>). Upon arrival, walk toward the newer looking building, and find the rotating door to get into the REB. **Those who are remote will have the opportunity to participate via Zoom with the information below (starting at 6:50 pm).**

Janet Park is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: HGC General Body Meeting 10/25

Time: Oct 25, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom meeting

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/96289397766?pwd=NG1HTDkra1BSMk00ejhLa0lzU3IxQT09>

Password: 054339

Join by telephone (use any number to dial in)

+1 301 715 8592

+1 312 626 6799

+1 929 436 2866

+1 253 215 8782

+1 346 248 7799

+1 669 900 6833

International numbers available: <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/96289397766>

One tap mobile: +13017158592,,96289397766# US (Washington DC)

Password: 054339

Join by SIP conference room system

Meeting ID: 962 8939 7766

[96289397766@zoomcrc.com](mailto:96289397766@zoomcrc.com)

We recommend in-person attendance of one rep from each school for schools that are currently conducting classes in-person. Please let Janet know if the school rep(s) from your school prefer to be virtual for this meeting and we can make accommodations.

#### **Meal Reimbursements:**

Meals eaten on the evening of Monday, October 25th (either before or after our HGC meeting) will be reimbursed up to \$20.00. If you would like to reimburse your meal, please fill out this form: <https://hgc.harvard.edu/reimbursement>

**I. HSDM School Tour (6:30 pm - 6:50 pm)**

**\*\*Virtual presentation (6:50 pm - 7:00 pm)**

Presentation slides:  HGC HSDM

**II. Roll Call and Welcome – Peter & Himaja (7:00 pm - 7:20 pm)**

Schools	First Name	Last Name	Individual Present?	School Present?
SEAS	Mark	York	Yes	Yes
GSAS				No
HLS	Joan	Josiah		
	Gabrielle (Gabe)	Crofford	Yes	
	Ivanka	Canzius		
HBS (HBSSA)	Brian	Ratajczak	Yes (Virtual)	
	Kyle	Blank		
	Vivek	Agarwal		
HSDM	Subin	Jeong	Yes	Yes
HES (HESA)	Brett	Monson	Yes	
	Jim	Smith		
HKS (KSSG)	Camille	Choe	Yes	
	Jordan	Biggers	Yes	
HSPH (HCSA)	Natasha	Matthews	Yes	Yes
HMS	Marta	Williams	Yes	
	Michael	Liu		
HGSE	Parisa	Loftis Hamm	Yes	Yes
GSD	Aeshna	Prasad	Yes (Virtual; Nima acting as proxy)	Yes

HDS	Mayank	Kumar	No	No
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2. Quorum in attendance: Yes
3. Approval of the Agenda
  - 3.1. Approval of the Agenda - **MOVED** by Gabrielle (Gabe) Crofford (HLS), **SECONDED** by Brett Monson (HES), **NO DISSENT**. Agenda **APPROVED** 7:20 PM ET.

### III. HGSU Strike updates and Q&A - *Matt Volpe, Harvard Graduate Student Union (7:20 pm - 7:40 pm)*

- ● HGSU called for a 3-day strike to begin this Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> if a deal with the university is not reached by then. The bargaining team is continuing to meet with the university on Tuesday and Wednesday.
- The union is having hybrid organizing meetings every evening at 7 pm. All student workers and graduate students are invited to attend to listen and support.
- If you have any additional questions, contact Matt Volpe at: [mvolpe@g.harvard.edu](mailto:mvolpe@g.harvard.edu)
- Q: Gabe Crofford (HLS): What can HGC do to support the union? What can representatives communicate to non-student workers at our respective schools in the lead up to the strike?
- A: It would be helpful for HGC representatives and graduate students to speak with one voice when engaging with the administration. Marshall from the Provost's office is on the Bargaining Committee (and he'll be at the HGC retreat). Express your support for the union to Marshall. If you're in a class that has a student worker, tell TFs and other student workers that we support them in the lead up to the strike. Also, speak to your school's Dean, because they are in contract with the Provost and it is important that everyone hears the same message.
- Q: Marta Williams (HMS) Would it be helpful for individual schools to pass resolutions in support of the union?
- A: One of the easiest things to do, rather than writing up a whole resolution, is to pass a resolution just signing on to the solidarity letter that other groups at Harvard have started signing on to, which can be found at [tinyurl.com/supportHGSU](http://tinyurl.com/supportHGSU) (and HGC can certainly do this if the voting reps would like to!). I strongly encourage your individual school organizations to reach out to the Deans of your schools, as well as the Provost's office to communicate to them that you've signed this letter and support HGSU.
- Q: Landon Fortenberry (Executive Board): Can you provide us with a little more data as to the changes in student compensation over time?
- A: The Administration is proposing a 2.5% raise and the Union's Bargaining Committee is proposing a 5.75% increase to keep up with inflation and compensation at our peer

institutions like MIT. In the previous contract (last year), the Union won a 2.8% raise. The proposed raises would cost the university between \$6 to \$10 million dollars. MIT student workers have gotten two raises this year, including a 3% raise. MIT has formed a graduate student union.

- Q: Izzy Cho (Crimson): Can you outline specific Title IX-related reforms the union hopes to achieve through the bargaining process?
- A: First, making sure that all survivors have access to professional support during the reporting process. Second, adding more third parties (non-faculty members) to the Title IX Appeals Committee. Right now, most of the committee is comprised of Harvard faculty members, so it would be helpful to have more third-party members to avoid potential conflicts of interest. Third, proposing additional reforms to the way the appeals process is handled by the university.

#### **IV. Public Comments (7:42 pm - 7:50 pm)**

- William Qian (SEAS): One of the things HGC could benefit from is for representatives to celebrate each other's accomplishments inside and outside of HGC Congratulations to Peter's crew winning the Ellen Minzner Trophy at the Head of the Charles Regatta.

#### **V. Updates and Reports (7:50 pm - 8:20 pm)**

##### **1. Executive – Peter & Himaja (7:50 pm - 7:52 pm)**

- a. Meetings with President Bacow and Provost Garber
  - i. Peter and Himaja met with President Bacow and Provost Garber. Peter and Himaja will be sending around a report with more details. One of the topics that we will discuss during our retreat is differences between the role of the President and Provost.

- b. **Retreat is now Friday, NOVEMBER 5 from 12:00 pm to 5:30 pm**, please fill out this RSVP form (even if you are unable to attend):

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScM\\_-baG5dy-whi2WbUtLNfyLtdvMljnFDh7qSJH2dIGzddwQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScM_-baG5dy-whi2WbUtLNfyLtdvMljnFDh7qSJH2dIGzddwQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

##### **2. Operations & Governance – Janet & Carlos (7:52 pm - 7:55 pm)**

- a. Part of our goal is to make HGC meetings run as productively and efficiently as possible. To that end, we will be sending out a survey asking for feedback on how we can improve our meetings.

##### **3. Advocacy & Policy – Xavier & Max (7:55 pm - 8:10 pm)**

- a. Discussion: Shopping Week
  - Collaborating with the Undergraduate Council on a proposal regarding shopping week. There is a university committee (Committee on Course Registration) that is reconsidering shopping week (a week for students to

try out different classes before officially enrolling/committing to specific classes). Committee is looking to replace shopping week with an early registration process. In a referendum by the Undergraduate Council, 96.5% of undergraduate respondents to a survey voted in favor of preserving shopping week. Some graduate students are concerned that shopping week prevents security (due to unpredictable employment because of varying class interest and enrollment.

- Jordan (HKS): Q: Should this conversation be had by the advocacy committee rather than the general body?
  - A: Advocacy committee has not been formed. We are just opening the discussion tonight. Please share this issue with your respective schools. Also engage on Slack in the meanwhile to share your input.
  - William Qian (SEAS): Believes that the undergraduates are right on this issue. Shopping week doesn't increase uncertainty. If anything, it can prevent uncertainty later into the semester because students can always drop classes later, at which point a TF might have their job cut well past when they can find another class to TF. Shopping week lets students decide earlier on whether they want to stay in a class.
  - Matt (GSAS): We need to make sure that there are protections for student workers who lose employment because of the uncertainty surrounding shopping week.
  - Camille (HKS): Believes we should keep shopping week because the undergraduates believe it has contributed to their experience. HGC should advocate for a stipend or some compensation for classes that are cancelled.
- b. HGSU Strike open discussion (without Matt Volpe):
- Gabe (HLS): HLS is passing a resolution in favor of the strike, assuming there is one. HGC should support the union and the strike as it is the body that represents all graduate students.
  - Mark York (SEAS): Has only heard support for the union and the strike on campus.
  - Jordan (HKS): Question for Peter. What's your honest opinion on our political capital right now? Would an HGC resolution carry any weight with the administration?
  - A: with regards to the strike, that's not a conversation that we brought up with the Provost. Our conversation during the meeting focused on what the Provost does and how HCG fits into that puzzle. Marshall has been working with the student union a lot. If you want to accomplish something, this is the year to do.
- c. Committee Interest Form Live

- Max: we're going to send out an interest form for the Advocacy Committee after today's meeting! Keeping it open to you, as representatives, but also will open to all graduate students so we can have a wider representation. **Visit:** [tinyurl.com/HGC-Adv](https://tinyurl.com/HGC-Adv)

#### 4. **Information & Communication** – *Nima & Troy (8:10 pm - 8:15 pm)*

- Nima is working to solve website issues. Feel free to message him on Slack or email [information@hgc.harvard.edu](mailto:information@hgc.harvard.edu).
- If you or a student have an event coming up that you want relayed through our social media channels or newsletter, please submit it through this form:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc1redBULHESk7NGHydHURL5etezYLhHQ37-7Ny6yIFcjrQ/viewform>

#### 7. **Student Life & Community Engagement** – *Estefania & Landon (8:15 pm - 8:20 pm)*

- Gradfest: The event was successful. Thank you everyone for joining. We are planning a Friendsgiving. Please send suggestions for additional events on Slack.
- Landon: We are really seeking student input from both execs and reps for events. Feel free to contact Estefania and Landon through Slack or email.
- Marta Williams (HMS) Q: Medical school students wondering about buses to Harvard-Yale football game.
- Himaja: Please share the interest form with interested students so that HGC can coordinate buses for the game. **(DEADLINE IS TONIGHT)**
- Interest form:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScummwGEFwCjnKcI2W16KYt7qiLTz0-IiNFBnzkoYP\\_iEXhCO/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScummwGEFwCjnKcI2W16KYt7qiLTz0-IiNFBnzkoYP_iEXhCO/viewform)
- Q: Camile (HKS): Are HGC buses open to all schools?
- A: Himaja: Yes, buses will pick up students from certain locations across the university. More information will be shared via email and on Slack.

#### 8. **Finance & Student Groups** – *Kathleen & Shankar*

- Harvard One Catalyst Fund: The fund supports programming organized by graduate students across the university. Students can get up to \$2500. Students should apply for funding 2-3 weeks in advance.
- Application: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScoCnJQF0Zs31FZNj1kNyJ5vJkdgOfFaA2MbzS7xRDjf0Ftuw/viewform>

- Marta (HMS): should HMS plan events with other schools, or would funded events become HGC-hosted events?
- Kathleen: These events are non-HGC hosted. Schools can apply for funding to host events (or cross-school events) that are open to the entire Harvard graduate student body.
- Peter: Try to make events cross-collaborations. Please do not apply for funding for an event that is meant to be a fundraiser.
- Aeshna (GSD): The requirements to apply can be extensive, especially for small organizations. Anything HGC can do to reduce these barriers? For example, clubs need to have their own bank accounts to apply, which can decrease access for some small organizations.
- Kathleen: proposes to meet with Aeshna to discuss potential solutions.
- Mark York (SEAS): Can individual graduate students apply for Catalyst Fund?
- Kathleen: Only student groups can apply for funding.
- Peter: Student life offices sometimes provide funding for students to meet and socialize with other graduate students.

#### **VIII. Action Items (8:20 pm - 8:50 pm)**

- None

#### **IX. Announcements (8:50 pm - 9:00 pm)**

- Natasha (HSPH): any way we can have a group/location/channel to share events so that it would be better communicated?
- Peter: Harvard as a whole is working on that; Nima can further elaborate at some point; if you have an event that encompasses multiple schools, we have the HCG newsletter; Jackie (GSAS Exec Director)/Lisa (GSAS)/Marshall (Office of the Provost) are our three advisors; ENGAGE (200+ student orgs)
- Estefania: has a master calendar of all HGC events - can find some dates on the calendar
- <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc1redBULHESk7NGHydHORL5etezYLhHQ37-7Ny6yIFcijrQ/viewform>
- Peter: feel free to make new channels on Slack to promote any events or information within HGC.
- Harvard slacks (not the HGC one, which was made privately) - a bigger ecosystem - can be use to promote external events
- Peter: Going to Ivy+ summit at UPenn with GSAS student government representatives and Jackie Yun (HGC advisor) to meet and share ideas with other student governments. Contact Peter if you have suggestions for what Harvard can do better or can learn more from other schools.

- Camille (HKS): Peter, can you try to learn more about how other schools allocate need-base financial aid?
- Peter: The Ivy+ summit is intended for student governments, so not sure if this question could be addressed at the summit; however, a representative from Harvard's Financial Strategy office will be attending the HGC retreat and explain how the endowment works.
- Peter trying to start an alumni fundraising campaign (\$1-2 million) to support full-time mental health counselors for Harvard staff.
- Himaja: We will have the Director of CAMHS at the HGC retreat.
- Peter: As advocacy initiatives start to pick up, please use the HGC slack channel to engage in conversations there outside of these general body meetings. HGC emergency e-voting that can be triggered by any board member or representative. The request for an emergency e-vote must be approved by the President and allow for at least a 48 hour discussion period.
- Nima: Important to maintain communication in one platform. Please use the representatives Slack channel. Contact Janet or Carlos if you need to be added to the channel.
- Himaja: Members of the leadership and operational teams will be coordinating one-on-one meetings to introduce new and returning representatives to HGC and learn about school specific priorities.

## **X. Adjournment**

**Retreat:** Friday, November 5, 2021, 12:00 pm - 5:30 pm ET (GSAS)

**Next Meeting:** Monday, November 8, 2021, 7 - 9 pm ET (HKS)

Meeting adjourned motion **introduced by** Jordan Biggers (HKS), **seconded by** Parisa Loftis Hamm (HGSE), **opposed by** no one, meeting adjourned at **8:47 pm ET**.

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Post-meeting notes:

Matt Volpe: HGSU has a letter that HGC can sign onto, and several student organizations have. We will share the letter with Advocacy, who will then decide whether or not to present to the Council.

Students can also:

- Join student workers on the picket line. Sign up at [tinyurl.com/HGSUpicket2021](https://tinyurl.com/HGSUpicket2021) to receive more information.
- Talk to Faculty in your network and ask them to express their support for HGSU. More info and details on how they can do that [here](#) .

- If you or others in your network have the resources to support striking workers financially, they can make a donation to a mutual aid fund that has been set up by some undergraduates at the College at [tinyurl.com/HGSUStrikeFund](https://tinyurl.com/HGSUStrikeFund)