THE HARVARD GRADUATE COUNCIL
The Representative Body for All of Harvard’s Graduate and Professional Students
Host: HKS

February 3rd, 2020, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Location: Zoom Link (HKS)

I. Presentations (7:30 - 8:00 PM)
   ● Giang T. Nguyen, Director of HUHS, “State of Affairs + Q&A”
     ○ COVID-19 variants more easily spread in the community - particularly if people are not adherent to public health guidelines
     ○ Most people underestimate 6 ft apart.
     ○ COVID-19 can be contained - 3 legged stool approach. If one leg fails, the chair can topple over:
       ■ Social distancing
       ■ Masking
       ■ Sanitizing

II. Roll Call and Welcome – Peter (8:00 - 8:20)
   ● Roll Call - Peter
     ○ HBS - Present
     ○ HDS - Present
     ○ HES - Absent
     ○ GSAS - Present
     ○ GSD - Present
     ○ HGSE - Absent
     ○ HKS - Present
     ○ HLS - Present
     ○ HMS - Present
     ○ HSDM - Present
     ○ SEAS - Present
     ○ HSPH - Absent (Late: 8:03 PM)
   ● HKS virtual “tour” - (Emily Mello, HKS) (15 mins)
Himaja: Where do other schools stand on need-based aid?
Answer: A survey of Harvard’s other graduate schools financial aid websites indicates that HKS is less progressive than most in offering need-based packages:

● 5 schools offer need-based grants only: HBS, HLS, HMS, Extension School, Dental School
● 2 Schools offer majority need-based grants: GSD, Divinity
● HGSE offers separate need-based grants and merit-based scholarships
● HSPH distributes grants on the basis of combination of merit and need. Whether they consider financial need more upfront when determining which applicants will receive grants, or if need is considered after this step and only when determining the level of aid in a method similar to HKS is unclear.

Approval of the Agenda

O MOTION to approve agenda by Hugh (HMS), SECONDED by Apoorva (HBS), no dissent, motion PASSED.

II. Public Comments (8:20 - 8:23 PM)

● HGC Executive Members being added to HGC Reps’ WhatsApp Group (Chanthia Ma, HGC President)
● Initiative on Sexual Violence in Elite Athletics - U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (Peter Choi, Vice Chair of Governance)
  ○ Sign Up for the Email List Here: https://forms.gle/pvfKgDTUYr6HkfJd9

III. Updates and Reports (8:23 - 8:55 PM)

Executive – Chanthia & Jo Jo (8:23 - 8:27 PM)

● Meetings with President Bacow and Provost Garber end of Feb
● Board of Overseers Townhall - later spring
  ■ Emily (HKS): Was there a reason why BOO could not do townhall?
  ■ Chanthia: Will go back to email and check. Wasn’t clearly stated to my memory.

● Student Experience Survey Results
● Discussion on University Finances 101 next gen council meeting
  ■ Potential Guest Speakers: Thomas Hollister, CFO of Harvard (TBA maybe 2/17)

Finance & Student Groups – Brett & Said (8:27 - 8:37 PM)

● Said: Student Support Committee
  ○ Supporting students who have been faced with hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Will put out a feeler on the reps group chat to gauge interest. Would be interested in having at least 1 person from each graduate school.

- Brett:
  - Meal Reimbursements: [https://hgc.harvard.edu/reimbursement](https://hgc.harvard.edu/reimbursement)
  - 03FEB21 Account Balance: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1InNQvArFjFTN6PmSpQKLEkIfTCBY1AQAOn9xQuulsfY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1InNQvArFjFTN6PmSpQKLEkIfTCBY1AQAOn9xQuulsfY/edit?usp=sharing)
  - Spring Budget Approval: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/12OiOiZJwOznejMADwux1HgfhR69NRyGj/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/12OiOiZJwOznejMADwux1HgfhR69NRyGj/view?usp=sharing)

**Operations & Governance – Himaja & Peter (8:37 - 8:39 PM)**

- Meeting time: [http://whenisgood.net/jtqyapy](http://whenisgood.net/jtqyapy)
- Constitutional amendments for public commenting period: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bEbVPIEaxnj-UKY3D5CEZ_XXvPVlYKgMRUYPzTZfuBQ/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bEbVPIEaxnj-UKY3D5CEZ_XXvPVlYKgMRUYPzTZfuBQ/edit?usp=sharing)

**Student Life & Community Engagement – Angela & Amreen (8:39 - 8:44 PM)**

- **End-of-Year Report**
  - Goals
    - Support schools and their school initiatives
    - Make connection with different schools
    - Support international students coming back to campus (but we cannot support in-person events)
    - Support local businesses
  - Student Life Committee/volunteers
    - Recruit volunteers to help with logistics and host events
  - Archive all events (HGC Drive/website)
- **Upcoming Events**
  - Datamatch: Harvard-MIT Valentine’s Day (Feb 14)
    - 500 dates will be hosted
    - Reps: please spread the word (starting from Feb 7th)
  - Mixers (Feb 17) - Hosted by Nima (GSD) and other reps
    - First mixer. Will be sending all the marketing material soon!
  - Harvard-MIT-Yale Games Night

**Advocacy & Policy – Abhinaya & Cynthia (8:44 - 8:49 PM)**

- Reaching out to identify advocacy needs of student organizations across graduate schools - Cynthia
  - Rep help is encouraged!
- Supporting students to speak to Crimson - Cynthia
- HGC EAC working with MIT on spring policy agenda - Abhinaya
Host a group (virtually) of students for Q&A and policy discussions

- Scheduling short meetings with presidents and reps to identify advocacy needs - Abhinaya
- Looking to learn more about policies and advocacy efforts from different schools so HCG can better support the work that different schools are undertaking

Information & Communication – Heidi & Tara (8:49 - 8:52 PM)

- Bi-Monthly newsletter
  - Reps please forward Heidi your school’s newsletter/calendar of events
  - Submit all events here: https://forms.gle/bzzWtFumHx2QR1Xs8
- Share newsletters at respective schools
- Submit event and info to be included in the newsletter
- Alumni Harvard email access
  - Meeting with HUIT in December, agreed to extend all alumni email access!
- One Harvard Podcast- reach out to Tara, Himaja, or Rutvij if you would like to be involved!

V. Action Items (8:52 - 9:00 PM)

- Vote on HGC Executive Members being added to HGC Reps’ WhatsApp Group
  MOTION made by Chanthia (HGC), SECONDED by Apoorva (HBS).
    - Discussion
      ■ Emily (HKS): I’m in support
      ■ Mark (GSAS): Same here.
    - Aye: 9, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Motion PASSES.
- Vote on Approval of Spring Budget
  MOTION made by Apoorva (HBS), SECONDED by Mark (GSAS).
    - Discussion
    - Aye: 9, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Motion PASSES.

VI. Members’ Privileges

VII. Announcements

- Chanthia: 2nd Meeting in April will be Spring Elections. President, VP, and all Chair roles will be up for elections
- Himaja: Please fill out the poll so we can schedule our HGC general council meeting time for spring semester!

VIII. Adjournment (9:00 PM)

MOTION to adjourn by Hugh (HMS), SECONDED by Apoorva (HBS), No dissent.
Meeting ADJOURNED at 8:58 PM

Next Meeting: TBA, hosted by the TBA (TBA)