



GPSC General Assembly Meeting Agenda: October 29, 2013: 6:30pm, 0016 Westbrook

Presiding Officer: Shannon O'Connor

Refreshments: Abbe LaBella, Eden Ellis

6:30pm: Welcome and Call to Order

Shannon O'Connor

6:31pm: Invited Speaker

Stefani Jones: President of the Duke Student Government

- Structure of DSG
 - Three branches: executive, judiciary, senate
 - There are 7 vice presidents who oversee a range of issues and who are in charge of several senators each. ,
 - Finance committee is the advisory board in charge of allocating funds for student groups and creating of student groups. The student group budget is \$700,000. The senate ultimately has to approve or reject the finance committee's recommendations
 - Senate: there are 7 committees. Senators are elected by grade. Unfilled spots are filled by interviews.
 - Judiciary: Resolves student disputes over bylaws or between student group leaders, and are used during elections
- Agenda of DSG this year
 - West union construction and how this impacts student life
 - The West Union building closed, resulting in a net decrease of 5 dining options, which equate to about 3000 meals served per day. This has put a strain on dining this year.
 - They have been pushing for more merchants on points this year, as well as food trucks (lunch time at Telecom Drive, 11am-2pm)
 - There will also be an open house on the construction plans Wednesday October 30th
 - The construction will be ongoing for the next 3 years so this will continue to be an issue
 - Gender violence prevention
 - They looked at existing sexual harassment and assault polices, how they impact reporting, and what the process of reporting is
 - A big accomplishment was removing the statute of limitations on reporting. Victims will have the length of time they are affiliated with the university to report the crime
 - Also, sexual assault will now be punishable by expulsion
 - They are also aiming for greater transparency in the process
 - They are also working on getting more academic support for victims. As it is, if you want to take medical leave, you have to take the whole year off. They are working on seeing if students can take a semester off or a few weeks off.
 - PACT training: training for bystanders, teaches people to recognize risky scenarios and how to speak up to prevent an assault from occurring. You can

do this training as part of a student group. All pledge classes this year and selective living groups have to undergo this training

- House model
 - 2 years ago, Duke instituted the house model.
 - Before, you could either rush for a Greek organization/selective living group or choose to undergo the house lottery as an individual.
 - Duke wanted to create more of a sense of community amount independent students
 - Now, you are randomly assigned a house and there are supposed to be events, etc. that bring each house together.
 - From the student perspective, there has not been much success. This is in part due to the physical structure of Duke's dorms. At other schools, the dorms are built around the housing model with shared spaces. We don't have this here.
 - They are working on houses having events, parties, tailgating and access to funds for these events
- Alcohol policy
 - Although Duke's alcohol policies have not changed, there has been increased enforcement of policies on campus. This had led to drinking events being pushed to off campus locations, especially houses around East Campus that are largely owned by Greek groups.
 - This creates a number of problems: on campus groups have less ability to hold events, a select number of organizations have monopolized events, and having events off campus allows less monitoring and greater chance of unsafe practices.
 - They are working on bringing events back on campus, where things can be more regulated and safe, and where community-building can occur
- Additional projects
 - Are working with UNC student government to oppose the voting ID legislation. These laws are going to affect students who are largely from out of state, and restrict their ability to vote. It is difficult to have proof of residence when you live on campus (not paying bills to the state), and you can't go to the DMV without these things to get a voter ID to vote in North Carolina. They are working on making sure students still have access to the voting booth once these laws are put into effect
 - Duke bikes
 - There used to be a large bike program that was run out of the Arts Annex which was axed during the summer. You used to be able to check out a bike and return it there.
 - The reasons for it being axed are not well understood, but may be related it being hard to manage, lack of organization, or belief that the program's management could be done elsewhere
 - Ironical that 2 years ago Duke won an award for being a bike-friendly campus
 - They are working with Zaxter to propose a bike sharing program
 - They would want depots on West, East, Central, and off-campus. This would be great for graduate students too
 - Handicap accessibility
 - They are working on identifying problem areas, working with West Union construction.

- They are also making sure that buildings not just meet ADA standards, but that they are exceeding standards by creating integrated designs (for example, having an elevator next to main stairs, not hidden away in a corner of a building)
 - Tailgaiting
 - They want to figure out how to incorporate this into the house model
 - It has been more of an organic event this year with people setting up their own areas
 - DSG communications
 - Having been working on their website, social media, and communication with students
 - They are working on making sure students can give input back to the DSG
- Questions from the GA
 - Shannon O'Connor (VP): we are also interested in the gender violence issue and want to support the DSG mission. How can grad students get involved in the training programs?
 - Answer: We would love to get grad students involved. The program is currently run through the Women's Center, which is understaffed for this program, but we would like to get grad students involved in the future
 - Paul Triulzi (Liberal studies): how can we help with the Duke bikes program?
 - Answer: the biggest problem now is figuring out how much interest there is in the program. It may be helpful for the GPSC GA to pass a resolution or show support in some other fashion, or send a rep to a DSG meeting
 - Shannon O'Connor (VP): yes, we were upset about the program stopping too. However, they only gave us 6 days' notice in the summer that this was happening.

7:00pm: Student Housing Resolution

Amol Yadav

- The housing resolution and background document was sent to all reps last week and earlier in the day. The following discussion and voting are in reference to these documents.
- Amol Yadav (President): a brief background on what brought us to draft this housing resolution
 - The graduate student housing issue has been a topic of discussion for the last few years. This summer, we formed a presidential committee to explore this issue
 - The problem:
 - The graduate student housing committee met with administrators over the summer, and found that there used to be a dedicated employee at the university who managed graduate student housing issues and was excellent in their position. However, with the financial downturn in 2008, their position was incorporated into the undergraduate housing organization and this person has been unable to manage graduate student issues.
 - There is currently no one managing graduate student housing at Duke
 - With the upturn in the economy, there are enough funds to reinstate this position if there is the demand
 - Administrators have been made aware of this issue and are in support of recreating this position. Right now, we just need to formally state our support as students by voting for the housing resolution as drafted

- The resolution:
 - Basically, is calling for this pain position to be reinstated, and for the student housing committee to work with the person to identify issues needing resolution
 - 1. URGES the administration of Duke University to create once again a full-time, exempt position of “Program Coordinator” that will be responsible for managing Duke Community Housing;
 - 2. CALLS UPON the GPSC Community Housing subcommittee to work with this position to update the Housing Website and conduct the Apartment/Neighborhood reports, which have not been updated since 2009, in a more timely fashion; and
 - 3. ENCOURAGES the GPSC Community Housing subcommittee and Program Coordinator to build relationships with local landlords and the City of Durham to advocate for safe, affordable housing that is suitable to graduate students.
- Larry Moneta is aware of this and is looking forward to seeing it
- Brad Hover (Attorney General):
 - The judicial committee has already looked it over for any technical issues at it relates to the GPSC bylaws. It has also been looked over by the exec council, who passed it unanimously.
 - To reiterate, we are calling for a position to be created by the university. GPSC is not creating this position itself, as we do not have the power/ability to do so.
 - Options at this point:
 - Move to approve it as is
 - Amend it, and vote each line as an up or down vote
- Discussion among the GA
 - Bill Hunt (English): What does it mean to create an “exempt” position, in clause 1?
 - Answer: this has to do with the type of employment, with regards to overtime pay. The wording is identical to the position description when it used to exist. The position would be salaried and exempt from overtime pay.
- Voting
 - Motion by John Howard (Divinity) to adopt as is. This was seconded and approved by the GA
 - Dominick San Angelo (Law) called to question
 - The resolution and background document were passed unanimously by the GA as originally written.
- Questions from the GA
 - Rep: can we distribute the resolution and background document to our constituents?
 - Answer: yes, absolutely
 - Amol Yadav (President): he will now send it to Larry Moneta, who will then send it to the Academic Council which is an influential group, who will then support it. Larry Moneta can then create the position. If for some reason the position is not created, we will advocate for the issue in another way

7:10pm: Call for a temporary Presidential Committee: Community Interaction Committee: Endowment Transparency subcommittee

Amol Yadav, Brad Hover

- At our last GA meeting, the issue of Duke Open and Duke Divest was brought up and there seemed to be at least some curiosity about the issues addressed by these campus groups

- We feel that the Exec council and GA are simply under-informed about these groups and their goals, and wish to have dedicated individuals from the GA seek balanced information to inform us
- The idea was proposed by exec that we form a subcommittee under a presidential advisory committee (which are only staffed when needed can be disbanded later) to inform us on endowment transparency
- If the GA thinks we need to even form this committee, and if there are people interested in serving on it, then we can form the committee
 - Our goal for forming the committee is NOT to create a stance, but rather to look into what's going on and seek information
 - Shannon O'Connor (VP): is there interest in forming the committee or should we just drop the idea?
- Questions from the GA:
 - Devin Bridgen (BME): are there people willing to serve on this committee?
 - Lee Hightower (Divinity): he is already involved in this issue, through Alpha Phi Omega (a undergrad fraternity, and is on as their first graduate student). They had a large sum of money donated to them from an individual who had passed away, and was looking into how to invest it, and looked into the endowment issues.
 - Peter Chhoy (Pharmacology): what would be the point of this committee?
 - Answer: we have had lack of information on this subject and want people to do research and bring us back a balanced perspective
 - Amol Yadav (President): You may see this brought up in your committee on campus. It would be good when the issue is brought up to have a unified answer from GPSC to offer.
 - Rep (Fuqua): What kind of transparency are these groups looking for? What are they expecting? He would be interested in serving on the committee, but as a dissident
 - Answer: This would be great if you would serve, as it would help inform us
 - Ben Shellhorn (Student Life): There are 2 campus groups that are asking for some form of transparency. The task of the committee would be to talk to these groups and gather information. We don't want to be a massive student body with no opinion on these hot topics
 - Lisa Treilling (Political Science): yes this is an important issue, but do we need to form a committee? We can ask for someone from Duke Open/Divest to come talk to us
 - Answer: we could, but they may give a skewed perspective. We would be better served with a balanced perspective
 - Xiaoxing Cui (Integrate Toxicology and Environmental Health): What is the point of these groups?
 - Ben Shellhorn (Student Life): these groups want to open the endowment. Divest wants to open it only so much as to make sure we are investing in green technologies/not in polluting resources. The point of our committee would be to find out these groups' goals
- Voting
 - Andrew George (CMB): motioned to create a transparency committee, which was seconded
 - Opened to discussion
 - Bill Hunt (English): has the BoT made any decisions on the matter?
 - Amol: any decisions made are not open to the public
 - The committee is created unanimously by the GA
- Email Shannon O'Conner (VP) if you are interested in serving on it: sko@duke.edu

7:15pm: Discussion on NIH Funding Cuts

Amol Yadav, Shannon O'Connor

- In 2007, the Budget Control Act proposed the concept of sequestration, including funding cuts to the NIH
- We expect that 2,300 fewer grants will be awarded after the sequestration, but this does not comment on what will happen to existing grants.
- The National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS) send a letter to the House of Representatives on the impact of budget cuts to students, and that it is important to continue to support research and education. This letter was signed by over 1000 students across the nation
- We would like to know how/if the budget cuts are already affecting you, and if you anticipate that it will affect you in the future. Furthermore, should we as GPSC do something about it, such as talking to administrators?
 - Sciences
 - Xiaoxing Cui (Integrate Toxicology and Environmental Health): It has generally been hard to support international students. Some NIH funding may not be designated to support international students. It is also difficult for labs to bring international students to the states, but once here it seems the University is good at fighting to keep their funding
 - Abbe Labella (Student Group Liaison): The medical school has NIH grants that are up for renewal. We don't know if all of them will be renewed. Some grants are for degree-granting programs, others for non-degree granting programs.
 - Jenny Rinker (CEE): the master's programs across Pratt seem to be increasing significantly. Is because they are a source of income for the program? The classes may become too large, and less geared towards PhD students.
 - Question: do you think your classes are too large now?
 - Answer from Jenny: no, it's hard to say now because she is mostly past the classes phase of her studies
 - Devin Bridgen (BME): NIH is the lifeblood of professors. Some labs stopped taking on grad students this last year. Although it's not causing any acute problems now, it may cause a problem a few years down the line resulting in the hiring of fewer PhD students
 - Humanities
 - Lee Hightower (Divinity): Divinity students have to do field placements. Nonprofit agents have had their funding cut, thus there are fewer spots for students to do field placement in their desired locations, or students would have to work places for free. If students don't received a placement where they would like to go, they would have to go to another site that would less adequately prepare them for their career goals.
 - Alicia Hines (History): there seems to be more master's programs being created in the graduate school. They want to do this for the history department which does not currently have a master's program. How would this affect graduate students? How would this affect opportunities to find work, TA positions?
 - Professional students
 - Shannon O'Connor (VP): is this affecting professional students?
 - Ben Parker (Med School): for a short period of time, armed forces did not receive checks and tuition was not paid, but this was from the government freeze
 - Other comments
 - Bill Hunt (English): does NAGPS have a method for lobbying Congress?

- Amol Yadav (President): does not know the outcome of the letter sent
- Shanna Lehrman (University Affairs): there will be action days in the spring in DC to discuss reinstatement of the Advanced Education Act and NIH funding
 - Amol Yadav (President): this may also affect startups, patents
- Please discuss with your constituents on how funding cuts is affecting them, and let us know so we can discuss with administrators

7:25pm: Logo Contest

Fumiko Chino

- Fumiko Chino is our communications coordinator (puts out the GPSC News each week) and has a graphic design background
- The current logo (as seen on the top of these minutes) is functional, however has a number of issues. First, there are numerous GPSC's across the country and our logo does not identify as Duke's. It also has very small writing, and "retro" font. It's time for a new logo!
- Goals for a new logo:
 - Scalable
 - Incorporates the Duke brand
 - Looks good in color, or in black and white
 - Self-contained identity
 - Personality
 - Easily recognizable and generalizable (good for social and academic uses)
- Examples of some logos used on campus were displayed on the screen
- We would like to open a logo design contest to all graduate and professional students on campus
 - Rules
 - Please submit in a digital format (not on paper! Although if you must, then fine)
 - Email it to Fumiko (fumiko.chino@dm.duke.edu)
 - Deadline: November 10th at midnight
- Process: Fumiko will collect all the designs, they will be presented to exec to be narrowed down (~5), which will then be presented to the GA to decide on the winner
- Ben Shellhorn (Student Life): student life will give 5 drink tickets to the winner, an old Duke mug, and whatever we can scrounge from the basement of the GPSC house ☺
- Peter Chhoy (Pharmacology): Duke has a group called DIDA (undergrads) who will help with branding for free. They did a great job for the running club
 - Answer: Fumiko Chino (Communications): she will also do it for free. She worked as a professional graphic designer for many years. She will look into DIDA though
- The winner and logo will be put in the GPSC news

7:30pm: Intros from Reps

Brainstorm: What would you like to see in a grad/prof student meeting space?

- Now we have GPSC house, and it's clean!
- Our first event was pumpkin carving last week, and it was really successful! There were 50 pumpkins purchased and more people there than pumpkins.
- The goal of this exercise is to brainstorm on items we need in the GPSC house to make it functional as a social space, and on how we can fund these items since we don't have the money in our budget

7:45pm: New Issues/Announcements

Feel free to ask for ideas to bring to your committee meetings!

- Devin Bridgen (BME, Transportation committee): Are there any issues he should bring to his next committee meeting? He would like to have biking issues as a focus for this year, including promoting biking lanes for people who commute (there are some main arteries that are not very good right now):
 - Fumiko Chino (Communications): she brought this issue up last year, but as a bike commuter, you get a few free parking passes for when the weather is bad. This used to be a scratch-off thing, but now you have to print off a pass each time. This is not good for people without printers at home.
 - Rep: ways to alleviate parking problems on game days. Although you may be allowed to park in certain lots, the traffic problems/wardens mean that you often can't even get to those lots
 - Shanna Lehrman (University Affairs): parking in the green zone (out by Law, Fuqua, and Sanford) is a huge issue. There is ongoing construction and students have to park in alternative lots, which are really unsafe.
 - Sasha Makohon-Moore (CMB): a traffic officer would not let her get to the lot where she was actually allowed to park during a game day
- Tiffany Wilson (Student Life): Next year, we won't have a tailgate location because they are getting rid of the Whitford Drive lot to put in a new track (the football stadium is getting renovated to improve the spectator experience...they are lowering the bowl). Please email her if you can think of a good location to hold the GPSC tailgate (tiffany.wilson@duke.edu)
- Abbe Labella (Student Groups): the pumpkin carving was a huge success. Next month's event at the GPSC house will be game night. Look out for it in the GPSC news.

7:55pm: Fall Social Events

Tiffany Wilson, Ben Shellhorn

- GPSC snapshot for November

Grow your mustaches for Movember all month long! See GPSC News for more info.

Thurs.	11/7	Thirsty Thursday, Fitzgerald's (Chapel Hill), 9 pm
Sat.	11/9	Football Tailgate (vs. NCSU), Whitford Drive, 3 hours before kickoff
Sun.	11/10	Defy Gravity, 5-6 pm or 6-7 pm, see GPSC News for registration link
Tues.	11/12	GPSC General Assembly Meeting, 0016 Westbrook, 6:30 pm
Sat.	11/16	Football Tailgate (vs. Miami), Whitford Drive, 3 hours before kickoff
Wed.	11/20	GPSC Trivia Night, 9 pm (tentative)
Thurs.	11/21	Game Night, 306 Alexander, 7:30 pm

For more information and events:

Read your weekly [GPSC News](#) email

Subscribe to the [GPSC Events Calendar](#)

- All month long is Movember. You will hear more about this from Dan Brown (Community Outreach)
- Thirsty Thursday at Fitzgerald's in Chapel Hill
- Defy gravity: registration will open next Thursday
- Trivia night is tentative. We want to create a trivia night dedicated to just Duke people, rather than have students scatter to various different bars
- Please send this out to your peers
- Student life survey
 - The student life committee would like to see who is coming to our events, how often they are coming, why people are not coming, and what type of events they would like to see
 - Responders will be entered into a lottery to win one of two \$25 Visa gift cards. Please ask your peers to complete the survey

- To see what is coming to the events, how often, and why not coming, what they would like to see
- 2 x \$25 visa gift cards. Please ask your peers to complete the survey.
 - Tinyurl.com/gpscSLsurvey

8:00pm: Officer Updates

- None

8:10pm: Reminders and Wrap-up

- Approval of previous meeting minutes
- Don't forget to send out your biweekly update to your constituents!
- Minutes approved

8:15pm: Adjournment

GA meetings, 6:30pm, 0016 Westbrook

November 12, 2013

December 10, 2013 (tentative)