September 8, 2021

Exec Board Members Attending:

Call to Order (15 mins)
- Welcome and introduction to GSG and Assembly!
  - Overview of GSG structure and Assembly agendas
    - Exec board -- elected every March, we advocate for grad students, interface with deans and administrators to make sure grad students are considered in university policies, and develop programming and events
    - Assembly -- selected by your department or special interest group, give us feedback to pass on to administrators (or share concerns from grads in your dept), work with exec members on committees and initiatives, give feedback to administrators when they present at assembly
    - To learn more about our initiatives, committees, and opportunities to get involved -- check out our new website! Gsg.princeton.edu
  - Also: link to Slack (more than 1900 people!)
  - Brochures and bookmarks to take home to depts!
- Exec board members introduce themselves
- Assembly reps introduce themselves

- Quorum count
- Discretionary spending report
  - $1500 for Grad Student Buddy Program -- $30 on Tiger cards to each pairing, replenished in the spring. Grad School contributes $20 and we’re contributing $10. 150 pairs (300 total students)
  - Grad School paid $5000, we paid $2200 for upgraded GSG Slack
  - Upgraded GSG website to Squarespace -- $216 for the year
  - Orientation brochures and bookmarks -- $358 for brochure and $116 for bookmarks

The County Line Presentation: Yael Niv/Julia Sass Rubin/Laura Bustamante (15 mins)
Laura’s presentation
- There are number of ways to get involved in the voting/county line issues. Gsg will be voting today whether to sign the fair ballot initiative.

Prof. Julia Suss Rubin’s presentation
For most of the state, winning the party primary guarantees a state election win.
In NJ the primary ballots are organized according to county lines. This leaves some party endorsed candidates multiple advantages.
Incumbency and county line advantage is exceptionally powerful in NJ. As of June, Virginia and NJ are the only states that do this.
Who gets the line comes down to 42 individuals to decide who gets to be on the line.
Candidates also tend to drop out when they don’t get selected for the line. Also, elected officials become beholden to few people of influence.
Hinders reform
Hinders women and/or person of color to win.

Yael’s presentation
- Better ballots NJ campaign.
- Requiring only two resolutions: Office Bloc Display instead of County Line ballot. Rotational Order System: often people vote for the first couple candidates. We should also reform this. (we can rotate/randomize/alphabetize)

Open Forum (30 mins)

Quorum
In favor: 14/19
Oppose: 2/19
Abstain: 3/19

Q: Has this type of ballot always been in NJ?
- Yes.

Q: In order for the ballot to change, what should happen?
- It would have to go through the legislature.
- 1. Thus, through lawsuit,
- 2. Through the committee.

Q: Have you attempted to convince Princeton university to endorse this?
- Not yet. It is difficult for such an organization like Princeton to take up this fight because of their complicated relationship with the politicians.