

GSG Assembly Meeting



Tuesday, February 21, 2023 6pm **Louis A. Simpson Room B60**

1. Call to order
 - a. Quorum count
 - i. Quorum was met with 24 representatives.
 - b. Discretionary spending report
 - i. Treasurer Jan Ertl declared nothing was spent since the last assembly meeting.
2. GSG Elections Candidate Statements by the GSG Elections Committee
 - a. Vote to approve list of qualified candidates
 - i. Questions
 1. Camilla Llerena-Oliviera (CEE rep): Can I rescind my statement and leave the photo?
 - a. Allison- Yes, I'll pass that on to the election committee.
 - ii. Voting:
 1. Approve- 23
 2. Abstain/no vote- 1
 - iii. Motion passes! The GSG election will move forward with the list of candidates.
3. PGSU Motion by Aditi Rao, PGSU representative (2nd year in Classics)
 - a. Motion of support (non-monetary, material, or organizational) to PGSU, the [Princeton Graduate Students' United](#) in their effort to bring about a vote of unionization with United Electric Workers to the entirety of the graduate student body.
 - i. [1500 students have signed a card so far](#) , 1000 of which was received on the first day
 - b. Questions
 - i. Varun Satish (OPR rep): How do union dues work with the stipend increase?
 1. AR- The union dues are 1.44% of the stipend increase negotiated by the union. If the University chooses to give a raise, that does not affect the union dues. Even so, PGSU will

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- ask for a higher stipend, and the union dues would be 1.44% of any increase the union achieves through negotiation.
- ii. Himawan Winarto (PPPL rep): Why did we choose to associate with UE and not UAW. UE is anti nuclear, which is pivotal to my research area and UAW seems to represent more grad unions.
1. AR-Individual unions of UE vote for the specific calls to support or deny causes. Policies are derived at each individual union, so whether we support that would be a vote by Princeton grads. We chose UE because of the autonomy we are given. For example, this union drive has been entirely supported by Princeton students and not outside members. The data we are collecting stays with Princeton students. There will never be an issue that does not go to a vote.
 2. HW- Will students be compelled to join the union?
 - a. AR- Once the union vote happens, if 50% +1 student then the entire bargaining unit will be added into the union body and have the right to vote. The university will define the bargaining unit.
 - b. HW- So we do not have a choice in being added?
 - c. Marie-Lou Laprise, (Sociology rep)- There is a difference between being represented by a union and a member of a union. Everyone in the bargaining unit will be represented by the union and receive the benefits from that. A member of the union will be someone that has voting power, and you can choose to vote or not vote on any given issue.
 3. Lucas Frye, (Chemistry, guest) - What is the process of forming a union?
 - a. AR- We need 30% of the student body to sign a card, and we are well past that now. We are aiming to get close to 2000 students ($\frac{2}{3}$) to get a supermajority. At that point we will ask the University to voluntarily recognize PGSU and save everyone a lot of time. If they choose not to recognize us, we will hold a union

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election and if 50% + 1 student vote yes, we will be unionized under United Electric (UE)

4. Sophia Yoo, (Lakeside Apartments rep)- What do you feel can only be accomplished through a union? For example, you mention helping international students, can you be more specific? How would this fit in with advocacy efforts such as DEI?
 - a. AR- PGSU does not stand in opposition to the other orgs on campus that are making a difference. PGSU is important because it gives students a vote along with their opinion. For instance, the CPT program , which allows international students to do internships, is something that other unionized schools have been able to win, and this would be something that PGSU would require the university to offer.
 - b. Nancy Tang, (Politics rep)- For context, only 14/42 programs offer CPT here at Princeton.
 - c. Elisa Purschke, (German rep)- Most people in my department are international students so CPT is super important for us to teach as we want to. We also need support for legal fees and tax issues. I also have seen the importance of out of network health care since I travel a lot in my work. Many of my peers at unionized campuses receive help with these things thanks to the union.
 - d. Jan Ertl, (Econ, GSG Treasurer) - How much of the CPT is department specific? We are often told that it's up to the departments to have it.
 - i. NT- Yale and other schools with unions were able to negotiate that every department provides CPT.
5. August Ning, (ECE rep)- Recently, the faculty got a 2.5% raise but the unionized facilities workers did not. Similarly, Temple University just tried to illegally force students on strike to pay

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tuition and health insurance. What can we do about that? For example, can the University remove us from campus housing since we're technically invited guests and not tenants?

- a. AR- If it ever comes to the extreme of striking, it is a protected action so the union would give us funds. When negotiations resume, the first item is always backpay. For any stipend raises, right now we are at the mercy of the university and can't actually ask for more money. We receive whatever the University wants to give. This is what we want to change. We should be able to tell them how much we need to live.
- b. AN- If the university cancels your housing contract because you are striking, that is an illegal action.
- c. HW- I think that the university can't retaliate in your salary but they might be able to mess with housing. We need a larger body to actually make progress.
 - i. AR- PGSU is that larger body.
 - ii. HW- UE is a small union so is it able to actually make changes?
 - iii. EP- We as students have more say since we are aligned with UE. The sheer size does not matter as much if we are able to get our voices heard. If anything, we believe we receive more attention from UE.

c. Vote to approve motion of support

- i. Approve- 22
- ii. Abstain- 1
- iii. No- 1
- iv. Motion Passes!

4. Open Forum

- a. No questions from the Assembly. Remaining time was given for GSG updates.
- b. Jan Ertl, GSG Treasurer- Funding initiative that was started in January has been a success. For every new/revived org that plans an event we pledge \$500 for the next two semesters. We have already had 10 orgs

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take part in this! Tigers with Cubs and the Brazilian Graduate Association have already received money and planned events. Even though we already met our plan for 10 new orgs, you are still able to start a new student org and apply for GSG funding. We do have funds available, though we cannot guarantee \$500 for the next two semesters.

- c. Sasha Bedrove, (GSG ISA Chair)- This Friday is the 1 year anniversary of the war in Ukraine. We are having a vigil in Palmer Square at noon. We will write cards to those affected that I will then send. We will also be doing a movie showing: Navalny, which just won a BAFTA. Please come out and show your support. Even if you are not directly affected, it means so much to see other grad students there.
5. Meeting adjourned.