

HCA Meeting Minutes (May 8th, 2017)

1) Introduction of Members

- Spencer
- Moni
- Nicole
- Peter (Chair of Ext Affairs)
- Ty (Co-chair of Diversity subcomm) - 1st year Comp
- Grace (President of Eastgate) and Will
- Lisa – GSC VP
- Sarah - GSC President
- Kelly – Masters student; advocate for more grad housing

2) Expectations of Committee Members

- GSC Publicity – FB posts
- Start taking Meeting Minutes at HCA meetings (rotate during meetings)
- Ty: FB Pages
- There's one fb page for GSC
- What constitutes subcommittee member?

3) Updates from Committee

- Sustainability
 - Survey in the Anno about sustainable practices.
 - Fill out survey for data on new waste management program.
 - Final GSC CH coming up. Mugs during CH.
- Transportation
 - Costco Shuttle and Bike Locations
- Dorms
 - AHEC: New leadership
 - Eastgate:
 - Elevators, Construction
 - Looking for new Heads of House
 - Ideas for team-building: Dinners/Goal-sketching, planning, Expectations, Maybe get away from normal worksite, iREFS team building resources
 - GSC ExComm Retreat: Blind Polygon activity
 - Westgate
- Cost of living
 - Survey done every 3 years to determine cost of graduate students for stipends
 - Interested in getting better data for families, child-care
 - Was there a survey already? Run by GWAMIT, not as general
 - MIT body exists for surveys
 - Circulate questions via email, make further improvements
- Diversity
 - First meeting happened last Friday

- Next steps: Add officers to committee, sitting down with cultural groups on campus
- Tomorrow: Meeting by ODGE, meeting with leaders of color
- Meeting with religious organizations as well
- Start looking at Women as Minorities
- External Affairs
 - Local Affairs: Ramping up (meeting with city council people, landscape of local government)
 - Peter will represent external affairs in next several HCA meetings

4) New and Ongoing Initiatives

- Costco Cards
 - Email from postdocs to share cards and collaborate with graduate students
 - No likely increase in cards; very difficult to obtain when shuttle is running. Grandfathered system. Talk to George.
 - Restructure the CostCo shuttle. 10-15 cards exist.
 - IREFS
 - Relatively new → Push publicity hard, especially in dorms
 - Conflict management training runs over the semester, almost done
 - Partner with Division of Student Life, lots of conflict management training to give people skills in this
 - iREFS vs dREFS? Began in chemistry 20 years ago, created later in other depts, expanded. IREFS also involved in conflict management.
 - MIT Dining for Graduate Students
 - Naomi Carton: Working on food options (in Walker) for grad students
 - Food is coming
 - Working on Taste Testing for this new option
 - Dining Plan? Grad students can get on undergrad dining plans, but all halls are on west side. Maseeh is closest to east side.
 - Vending machines with sandwiches? Problems: what becomes of waste, insects in food
 - MediaLab idea: Box, responsive to waste
 - MBA students in SP – The Pantry piloted, started today

5) Open Floor

- Call for comments about what to prioritize for students. Still considering asks (number of units, etc.). Reviewing report in 2013-2014 for graduate student needs. Possibly distribute report to others. Send report to gsc-hca-all.
- Working on ideas.
- Sarah: Willing to meet with hca subcommittee members. Lisa: Lots of monthly meetings with admins, can pass on any issues to them
- Malvika: Particular goals? Sarah: Food on campus, wellness (Mental Health; improving resources)
- Summer monthly HCA meetings as well; typically Mondays after GCM meetings at 5:30 PM
- Summer GCM Meetings as well

- Back to Sarah: Emergency Family Grant situation. Meeting with Suzy Nelson occurred, ODGE has some money. Can apply through ODGE. Going for a publicity push.