

Harvard Graduate Council  
Executive Board Meeting  
January 22, 2018  
Minutes  
Lynman Hall - Physics Building

Meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by Kevin

In attendance included:

Payum  
Ken  
Aric  
Kelly  
Tracie  
Akinwande  
Dana  
Katherine

Welcome back, happy new year.

next elections will be in late April, new president can decide to carry over Vice Chairs.

Must be a representative if running for President.

Talked about Kevin's discomfort with Vice Chairs continuing.

By laws are a first draft (Hanes).

Payum suggested: "Would it make sense to have Vice Chairs serve on following cycle until new ones are elected in Fall?"

Was an experiment splitting it off, but it may make sense carrying over. Kevin explained the need for elections in fall to include one year Masters students that may wish to participate.

Kevin spoke about the need for greater communication between Grad Council and Undergrad Council.

In fall, new Smith Center will be complete and new Presidents will have neighboring offices.

Kevin spoke about desire to see a new "Five year plan" for Grad Council that may help with future planning, and to assist newly elected members.

Meeting then took a 20 minute break for food delivery.

Tracie explained why the business cards are late due to need to create a new template. Hopefully should have meeting by this Thursday with a Staples representative and it will be ready by next executive meeting.

No finance update with Sam's absence, so we are unsure which USGs are being renewed. Still delayed due to internal debate. Don't really have any updates.

February 5th is the next Executive Board meeting.

RTL (Payum) hasn't gotten many responses. Kevin

Tracie said March 10th is new date for Museum of Science, didn't receive a response from Payum or Sam in order to redo the contract.

Payum needs to meet again to redo the numbers. Our budget is less.

Aric and Kevin said they will meet in Sam's absence to talk numbers, and suggested Tracie and Payum meet separately to hammer out details.

Kevin was concerned that no date has been set, and wished more had been done with regards to surveys.

Payum didn't want to have one big event, but preferred to have multiple smaller events. Payum was hesitant to do entrepreneurship conference, hadn't done anything so far, and was concerned about lack of promotion. Kevin pushed for booking a venue, but there was some argument regarding the lack of focus/direction of the conference. No survey regarding what professors would speak at an event.

Payum wanted to do smaller events to get buy in.

Kevin and Payum said to take conversation offline, apologized for lack of progress.

Kevin asked Kelly and Dana regarding their goals for semester:

Dana felt more "reactive" than "active," unsure how to engage others. Felt useless.

Kevin spoke about inclusionary task force, potential for advocating such events once the task force evolves from "listening" and receiving input, but into the synthesis stage.

Suggested the Smith Campus Center (Student Center) could be used as a venue for more than hosting parties in the fall after it opens. Thinking about setting the stage for future.

Mentioned there may be other collaborative issues with Undergraduate Council - besides the tax bill.

Asked if there should be a statement regarding unionization bill. Kevin said very polarizing, passionate. Hesitant to make a statement.

Payum suggested a forum or debate? Kevin said it's not welcomed enthusiastically and wanted to remain cautious. In the past the graduate council only helped to disseminate information or links to other parts of school that might have forums regarding this subject.

That's all for advocacy. Kevin agreed to meet Dana.

Latoya is unable to attend future meetings, but can assist with work.

Akindwala said is having trouble aggregating the website from the multiple schools, and plans to be able to send off things. Plans to send info to reps about their event websites to input information in the future. (Can the website calendar be open sourced?)

Payum suggested "upcoming events" could be added each week. Tracie said to concentrate on one or two each week until everyone is up to speed. Akindwala said the idea was to build something that can be continually updated.

Dana and Tracie made the point without info, no one will go to see the events on website anyway if no one is ever looking at our site.

Kevin asked if it might be a good idea to have "upcoming events" that each school may wish to promote as an agenda item.

Tracie said to pass along to her any agenda items on the Friday/Saturday before each meeting.

Kevin updated us regarding his meeting with the President - talked about tax bill. No update on next President.