

HGC Meeting
February 5, 2018
330 Lyman Physics Lab

Meeting was called to order at 7:15pm.

In attendance were Kevin, Tracie, Kelly, Hanes, Akindwale, Aric, Dana and Ken.

Kevin told Ken that he will be meeting with Marshall on Wednesday to hopefully get an update about the student groups.

Next meeting on Monday the 12th of February will be at 2nd floor of the Longfellow building (Elliott Lyman room), Appian Way. Kevin also mentioned that there will be no meeting on the 19th due to the holiday, however, the meeting will be shifted.

Kevin asked about Ishmael's future attendance and wished to monitor the situation. Hope he is in better health.

Kevin felt there was not much HGC interest, urgency to follow up regarding the DOT project, therefore did not see need to weigh in with any public statements or positions since it is so far away.

Kevin will schedule a meeting with Common Spaces to discuss Smith Center.

Tracie said that she is still having difficulties getting business cards for everyone but did get several of them completed already thus far. Asked others to please get back to her with more detailed information so she can get them ready before next week's meeting. Tracie also ordered placards for all others that did not have them before.

Hanes talked about the current election cycles and how to best time them so as to have them in spring or fall. For example, presently a mid-career could never be President of HGC. Kevin responded that there is a need for representation over the summer. Hanes then countered by saying that there is an "interim" elected in spring to carry over into the fall, but if that's not feasible for HGC, then we could continue with status quo. Payum suggested current cycle gives a "summer task" to transition into the fall, and Kevin agreed the current cycle assists with continuity and institutional memory. Kevin also emphasized there is a more stringent requirement for President/Vice-President to be enrolled throughout the following summer and fall, which is very different than Vice Chair positions. Akwindale agreed with Hanes that maybe one year students would never have a chance to become President. Ken suggested maybe to shorten President term to a six-month period, but Kevin countered by saying the importance of continuity would make that a less than optimal solution and that the Provost office did expect a contact over the summer and that HGC gets its authority from the school, so we must be careful.

Dana, Kelly and Kevin recently met with External Affairs board at MIT - to talk about a concept called "Ivy+" and as a platform to interface between students/advocacy efforts. Dana said their platform is very flexible, and the council has carte-blanche to do almost anything within confines of platform (wide scope). Their council is 100 people, with its own funding mechanism, and very differently structured than HGC with its 12 schools. Kevin thought to turn discussion towards whether this type of mechanism would be valuable for us, so as to not wait so long to release a statement. Tracie and Kelly liked this type of mechanism - for example the DACA statement - that it would be easier to create a more meaningful statement. Payum felt this would also give more weight to whatever statement that advocates on behalf of graduate students, across a much larger population. Dana said hopefully within next two weeks, will review what MIT has as a platform to better help HGC adapt their own. Kevin said will mention this more.

Tracie reported the 2018 Masquerade Ball has now been moved to March 31st so as to better accommodate those who would be absent due to Spring Break. Kevin was able to put down a deposit, and it is 100% confirmed. Tracie is working on graphics and will have another meeting at 2pm at the SOCHE building this Saturday to discuss further details. Tracie went over sponsorship packages for the event. Payum wanted to make sure we were on good legal ground for the sponsorship names, and to try and avoid any legal issues, but Tracie put him at ease with his concerns regarding the sponsorship packages.

Payum spoke about the "Lectures that Last" and will be discussing with others dates/professors to coordinate sometime between midterms and final exams - believed March 26 through April 11th is the sweet spot for organizing such events, but thought April 4-11th is most optimal. Kevin suggested making requests ASAP to ensure faculty availability, once preferences for professors are indicated. Tracie asked Akindwale if there were other conflicting events, and he indicated that there was nothing conflicting as far as he knew.

Kevin said he has been in touch with Sam, who is still in China.

Akindwale recently posted pictures onto the website, and asked to reorganize website to point people to their counterparts across HGC.

Tracie then looked at pictures (note: Kevin did not like his own photo) and asked if they could be edited. Akindwale said the width needs to be precisely uniform, or information will not display correctly. He further talked about how the page will nicely link with other pages, and all seemed very impressed.

Tracie asked for picture and bio from Ken be sent, and she will forward it to Akindwale.

Next meeting with be at Education school and the following meeting will be on a Tuesday, unlike the usual Monday.