



HARVARD GRADUATE COUNCIL

12 GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS, ONE HARVARD.

THE HARVARD GRADUATE COUNCIL

The Representative Body for All of Harvard's Graduate and Professional Students

Host: SEAS

November 16, 2020, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm

Location: [Zoom Link](#) (SEAS)

I. Roll Call and Welcome – *Peter* (7:00 - 7:20)

- Roll Call - *Peter*
 - HBS - Present
 - HDS - Present
 - HES - Present
 - GSAS - Present
 - GSD - Present
 - HGSE - Alt: Turner
 - HKS - Present
 - HLS - Present
 - HMS - Present
 - HSDM - Present
 - SEAS - Present
 - HSPH - Present
- SEAS virtual “tour” - (*Rachel Zoll and William Qian, SEAS*) (15 mins)
 - SEAS tour: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KyBxPWdsaVE>
- Approval of the Agenda
 - Jess (HES) **MOTION** to approve agenda, **SECONDED** by Rachael Goodyer (GSAS), no dissent, motion **PASSED**.

II. Public Comments (7:20 - 7:25)

- Inter-school Mixers- (*Nima Shariat Zamanpour, GSD*)
 - <https://remo.co/>
 - From a student life perspective, Amreen would be excited to help out Nima on this initiative!
 - For additional information: nimashariat@gsd.harvard.edu

III. Updates and Reports (7:25 - 7:30)

Executive – Chanthia & Jo Jo

- Quick update from President
 - Advisory Board meeting soon, send us questions
 - President's Circle soon (this weekend)
- General Remarks from Vice President
 - New when2meet sent out tomorrow re. Meeting on a different day and time

Operations & Governance – Himaja & Peter (7:30 - 8:00)

- Update on President's Meetings
 - Topics that were brought up:
 - Issues with facilitating partnerships between schools
 - Issues with communicating events happening at all schools in a way that is not overwhelming
 - Creating spaces for schools in the same geographical locations to meet
 - Providing contact lists of all presidents/ reps
- Secret Santa
- Constitution/Bylaw Amendments
 - Public google document will be provided for anyone in the Harvard community to provide anonymous comments on the amendments
 - Two Governance committee meetings before the next General Body meeting- please join if you are interested, open to anyone!
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 - To serve on the board, must be able to be present for the HGC meetings in-person. (Other discussion points - to make HGC meetings hybrid in the future)
 - Important for people to be able to attend meetings
 - Maybe provide online option for attending meetings, even when in-person is resumed
 - Tsering: need to specify when this is being implemented (so not now while classes are online)
 - Hybrid is a good idea to ensure accessibility of the meetings
 - William: clause would make it harder for some school reps to make the meetings, may prevent them from participating and would prevent them from having equal representation
 - Video submissions for elections are not allowed
 - May not be equal or fair for some candidates to submit video submissions and not have the opportunity to respond during Q and A

- Being a voting rep and getting preference for elections (minimum time served on council for the preference to be in effect... one semester? One month? One year? Deletion of the preference clause altogether?)
 - If preference clause holds, exec board members may also benefit from the preference clause
 - Currently, voting reps get preference during Executive Board elections
 - For newly-elected voting representatives, they may not have the experience necessary to serve on the Executive Board (intent was to preserve HGC knowledge)
 - Maybe have a minimum limit (have to have served for a certain amount of time to be able to get preference)
 - Maybe ensure candidates who are voting reps make it clear what their experience on the HCG is
 - Get rid of preference clause all together
 - Voting privileges for Exec Board members
 - Rachael: clarify what privileges exec boards would get if exec board members get voting privileges- we should not allow it to be the case that exec members could sit on the exec unchallenged for several years
 - Carlos: Provide preference to alternates as well? Peter: alternate reps would also get privilege based on voting
 - Moulshree: wanted to point out that providing privileges to all these groups might decrease available positions for Harvard the community outside HGC
 - Hugh: surprised at first HCG meeting that privileges are available for voting reps, privileges can prevent transparency, should delete clause in total
- A exec board member may not hold a alternate rep position or hold a position on their student government association equivalent to President or VP
 - Currently Exec Board members cannot be a primary voting rep but if the primary voting rep is unavailable then Exec Board members may have to serve as a voting rep, which may create conflict of interests
- Having more than one voting rep. (discussion points - financial resources, dilution of responsibility, time commitment)
 - Last year an amendment was passed that all schools are only allowed one voting re and one alternate

- Limitation of resources may make it difficult for HCG to support more than 2 reps per school, also an issue of a dilution of responsibility
 - But maybe we should leave the number of reps up to the discretion of the individual school
 - Emily: some schools hadn't carried over HCG amendments to school constitutions, there needs to be accommodation for schools who may have elected more reps than HCG allows
 - Nima: add an attendance clause for alternate reps so that there is no dilution of responsibilities, it would be helpful to have more reps so that there is a more holistic representation of the school on the HCG
- Diego: we may need more time to vote on these amendments, consider pushing voting to next semester
 - Constitution should be drafted in a way that explicitly states what is required, preferred, and what the rules are given different circumstances - make Constitution more adaptable
- Peter: if we do want to vote on some of these amendments in the spring, we need to determine what are the most time-sensitive amendments to pass in time for this year's election
- Jo Jo: we can talk about the timing and see if voting can happen before elections or if it has to be after
- Chanthia: when we make changes to the Constitution we need to get approval by the Provost's Office which takes time
- Welcome new alternate representatives
 - Mark York (GSAS)
 - Carlos Gonzalez-Sierra (HLS)
 - Kimberlyn Bailey (HSPH)
- Update on Governance committee

Advocacy & Policy – Abhinaya & Cynthia (8:00 - 8:03)

- Internal Engagement Strategy:
- The internal initiatives will be focused on connecting school organizations so that they can stay connected without HGC having to work as a middleman
- 1. Connecting Online learning advocacy Groups - start with Google Form and ask all school student councils to email to their membership. This is the most time-sensitive and likely most difficult to find for all of the groups.
 - a. GroupMe
 - b. Email Thread
 - c. Whatsapp

2. Affinity/Diversity Groups: Similar to HLS model where there is an affinity Group Coalition, but will start with just the connections and may create a leadership structure next semester- start with Google Form and ask all school student councils to email
 - a. GroupMe
 - b. Email Thread
3. First Generation Groups - start with Google Form and ask all school student councils to email. This initiative can collaborate with “Next Gen” (part of the Graduate Commons Program)
 - a. GroupMe
 - b. Email Thread

Information & Communication – Heidi & Tara

- No updates!
 - JoJo: We have lots of social media presence - please follow us for updates!

Student Life & Community Engagement – Angela & Amreen (8:03 - 8:15)

- Thank you to all the Election Day volunteers
- Student Life: A Series of Events and Conversations from HGC 2020-21: The event series promotes the spirit of “One Harvard” by enabling school councils/associations/governments/forums to work with each other to bridge the physical and cultural distances, increasing inter-school dialogue and joint advocacy on issues students care about.

Group 2 Updates: [Medicine in Motion](#)'s [Olympiad](#) - MiM, HGC, HMS, HSDM, HSPH

- Marketing: 20 Universities, 12 Harvard Grad Schools (by today)
- Encourage Harvard students to sign up + participate: to help their school/Harvard WIN THE GAME
- Rewards: 72 MiM & HGC [New Balance T-shirts](#) and more (6/school)
- Cambridge & Boston: Drone rental & video (TBA)
- Humans of Harvard: everyone has a story, a story worth sharing. We'd like to feature your stories on our social media! (This month: how do you practice self-care during the pandemic)

Group 1 Updates: Thanksgiving Event Series - HGC, HGSE, HBS, HES, HLS, HKS

- Message of Thanks Campaign
 - Marketing to launch this week
 - Awaiting budget approval for raffle winners – Chanthia/Jo Jo/Brett, any updates?
- Virtual Friendsgiving Dinner

- Marketing to launch this week
- Awaiting budget approval for raffle winners – Chanthia/Jo Jo/Brett, any updates?

Finance & Student Groups – Brett & Said

- One Harvard Catalyst Fund Update
 - Applications are rolling so we are still accepting submissions!
- Expense Reimbursement
 - Will reimburse via check at the end of the semester. Two options 1) Paypal and 2) physical check

IV. Presentations

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V. Action Items

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VI. Members' Privileges

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VII. Announcements (8:15-8:30)

- Health Podcast (*Rutvij Merchant, HSPH*)
 - rmerchant@hsph.harvard.edu
- Harvard Open [Letter](#) Concerning Trump Administration (*Diego Garcia Blum, President of HKS Student Government*)
 - Diego (HLS): Is it possible to modify any parts of the letter?
 - Diego (HKS): Will take suggestions. There have been input from other Presidents already though so may be difficult.
 - William (SEAS): If the university does not take any action on the letter, students can organize an effort to push for action (i.e. protests)
 - Mark (GSAS): “Thanks Diego for taking a stand here. I would just say, that while we should condemn these actions which undermine democracy, we should also make sure that we continue to welcome people with different perspectives to campus”
 - Tsering: “+1 Diego, IOP is notorious for whitewashing reputations...”
 - William (SEAS): How about working with the Graduate Student Union? Has more leverage than looking at media outlets
 - Diego (HKS): Agreed.
 - JoJo: Important for us to consider a wide variety of perspectives and HGC is more than happy to help foster those conversations and interests of students.
 - For additional information please contact Diego Garcia Blum at diegogarciablum@hks.harvard.edu
- Have a happy Thanksgiving, everyone! Stay safe!

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn by Chuck (HBS), **SECONDED** by Jess (HES), No dissent. Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:36 PM

Next Meeting: Week of November 30th, date and time TBD based on meeting poll (HSPH)