



THE HARVARD GRADUATE COUNCIL
The Representative Body for All of Harvard's Graduate and Professional Students
Host: HES

March 1st, 2021, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

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

I. Guest Speaker (7:30 - 7:45 PM)

- Mark Haidar (HLS) & Lily Richman (HLS) – Equal Democracy Project & Harvard Votes Challenge
 - Campus-Wide Coalition: to achieve Election Day as a university holiday at Harvard for 2022 and all subsequent federal elections.
 - Coordinated cross-campus efforts (students, faculty, alumni, press, etc.)
 - Goal 1: get all 12 student gov bodies to sign a resolution for election day to be considered a University holiday
 - Goal 2: connect with alumni to increase outreach and visibility
 - Last year Change.org petition was just individual signatures, wants to have the governments sign on this time
 - Description: Designating Election Day a University holiday (1) provides a tremendous opportunity to elevate the importance of civic participation as a Harvard community; (2) would free students, staff, and faculty alike of institutional barriers that discourage voting and election-day volunteering; and (3) would enable a Democracy Day of community learning through institutional programming focused on civic engagement.
 - Having a day dedicated to civic planning is key to upholding values of democracy at the university
 - Deadline by the end of this month
 - Task Force:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MAkto8ekWWN3JbaeYFZpvevde4vs1LWG3kiHE2XW4IU/edit>

- **Resolution:**
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PcTc_ZRm0_oKEFVCXR20fkx2phHMxq-rjB1leeuX76Q/edit
- **Democracy Day Proposal:**
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sKi2RwtcAWvScx8o61FoIM5XWVfPlcFYRQEwPQr5xaQ/edit?pli=1#>
- Angela: ADVOCACY ASK- give a presentation to respective student government meeting to ensure all 12 schools have passed the resolution by March 31st (Angela, Said, or Mark can give the presentation if you prefer), expect decision by April 22nd if admin decides to hold emergency vote
- Brett: Have universities that have done this seen an increase in voter turn-out from the university-age group in elections? Curious is there are metrics that show effect
- Lily/Mark: there isn't much research, but there is evidence to show that having a holiday is helpful to increasing civic engagement with voting, poll volunteering, etc.

II. Roll Call and Welcome – Peter (7:45 - 8:00 PM)

- Roll Call - Peter
 - HBS - Present
 - HDS - Present
 - HES - Present
 - GSAS - Present
 - GSD - Present
 - HGSE - Absent
 - HKS - Present
 - HLS - Present
 - HMS - Present
 - HSDM - Present
 - SEAS - Present
 - HSPH - Present
- HES virtual “tour” - (HES) (15 mins)
 - Naomi Oliver (HGC Rep) and Ghadi Sebaali (HESA Deputy Director of Club Affairs)
 - <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1jh2CfRriqgQ3HxgCZAdEKdISIEuHEii4iZsj48OLmOU/edit?usp=sharing>
- Approval of the Agenda
 - **MOTION** to approve agenda by Mark (GSAS), **SECONDED** by Dlego (HLS), no dissent, motion **PASSED**.

III. Public Comments (8:00 - 8:05 PM)

- Mena (GSD) - Harvard Emails
 - Wants to address lack of permanent emails and establish permanent emails for alumni (currently we have an alias- people can email you but you are not able to email people back with this email)
 - Heidi and Mena have been working to advocate for permanent emails for students with IT
 - W/o harvard email, hard to keep in touch with own networks, career networks, etc.
 - Action steps for the moment: IT meets every month to discuss issues, all reps should go to the IT department at their school and articulate that this is an issue students are concerned about
- Izzy Cho (HGC liaison for *The Crimson*) - Remote learning interviews
 - Writer for the Crimson, writing a feature piece for *The Crimson* highlighting grad students and how they have adjusted to COVID-19 (with the one year anniversary coming up) - will be publishing in a week
 - Would like female representation, if you would like to be profiled then email Izzy and she will be able to schedule an interview with you

IV. Action Items - Part I (8:05 PM- 8:30 PM)

- **Motion to sign letter on Professor Cornel West's Tenure Process Denial and the Future of Racial Justice at Harvard**
 - **MOTION** made by Naomi (HES), **SECONDED** by Tsering (HDS)
 - Abhinaya (HGC): Denial of tenure for Professor Cornel West. More broadly about the lack of representation of black and brown scholars. Fair assessment about his merit of scholarship. Funding and creation of ethics initiative. Raised by Harvard students of color for the last several years.
 - William (SEAS): What's the ad hoc committee?
 - Abhinaya (HGC): Not 100% sure. Would love to hear additional details if anyone else has it.
 - Diego (HLS): Is there a record for what happened at the rejection meeting and are there are reasons for why he was denied tenure
 - Abhinaya (HGC): no information, the committee is very non-transparent with their decisions
 - Tsering (HDS): crimson article on ad hoc committees for tenure at harvard:
<https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2013/4/11/scrutiny-tenure-harvard/#:~:text=After%20a%20seven%2D%20to%20eight,No%20votes%20are%20taken>.
 - William (SEAS): How familiar are people with the tenure process at each school?

- Diego (HLS): I'm familiar with the tenure process at HLS in that there's usually a conversation between a person who's up for tenure and administration. Negotiations.
 - [See notes about that process here.](#)
 - William (SEAS): the only way people don't get tenure if it is rejected by the committee, there are many layers that it goes through but if the dept approves, then faculty are likely granted tenure
 - Abhinaya (HGC): committee takes recommendations from department and conducts their own review
 - Abhinaya (HGC): not sure what the deadline is, but likely the organizers wants to have people sign soon
 - Tsering (HDS): Not many of us know how ad hoc committees work and who have final say in tenure process. If anyone is interested, please message Tsering and it's better to sign this sooner rather than later because of the momentum occurring now.
 - **Motion Point of Inquiry (HLS):** Diego: What is required in order to pass this?
 - **MOTION TO TABLE** made by William (SEAS), **SECONDED** by Naomi (HESA), **Aye: 10 , Nay: 0, Abstain: 1**, motion **PASSES**
 - **Motion to sign letter on Professor Cornel West's Tenure Process Denial and the Future of Racial Justice at Harvard E-Vote concluded by 3/10**
 - **MOTION TO TABLE** made by Naomi (HES), **SECONDED** by Nick (HKS), **Aye: 9, Nay: 0, Abstain: 2**, motion **PASSES**
- **Fall 2020 Constitutional Amendments**
 - **Motion to Strike:** *“Precedence for all other Executive Officer positions will also be given to individuals who are Voting Representatives during the current or immediately preceding academic year. Precedence means that non-voting members of the HGC will not be allowed to run for a position for which a current or immediately preceding Voting Representative is running”*
 - **MOTION MOVED TO E-VOTE**
 - **Motion to Amend:** *“Precedence for all other Executive Officer positions will also be given to individuals who are Voting Representatives during the current or immediately preceding academic year.”* **by striking & inserting a blank for “academic year”**
 - **MOTION MOVED TO E-VOTE**
 - *Motion to create a blank Suggestions for filling out the blank:*
 - *Option 1: 1 month*
 - *Option 2: 1 semester*

- *Option 3: 2 semesters*
 - **MOTION MOVED TO E-VOTE**
- **Motion to Insert:** *Executive board members shall also receive the same preference privilege for elections as voting representatives.*
 - **MOTION MOVED TO E-VOTE**
- **Motion to Insert:** *Those running for the Harvard Graduate Council Executive Board must be present for the election meeting. Video submissions would not be counted in lieu of attendance.*
 - **MOTION MOVED TO E-VOTE**
- **Motion to Insert:** *For any given academic session, those serving the HGC as an executive board member may not serve their respective home student government organizations in the capacity of a president, vice president, or any equivalent position.*
 - **MOTION MOVED TO E-VOTE**
- **Motion to Amend:** *The number of alternate voting representatives per school shall be determined by _____.* (or cannot be more than _____).
 - **MOTION MOVED TO E-VOTE**
 - Option 1) Proportional representation (1 rep/500 students - no more than 3 alternate reps)
 - Option 2) There may be a maximum of 1 primary and 3 alternate voting reps
 - Option 3) Primary voting reps are allowed to send any proxy (within their student government) as needed. No alternate voting reps will exist.
 - **MOTION MOVED TO E-VOTE**
- **Motion to Strike and Insert:** *“primary” from “primary voting representative” and “alternate” from “alternate voting representative.” As such, all representatives shall be equal in position and power. However, each school will only be allowed one vote.*
 - **MOTION** made by William (SEAS), **SECONDED** by Naomi (HES), **Aye: 10, Nay: 0, Abstain: 1, motion PASSES**
 - Diego (HLS): Any strong feelings on this amendment?
 - William (SEAS): SEAS already does this (equal representatives) so it would be better for formalize. Good to eliminate jargon and equalize power between positions.
 - Naomi (HES): Agree. Better to streamline process.
- **Motion to Strike:** *“vice” from “vice chair.” As such, all chairs shall be equal in position.*

- **Jo Jo (HGC):** next meeting in 2 weeks we will have a 2 hour meeting (7:30 pm - 9:30 pm ET) for a short amount of time at the end for updates (from 7:30 to 9:00 pm ET we will have a Finance 101 session about the inner workings)
 - **Jo Jo (HGC):** Please also look at the HCG feedback/election interest survey! ~very brief
 - **Jo Jo (HGC):** Also please fill out renaming committee feedback form
- Information & Communication (8:43 - 8:47 PM) – Heidi & Tara**
- Newsletter reminder for all reps - <http://bit.ly/hgcnewsletterform>
 - Send around 1st and 15th of each month (this month will be 22nd)
 - IT mtg & ongoing email access for harvard alumni
 - Building upon what Mena (GSD) mentioned, will be working with Advocacy to work with IT n this, encourage individual schools to also talk with their IT departments

Finance & Student Groups – Brett & Said (8:47 - 8:50 PM)

- One Harvard Catalyst Fund Application: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/181bLirgPrAukFWtpoa1QNplHedStOKACyIB5SGPB1LA/edit?usp=sharing>
 - Brett: HIVE: wants to offer platform for individuals interested in ventures to walk through an educational experience, wants funds to buy swag for participants
- Said: \$42,811.27, reserves \$7,181.02
- Chanthia: some reps have asked for central funding for COVID-19 relief, Said has been working with HGSE gov to work with some schools and submit request to One Harvard Catalyst fund, if interested please reach out

Operations & Governance – Himaja & Peter (8:50 - 8:53 PM)

- President one-on-ones
- Spring Elections: HGC Rep to help tally votes. See chat! Emily Mello (HKS) will be helping with Spring tallying

Student Life & Community Engagement – Angela & Amreen (8:53 - 9:00 PM)

- Angela; Will be working with reps starting tomorrow to sign resolution by 3/31
- Amreen: Will be working with MIT and Stanford to host next games night
- Campus-wide Coalition: to achieve Election Day as a university holiday at Harvard for 2022 and all subsequent federal elections
- Task Force: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MAkto8ekWWN3JbaeYFZpvevde4vs1LWG3kiHE2XW4IU/edit>

- Resolution: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PcTc_ZRm0_oKEFVCXR20fkx2phHMxq-rjB1leeuX76Q/edit
- Timeline:
 - March 2: Emails to all Presidents and Representatives
 - March 2-15: Directly speak at student gov't hearing if allowed, track all schools, and ensure passage at each.
 - March 15: HGC will vote
 - March 2-31: Ensure **ALL** 12 student government bodies and HGC will have passed a resolution by March 31.
 - Week of April 12: we apply maximum pressure by disbursing all advocacy materials at once.
 - The administration would likely have an emergency meeting by April 16; expected decision by April 22.
- Point persons of schools:
 - HGC: Ops team and advocacy team
 - HLS: Mark, Noelle, Diego
 - HKS: Mark, Diego, Emily
 - HGSE: Said (vote secured)
 - HES: Naomi
 - HDS: Taylor
 - HBS: Apoorva, Chuck
 - HMS: Hugh
 - HSDM: Franklin, Dahee
 - HSPH: Rutvij
 - GSAS: Rachael
 - SEAS: Rachel
 - GSD: Laier-Rayshon

Advocacy & Policy – Abhinaya & Cynthia (9:00 - 9:05 PM)

- Cross Harvard campaign: Cornel West and POC Faculty Tenure
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfsCDIz3NORBCaMAfQWO2PWwoEttgEmYjxJ_zwiH1oVe4C28g/viewform
- Abhinaya: Look forward to e-vote

VI. Action Items - Part II (9:05 PM- 9:10 PM)

- **Motion to Extend by 30 minutes (either beginning or end) for next general council meeting**
 - **MOTION** made by Naomi (HES), **SECONDED** by Diego (HLS), **Aye: 9, Nay: 0, Abstain: 2, motion PASSES**
- **Motion:** To approve the One Harvard Catalyst Fund Application for HIVE
 - **MOTION** made by Naomi (HES), **SECONDED** by Hugh (HMS), **Aye: 10, Nay: 0, Abstain: 1, motion PASSES**

VII. Members' Privileges

VIII. Announcements

IX. Adjournment (9:00 PM)

MOTION to adjourn by Mark (GSAS), **SECONDED** by Tsering (HDS), Dissent by Nima (GSD). Meeting **moves to voting**

- **Aye: 8, Nay: 2, Abstain: 1**, motion **PASSES**, Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 9:01 PM

Next Meeting: Monday, March 22nd, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm ET (HMS)