



# HARVARD GRADUATE COUNCIL

12 GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS  
1 HARVARD

THE HARVARD GRADUATE COUNCIL  
The Representative Body for All of Harvard's Graduate and Professional Students  
**February 21, 2022, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

**Location: Zoom (Virtual)**

The general council meeting will take place virtually due to school-specific COVID-19 restrictions with reserving rooms. Our meeting will start at 6:30 pm and will begin with a virtual tour of HSPH led by our HSPH school voting representative, Natasha Matthews.

Himaja Nagireddy is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: HGC General Body Meeting 2/21 @6:30 PM  
Time: Feb 21, 2022 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom meeting

<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/9238953653>

Join by telephone (use any number to dial in)

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International numbers available: <https://harvard.zoom.us/u/adAssHvFUM>

One tap mobile: +13126266799,,9238953653# US (Chicago)

Join by SIP conference room system

Meeting ID: 923 895 3653

9238953653@zoomcrc.com

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

We require in-person attendance of a minimum of one representative from each school for schools that are conducting classes in-person (all other additional reps from that school may attend in-person or remotely if they wish). If you are from a school that conducts classes in-person and you cannot attend the meeting in person, PLEASE forward the meeting calendar invite & meeting agenda to your **PROXY** and email [operations@hgc.harvard.edu](mailto:operations@hgc.harvard.edu) and [governance@hgc.harvard.edu](mailto:governance@hgc.harvard.edu) by **SUNDAY, 2/20, at NOON**. Otherwise, we will expect that you will be in attendance in person. If your school's enrollment policies are in-person and a rep or proxy is not in attendance at general council in-person, votes cast via Zoom will not be counted and your school will be considered absent. The only schools who may attend fully remotely are HES and HGSE (consistent with some of their current program's remote enrollment policies).

**Meal Reimbursements:**

Meals eaten on the evening of Monday, February 21 (either before or after our HGC meeting) will be reimbursed up to \$20.00. If you would like to reimburse your meal, please fill out this form: <https://hgc.harvard.edu/reimbursement>

**I. HSPH School Tour (6:30 pm - 6:55 pm) - *Natasha Matthews (HSPH)* (6:30 pm - 7:00 pm)**

- Presentation:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/11mQblkvMHn1bXYNKVvFZnkqOxFxaOTyl/edit#slide=id.g1162412af2b\\_2\\_123](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/11mQblkvMHn1bXYNKVvFZnkqOxFxaOTyl/edit#slide=id.g1162412af2b_2_123)

## II. Roll Call and Welcome – *Peter & Himaja* (7:00 pm - 7:10 pm)

| Schools     | First Name       | Last Name   | Individual Present? | School Present? |
|-------------|------------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| SEAS        | Mark             | York        |                     |                 |
| GSAS        | Anna             | Walker      | Yes                 | Yes             |
|             | Michael          | Cheng       |                     |                 |
|             | Nikita           | Kupko       |                     |                 |
|             | Tammy            | Lan         |                     |                 |
| HLS         | Joan             | Josiah      |                     | Yes             |
|             | Gabrielle (Gabe) | Crofford    | Yes                 |                 |
|             | Ivanka           | Canzius     |                     |                 |
| HBS (HBSSA) | Brian            | Ratajczak   |                     |                 |
|             | Kyle             | Blank       |                     |                 |
|             | Vivek            | Agarwal     |                     |                 |
| HSDM        | Subin            | Jeong       | Yes                 | Yes             |
| HES (HESA)  | Brett            | Monson      | Yes                 | Yes             |
|             | Jim              | Smith       |                     |                 |
| HKS (KSSG)  | Camille          | Choe        |                     |                 |
|             | Jordan           | Biggers     | Yes (6:58 PM)       |                 |
| HSPH (HCSA) | Natasha          | Matthews    | Yes                 | Yes             |
| HMS         | Marta            | Williams    |                     |                 |
|             | Michael          | Liu         |                     |                 |
|             | Divya            | Singh       |                     |                 |
|             | Diego            | Ramonfaur   | Yes                 | Yes             |
| HGSE        | Parisa           | Loftis Hamm | Yes                 | Yes             |
| GSD         | Aeshna           | Prasad      | Yes                 | Yes             |

|     |      |       |     |     |
|-----|------|-------|-----|-----|
|     | 1.1. |       |     |     |
| HDS |      | Kumar | Yes | Yes |

Executive Board Members in attendance:

- Peter, Himaja, Max, Nima, Xavier, Landon, Estefania,
- 2. Quorum in attendance: Yes, 8/12
- 3. Approval of the Agenda
  - 3.1. Approval of the Agenda - **MOVED** by Parisa (HGSE) , **SECONDED** by Natasha (HSPH), **DISSENT**. Agenda **APPROVED**

## II. Tabled Action Items from Last General Council (7:10 pm - 7:20 pm)

1. Harvard One Catalyst Fund Application
  - a. [Etiquette Dinner on May 15, 2022](#)
    - i. Club: Harvard Graduate Women in Science and Engineering
    - ii. Request: \$2500
    - iii. **MOVED** by Gabe (HLS) , **SECONDED** by Aeshna (GSD)
    - iv. Discussion
      1. Brett (HES): Will there be problems that this is only open for women instead of it being open for everyone
      2. Kathleen (HGC): If there's concerns about gender identity, we could discuss this with the club. Discussion for reps if they are uncomfortable with the idea of an event that is one gender only
      3. Landon (HGC): Are they allowed to prohibit males from attending the event? Kathleen (HGC) No, they are not prohibiting
    - v. Motion **APPROVED**
    - vi. **Aye** - HLS, HGSE, GSAS, HKS, HDS, HSDM, HES, GSD, HSPH, HGSE
  - b. [Holi Celebration on March 25, 2022](#) - **TABLED**
    - i. Club: Harvard Chan South Asian Students Association
    - ii. Request: \$2500
    - iii. **MOVED** by , **SECONDED** by
    - iv. Discussion
      - 1.
    - v. Motion **APPROVED/DENIED**
2. HGC Meeting Weekly (not an amendment, ad hoc gauge for council approval for the 2022 spring semester)

- a. Proposal: HGC will have general council meetings weekly. Every other week will be in-person. The rest will be virtual. Meetings will be no longer than 1 hour (not including school tour) and end promptly at 8 PM EST.
  - i. Discussion
    1. Himaja (HGC): Interest in meeting weekly was an idea brought up by reps, meetings 7:00-8:00pm for the meetings that do not have the school tours every other week, 6:30 to 8:00 pm for meetings with school tours (hybrid). This could help with attendance; equity with what reps are showing up; will allow for us to move more quickly through various points of discussion/votes
    2. Himaja (HGC): Is this a change reps want to see this semester? Or is there a preference to wait until next semester?
    3. Parisa (HGSE): **Motion** to discuss proposal; **seconded** by Natasha (HSPH) **No dissent.**
    4. Peter (HGC): Meetings would be virtual every other week; then every other week would be hosted by a school
    5. Parisa (HGSE): Attendance policy is that attendance is mandatory at every other week general council meetings
      - a. Himaja (HGC): attendance would remain the same; there must be a rep representing each school
      - b. Peter (HGC): Let's have a conversation around this - it really depends on what reps would think is best
      - c. Natasha (HSPH): HSPH meetings are every other week; seems to be more of a time demand to make meetings every week even if the meeting is shorter
        - i. Peter (HGC): To clarify, meetings would be weekly but only one hour per meeting
        - ii. Natahsa (HSPH): Reiterate original point that demand on schedule would be increased with weekly meeting even if meeting was shorter
      - d. Brett (HES): Maybe this is best to start next year?
      - e. Brett (HES): It is difficult to get things accomplished if only meeting every other week and sometimes there is no quorum
    6. Parisa (HGSE): Change attendance policy to allow for two missed meetings? Need to look at this carefully if re-writing attendance policy in order to understand full impacts
      - a. Himaja (HGC) / Peter (HGC): Attendance every other week is constitutionally established; would require an

amendment to change, but the meeting on the alternative weeks would be a bit more “informal”

7. Jordan (HKS): Agree with Natasha that increasing frequency of meetings may negatively impact attendance; Jordan has a night class, would need to talk to Camille about making that work
  8. Jordan (HKS): What problem is adding another meeting trying to solve? What would additional meeting be for? Should fundamental change be made to the meetings that already exist instead of increasing the frequency of meetings.
    - a. Peter (HGC): Last meeting of first semester, we didn't have quorum so we weren't able to move things forward, ended up needing to wait until the end of January to start these discussions again
    - b. Peter (HGC): In current state, we only have 5 more meetings
  9. Brett (HES): Would this get rid of e-voting? Don't think Slack is a good forum for discussing various ideas; prefer in meeting discussions
  10. Katherine Montero (HGSE): More information around schools that give steps for expressing ideas and concerns; could additional meeting be opened up to students across campus to share these ideas? Has been difficult for me to communicate with the board so being more transparent could be helpful.
  11. Himaja (HGC): may put out a survey to gather input on whether we should
  12. Peter (HGC): Should we vote on meeting preferences now? Surveys may take a long time. Encourage council members to vote now or at the next meeting.
  13. **MOVED** by **Jordan (HKS) to table the motion, SECONDED** by Brett (HES), In favor: HKS, HES,HLS,HSPH,HGSE,HDS,GSAS,HMS,HGSE,HSDM Against: Abstain: Motion **TABLED for next meeting**
3. Constitution/Bylaw Amendment: Voting for minimum of two representatives per school
    - a. **MOVED** by Jordan (HKS) , **SECONDED** by Subin (HSDM), **MOTION TABLED for next meeting (requires 2 weeks of open discussion prior to vote, will vote next meeting)**
      - i. Specific language on how the constitution/bylaws should be amended would be helpful!
      - ii. Peter(HGC): Many reps have brought this up; one rep per school policy was perhaps not fully thought through

- iii. Brett (HES): Are these proposed?
    - 1. Himaja (HGC): Yes, these are proposed but would need a council vote to make any changes.
  - iv. Brett (HES): would like to see these written out in a more formal manner
  - v. Parisa (HGSE): As a school with one representative, I can see how this would be beneficial. For my position, I go to other meetings in addition to these meetings. Ends up being a lot for just one representative to take on. Additionally, representatives would amplify reach and impact.
  - vi. Aeshna (GSD): Going to type my comments in the chat.
  - vii. Natasha (HSPH): Same position as Parisa; it's a big commitment for just one person and share ideas with; 2 reps per school would be more fair
  - viii. Peter (HGC): Automatic tabling of this item
4. Constitution/Bylaw Amendment: Abstain or absence vote not considered punitive for motions
- a. **MOVED** by Gabe (HLS) , **SECONDED** by Jordan (HKS), — Motion **TABLED for next meeting (requires 2 weeks of open discussion prior to vote, will vote next meeting)**
    - i. Peter (HGC): HBS Christian Fellowship vote: absent voting reps were counted as abstain; potentially ended up changing the result of the vote
    - ii. Specific language on how the constitution/bylaws should be amended would be helpful!
    - iii. Gabe (HLS): Would like to make it so that abstentions truly are abstentions

### III. Pending or New: Initiatives, Projects, & Concerns (7:40 pm - 7:57 pm)

*This segment will be an opportunity to guarantee allotted time on the agenda to discuss any ideas, concerns, projects, or topics with the rest of the council. This is your chance to hear from others!*

- 1. Thank You re: Comaroff Letter and Vote / Related Updates from OGE Committee - *Gabe (HLS)*
  - a. Gabe (HLS): Thank you to everyone for the e-vote. It really does have an impact because it comes from all schools. I sit on Committee for Gender Equity; works on Title IX issues. Office of Gender Equity made tone deaf statement and lead to a walkout last Monday. A lot of students were left feeling frustrated and unheard. Committee had a strong reaction as well, one student resigned from the committee. There was an honest conversation about whether or not the committee was legitimate. Apology letter was issued. Gabe encouraged by this and does not plan on resigning from her role on the committee.
  - b.
- 2. Kevin Harrington Letter sent to Bacow from HLS - *Gabe (HLS)*

- a. Link to the letter: [HLS SG Letter to President Bacow](#)
  - i. Gabe (HLS): HLS has been part of recent advocacy efforts; there was a unionized employee that was laid off after requesting 16 hours of overtime pay that he had worked; he is being threatened with retaliation; Gabe and co-president at the law
  - ii. Gabe (HLS): sharing this to encourage other schools to think about this issue and how they can be impactful
  - iii. Gabe (HLS): Letter is from the perspective of students in a law and justice program, gets into a more in depth discussion of the situation
- 3. Ordinance for student layer program - *Brett (HES)*
  - a. Brett (HES): In two weeks there is going to be an ordinance brought forward regarding the lawyer program. Please bring any ideas forward.\
    - Moved to extend meeting by 10 minutes Brett (HES); Seconded Jordan (HKS)
- 4. Day of service - *Parisa (HGSE)*
  - a. Parisa (HGSE) Is this something that we would want to do on Earth Day?
  - b. Natasha (HSPH): Can link you up with some advocacy officials that are also working on similar issues.
  - c. Parisa (HGSE): Interested to continue this dialog on Slack.
  - d. Gather information - do all Harvard buildings have composting?
- 5. The Global Health Debates project - *Natasha (HSPH)*
  - a. Natasha (HSPH): The Harvard Public Health Review is doing a mini series to promote interdisciplinary learning on topics on global health; event will be hosted on Harvard campus in March (March 25th and 26th); will try to stream to live audience
    - i. Four debate topics: Climate Change, Migration Crisis, Transnational Corporations, and Decolonizing Global Health
    - ii. In process to finalizing venue and getting speakers for the debates
    - iii. Episodes would be filmed and then streamed. Potentially would monetize this but still working out these details
  - b. Natasha (HSPH): Does anyone know of any potential venues? Please let Natahsa know of any questions about this event
- 6. Harvard Composting - *Parisa (HGSE)*
  - a. Peter (HGC): With any green initiative, please flag for my attention; Larry Bacow has committee for environmental issues

#### **IV. New Action Items (7:55 pm - 8:00 pm)**

*This segment will be focused on voting (“making things official”). Any resolutions, constitutional/bylaw amendments, or One Harvard Catalyst funding requests needed to be discussed and voted by the council will be allotted time here.*

- 1. [Catalyst Fund](#)

- a. Harvard Graduate Women in Science and Engineering
- b. YogaLife Anatomy Event (Kathleen)- one day yoga event organized by medical school. It is a series of yoga classes.  
Subin(HSDM)- Yogalife may not have adequate funds to host events, providing some financial assistance would be great.  
Motion to approve Gabe (HLS) second - Natasha  
Aye- HES,HKS,HGSE,HSDM,HLS,HGSE, HDS,GSAS,HSPH (Approved)

Proposed Change to Catalyst Fund

- c. Adding language that states that preference will be given to applications that are submitted at least 6 weeks ahead of the club's event

## V. Open Discussion

*This segment is time for any sudden or last minute topics the council would like to discuss.*

- 1. Ex-Officios & Liaisons
  - a. Big topics at your meetings? Opportunities for input and opinions

## VI. Adjournment (7:57 pm - 8:00 pm)

**Next Meeting:** March 7, 2022 at Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) - *hybrid*

- Motion to **adjourn** by Jordan (HKS), **seconded** Parisa (HGSE), **dissent** by none, General Council meeting **adjourned** at 8:09 PM