



THE HARVARD GRADUATE COUNCIL
The Representative Body for All of Harvard's Graduate and Professional Students
March 7, 2022, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Location:

Wexner W-434 A. B. Conference Room (two rooms)

Scattered Tables Style for 40

To get there, enter through the main HKS entrance which is at the back of the main courtyard in the center of the HKS buildings. This building where you enter is Wexner – upon entering and scanning your IDs, you can use the staircase / elevators to your left to go up to the 4th floor. That building is Wexner so if you go down the hallway upon exiting the elevator/staircase you should see the sign for Wexner 434.

Non-HKS students access policy:

HUID holders are able to enter buildings and instructions for where to enter are detailed on the [Building Access page](#) of the HKS Coronavirus response site.

Those who are remote will have the opportunity to participate via Zoom (starting at 6:55 pm). **Zoom link is below:**

Himaja Nagireddy is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom meeting

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

Join by telephone (use any number to dial in)

+1 312 626 6799

+1 929 436 2866

+1 301 715 8592
+1 346 248 7799
+1 669 900 6833
+1 253 215 8782

International numbers available: <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/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 president@hgc.harvard.edu, vp@hgc.harvard.edu, and governance@hgc.harvard.edu by **SUNDAY, 3/6, 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, March 7 (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>

II. Roll Call and Welcome – Peter & Himaja (6:30 pm - 6:35 pm)

Schools	First Name	Last Name	Individual Present?	School Present?	
SEAS	Hugh	Zhang	X	Yes	
GSAS	Anna	Walker	X		
	Michael	Cheng			
	Nikita	Kupko			
	Tammy	Lan	X		Yes
HLS	Joan	Josiah	X (Virtual)		
	Gabrielle (Gabe)	Crofford			
	Ivanka	Canzius			Yes
HBS (HBSSA)	Brian	Ratajczak			
	Kyle	Blank			
	Vivek	Agarwal			
HSDM	Subin	Jeong			
HES (HESA)	Brett	Monson	X		
	Jim	Smith			Yes
HKS (KSSG)	Camille	Choe	X (at 7:34 pm)		
	Jordan	Biggers	X (at 7:34 pm)		Yes
HSPH (HCSA)	Natasha	Matthews	X	Yes (Dina, as proxy)	
HMS	Marta	Williams	X (virtual)		
	Michael	Liu			Yes (Diego, as proxy)
	Divya	Singh			
HGSE	Parisa	Loftis Hamm	X	Yes	
GSD	Aeshna	Prasad			
HDS	1.1.	Kumar	X	Yes	

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Executive Board Members in attendance:

- Peter, Nima, Xavier, Carlos, Estefania (remote), Himaja (remote)
- 2. Quorum in attendance: Yes (7/12)
- 3. Approval of the Agenda
 - 3.1. Approval of the Agenda - **MOVED** by , **SECONDED** by , **DISSENT**. Agenda **APPROVED**

III. Public Comments (6:35 pm - 6:37 pm)

1. University-Wide Initiative for Cost-Free Menstrual Products - CODOs meeting debrief - *Parisa (HGSE)*
 - a. Parisa, Ines (HGSE student gov), Betsy (HGSE student gov), Peter, and Himaja presented to CODOS
 - b. Presentation was to provide free menstrual products university-wide in ALL BATHROOMS in both non-residential and residential buildings by Fall 2023
 - c. Next steps - formal data gathering (determine what bathrooms do or do not have this)
 - i. This will be an effort across *all schools*
 - d. Sending a memo to Katie Lapp will be the next step
 - e. If you would like to join this initiative, please do so! We need all the help we can get :) – email Parisa, Peter, and Himaja
 - f. Our project timeline to meet our goal by 2023, and a call to action for what still needs to be done (implementing dispensers, financial costs, etc) will be detailed in memo

VIII. Action Items (6:37 pm - 7:00 pm)

1. Catalyst Fund - *Kathleen Dillon (HGC)*
 - a. [Ramadan Celebration \(HBS Islamic Society\)](#)
 - i. Coming from HBS Islamic society, hoping to host a Ramadan celebration and will be promoting this even through each school's islamic societies
 - ii. One Harvard Catalyst fund - funding provided by Provost to support events that promote One Harvard
 - iii. Carlos: Is there a motion on the table?
 - iv. **MOVED** by Anna (GSAS), **SECONDED** by Mayank (HDS). Aye: 7 Nay: 0 Abstain: 5

2. [Constitutional Amendments](#) - Carlos Gonzalez Sierra (HGC)

a. Minimum # of Reps per School

- i. Constitutional Amendment
- ii. Conversations with reps and exec board have shown that people want to have a minimum of two reps (max of 4 reps) per school based on population – this ensures more equity especially for smaller schools (so one person doesn't have to take on the sole responsibility)
- iii. 300 students/rep would give a more equitable distribution
- iv. This is to open commenting period for two weeks before taking formal vote
- v. Question: is this for all students?
- vi. Answer: yes, this is for all degree-seeking students
- vii. Ideally we will vote on this during the next General Council meeting

b. Meeting Cadence

- i. Change to bylaws
- ii. HGC reps and exec boards have both noted that people can benefit from more frequent meetings and happen at least biweekly (with the President having the ability to schedule more frequent General Body meetings as needed)
- iii. Heard feedback through the survey
- iv. Would make meetings more frequently for shorter time
- v. In order to make more frequent meetings official, it requires a General Council vote and a sign-off by the President
- vi. For now, these additional meetings we're putting on the book are NOT official (think of them as "coffee chats" or "office hours" - these are virtual)
- vii. More frequent meetings can mean we have shorter meetings and can vote on items more effectively - especially time-sensitive matters
- viii. This is a proposal!!
- ix. We want to gather your input and please feel free to make edits and comment
- x. How does this work if we do unofficial ones if they are optional and do not vote?
 1. This year, since we cannot officially vote and implement this to be enacted before our terms ends for this year, this will be unofficial, but if this passes, these changes can be implemented for next year and these more frequent meetings can all be considered official

c. [New HGC Executive Officer Positions](#)

- i. Opportunity to restructure HGC Exec Board
- ii. Discussed with Exec and Marshall (our advisor)
- iii. This Google doc will be open for all reps to share their thoughts and ideas
- iv. We based this new structure based on what other similar schools have done, in response to a greater focus on specific Advocacy topics
- v. We also want to write a more concrete list of specific roles and responsibilities that reps are expected to fulfill
- vi. Elections happening soon! Let us know if you are interested/have any questions

MOVED to open all three constitutional amendments by Mayank (HDS), **SECONDED** by Parisa (HGSE). Aye: 6 Nay: 0 Abstain: 1

3. [Ordinance for Legal Aide](#) - Brett Monson (HES)
 - a. Moved to next meeting

***Action items do not need to be planned in advance! If you have action items to propose, now would be a time to do so.**

IV. Open Discussion (7:00 pm - 7:15 pm)

1. Any Rep Discussion Items (7:00 pm - 7:12 pm)

- a. Topics Previously Brought-Up by Reps:
 - Russian Invasion of Ukraine
 - University-wide letter or resolution regarding the war in Ukraine (please think of what message you'd like to say and who the recipient of this letter or resolution might be)
 - An event for a confidential safe-space for students to openly discuss their thoughts and feelings about happenings in Ukraine
 - Xavier: Thinking about HGC putting out a statement, read a few articles, some people have mentioned Harvard's divestments and wondering if we should have a conversation about Harvard's investments and seeing if we want to create an ask around this
 - Carlos: what have the undergrads been doing?
 - Parisa & Meredith: there are many events being organized, could HGC be a place where we compile information about all these student-led efforts - there have also been successfully student-led campaigns around changing Harvard's divestments in the past

- Tammy (GSAS): MIT students convinced their university to divest from investments in Russia. Important for Ukrainian students to lead efforts. Is there pressure HGC can place on the administration to support divestment efforts?
- Peter: There are many different directions we can take this - we don't want this to be a resolution that just says "our thoughts and prayers are with you" – whatever action we take, think about the recipient and what impact we want our action to have, and think about what our specific request would be. HKS, for example, created an anonymous and safe space for people to speak and share, so there are creative things we can do
- Nima: Join "Ukrainian Solidarity" channel on Slack
- Peter: we can form a working group on Slack that meets outside of council times and we can draft what we want a resolution to look like after compiling research - then figure out who to go to
- Peter: for sake of time, let's continue the conversation over Slack and let's have a meeting out of Council time for brainstorming ideas and strategy
 - If the intended reader is the university admin, we can escalate this in different ways (for example, government, press, etc.)
- Military veterans & families social event. Previously discussed.
- Proposal for a mandatory race and ethnic course at every school. Postponed until next meeting.
- Free menstrual hygiene products available in all bathrooms women's, gender-neutral, and men's bathrooms (general buildings & graduate residence halls). Already covered.
- Attorney on retainer available to all university students for legal aide at low-cost or cost-free. Postponed until next meeting.

2. **Student Life & Comm. Engagement** – *Estefania & Landon* (7:12 pm - 7:17 pm)

a. Harvard Votes Challenge

- i. Landon: Council is planning on launching this asap
- ii. Increase # of registered voters and remaining politically active on campus
- iii. MA is electing state and federal reps
- iv. According to MA law, voters must register 20 days in advance
- v. Want to get everyone involved

- vi. We will be using a website called TurboVote to register as many people as possible - everyone needs to send Landon their highest-traffic areas where we can table via email or Slack
 - vii. Need volunteers to table - send availability from Monday-Friday
 - viii. Labeling at 2 schools per week starting after spring break
 - ix. Need support from all representatives and exec members
 - x. Landon will send more information via Slack and email, and will set some time aside in case anyone wants to meet and ask questions
 - xi. Let's boost voter turnout!!!
 - xii. Reach out with any questions :)
- b. Harvard Women's Leadership Conference
- i. Estefania: Conference for elevating women's leadership
 - ii. Donate what we earn to a charity/NGO that promotes women's engagement
 - iii. Goal: Determine what type of networking women need to advance their professional and personal growth and help offer that
 - iv. Want this to be a successful event!
 - v. Reach out to Estefania via email/Slack
 - vi. Peter: Let's engage women groups across campus. We already are pulling together some great speakers so please let us know if you want to help in the planning of this!
3. **Executive – Peter & Himaja (7:17 pm - 7:25 pm)**
- a. [Strategy Book](#)
- i. Currently a draft - it's a new document that was put together by Peter (helped by Exec) to provide more tailored instructions for specific initiatives that reps/exec want to get done (how to pass resolutions, get funding, reach out to admin, etc.)
 - 1. Each of these initiatives will have a detailed plan for how to achieve these goals (step by step)
 - 2. Happy to add sections if there are other projects people want to pursue
 - 3. For new proposed Exec Board, one of the positions (the "Chief of Staff/Speaker of the House" position will be in charge of this plan moving forward)
- b. Resolution for Ukraine
- c. Upcoming Spring Elections & Proposal for New Positions
- d. Unofficial council meetings/coffee chats/office hours
- e. Spring retreat
- i. Shoutout to Xavier and Marta who is helping to plan!

- ii. Ice Skating and dinner after (funded by HGC):
<https://www.skatekendall.com>
- f. Provost's Office Student Mental Health Focus Group
- g. Student Health Planning Committee (SHPC) Meeting Updates
- h. COVID campus policy. Meeting with Dr. Giang Nguyen, Executive Director of Harvard University Health Services (HUHS)
 - i. Masking mandates are being listed, how are central admin making changes – **there are a lot of outstanding questions and so we are inviting all reps and presidents to meet with Dr. Nguyen so we can ask questions**

V. Updates and Reports (7:25 pm - 7:30 pm)

GSAS moves, HGSE seconds, no dissent, motion passes and we'll conclude at 7:40 pm ET.

1. **Information & Communication – Nima & Troy (7:25 pm - 7:27 pm)**
 - a. Logo Update -
Nima: Marshall informed Nima that he needed to go through trademark office to get changes to logo approved
 - b. HUIT Meeting
 - c. Nima: HUIT meeting in two weeks; message Nima on Slack if you have any particular points you would like brought up
2. **Finance & Student Groups – Kathleen & Shankar (7:27 pm - 7:28 pm)**
 - a. Student Groups Committee
 - b. Shankar: Need for for multiple student groups come together and make connections across various groups to build community
 - c. Shankar: Will be sending out various request to different schools in order to gather information about Student Groups
3. **Student Life & Comm. Engagement – Estefania & Landon (7:28 pm - 7:29 pm)**
 - a. Cross Institutional Networking Event
4. **Advocacy & Policy – Xavier & Max (7:29 pm - 7:30 pm)**
 - a. HGC Advocacy Committee has formed three subcommittees to work on issues of concern for students Harvard-wide. These three Subcommittees are: Students Services, Sustainability and DEI. These Subcommittees will be meeting over the next two weeks to map out what they want to accomplish before the semester ends, and will report back at the next HGC Advocacy Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 23rd (7:30-8:00pm).
 - b. Xavier: Three subcommittees are up and running

- c. DEI & Belonging, Student Services, Sustainability are the three subcommittees
- d. Encourage students at your respective school to participate in subcommittees; students do not need to be part of a student council to take part

I. Discussion

1. Revisiting the HBS Christian Fellowship One Catalyst Funding request

- a. Camille: Would like to bring this application back up for discussion

Camile Choe (HKS) makes motion to reconsider. Seconded by Dina (HSPH). Motion passes.

J. HKS School Tour (7:40 pm - 7:55 pm) - *Camille Choe & Jordan Biggers (HKS)*

X. Adjournment

Next Meeting: March 28, 2022 at Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE)

- Motion to **adjourn** by Jordan (HKS), **seconded** Parisa (HGSE), **dissent** by none, General Council meeting **adjourned** at 7:40 PM