



THE HARVARD GRADUATE COUNCIL
The Representative Body for All of Harvard's Graduate and Professional Students
March 28, 2022, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Tour Start Location (6:30 pm):

In front of the Monroe C. Gutman Library by the "Learn to Change the World" banner.

Address:

Monroe C. Gutman Library
6 Appian Way
Cambridge, MA 02138

Meeting room location (7:00 pm):

Harvard Graduate School of Education
Room: Eliot Lyman Room (located in Longfellow Hall on the 2nd floor)
13 Appian Way
Cambridge, MA 02138

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>

I. HGSE School Tour (6:30 pm - 6:55 pm) - Parisa Loftis Hamm (HGSE)

1. Presentation link:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1llcFCZNF5tfs_kvRPb0Wl8sGNAJRj9SiED_QCa70v3tY/edit?usp=sharing

II. Roll Call and Welcome – Peter & Himaja (7:00 pm - 7:05 pm)

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

	1.1.			
HDS		Kumar	Yes	Yes

Executive Board Members in attendance:

- Peter, Kathleen, Himaja, Carlos, Xavier, Landon, Shankar, Max (7:30)
- 2. Quorum in attendance:
- 3. Approval of the Agenda
 - 3.1. Approval of the Agenda - **MOVED** by Natasha (HSPH) , **SECONDED** by Vivek (HBS), **DISSENT**. Agenda **APPROVED 7:05 PM ET**

III. Public Comments (7:05 pm - 7:10 pm)

1. Cody Christiansen - Director of Communications at HESA and GSAS Student - went to HGC, wrote a bill supporting the removal of “in extension studies”

IV. Action Items (7:10 pm - 7:25 pm)

1. [Catalyst Fund](#) - Kathleen Dillon (HGC)
 - a. HBS Christian Fellowship
 - i. Comments
 1. Vivek (HBS): what criteria are we using to make these decisions
 - a. Kathleen: in general, support the One Harvard Mission (making sure schools are being represented), we can approve it for full amount, partially, or none based on reps discretion
 2. Carlos: how many schools from different schools?
 - a. Kathleen: 6 schools represented
 3. Vivek (HBS): do we as an organization think we need to create more clear criteria for these applications, how do we create criteria that reps can use to inform voting - should we discuss this today? Moving forward?
 - a. Peter: History and purpose - created by Bryan Buckley 2 years ago, HGC used to host extravagant events and Harvard admin wasn't happy about this, HGC then asked to used this money for a different purpose, create a fund to fulfill One Harvard mission (create a cohesive

and unified community) - fund is designed to support initiatives that accomplish this

- b. Kathleen: the reason there had been discussion is because they had submitted the request two days before the actual event. There are strict guidelines to consider whether usage of funds are appropriate, but we will need flexibility.
- c. Camille (HKS - proxy for HLS)): I am supportive of establishing criteria for receiving funds, however this discussion may be more appropriate for the finance committee. Being a gatekeeper of funds, while not responding in a timely fashion to groups harms our image.
- d. Peter- Recommends opening finance committee, proposes to create guidance document for groups to refer to before applying. We should vote to approve funds for christian fellowship as soon as possible, since they have already waited long enough.
- e. Estefania- Is there a rule for the timeline of the application.
- f. Kathleen- Council must provide a response within 90 days.
- g. Peter- Guidance should be a recommendations not rules.
- h. Gabe- supports funding this event retroactively
- i. Jordan- even though we may want to support this, our funds may not have the impact we want it to because we are funding them after their event has taken place
- j. Vivek- When these applications were sent to different schools, did we establish clear criteria? We should think more about the purpose of the fund, besides just requiring that it promotes collaboration between different schools.
- k. Peter: Fund is not replenished and is meant to be allocated completely, then after, the Council should write a report, send it back to the Office of the Provost, so that more funding can be secured in future years, we don't want our club to be simply a bank account, we should promote visibility. The finance team has asked groups to include the HGC logo on their advertisements.

- l. Gabe: Move to approve pending confirmation that HBS christinan fellowship will be able to use a hold over the funds to next year.
 - i. Vivek (HBS) seconds
- m. Parisa: What do we mean by Clarification on pending confirmation ?
- n. Peter: if we approve today, do we want to release funds or hold funds?
 - i. Carlos: either will be able to use these funds for this year, or, if they want to, hold it to next year
Aye-natasha, jordan camille, mayank, vivek, parisa.
Motion passes!!

Continuation of Public Comment - [Removal of “in extension studies” Resolution](#)

- Kody- HGC has an obligation to elevate the voices of students. Editorial board of Harvard endorsed the idea of removing the term “extension studies” from degree. This has also been supported by the UC, we would like to gain the support of HGC as well. With the support of every school, we will put pressure on leaders to endorse our cause.
- Jim- Agrees to cosponsor the resolution
- Peter- we can vote to be signatory or write our own resolution. Executive call to move this to action items.
- Parisa- I never knew this (extension studies) was in the diploma. I understand how this proposal would support the one Harvard mission.
- Gabe: We should be a signatory and continue to support this effort. Maybe we could include peters name on the proposal as a sponsor. This is really important, we represent the entire graduate community who would be in favor of this.
- Vivek- do we know why this nomenclature is there in the first place?
- Kody- The last dean attempted to remove this term from degrees. We honestly do not know the reason.
- Nima-Asks for clarification on the appearance of the degree.
- Kody- Extension studies appears on all degrees from Extension school .
- Parisa- are you requesting to replace extension label with concentration?

- Camille- who decides this? Who do we send this resolution to?
- Kody- The FAS team, including president Bacow, may be over the decision of including the term on the degree. Ideally, we can send this resolution with President Bacow
- Meredith - are we trying to push this resolution to be implemented this year?
 - Kody - ideally, yes
- Peter- Larry could be an option, he serves on the board of overseers. I can connect you with Harvard alumni association, I would urge you to work with Provost Alan Garber. The provost may refer you to the dean of HES.
- Carlos-are you leading this effort , who is helping?
- Kody-All of the students from the extension school.
- Peter- I would be happy to use the media to apply pressure on school leaders.
- Parisa- motion to vote on being a signatory on the petition to remove “In extension studies” from degrees conferred by HES.
- Carlos - $\frac{2}{3}$ of present quorum required - **HGC approved and will be a signatory**

b. Asian Pacific American Law Students Association - Social Event

- Kathleen- Introduces the request for funds.
- 9 schools are represented
- Subin- This request aligns with the one harvard mission.
- Camille- Pan Asian grad school association has supported this event - this is the capstone event of the year
- Peter- proposes to close discussion
- Jordan (HKS) moves, Parisa (HGSE) seconds,
- Aye Jordan, mayank, vivek, natasha, parisa, subin,

c. HBS Middle East & North Africa Club - Dinner

- i. Kathleen- the club is helping to bring students who have worked in north africa/ middle east or have ties to the region together. They are requesting 2310 to purchase food and drinks.
- ii. Carlos- It seems that we are funding the entire event did they seek funding from HBS?
- iii. Kathleen- I do not believe so.
- iv. Gabe- This benefits so many people, and it is fine for us to bear the financial burden across the grad schools.

- v. Peter- recommend we pass this with stipulations (e.g., x number of students from schools should attend)
- vi. Nima- this is an HBS association right?
- vii. Natasha- at least 3 schools should be in attendance? Or 6?
- viii. Parisa: if we do add these stipulations and they do not meet it, do we have stipulations for what we fund if they do not meet it? Then it become retroactive funding
- ix. Gabe: suggests maybe we could pass contingent upon them getting RSVPs from 6 different schools, set a deadline for a week before the event (one from each of the 6 different schools, for example) - and if they do not meet this, maybe they can find other funding
- x. Peter- recommends that we require applicants to list event on list serve at 6 different schools.
- xi. Camille: maybe not? Might be easier to do targeted outreach to specific groups
- xii. Jordan-Our decision to provide funds is done without much consideration, we should establish more criteria.
- xiii. Parisa: did we do these types of stipulations in the past?
- xiv. Camille- I believe we discussed these stipulations at a previous meeting.
- xv. Carlos- there must be clearer guidelines
- xvi. Vivek: we don't have any discussed and determined criteria
- xvii. Camille- the requirement should be for groups to demonstrate a bona fide effort in engaging other grad schools.
- xviii. Peter- What has our precedent been?
- xix. Kathleen- I have not been using a specific criteria to approve applications.
- xx. Natasha (HSPH) - Approve funding and strongly recommend they reach out to more schools, Subin (HSDM) seconds
- xxi. Peter- supports reconsidering previous catalyst fund request.
Aye: vivek, parisa, subin, mayank, camille, jordan, natasha.

Motion to extend meeting - Parisa

Second- Vivek

No dissent, Motion passes

Peter- Since we are putting much effort in discussing funding request, we should make an effort to attend events by groups requesting catalyst funds.

2. [Constitutional Amendments](#) - *Carlos Gonzalez Sierra (HGC)*
 - a. Carlos- open voting for two amendments, the spirit of the amendments is to even out the workload. First amendment for constitution, the second amendment refers to bylaws
 - b. Constitutional Amendment:
 - i. $\frac{3}{4}$ of quorum needed, Subin (HSDM), Mayank (HDS) seconds, **Motion passes!!!**
 - c. Bylaw Amendment -
 - i. Carlos- proposes bylaw amendment that would require council to meet a minimum of 2 times/ week.
 - ii. Jordan- We should include emergency clause in the amendment.
 - iii. Carlos- We should include a minimum requirement for how often the council meets.
 - iv. Maybe change proposed bylaw amendment by striking out last sentence
 - v. Vivek(HBS) Parisa(HGSE) seconds, $\frac{2}{3}$ of quorum needed - **Motion passes!!!**

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

- a. There have been discussions about how to make HGC more productive/effective and one way to do that is to have more concrete descriptions of roles.
- b. Carlos- recommends to make modification to proposed exec board changes document, and to vote to approve new changes at the next meeting.
- c. Open public commenting for an additional week or two, allow for people to chime in on what the job descriptions should look like, then reconvene Gen Body and vote – for roles that are critical for the Spring elections (for rest of the positions, maybe hold off?)

Max- Would we decide to adjust the election schedule?

Nima- we will need a full 2 weeks to advertise for elections.

Peter- We should have a completed draft by the next general council meeting.

Jordan- Does the document give us a description of both current and newly proposed roles?

Peter- Please attend next Monday on Zoom to continue this conversation!

Motion to extend the notice of comment period regarding proposals to modify executive board - Parisa(HGSE) Jordan(HKS) Seconds,

4. [Ordinance for Legal Aide](#) - *Brett Monson (HES)*

- a. Tabled to next meeting

5. Allocating \$4800 for Red Sox Game Reimbursement - *Landon Fortenberry (HGC)*
 - a. Estefania and Landon are hoping to acquire at least \$4800 to subsidize tickets to the Red Sox game - promote interaction between schools
 - i. We listed these funds under another event (winery) but are hoping to reallocate these funds to this - will sell subsidized tickets on EventBrite
 - ii. Peter: wherever we reallocate items we have to ask Council because you approved the allocation of funds for certain items., Why the additional \$1800 and will these funds go to anything else?
 - iii. Hoping to purchase more tickets, were not thinking of using these funds for anything else
 - iv. Peter: after a conversation with the Provost, they did discourage the use of HGC funds for reimbursement purposes – recommend passing this but maybe thinking of ways we can better advance HGC
 - v. Jordan: Are all these funds coming from the wine event
 - vi. Parisa: where is the funding coming from and if there are other opportunities top supporting students (ex. graduation), or even helping with the situation in Ukraine
 - vii. Xavier: maybe we should partner with other Harvard groups
 - viii. Meredith: It might be an opportunity for HGC to have branded items to give out. It does seem like there isn't much information that is being shared so HGSE is trying to increase this, students have reached out and have shared concerns with being involved at HGSE because of financial/visa constraints.
 - ix. Peter: we can pass for a general motion - "sports game event" - so it can be any event, like the marathon — and maybe add another component beyond just reimbursing tickets (maybe customized shirts for the game, pregame event, etc. but some physical event coordination)
 - x. Estefania: having a dinner before would be amazing, but we would need more of a budget for this
 - xi. Peter: would not recommend using \$4800 for just tickets, let's try to make this a strategic conversation – we need to do something more physically visible (that we can have photograph evidence)
 - xii. Jordan: seems like we need to have these conversations before this is brought up to Council
 - xiii. Landon: COVID-19 restrictions?
 - xiv. Peter: those have become more flexible

- b. There is also a cross-institutional networking event co-organized and hosted by Harvard Yale, Columbia, MIT, and Cornell
6. [Ukraine Resolution Letter from HGSU](#)
- a. Parisa: what about an e-vote for the Ukraine letter?
 - b. Carlos: show up on Monday and then we can vote

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

V. Discussion (7:25 pm - 7:45 pm)

- 1. **Any Rep Discussion Items (7:25 pm - 7:35 pm)**
 - a.
- 2. **Executive – Peter & Himaja (7:35 pm - 7:45 pm)**
 - a.

VI. Updates and Reports (7:45 pm - 7:55 pm)

- 1. **Student Life & Comm. Engagement – Estefania & Landon (7:45 pm - 7:47 pm)**
 - a. Cross Institutional Networking Event
 - b. Harvard Votes Challenge
 - c. Red Sox event - April 16th Sat. 4:10PM at Fenway Park (4,800 USD) instead of the Winery event
- 2. **Information & Communication – Nima & Troy (7:47 pm - 7:49 pm)**
 - a. Marketing Committee Updates
- 3. **Finance & Student Groups – Kathleen & Shankar (7:49 pm - 7:51 pm)**
 - a. **Currently Open HGC Ex-Officio Seats:**
 - i. Accessibility Advisory Group (non 2022 graduating students preferred)
 - ii. Provost’s Office Mental Health Focus Group (non 2022 graduating students preferred; student focus group)
 - iii. FAARM (student focus group) <https://faarmproject.org>
 - b. **Future Potential HGC Ex-Officio Seats:**
 - i. [Committee on Climate Education](#) (Jim Stock - Vice Provost on Climate and Sustainability)
- 4. **Advocacy & Policy – Xavier & Max (7:51 pm - 7:53 pm)**
 - a. Advocacy Committee Updates
- 5. **Executive – Peter & Himaja (7:53 pm - 7:55 pm)**
 - a. Meeting with HUHS Director Giang Nguyen
 - b. University-Wide Menstrual Product Memo for Harvard Executive VP, Katie Lapp and Administrative Deans Council

VII. Adjournment

Next Meeting: April 4th, 2022 on Zoom (Unofficial)

- Motion to **adjourn** by Jordan (HKS), **seconded** by Vivek (HBS), **dissent** by, General Council meeting **adjourned** at **8:30 PM**