Meeting Minutes
9/17/26

- Introductions of Executive Board
- Approval of meeting minutes from April, 2026 Council meeting
    - Sam Harder (GSG Department Rep, *AME)* made motion to approve
    - Tori Fallon (GSG Department Rep, *Physics*) seconded the motion
- Motion to adopt the agenda
    - Sam Harder made a motion
    - Alejandro Giraldo Gil (GSG Department Rep, *Romance Languages*) seconded the motion
- Motion to change order of Agenda
    - Nick Hernández (GSG Department Rep, *History*) made a motion
    - Tori seconded the motion
- Committee Reports (refer to agenda packet)
- Kyle Walker (GSG Co-VP, *Mathematics*) explained Robert's Rules of Order
- New Business
    - GSG Budget proposal (Thomas Poitevin, GSG Treasurer, *Economics*)
        - Motion to adopt 2026-2027 Budget
            - David Batt (GSG Department Rep, *History & Philosophy of Science*) made motion to adopt budget
            - Juan Vargas Hernandez (Q of L & Sustainability Chair, *History*) seconded the motion
- We have minor quorum but not major quorum
    - We currently have 40 appointed reps
        - 15 from Humanities
        - 25 from STEM fields
    - Minor quorum requirements
        - Presence of ⅔ of all active reps
            - Equals 27 reps
            - 34 reps were in attendance
    - Minor quorum was met
    - Major quorum requirements
        - Presence of ⅔ of all reps from Humanities departments (10 reps needed) as well as ⅔ of all reps from STEM fields (17 needed)

                - 10 Humanities reps in attendance
                - 23 STEM reps in attendance
        - Major quorum was met
        - Budget 2026-2027
            - Majority (⅔)
                - 26 in Favor of adopting budget
                - Budget is adopted as is
- Amendment for the Endowment
    - Kyle explained the proposal
    - Thomas presented proposal
- Slides from Endowment Overview presentation April, 2026 Council meeting
- There were questions regarding the expenditures from last year as well as this year's proposed expenditures
- Annika Currell (GSG Department Rep, *Classics*) asked if this is a one time investment or do we need to commit to adding to it?
    - Per Thomas, the principle amount is $100k and no commitment to adding to it
    - We can also amend the proposal
- Fiona Rodger (*Political Science*, guest rep) asked what exactly is the benefit? Is the only benefit to lower the student fees?
    - Per Thomas, Do we keep this $100k in the savings (GSG account) or the bank account? How do we want to allocate this amount?
- Mimi Beck (Director, *Grad Life* & *Advisor* to GSG)
    - GSG has been working with the investment office since April
- Kyle asked if enough (people) are interested in scheduling a special meeting since we don't have a major quorum at this meeting.
    - Tori made a motion to adopt a special meeting
    - Nick seconded the motion
    - 10 in favor
- Nick asked if Thomas could provide the information showing how much the undergraduate fees have decreased (by having an endowment)
- Kesavan Thanagopal (GSG Department Rep, *Philosophy*) pointed out the following
    - Inflation is likely to continue to increase & that suggests we would have to continuously raise student activities fees to keep up with rising costs
    - Continuously increasing student activity fee would be untenable in the long run

        - Having the endowment might help us navigate rising costs without having to shift the burden onto grad students
        - There might be some short-term benefits as well because having the endowment as a backup would give us fewer justifications to raise the student activity fee in the immediate future
    - David Batt
        - Made a motion to end the debate due to scheduling a special session
        - Juan seconded the motion
    - Vote to move to special session (on endowment as it currently stands)
        - Motion was approved
    - Motion to postpone discussion to next meeting and to adjourn this meeting
        - Nick made a motion
        - Juan seconded the motion
    - The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

(See addendum to meeting minutes on the following page)

The following notes were provided by Kyle Walker (*GSG Co-VP*) as a summary of the motions made and votes taken:

- Kyle asked unanimous consent to suspend the rules so he could make a proposal. This was granted.
- We suspended the rules to hear Kyle (1) describe the constitutional amendment process and (2) propose that we take a hand vote in lieu of obtaining the signatures of 1/5 of department representatives.

I think Thomas gave his presentation at this point, but I don't remember for sure.

- I believe I asked for a motion for (2) above. I don't remember who offered that motion or who seconded it.
- We took a hand vote and concluded that at least 1/5 of representatives voted yes. I'm not sure we got their names, which we ought to have done.

After that, it's a little hazier.

- Kyle asked for a motion to schedule a special session to consider the amendment.
- I believe this motion was made and seconded, but I do not know by whom.
- Short debate
- David Batt called the previous question, but Sanchi judged that the vote was less than 2/3 in favor.
- After a little more debate, it seemed that people were ready to go home, so Sanchi asked for the vote on the motion to consider the amendment at a special session.

Then we adjourned.