

DARTMOUTH

Graduate Student Council
Anonymous Hall
Hanover, New Hampshire 03755
graduate.student.council@dartmouth.edu



February GSC General Body Meeting Notes

7th February 2023

Topic 1. Standard Procedures

Members voted to approve publishing the November and December minutes, as well as the January financial expenditure report. President Irma Vlasac also took this time to introduce the newly elected Finance Chair, Brennan McEwan.

Topic 2. Healthcare Ad-hoc Committee

The Healthcare Ad-hoc Committee gave updates about their progress in speaking with the Dartmouth Student Group Health Plan (DSGHP) team. The committee clarified that the DSGHP does cover preventative eye exams every two years without a referral (but does not cover the cost of getting prescription eyeglasses). However, the committee still has plans to push for further changes such as more extensive eye care coverage, the addition of dental insurance, and the removal of the Dick's house referral requirement for dependents such as spouses (the referral fee/requirement is already waived for minors). The DSGHP team and Wellfleet, the actual healthcare insurance provider, only makes updates to the health plan once per year in May. Therefore members voted to approve extending the lifetime of the committee until May, with the possibility of establishing a recurring ad-hoc committee/point person specifically for healthcare through the GSC constitution in a manner similar to the budget ad-hoc committee formation.

Topic 3. Mid-year Block Funding

Members voted to approve a mid-year block funding application for clubs and GSC recognized organizations that form after the October block funding deadline. This application would not be applicable to groups who simply missed the October deadline out of forgetfulness.

Topic 4. Changes to GSC Bylaws

Members voted to approve changes to the GSC bylaws regarding standard funding request requirements, bylaw amendments, and dismissal/removal of department representatives. Standard funding requests over \$250 must be presented in person at the nearest GBM, but in limited circumstances can be considered for approval via electronic voting by the Executive Board. Requests must also contain a detailed, itemized budget and proof of a reserved space or contingency plan. Advertising for events funded by standard funding requests should last at least one week minimum. Amendments to bylaws must receive a two-thirds supermajority of votes in favor to pass, and their effects are immediate upon ratification. In the constitution there are provisions for removing an executive board member by a two-thirds vote of no confidence. These provisions now also apply to department representatives. Department representatives and Executive Board members removed in this way are ineligible to run for any position on the GSC again.

Topic 5. Health Services Food Shelf

Members voted to approve donating GSC funds to the Health Service Food Shelf, which is located in the basement of Dick's House. President Irma Vlasac brought to the attention of the

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GSC that the food shelf is currently funded completely by the undergraduate Student Assembly who donates \$1,000 per term. It was proposed that the GSC contribute an equal amount to funding the food shelf, since unfortunately many graduate students also rely on the shelf to supplement their food supply. A discussion ensued about the nuances of a GSC donation, namely that the funding would not be towards purely graduate student use. The idea for a graduate student only food shelf in Anonymous Hall was pitched, however it was met with maintenance concerns. Upon amendment of the proposal to instead contribute a purposefully vague amount of funding contingent on finding more information and data about graduate student usage of the food shelf, the proposal passed.

Topic 5. Housing Updates

President Irma Vlasac, Vice President Josephine Benson, and Housing Fellow Brook Byrd attend weekly meetings with SOJ upper management regarding leasing agreements, leasing terms, and other issues. It is clear that the GSC can not support any further collaborations with The Michaels Company such as the proposed North End Housing Project or any future projects. The Executive Board will meet later in February with Dartmouth President Elect Sian Beilock and plans to bring up housing concerns. Regarding the heating issues at SOJ, management claims that failing compressors on all heat pumps was the initial problem. They formally recognize the issue as starting in January. The heating issue has affected 168 beds across some 40 units. Another compressor malfunctioned and broke this same week, affecting 50 residents. Management has confirmed that the thermostats have been disabled and they are monitoring the temperatures via an in-building management system. They are compensating residents the daily rate for each day since January the unit was affected by the heating problem. The GSC recommends documenting temperatures as possible, contacting the front desk for additional space heaters if still cold, and double checking the amount of compensation given.

Topic 6. Members of the Month

Congratulations to Kathryn Bates and Camilo Castelblanco Riveros!