

DARTMOUTH

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



March GSC General Body Meeting Notes

7th March 2023

Topic 1. Standard Funding Requests

Members voted to approve three standard funding requests. The first is a Clamantis storytelling event hosted at the Howe Library open to the entire Dartmouth community. The second is to provide graduate student volunteers working for Science day with a themed T-shirt and other swag. The third covered transportation costs, including gas money and Dartmouth Coach tickets, for attendees of the New England Graduate Women in Science and Engineering (NE GWISE) conference.

Topic 2. Mid-year Block Funding Request

Members voted to approve giving mid-year block funding to DartSlam, the recreational volleyball club.

Topic 3. Guarini First Year Fellow

Changes in Dartmouth provided graduate student housing, namely the loss of North Park and lack of equivalent substitute, have affected the Guarini Housing Fellow position. Going forward, the Guarini Housing Fellow will be replaced by a Guarini First Year Fellow, whose duties remain mostly unchanged. Any Guarini student can apply for this position, including international students (which was not the case for the Housing Fellow). Expectations for the First Year Fellow include improving the first-year graduate student experience, designing events for community building, attending meetings, and social media outreach, among others. Per Guarini guidelines, First Year Fellows can expect to spend a total of 8 hours per week on these tasks outside of their graduate studies.

Topic 4. Housing Updates

President Irma Vlasac presented updates to the housing situation at Summit on Juniper (SOJ). Currently, heating in all units is functional with SOJ having administrative control over all unit's thermostats. An overhaul of the heating and cooling system will likely be required over the summer of 2023. SOJ has agreed to look into adopting varying lease term lengths. The GSC will provide them with program specific lengths. For example, the MEM program is expected to be completed in 15 months, which results in an excess of 9 months of excess rent if an MEM student must renew for an additional 12 months to stay housed for their last 3 months in the program. Despite the GSC citing massive inconvenience and mismanagement of the heating crisis in our advocacy, SOJ has asserted that they will not be lowering their 7% rent increase, stating that it is in line with market inflation. The GSC has also brought these concerns to Guarini, and petitioned Guarini to withdraw support for SOJ. Guarini rejected this proposal. Guarini will create a housing FAQ with a map of available Dartmouth affiliated upper valley housing units and corresponding transportation options.

Topic 5. GOLD FAQ and GSC Response

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Members discussed the Provost's recently released FAQ regarding GOLD and Dartmouth's decision to not voluntarily recognize the union. The document cites strong GSC collaboration with the administration as a point against voluntarily recognizing GOLD, stating that a union would hinder this collaborative spirit. However, the GSC does not agree that the relationship with the administration is as constructive or effective as conveyed in the document. For example, the FAQ mentions the reinstatement of the Ombuds office and creation of SOJ as GSC collaboration wins. While the reinstatement of the Ombuds office is in fact a GSC win, it took years of persuading the administration and work to be finally implemented. Additionally, the creation of SOJ has only caused more problems than solutions for graduate students, while the GSC pleaded for preserving North Park as graduate student housing. As such, the GSC is planning on releasing a secondary statement of support for GOLD, reiterating frustrations with the collaborative process.

Topic 5. Announcements

A transportation meeting will happen on March 8th. GSC Executive Board Elections will happen in May, with the month of April spent gathering nominations.

Topic 6. Open Forum

GOLD has filed for an official National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) election, which will happen sometime soon. There is a petition circulating for solidarity. Francois conducted a soft survey of MCB first year students. Students feel as though there is not a true sense of a campus global community since everyone tends to stay within their own lab/department clique. Some also felt as though most GSC events are targeted towards introverted personalities, leaving out those who want a nightlife. Additionally, students are under the impression that the GSC calendar/circular is only for GSC sponsored events.

Topic 7. Members of the Month

Congratulations to Francois LeSage!