

## **GSC BoD January 2002 Meeting Minutes**

Attendance Jose Mumbru, Chip Sumner, Michael Johnson, Jason Cohen, Steve Pracko, Fok-Yan Leung, Dee Datta (new), Benedict Hebert, Jeff Bergthorson, Tim Lesko, Loretta Hidalgo, Carlos Romero, Chunhui Mo

Faculty Parking Committee Andrew will be at a conference on 1/15 and we would like for someone else to take his place. The meeting is from 3-4pm. Since no one in the room volunteered, Jose will send out a memo to the list.

### **Yuri's Night**

We were presented to about funding a more ambitious version of the greatly successful party last year, Yuri's Night. As last year, the cause for celebration is the same, and the local organizers are the same.

Loretta and Carlos came to talk with us about their new and even more ambitious plans this year. For those who can not remember the basics (or who have forgotten!) the night is in celebration of the first day a human was in space.

Last year all Caltech graduate students got free tickets to the local Los Angeles based party and had a great time. The GSC contributed \$1150 (which ran a little higher by the final count) towards the expenses of the party, which ran a total tab of \$29,000 and included such things as worldwide sponsorship of harder to reach cities and regions, popular music, a good venue, and associated educational programs (such as their website). This party last year serviced as our spring term party, and we helped fund for a bus to shuttle people back and forth most of the night. Last year, roughly 100 Caltech graduate students attended, and this year they are aiming for more. This seems reasonable, given that last year the party fell on a Thursday night, and this year it will fall on a Friday night (4.12).

This year, they are asking us for \$1500 however. They are also asking for an account with which to make long distance phone calls, to help coordinate their efforts between the various area codes in LA County. Last year however, they wound up generating a total profit of \$6000, thanks to mostly strong ticket sales at the door (most people had to pay handsomely to get in). This year, they want to charge \$20 at the door.

However, one of the main reasons they are asking us for so much is to help cover their possibly losses. An event, which depends on door revenue to generate more than its total expenses, is risky. They already have about \$4000, which is still insufficient to cover their fixed startup costs.

However, we agreed with each other just before leaving the room, that we still need to pay for a bus to help transport people there and back from the event. If we want it to be our term party, we need to make it accessible to all Caltech graduate students. This cost is another \$200 wrapped into the total expense. Given that we would need to spend at

least \$200 to get a bus, we decided to offer them \$1250 in support of their party, under the condition that all Caltech graduate students get free admission to the event. The vote on this was 11-0-0

### ASCIT Cooperation

The idea of working in unison sounds better in real life than the idea already tries to show itself to be on paper. This is something that we agree to pick up and want to follow through with. So, we were thinking that getting the officers together on a monthly basis could be a good way to keep the connections between issues of mutual relevance (and many DO exist) open.

### Alumni

At the current time, we want to see if and how we can get their help on trying to advance many of the initiatives which we are placing our own support behind. At the current time however they are seemingly disorganized, but are getting their act together ore quickly than most other groups that we interact with. However, it seems that on the issue of healthcare, they can not really help us much at this time.

### Security Issues

At the present time, it seems that the security office is not very efficient at disseminating information of a vital nature to the students about crimes that occur on campus. For example, in the case of the man who has been harassing women on campus, initially the security office only wanted to release his information to undergraduates, although he has been approaching all members of the Caltech community. In general, we would like it if security were more efficient and gave us more information about issues regarding our safety on campus.

Their webpage has not been updated in quite some time, based on our own viewing of it. The statistics posted in their annual report seem to underestimate the total number of incidents of note on campus and may be there only there to comply with the department of education mandatory guidelines. In general, if the deans released more information provided by security, we as students would have a better idea of the exact nature of security here at caltech.

We agree to send out an email to Caltech graduate students, try to have a constructive meeting with security, and see if there is any way in which to better disseminate their information to us.

### Student Affairs

Christopher Brennen has recently announced that he needs to step down from his post for medical and personal reasons. He has been a champion for our causes and our happiness here and we will greatly miss his moving on, although we wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors. Gary Lorden has been temporarily appointed to replace him,

while a search committee has been organized to find a permanent replacement.

It would be good if we could get a student representative to sit on this search committee.

We should get him a present in appreciation for how much we have enjoyed working with him. Does anyone have any ideas?

PHD con Fok will organize the 2002 conference. Dee will step up and finish off the job once Fok graduates and moves on.

#### Parental Leave

In talking with the dean, we have learned that Caltech is looking into ways for parents to take leave to care for their newborn kids, and still retain benefits of being a Caltech student (such as health care). This is a preliminary look into what may be done.

At the present time, we are still seeing what other universities do, so if anyone has any knowledge of how other universities treat this matter, please get in touch with us. The women's center has shown possible interest in helping us on this matter.

#### Health Issues

There was recently released a survey by the chronicle of higher education which clearly shows that most institutions DO pay for healthcare for their students. This article covers the 2001 academic year, and seems to completely turn the consultant's analysis on its head.

We should continue to try to prod the various forces on the campus into action to help resolve this issue of importance to our health and financial well being.

#### MISC

There has been progress made on the ethernet and student housing issues, more on this at the next meeting. We are currently meeting with Tom Mannion and other people to see about finalizing the details. We are meeting him later on the day of the meeting.

9 people went for a visit to a small local company. Alumni paid for the trip. There was high security, and the company was not as open as we could have hoped for, but it shows us that times are starting to open up again, and that the next visit we expect to be better.

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