

GSC BoD Minutes from the 3/7/02 meeting:

**New Members:**

Harish Bhat (CDS)

**Minutes:**

January Minutes were accepted. December minutes were accepted with the change that Florian's uncertain comments be stricken.

**CAC:**

It has been told to us that Merion has been pushing for a decision on the issue of charging for modems. At the present time there is not yet a decision. Possible other make-up sources of revenue include charging for on-campus ports to research accounts, looking at current overhead, and other internal expenses. They may also charge us for certain software licenses which have up until now been provided free of charge.

However, for all of these methods that will indirectly raise the cost for users, some of our more wise members tended to be skeptical. One member noted seeing many non-Caltech people, logged in under the 'ntuser' account printing large color documents, and another person noted that the library computers are often busy due to outsiders using them all of the time. Such expenses seem to not be part of the budget and we wonder if by making these accessible only to the Caltech community if this could raise the savings needed to overcome this small deficit which will happen by not charging us for modem service?

In the end we are just happy to have a voice there to be able to provide a cunning bit of rationale and perspective at times (and if someone has a club, a beating too!). We were also told that they have upgraded the modem pool, although word on the street has it that connection times are as slow as ever and disconnects still run rampant. However on a personal note, our representative assured us that Merion has said that the modem pool should never have been called 'inessential'

**LOTTERY:**

A committee was drafted to consist of Steve, Chip, Jason, Chunhui, and Alex to help present to us some guidelines for a more transparent and fair lottery plan. They are charged to get feedback from the BoD, hold an open meeting and present back ideas to us.

**SOCIAL EVENTS:**

We have not yet held a social event this term and time is running out. Some ideas for events which we could fun without a large expense to the student in the end (given that we only have about \$600 since that was how much the ice skating would have cost) include: paintball, laser-tag, roller-skating, or an ice cream social.

**FACULTY BOARD:**

Jose gave a presentation to them that was quite sharp and directed. It seems that the head trio of the President, Provost and Jenkins were quite interested in what he had to say. The chair of the meeting we were told gave implicit support to the strength and willingness of Jose to talk. It seemed that faculty want to have student input into the health care issue, especially since their complaints seem to not only be deriving from ASCIT and the GSC, but also from the newly selected incoming class of 2002. They especially do not want to lose new recruits in such a manner, and it is definitely not befitting of the university's amazing status to do so. So, helping us to be more comfortable on this issue can only help the entire community to grow stronger.

**GSC DISTRIBUTION LISTS:**

**RESOLUTION:** Our lists should only be used for two things: GSC sponsored activities, or messages from the administration to the graduate student body.

We also think that so long as we are using them as private individuals, not in any way associated with the gsc, that it would be fair for us to use them in that manner as well. However we would have to make it clear that it is not a GSC related issue. Yours Truly for one did use it to advertise to my department about the free jamba juice event, however cases such as this are rare.

A discussion came to light about groups that we give money to in support of through club funding or quick funding. We do pay these groups money to organize, so would it not be fair to also help them to advertise? Someone raised that these clubs have a limited size audience and while this may be valid for many of their activities, on the flip side there are times when a campus-wide announcement could best serve the interests of grad students. However, the gsc-socials list still exists and if we advertise the existence of this list and use this instead, we can have almost as large an effect, but now to a receptive audience.

**SIF PROPOSAL:**

Last year, SIF dropped the ball and lost our application. They then claimed no knowledge of this and when we proved to them that they had it, they decided to again drop the ball. This year however, they have new leadership and seem to be much more professional. We have decided to submit a proposal for large capital expenditures, specifically speakers, mixers, and other sound equipment. Mike J, Alex B, and Ben H will all help with this.

**REPORTS:**

The committee received a report from a rather expensive outside consultant, charging upwards of \$60,000! This report has shown that there is something potentially questionable coming from the benefits office, since these consultants always favor what the BO proposes (yeah, I prefer this acronym for them from now on). The BO says that they pay for 100% of student insurance and that most other universities pay for 0%. However, we know from the UC system that this is not the case. The students pay up front for it all, but then are reimbursed ASAP from other accounts. Whereas here, they are not taking our deductible into account at all! We were told that there would be no changes from the status quo at least for next year. The large philosophical issue was also raised that insurance companies make an exponential profit of more than 30%/year, and why should our premiums go up, we can likely cover our expenses cheaper on our own given how money hungry these insurance companies are.

**TECHNIQUE:**

The new editors want to place coupons in the technique. This seems like a good idea, so long as they do not then extract our personal information and spam us.

**OTHER:**

Mirrors for the parking structure are being looked into.

The last ELS had more than 50 people attending.

The next ELS will be on March 15<sup>th</sup> and given by a student in the Astronomy Department.

We will get a representative on the Faculty Committee on Child Care.

FINE