



GSC MONTHLY MEETING
March 13, 2006
6pm, Moore Hall, Room 150

Social Report

- **Past events reviewed**
 - **Winter Semi-formal: (Feb 18)**
 - Event came out well. There were no incidences! Mary and Ian came in under budget. It cost \$8900 and we will be receiving \$1000 and \$400 from Thayer and Tuck. Ian suggested that we hire monitors next year, because it was difficult getting people. The people who monitor did a good job. The drink tickets were successful.
 - Last year the open bar cost \$5000
 - This year it cost \$2500. We bought more food this year and provided free non-alcoholic
 - There was one problem: Hanover Inn wanted their own door monitors and needed driver's licenses (state or national ID) not just student IDs.
 - Comments: No complaints about drink tickets and no complaining in general.
 - We handed out 970 tickets-only 600 drink tickets were used. It was mentioned that we needed the bar closing announcement, however, the Hanover Inn does not want a last call. A sign announcing when the bar closes might be nice next year. Another minor complaint was it was bit loud.
 - Kerry Landers feels that Ian and Mary deserve a pat on the back. We all clapped.
 - **Feb 17: Wine & Cheese reception and book signing with Jorge Cham (PhD comics)**
 - The reception and talk was very successful and there was a lot of interdepartmental interaction. It was received well and he sold out books. Thayer sponsored most of his trip.
- **Ongoing events:**

- **Pool nights:** 8 people showed up. Watch out for Mary, she is a pool shark.
 - **Ethics night at the movies**
 - **Wallyball:** 3 people showed, Cary mentioned that there wasn't much publicity.
 - **Squash planned for next month**
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - **Variety ("Talent") Show is planned in late April**
 - **Still trying to nail down a location and date**
 - **Canoe Club:** a late night with a band with the cover charge will go to charity
 - **April 28:** Sarah Vowell at the HOP
 - **Wine Tasting:** At the Hanover Inn. Last one was in 2004.
 - **May 18: Spring party**
 - **July 29: Summer party**
 - **Potential summer bus trip**

Scout mentioned that if anyone has ideas for social activities please bring them in. We still have 3/5 of the money left for student based activities. We can also promote events. The only rules are that the event has to be open to all graduate students (equal opportunity) and adhere to standard Dartmouth insurance policies.

Student Activities Fee Survey

Mary passed out the survey results.

Summary and Discussion: People are attending events, but are complaining anyways. Constructive criticisms are welcomed. We wanted to get an idea of how people felt. Previous surveys didn't have comments that were informative. People want more events, but they don't want to pay for them. If we don't want to increase the fees, we will need to analyze how we are spending it. Hanover is expensive, and we have rules to follow.

Scout: This will be ongoing discussion. We may have to ask people to pay for events.

We still need more feedback. Only 67 people took the survey out of (680).

William: Thanked Mary for doing the survey and suggested that it may be helpful to talk about events for next year. When would it be a good time? Last year it was done in late July (financial year ends then). It would be helpful to spend time on what events we should keep/add/delete. Mary mentioned that she can bring in her budget to help with this.

Discussion of increasing of the fees: Ian and Mary feel that we need to take a time out on the topic. Our budget should stay the same as long as CECS remains with us and we have to remember that we have to buy t-shirts next year.

Scout commented that we looked at Question 9, which asked if the person supported an increase in activities fees: There was not enough support to increase the

fee. We can continue to tighten our belts on events. If there is a budget crunch we can charge for events.

Michael Brown-Hayes: 67 people are not enough people to judge from and might not be an accurate representation of the public. He finds most students in his department are happy and wouldn't mind paying \$10 more.

Scout suggested that we could have a town meeting.

Deanne Battle: What is procedure to raise the fees? The answer is that we propose it to the dean and he/she approves the raise.

Anne Krendle: Her people would rather charge for events than increase the fees.

Tom Morrison: Their dept. did their own survey. They were opposed to a big increase, but had similar feelings as Anne's dept. He asked that we don't vote on this summer, because a lot of people in his dept. do field work during that time and would like to be present for the vote.

The Landers Report

- The big good news: Dean Barlow approved fully funding Graduate Activities Coordinator. A big thank you to the Grad. Studies Office from the GSC.
- Dean Barlow's term is up in Sept.
- Graduate Appreciation week: April 24
- Graduate Social Space is still to be included in the building plans and Kerry will keep us informed.
- She asked if the T-shirts were important- and there was a resounding yes! Should we be giving them out to the first years? Yes-last year we handed out 80 and they help bring people to events. A couple of things we will be considering to cut costs on the T-shirts: Cheaper-short sleeve, blends, color, weight, how much we print.

Finance Report

Erik passed out the finance review. We have \$15,400. We were in better shape last year.

Child accommodation policy

Council on Graduate Studies lead by Dean Barlow was attended by Scout and William. One topic that came up is that there will be a 2 year trial period for a child accommodation policy for people having/adopting kids. The Dean will officially cover 6 weeks with the hope that the department will also cover 6 weeks. If the dept is unable to the graduate studies office will try to cover the other 6 weeks as well.

Not just a parental leave policy for foreign students. The policy states if the student is a primary care provider-either parent will be able to take off. They will revisit to see how much is spent, if it is abused, if it is working.

One question that came up: How will that affect people who just started school? They will be covered.

William added that there was a change in the procedure for setting up your thesis committee; spouses can not serve on committees unless it is approved in advance.

Collen Fox: How often does the Council on Graduate Studies meet and can we bring up items at the meeting? Yes- we can give advance warning for the members to bring up issues with their people for the meeting. However, majority of the issues are academic. They are interested in graduate students' issues, but we should take most issues first to Dean Barlow. Then if he needs the support of the Council he will go there.

William says we can try to get an agenda of the meeting-that could be passed out, but first we need to get approval.

Open Agenda

We will be holding elections in May for GSC exec positions.