

10/16/16

UC General Meeting

Updates

- Implementation committee for sanctions starting this week
- OS� very on top of emails and communication during HUDS strike - just reach out to them if you need clarification
- New social chairs: Ruiqi and Alex!
- SRC & Ed Com forming a list - what you should know when you come to Harvard
- Ed Com task force for financial accessibility!
- Referenda for the ballot! Tell your friends if you know they want to submit a referendum.
- Fi Com doing a study to determine projected attendance at student events. Want to see if there are discrepancies between collaborations and non-collaborations; only releasing meta-data. Also non-theater events, because theater events are sufficiently different - might want to separate them out.

Grants Pack 4

- Some rollover funds - haven't designed a practice to deal with rollover funds yet
- Working on precedent documentation

Passed by unanimous consent

Caucuses

- Communication between caucuses and campus communities? Head of caucus will report to SRC
- Would this lead to partisanship or block voting? Can endorse, but cannot sponsor legislation. Don't want to fracture Council
- First Gen caucus? Issues of privacy and difficulty in definition
- Will membership be limited to people who identity with caucus affiliation? Want this to be open to allies.
- If the following year, the number of people in that caucus drops, does that mean that caucus can no longer exist? Temporarily dormant.
- Difference between having a caucus as an affinity group and a student organization? Problem we're facing is that these groups don't have access to the Council. Primary benefits is that the UC so consistently interacts with the administration - benefit to minority groups on campus.
- Difference between BGLTQ group - also issues of privacy?

Amendment: *The community of interest is a racial, cultural, ethnic, religious, sexual orientation, or gender identity group or any otherwise underrepresented group with particular concerns about under-representation.*

- What about regions of the US that are underrepresented? An issue going forward - what is the line? Who gets to decide what is pressing and for whom?

- What does culture mean at this context? Words are quite large. These are concerns that exist independently of this amendment. Hopefully will be addressed at future meetings of Rules and SRC
- Underrepresented people might think their concerns are pressing and the Council doesn't - definition of underrepresented. Will go through SRC, peers will be able to listen to these arguments and make a decision
- Con: Need to be careful with the floodgates that could be opened with loose language. Don't want intent and power of these caucuses to be reduced because of trivial caucuses
- Pro: Pass through SRC & UC - probably wouldn't be trivial.
- Con: This particular wording is just not the best way to go about this. A lot of different ways to think about identity - don't want to see extreme decentralization of Council. Destabilize Gen and destabilize the Council.
- Pro: Any caucus is going to validate itself by what it chooses to do.

Amendment passes by hand vote

Amendment: *particular concerns about representation*

- Communities that are represented technically, but still have pressing issues that aren't being addressed
- "Under-representation" in legislation by ideas

***secretarial**

- Con: Not sold on why the caucus makes a difference. Groups of people in minorities tend to look for people like them in positions of power/leadership/government
- Pro: Caucuses are not simply for the identities we hold; keep us in check and make sure we're in communication with different organizations. Never anything wrong with too much communication.
- Con: Concern that if our Council does not represent a minority group, we can't represent them. Example: Native Americans at Harvard
- Pro: Don't have to identify to be passionate about some of these issues. Want these things just to be led by members of that community.
- Con: This makes it harder for any group of students to form a caucus on the UC. Institutionalizing it makes it harder to do this - also these issues are pressing; happen organically
- Pro: Make it easier for caucuses that don't have a strong presence

Tabled by hand vote

School-wide study break

- Great thing for students
- Good way for students to meet UC reps
- Why sandwiches? Well-provided at Flyby. Students are concerned with not getting enough healthy options.

- Was FCC consulted about \$300 being taken out of their budget? Yes.
- Vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free options, etc. Working on it.
- Move this to the end of this week? Aim Thurs-Friday so everyone can be notified and go.
- Working with \$1100- enough for around 120-150 people per house/yard

Amendment: allocate from Emergency Spending Fund

- Unexpected event - great opportunity to properly use what this money is allocated for. Don't detract from other committee budgets.
- Is this sustainable/does the treasurer support this? Yes.

Amendment passed by unanimous consent

- Con: Unnecessary to include everything about HUDS/food quality. Don't want to make it seem like we're providing a meal also.
- Pro: Brings attention to entire HUDS strike itself. Don't think we should deny any extra opportunities to get food. Healthy food option unlike other study breaks. HUDS clause there to justify the large cost now coming from the Emergency Study Break
- Con: Don't want to use the language about how the University has failed, etc. etc. Adversarial. Want to focus more on community-building, morale.
- Pro: This is not us trying to call out the university - just us acknowledging that there are students who don't have options- gluten-free, etc. In that sense the University has failed.

Friendly amendment: Whereas while HUDS workers are on strike, the dining halls have lacked healthy and fulfilling options, with instances of mislabelling, uncooked and unsanitary foods being found; and

Whereas the closure of various dining halls has deeply impacted the community life of the houses and these study breaks offer a chance to recenter student life on the house community

Passed by voice vote