



# Harvard Undergraduate Council

*General Meeting: October 15th, 2017*

## Agenda

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1. Women's Center, Gender 101
2. Community Time: Dean Davis
3. Prez/VP Updates
4. Treasurer + Secretary Updates
5. Committee Updates
6. Caucus Updates (1 min)
7. Legislation:
  - a. 36F-11: An Amendment to Clarify Student-Faculty Committee Governance
  - b. 36F-12: Fall Grants Pack #4 ("36F-4")
  - c. 36F-13: GoHC Grants Pack - 10/15/17
  - d. 36F-14: Dorm-Rooms to Table
  - e. 36F-15: A Statement of Support for Upholding Improvements to Title IX Policy
8. Questions + Comments

## **President and Vice-President's Updates**

1. USGSO Survey - deadline to submit feedback

## **Treasurer Updates**

1. The Swag Order Form was sent out on Friday -- please complete it by **Monday night**. After Monday night, the order will be placed and no additional orders can be made.

## **Secretary Updates**

1. Please sign up for OH [here](#) if you haven't yet done so

## **Committee Updates**

### ***EdCom – Sruthi Palaniappan, Winthrop '20, Chair***

**Meeting Time:** *Monday, 7:30 pm, Quincy Stone Hall basement*

1. Working groups for the semester on: Global health concentration, LGBTQ+ training, Education secondary, Accessible food between classes, Student/Professor/TF relations, Course material costs, ROTC credit, and Native American Studies
2. Education Secondary proposal is moving forward!
3. Creating action plans this week for the different projects

### ***FiCom - Neel Mehta, Pfoho '18, Chair***

**Meeting Time:** *Wednesday, 7-9pm, Memorial Hall 028*

1. Club sports this past Wednesday
2. Sexual assault prevention training

### ***FCC - Adam Harper, Mather '20, Chair***

**Meeting Time:** *Tuesday, 6:30-7:30 pm, Memorial Hall (immediately after FDO meeting)*

1. FCC meeting over dinner in went *splendidly*.
2. Frosh report a fantastic dream session / work session with Dean Waddell.
  - a. We <3 DW
3. Stay tuned for some lit pix this week.
4. Legislation will be forthcoming! Have some great ideas we're working on.

**Rules - *Evan Bonsall, Winthrop '19, Chair***

**Meeting Time:** *Friday, 5-6pm, Winthrop House Private Dining Room (by the D-Hall)*

1. If you or anyone you know are interested in putting a referendum question on the November ballot, have them contact me ASAP. They'll need to write a question, run it by Rules, & collect signatures from 10% of the student body.
2. Tonight at midnight is the deadline for new student groups to apply for recognition, so we'll have more details on that next week!

**SIC – *Alex Popovski, Dunster '19, Chair***

**Meeting Time:** *Thursday, 5-6pm, Quincy Stone Hall Basement*

1. 2nd GoHC Grants Pack!
2. Fall Festival-themed event early November.
3. Trying for a Club 1636 soon!

**SRC – *Victor Agbafe, Dunster '19, Chair***

**Meeting Time:** *Friday, 6:00-7:00 pm, Quincy House Shinagel Room*

1. Putting drafts on questions for the poll on pulse.
2. Send updates on your committee so we can include it in the newsletter!!
3. UC pub on alternative parents weekend is coming out tonight!

**SLC - *Arnav Agrawal, Eliot '20, Chair***

**Meeting Time:** *Thursday, 7-8pm, Quincy Stone Hall Basement*

1. Setting up meeting with CAMHS and APO to continue discussion on adding mental health counselors to my.harvard advising
2. Meeting with Yard Ops and House Building Managers to install water bottle fillers
3. Meeting with HUIT to talk about free printing quotas
4. Task force on hot breakfast pilot program in houses
5. Setting up meeting with Freshman Yard Deans and FDO to improve community conversations during Opening Days
6. Integrating a Craigslist for Houses

## **36F-11: An Amendment to Clarify Student-Faculty Committee Governance**

*Sponsored by*

Evan Bonsall '19, Rules Committee Chair

Salma Abdelrahman '20, Rules Committee Secretary

Wilfried Zibell '21, Ivy Yard Representative

Cade Palmer '20 Pforzheimer House

*Whereas* the Constitution and Bylaws of the Undergraduate Council were recently updated by the Rules Committee to include all amendments approved after the 2012-13 academic year, and

*Whereas* Section 81.1 of the Bylaws of the Undergraduate Council reads as follows: "The President shall appoint a Student-Faculty Committee Director within three weeks of taking office. The Student-Faculty Committee Director shall serve during the calendar year following his or her appointment and must seek re-election in his or her House in the Fall. If the Student-Faculty Committee Director is not re-elected to serve during the Fall semester, the President may appoint another Council member to fill the vacancy. The Student-Faculty Committee Director shall be responsible for the following duties: (1) appointing student representatives to the Student-Faculty Committees in the beginning of the academic year and when there are vacated seats on the committees; (2) regularly checking in with administrators to make sure that the Student-Faculty Committees meet regularly; and (3) coordinating between the Student-Faculty Committees and the UC," and

*Whereas* Section 37 of the Bylaws of the Undergraduate Council requires that a "Student Faculty Oversight Committee," consisting of a "Student-Faculty Committee Chair" and five members each representing a certain student-faculty committee "grouping," be created to perform the tasks outlined for the SFC Director in Section 81.1, and attend student-faculty committee meetings and provide both weekly updates and a semesterly report to the UC, and

*Whereas* the practice of the UC has always been to select a member of the Council to serve as Student-Faculty Committee Director (adhering to Section 81.1 rather than Section 37), with the SFC Director serving primarily as a "point person" for student faculty committees, a task which could be done more effectively by one individual than by a committee, and

*Whereas* the SFC Director should be able to provide weekly updates to the entire Council like other voting members of the Executive Board, as currently provided for in Section 37,

*Be it therefore resolved* that the following clause, to be labeled "Section 81.2. SFC Director Update Time," be appended to Section 81 of the Bylaws of the Undergraduate Council: "The SFC Director may provide one minute of updates at each general meeting of the Council," and

*Be it further resolved* that all of Section 37 be stricken from the Bylaws.

*Recommended by the Rules Committee on October 13, 2017 by a vote of 8-0-0.*

*Docketed by the Executive Board on October 15, 2017 by a vote of 4-0-0.*

## **36F-12: FiCom Fall Grants Pack #4 ("36F-4")**

*Finance Committee Chair Neel Mehta, Pforzheimer '18 and Finance Committee Secretary Gevin Reynolds, Dunster '19 on behalf of the Finance Committee*

**\*access [Grants Pack PDF](#) here\***

*Whereas* Harvard's student groups provide valuable services to the undergraduate community, and

*Whereas* the Finance Committee is committed to allocate grants in support of student groups, *now*,

*Be it therefore resolved* that **\$60,000.33** from the Grants Pack be allocated to the following recipient projects, and

*Be it further resolved* that the Treasurer immediately disburse funds to these recipients, and

*Be it further resolved* that the Finance Committee may adjust allocations appropriately in response to new information provided on a Completed Project Form, but in no case to more than 150% of the allocation amount listed herein, and

*Be it further resolved* that the Finance Committee may impose additional penalties upon any Upfront Funding recipient who fails to file a Completed Project Form and submit all receipts for their event, including the rejection of future Fall applications by that recipient, unless the recipient's failure to file on time is due to an error by a UC member or the Finance Committee approves an extension, and

*Be it further resolved* that the Chair of the Finance Committee notify each recipient listed below of the decision of the Undergraduate Council regarding their grant application within 24 hours of this bill's passage, and provide each recipient with all necessary information for obtaining the funds allocated herein.

*FiCom Docketed: 9-0-0*

*FiCom Recommended: 9-0-0*

*Docketed by Exec: Unanimous*

### 36F-13: GoHC Grants Pack - 10/15/17

*Sponsored by Alex Popovski, SIC Chair, Dunster '19*

Whereas the Grant for an Open Harvard College is open to any student initiative that addresses one of the UC's 2017 compelling interests,

Whereas these compelling interests were deliberated on and voted upon at the UC General Session on January 29th, 2017, and defined as: mental health; race, culture, and faith relations; sexual assault and harassment prevention; social spaces; and financial accessibility,

Whereas the Student Initiatives Committee, after due deliberation of the following applications, has determined that they substantially address the aforementioned compelling interests,

Be it therefore resolved that the UC funds the following projects the "Proposed" sums listed from the GOHC budget.

Project Name	Description	Compelling Interest	Major Costs	Proposed
"Everybody Knows About Mississippi Goddam": Reconstructing the Narrative of a State to Resurrect the Soul of a Nation	A lecture at the College by the First Lady of Jackson, Mississippi (Ebony Lumumba) on November 9th.  The inaugural event for Southerners Organizing Urgent Transformation Through Harvard College (SOUTH); they are still awaiting official recognition by the OSL.  "While many prevailing national narratives, not excluding those at the College, cast Mississippi and many of its Southern sisters as neo-confederate strongholds, these portrayals ignore stories of resiliency and progress of marginalized communities across the South." Full abstract by Mrs. Lumumba: <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mKC6sqY4DpiOAetMSb6WcoiS3ejcXQb2C0aQmacWu90/edit">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mKC6sqY4DpiOAetMSb6WcoiS3ejcXQb2C0aQmacWu90/edit</a>	Race relations	Travel (airfare) - \$700 Publicity (posters) - \$20 Food (pastries) - \$80  TOTAL requested - \$800	\$600

*Docketed by SIC: 7-0-0*

*Docketed by Exec: Unanimous*

## 36F-14: Dorm-Rooms to Table

*Sponsors:*

Yasmin Sachee, *President '18*

Cameron Khansarinia, *Vice-President '18*

Victor Agbaje, *Student Relations Chair '19*

Whereas the Undergraduate Council seeks to sponsor inclusive events to improve student social life,

Whereas many students seek new ways of connecting to other students on campus outside of their classroom, extra-curricular or rooming group,

Whereas the UC has engaged in a similar program to 'Dorm-Rooms to Table' in previous years that was met with wide success,

Be it therefore resolved, that the UC fund 'Dorm Rooms to Table' through a burst pack, funding 20 dinners in Harvard Square or the surrounding area for 6 Harvard undergraduate students at \$25 per person, including tax and tip, (amounting to \$3,000) for the rest of the semester,

Be it further resolved that, in order to efficiently allocate limited resources, individual students will only be allowed to participate once per semester for the duration of the pilot Dorm-Rooms to Table program.

Be it further resolved, that undergraduates may individually with another friend sign up to attend these dinners because the goal of these dinners is to connect students with students from across campus that they are not familiar with

Be it further resolved that any current members of the UC are ineligible for this program.

Docketed by SRC: 7-0-0

Docketed by Exec: 5-0-0



## 36F-15: A Statement of Support for Upholding Improvements to Title IX Policy

*Sponsored by*

Julia Huesa '20, Lowell House

Salma Abdelrahman '20, Leverett House

Victor Agbafé '19, Student Relations Committee Chair

Evan Bonsall '19, Rules Committee Chair

Nicholas Whittaker '19, Adams House

Nick Wyville '20, Eliot House

Emma Robertson '21, Elm Yard

Abby Scholer '21, Oak Yard

Rainbow Yeung '19, Pforzheimer House

Sarah Fellman '19, Quincy House

Wyatt Robertson '18, Quincy House

Henry Atkins '20, Winthrop House

Arnav Agrawal '20, Eliot House

On September 22nd, the Department of Education released a Dear Colleague Letter that [withdrew](#) critical Title IX guidance on campus sexual violence. It also released an [interim guidance](#) that lowers the minimum requirements for schools' policies in a number of areas. In particular, it allows schools to use a higher "clear and convincing" evidence standard, which requires that evidence show that it is highly and substantially probable that the accused is guilty, rather than the "preponderance of the evidence" standard, which maintains that an accused individual is found guilty if the greater weight of evidence supports the plaintiff, in sexual violence cases -- despite the fact that preponderance is used in analogous civil cases and that "clear and convincing" gives more weight to the testimony of the accused than the survivor. The guidance also allows an interim-measures process under which the burden to seek accommodations rests on survivors. In addition, it withdraws the requirement that schools limit sexual violence investigations to 60 days. Finally, under the new guidance, schools can deny survivors the right to appeal, while extending that right to the accused. These measures are especially unjust to survivors.

We know that rape culture is pervasive on our campus. The 2015 Report on the Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct stated that 19.9 percent of women, 5.2 percent of men, and 27.5 percent of trans and gender nonconforming students at Harvard [reported](#) experiencing sexual assault during their time in

college. The College is also still [currently under investigation](#) by the Office for Civil Rights. Despite these ongoing issues, however, to date the Harvard administration has failed to firmly respond to the September 22nd decision, [unlike peer institutions](#). It is [still unclear](#) whether improvements to the University's Sexual and Gender-based Harassment Policy made under previous Title IX guidance -- including the use of the preponderance of the evidence standard -- will be rolled back. This lack of clarity has created uncertainty for survivors about whether their rights will be upheld, and undermines already shaky trust in the system: less than half of female undergraduates and even fewer trans or gender-nonconforming students at Harvard [think that](#) campus officials would take a sexual violence report seriously. Such distrust keeps survivors from coming forward and as such, it ensures that survivors needs will not be adequately met.

We, the elected representatives of the Harvard student body, firmly believe that the safety and well-being of students are top priorities of the Harvard community, and therefore express our disappointment in the Administration's [failure](#) to officially announce its decision regarding Secretary DeVos's letter. We maintain that supporting student survivors in all communities promotes our core values and we call on Harvard to affirm its commitment to the minimum standards of the 2011 policy, and to continue to improve this policy, regardless of federal standards. We also call on President Drew Faust to commit Harvard's significant influence to ensuring that survivors' rights are maintained in new Title IX rules and regulations.

The Undergraduate Council wholeheartedly stands in solidarity with every Harvard student survivor of gender-based and sexual violence. We strongly support the use of the preponderance of the evidence standard in university adjudication of such cases. We continue to call for a system of accommodations that allows survivors to continue learning by taking the burden of changing classes, houses, etc. off of them to the greatest extent possible. We endorse prompt sexual violence investigations that are fair to all parties. On these issues and many more, we ask that Harvard go above and beyond federal minimum standards in protecting survivors' access to this unique and transformative education. We are committed to continuing this conversation with our fellow students and relevant administrators. These efforts are central to ensuring that all students, no matter their experiences, feel comfortable and safe calling Harvard their home.

Recommended by SRC: 7-0-0

Docketed by Exec: 5-0-0