In Annual Elections, Graduate Student Council Retains Many Officers

By CALLIE H. GILBERT, CRIMSON STAFF WRITER April 11, 2014













UPDATED: April 11, 2014, at 2:51 p.m.

At the Graduate Student Council's annual elections on Wednesday, many students involved with the

Harvard Teaching Campaign were among the candidates elected as GSC officers.

GSC President Summer A. Shafer and Secretary Darcy Frear were elected once more to thier executive positions. At-large representative for Social Sciences John Gee was elected vice president.

Elaine F. Stranahan, Rachel Poser, and John M. Nicoludis were all elected for the first time as the at-large representatives for Social Sciences, Interdisciplinary Students, and Natural Sciences, respectively. Meanwhile, Caley C. Smith maintained his position as at-large representatives of Humanities.

A new treasurer was elected, with Jordan Smith replacing Janis V. Calleja, while current vice president Shelley H. Liu lost her bid for president.

Five international graduate students, including Jae-hyun Lee, the GSC's former publicity manager who was removed from his post in the days before the election, ran for the role as at-large representative for international students, with Rachel H. Y. Leng ultimately securing the position.

"I think everyone was very surprised and enthused to see that there were five write-in candidates for the position of international students at-large representative," Leng said. "This indicates that we certainly have a diverse population of international students on campus who are vested in their peers' experience at Harvard."

Leng hopes to improve the involvement of the GSC in regards to the needs of internationals students. In particular, she aims to provide further support for those adjusting to life in the U.S., both in and out of the classroom, as well as with individualized support for filing tax returns in greater cooperation with the Harvard International Office.

During the meeting, the GSC also discussed a proposal to set a limit on section sizes for classes. Five of the elected officers are active in the Harvard Teaching Campaign, a movement of graduate students seeking to cap section sizes.

The general consensus among the graduate students was the desire to change the Faculty of Arts and Sciences current policy so that teaching fellows can teach smaller sections, receive pay on time, and establish a more stable pre-enrollment system, according to Shafer.

"We will organize to accomplish those goals, regardless of administration policy," Shafer said.

-Staff writer Callie H. Gilbert can be reached at callie.gilbert@thecrimson.com. Follow her on twitter @calliegilbert95

This article has been revised to reflect the following corrections:

CORRECTIONS: April 11, 2014

An earlier version of this article incorrectly stated the incumbency status of several newly elected members of the Council. In fact, John Gee, Elaine F. Stranahan, Rachel Poser, and John M. Nicoludis were all elected to their positions for the first time this year. The earlier version also incorrectly stated presidential candidate Shelley H. Liu's current position on the Council. In fact, she is currently vice president. The earlier version also incorrectly stated when and why Jae-hyun Lee, a write-in candidate for representative at-large of international students, was removed from his earlier post as Council publicity manager. In fact, Lee was removed before the election for not fulfilling the roles of his position. Finally, the article incorrectly stated that there is currently no at-large representative of international students. In fact, Lilei Xu currently holds that position.

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Double-Disenfranchised Mocha • 2 years ago

The Harvard Teaching Campaign is looking more and more like just a group of incendiaries looking through the advocacy of revolutionary action. They're trying to address the 'inequitiy' in african-am enrollment now, which, while sadly disproportionately smaller than the overall percentage of the po African Americans, is probably reflective of a wholistic and equitable admissions policy. African Am represent 2% of GSAS, which may sound paltry, but given the fact that African Americans suffer a 4 graduation rate with a matriculation rate of 11% (4.6% of all college graduates), and that socio-econ tend to push African Americans into full-time employment after the achievement of a bachelor's deg than allowing many the luxury of a life in pursuit of a life of the mind, 2% is likely an over-represenpopulation of African Americans who apply to the graduate school.

What Harvard can do to improve this metric is to improve outreach and recruitment at HBCUs, peo state colleges and universities, and by providing resources to diversity fairs, high schools, and college underfunded black communities. That said, I have no idea how the teaching campaign hopes to effe besides provoking outrage over statistics they don't even understand.

I know this isn't the forum for this, but as a black studies graduate, I had to get this off my chest. The pushing forward without any background information and without any actual plan besides confronthe administration.



This is just false. I'm sorry, but the HTC is a diverse group working with Undergrads and the You're just wrong.

Your TF · 2 years ago

There are so many errors in the recent Crimson piece on the GSC that it shouldn't have written at al

Shelley Liu had her friend make accusations and it made them both look bad. Shelley got defeated 4 NOW OFF THE COUNCIL FOR GOOD. Rachel Poser isn't on the council, but is now joining it. Jol BECAME VP, he did not retain that position--it was previously held by Shelley. This is obvious from About Us section of the GSC Website...

"Earlier in the meeting, GSC publicity manager Jae-hyun Lee was removed from his post after inter elections, according to Shafer." OH MY GOD NO!!!!!!!! THIS DID NOT HAPPEN!!!

Jae was removed days before for incompetence. This makes it sound like he was fired for political reremove the article from your website. This is just so full of necessary corrections that it's useless.

THERE IS NO CO-PRESIDENT, Shelley and her fiscal irresponsibility have caused us major problem administration.



Sally Amder → Your TF • 2 years ago

Doesn't the article say "GSC publicity manager Jae-hyun Lee was removed from his post after interrupting the elections"? How is this 'fired for political reasons'? Do you know something v



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