

Council
June 9th 2008

GSA Chair Report
A Report by Kilian Frensch

The GSA would like to notify Council of its decision to hold elections for the positions on the GSA Committee (including Chair) in October. This decision was reached by the committee for the following reasons:

1. This enables all positions to be contested both by PhD students and Masters students (as the latter begin their studies in October). Previously, Masters students could only stand for positions that were vacant at the beginning of their studies.
2. This means that there will (hopefully) always be a full committee in place to plan a PG Ball annually in October. If elections were held in the Spring or Summer terms, Masters students would not be able to run, and thus the cohort of possible students standing for election would be smaller, leading to a higher likelihood of a partial committee in the important months preceding the PG Ball.
3. This allows the GSA to receive a new impulse from Masters students who are keen to get involved at the beginning of their course, rather than in the middle of their year.
4. Most PhD students begin their studies in October, so the GSA hopes to benefit from a keen group of PhD "freshers", as well.

While the GSA does realise that this causes difficulties with officer training, which is run primarily over the summer, we hope that a solution can be found to ensure that all GSA Committee members receive adequate training in the fall term.