

## GSO Minutes 04/26/11

Budget update - \$2000 left for the rest of the academic year.

Ren met with Dean Hughes (Dean of Graduate Student Life) about the usefulness of having a picnic in September when the new arrivals come in to orient them to the GRS and GSO. Dean Hughes said that the \$5000 originally given for the Goodbye-to-Winter Reception is ours to use as we wish. So, the Fall picnic is okay.

He also asked if we would like the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences to have an Orientation for the new students. Currently, there is a Teaching Fellows Orientation and separate departments may have their own orientations, but there is currently nothing that orients students to Graduate Student services on campus. He also raised other options: Should we have separate orientations for MA and PhD students? What would be the dates and locations of such an event? Who should speak at this event?

Dean Hughes also wants to meet all the officers of the GSO and find out our goals, etc.

Discussion: We can have an orientation before the picnic, but this means that we will have a lot of people so we will need a much larger space. As long as we are not running the orientation, the coupling of both events would be useful to get a larger crowd at the picnic. We do not need to have two separate orientations for MA and PhD students since the purpose is to let students know how to get around campus, and many MA students are also hoping to re-apply for the Ph.D.

Possible locations: FitRec

Proposal for the Fall picnic:

We are doing the barbeque this summer since we have \$2000 left. Summer barbeque's usually have 100-150 students every year.

For next year's budget, our big events would be the Fall Welcome Picnic, Elaborate Pub Night, Goodbye-to-Winter Event, and the summer barbeque. We can wiggle money around and still be able to do all these events. But this year the spring party was on Ash Wednesday so on a better night, we would have had more attendees. In reality, we might have to drop the first elaborate Pub-Night to make this happen this year. In the future, we will probably have to devote funds from the summer barbeque and first pubnight to this Fall welcome picnic.

VOTED YES to having \$2000 of next year's budget earmarked for this event.

Health care – An email will go out to the listserv to call information on the issues that people are most worried about. We intend to use this information to build a good survey.

Upcoming Event and Call for Help - The Modern Languages and Comparative Literatures hosting a conference in the Fall at the end of September. Will anyone consider hosting a graduate student from Germany in September? Contact lwebb@bu.edu