

# Boston University Graduate Student Organization

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## Minutes

Tuesday, January 22, 2013

5:30PM – CAS 200

### 1. Announcements

#### *Healthcare*

SAGE has a new stance on healthcare: more students will benefit from being offered eye/dental insurance as part of the basic plan instead of having to upgrade to Student Plus plan.

#### *BGLO Service Event*

BGLO is hosting a Day of Service on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 1:00-3:00pm at Cradles to Crayons (Brighton). Cradles to Crayons takes donations for school supplies; school kids in the area then send the organization lists of supplies they need. Volunteers “fill orders” for the kids. This will also be an opportunity to meet other area grad students. Eliza will post a link to the event on the GSO Facebook page; RSVP via that link. Participation will be capped at twenty.

#### *Updating the Website*

If you see anything on the website that needs to be updated, e-mail Ren.

### 2. Treasurer's Report

We currently have \$11,231.68 minus commitments we've already made for upcoming events (and tonight's pizza).

### 3. GSO Social Chair

Casey Aderholt [?] volunteered to serve as social chair for the GSO. This position was unfilled during the December GSO elections. At that time, no one present expressed interest.

A vote was held, and Casey Aderholt was elected to the position.

#### 4. Co-Sponsored Events

Two applications were considered for co-sponsored events.

##### *IR Conference*

Last semester, the IR department asked for \$400 for an event. The GSO voted to give them \$300, with the possibility of an extra \$100 if they could demonstrate that students from other departments would attend.

To date, 16 participants have registered, 10 of whom are from BU. The departments represented include Political Science, Sociology, Earth and Environment, and IR (different sections); overall, 5 of the 10 are from outside IR. The deadline for applications has been extended due to additional interest.

The question was raised last time of whether the event was being advertised across departments. IR students have communicated with department heads and left fliers at various departments.

A vote was taken to give the IR conference an additional \$100, giving them a total of \$400 for the event. The vote passed.

##### *History of Art and Architecture Roundtable*

The department asked the GSO to fund a roundtable before and during their gallery event. The event is a collaboration with the BU Art Gallery, called "Teaching the Body: Artistic Anatomy and the American Academy, from Copley, Rimmer and Eakins to Contemporary Artists". The exhibit will be displayed for two months, and it includes eight programming events. The department asked the GSO to fund the first event (Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>): a roundtable with three BU faculty members from different schools (Communications, Medicine, and the School of Visual Arts) and one external artist. The topic will be the place of the study of anatomy in art and medicine, and it is expected to draw students from the various schools. The roundtable will consist of an hour-long conversation, followed by a reception. The funding solicited from the GSO will be used for transportation costs for the visiting artist and for catering the reception.

The event will be open to all BU grad students; it will also be advertised around the Boston area.

A vote was taken to fund the event at \$350. The vote passed.

## 6. Library Policy

The BU libraries have changed their circulation policy for grad students; previously, grad students could check out books for a semester, but since November, they have only been able to check out a book for four weeks (with either unlimited renewals or renewals up to a year). No information on this change of policy was sent to the GSO; most students seem to have learned about the new policy from colleagues who had encountered the change.

This new policy represents a permanent change as part of a shift to a new system.

Grad students will no longer be charged fines for overdue books.

Everyone should check to see if their books are overdue (a recent glitch in the system meant that people weren't e-mailed when their books were almost due). If you have fewer than four books checked out, you can renew them online. If you have more than four books listed as overdue, you can e-mail the circulation desk ([mugcirc@bu.edu](mailto:mugcirc@bu.edu), Subject: "Renew Eligible Books", include name and BUID), and they'll renew them for you.

GSO members are upset that this change happened without informing grad students. There's also a lack of information about where exactly the system broke down.

*Suggestion:* A GSO representative should contact the circulation desk and find out what exactly grad students need to know. Evan will e-mail Laura Wipf to find out the exact details about the change in policy; then GSO representatives will meet with her and the Dean to determine the next steps. The issue will be revisited at the next GSO meeting. Meanwhile, GSO representatives should let colleagues in their departments know of the change.

## 7. GSO Seminar Series

There are two upcoming events: February 7<sup>th</sup> (Thursday, 6-7pm) and March 4<sup>th</sup>. Seminars will consist of three 10-12 minute talks. Cookies and coffee will be served.

No applications have been received yet, and the deadline has been extended. Talks should offer a big-picture, low-stress opportunity to get feedback. It's important that the first set of seminars be widely attended. GSO reps should encourage other students in their departments to attend. Leila will forward GSO representatives the e-mail she sent to her department, asking students to apply.

*Suggestion:* Hold the series at the BU pub in order to encourage more people to attend. If we met there without providing drinks, it wouldn't cost as much as renting

the space. The concern was raised of noise levels. Alternatively, wine could be provided elsewhere (this may require a liquor license).

Students who would like to present should e-mail Evan or Carol (the event organizers).