

# Boston University Graduate Student Organization

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## Minutes

Tuesday, February 11, 2013  
5:30PM – CAS 200

### 1. Announcements

#### BGLO

Eliza attended the BGLO meeting earlier this semester. The Cradles to Crayons events that was previously rescheduled to this past Saturday was canceled due to the blizzard. It will be rescheduled, but it is not clear when it will be slated.

Eliza is in charge of planning the next major BGLO event at Tequila Rain, coming later this spring. There may be a need at future meetings to vote to possibly commit money up front for drink tickets. In the past the event has been popular and GSO should not, ultimately, have to actually disburse funds..

This week BGLO is encouraging students to attend the regular Tuesday student discount night at the ice-skating venue on the Boston Common. This is not an official event. Eliza encouraged reps to 'like' the BGLO page on Facebook to stay abreast of similar impromptu notices.

### 2. Treasurer's Report

Nolan reported that we currently have **\$9981.68** available in the GSO account, minus commitments we've already made for upcoming events (and tonight's pizza).

### 3. GSO Social Chair

Casey proposed two pub nights. Two Fridays – **March 1 and April 12** – were proposed. The drink tickets and nachos orders will remain standard.

There was discussion of whether or not to approve the two events and funds at today's meeting. A vote was held to approve two pub nights. The vote passed.

Submission of other constructive uses of GSO funds was encouraged. Given there is no goodbye-to-winter event this year GSO has a sizable amount of funds remaining.

#### 4. Co-Sponsored Events

One application was received and considered for co-sponsored events.

##### *African Studies Conference*

This year is the 21<sup>st</sup> annual conference. It will be held on March 29 & 30. The keynote speakers are the anthropologists, John and Jean Comaroff. The past two years the GSO has funded the event for \$500. Presenters at last year's conference represented 6 different BU departments. The conference has commitments of support from several university departments.

This year the conference organizers requested \$400 of support.

A vote was taken to fund the event at **\$400. The vote passed.** It was also expressed that if the conference requires an additional \$100, the organizers are invited to re-apply for the additional amount.

#### 6. Library Policy

Evan met with Linda Plunkett, a member of the senior library staff. In the changes made in Fall 2012, she emphasized that uniformity across BU's libraries was one of the key concerns.

Ms. Plunkett apologized for the lack of preparatory consultations and notice. She reviewed the current policies—focusing particularly on the shift to 4 week borrowing cycles and successive renewals, rather than multi-month borrowing periods.

Ms Plunkett emphasized that there are currently no fees for BU books that are overdue, unless they are not returned following recall (in which case they are charged at \$2/day).

She also emphasized that, although these changes began in October/November, things are still evolving. Systems, technology, policy, and practice remain in flux. She assured Evan that when the dust settles the news team will write something for grad student users and post it to their website – the GSO would then we will send it out to graduate students.

Following Evan's briefing, meeting participants reviewed a petition presented by Jenn Lindsay regarding graduate student use of the library's services.

- It was agreed that a borrowing period of four weeks is too short for graduate students. The previous policy – a semester duration – is preferred.

- Renewals ought to be unlimited, unless recalled.
- It was agreed that of due-date notification by email should be a standard feature of the library's IT system (as it was prior to the new library system). This should not be termed a "courtesy" as library staff have recently taken to calling it.
  - The third point in Jenn Lindsay's petition can be combined with this one: greater renewal flexibility is necessary *if* due-date reminder emails are not being sent out.
    - There ought to be a 'grace period' to complete online renewal of a text for a few days past the (currently un-notified) due date.
- Consistency across the various BU libraries should be the leading consideration.
- A system for monitoring books in study-carrels should be determined to address the issue of missing/unavailable books.
- Recall policy should take into account students that are taking comps. Rather than recall, the circulation desk could make it their policy to direct (or directly assist) students to request the book from another consortium library to reduce recalls.

The petition document will be further developed and posted online. Leila and Jen Lindsay will work together on this. Individuals can sign-on to it online and send further suggestions, if necessary. This will be voted on at the next meeting. Formal submission by GSO will be determined by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote.

## 7. GSO Seminar Series

Carol and Evan reported that there were no applicants for the first installment in the student seminar series, originally scheduled for Feb 7. That session was cancelled.

However, There are three applicants for the second one, March 4. Two are from archeology. One is from math and statistics.

It was proposed that wine could be purchased and the event could be packaged as having a 'networking' component. Alternatively, handing out 30 drink tickets for the pub could also be another possibility.

In discussion, keeping the event in one space was considered preferable. Currently, the event will be held in a lecture hall in the basement of CAS. In terms of

alternative venues, rooms in archeology and astronomy were also suggested. CAS 200 was also suggested. An additional suggestion in the Life Sciences and Engineering was also put forward. These venues will be considered.

The seminar organizers requested that the \$100 originally approved for the two seminars be available to support refreshments for the March 4 event. This was approved. If necessary, further reimbursement can be requested and voted on an as needed basis.

This series was again affirmed as a worthy GSO activity. GSO reps are encouraged to promote the March 4 event with their departments and to encourage submissions for a possible April session.

If presenters express interest, an April session is likely. It was suggested that masters students who submit their papers on or around April 15 might be a natural constituency to present papers around that time.