

Boston University Graduate Student Organization

Minutes

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

5:30PM – CAS 200

1. Announcements

BGLO

There will be another BGLO **event at Tequila Rain**. However, although previously proposed for this spring BGLO has postponed this event to the upcoming fall semester.

This decision was made out of concern that the club would not be sufficiently full with an April date. To book the entire club for BGLO without financial penalty, attendance must be at least 750 persons. It is thought that holding this event during the first months of the fall semester is better suited to drawing attendance that meets this requirement.

As an alternative, BGLO will hold an event later this spring where the top floor of Meadhall (in Cambridge) will be booked out for BGLO's use. Stay tuned for details on the date.

The **volunteer event at Cradles to Crayons** (in Brighton) that was postponed due to February's snowstorm has been rescheduled for March 16, from 1-3pm. Interested persons should RSVP on BGLO's Facebook page.

2. Treasurer's Report

Nolan reported that we currently have **\$7584.17** available in the GSO account. This figure takes into spending commitments GSO has already made for upcoming events.

3. GSO Social Chair

Casey reported that last Friday's pub night was a success. The 150 drink tickets sold out in roughly 30 minutes. Casey is considering ways to increase general socializing across cliques. One option might include adding a mixer element (for example, matching cards from a deck or two) that would involve providing some free drink tickets.

Casey will explore this further and discuss associated additional costs to GSO and how tipping the bar staff might be handled at the next meeting.

4. Teaching Workshop

Joe Hardcastle, from the physics department, proposed that GSO consider offering a teaching workshop for graduate students. Many graduate students comment that they would appreciate more teaching training than is currently provided (this varies widely by department).

Joe suggested that a pilot workshop might be the first step. The event would likely take place sometime during the first two weeks of fall semester classes. It was mentioned that the CEIT workshops offered within the university might provide some useful models.

It was stated that this training might take the form of a directed panel and could combine experienced graduate teaching assistants and faculty members. Learning how to appropriately deal with cheating, lying, non-attendance, and difficult exchanges with undergraduates was also mentioned. Training content might breakdown into university policy issues and teaching skills/scenario solutions. This content divide might lend itself to two different workshops.

GSO Reps are encouraged to poll their departments for feedback. Generally, this idea has GSO support for further development. Departmental feedback and individuals with specific suggestions and/or desire to help develop events of this type should email Joe Cardcastle, hardcajm@bu.edu.

5. Library Petition

Leila reported that there are currently more than 350 signatures to the library petition. After GSO contacted Associate Dean Jeffrey Hughes and Associate Provost Timothy Barbari, Dean Hughes reached out to the Library's Bob Hudson. According to the Dean's office, Mr. Hudson reported (vaguely, it would seem) that a solution is in the works. The Dean relayed that the GSO should be patient.

Nevertheless, GSO is resolved to continue to pressure on this front on behalf of graduate library users. It was agreed that the GSO should make another push at getting signatures on the petition before formally submitting it to the library (there are roughly 2400 students in GRS).

It appears there is a clear discrepancy in Mugar Library use—and therefore the relevance of the new library policy—between students in the humanities and the sciences. The GSO asked reps from science departments to encourage students to join the petition out of solidarity.

It was also suggested that, since library use extends beyond GRS, outreach be conducted with SAGE, the School of Theology, the Law School, the School of Social Work, and the School of Education.

There was also discussion about the language on the petition and the website. The crux of the discussion was the use of the word “against” versus the use of the word “revise.” The discussion was mixed. Some reps wished to frame this action in measured language. Others felt strongly about staking out an oppositional stance versus the new policy (not the library itself). Ultimately, the fact that 350 students have already signed the petition as formulated as “against” the new policy, carried argument in favor of not amending a document after folks have signed.

6. GSO Seminar Series

Carol and Evan reported that the first student seminar event, held yesterday evening, went pretty well. The organizers have resulting recommendations to incorporate into the next one. These include streamlining food provision and making sure the IT services are not an additional charge to a “free” room.

Attendance was about 25. It appeared that attendance was mostly from the departments of the students who were presenting. Twelve attendees turned in feedback that was passed on to the presenters. Although serving wine was discussed at the last meeting, it was not on offer last night because of drinking age considerations given that the event was not listed as “grad students only.”

The next event will be held in the Life Sciences Building. Evan and Carol requested \$100 for the next event in April (date to be determined).

The vote to approve \$100 for the next seminar passed.

7. Co-Sponsored Events

Basil Considine submitted a proposal for a co-sponsored event: *Catholic Vocations in a Time of Change*. Basil represented the event organizers, who were described as a previously unassociated coterie of students interested in assessing and discussing the Pope Benedict’s tenure and legacy and future prospects for the Church during this leadership transition in the church.

The event is slated for March 21 and will be held at the School of Theology from 4:00-6:30. The proposal estimates the duration of the event at 2.5 hours and estimates event attendance at 25-40 students.

In the 2.5 hour period several elements are slated: an opening lecture, student vocation testimonials (x at least 4), faculty paper presentations (x4), a keynote, a moderated discussion, a reception, and a dinner for presenters.

The event has two current commitments of support: \$250 from the School of Theology's Community Life and Lifetime Learning fund and \$250 from the Anna Howard Shaw Center.

The organizers **request \$323 (39.2% of total budget) from GSO** to cover a portion of the reception (\$83) and the dinner for presenters (\$240).

In presentation the organizing rep stated that the period between popes was a unique opportunity for frank assessment—and therefore there was an element of urgency to the event and its application.

It was stated that the event is being recorded – as a condition of other pledged support – and the organizers feel that a thank you dinner for presenters is necessary as a modest form of compensation.

In response to questions, it was stated that publicity would be carried out through the School of Theology and the Religion departments. It was also stated that, in terms of GRS specifically, there is Religion faculty involvement and student involvement from the music department (additional involvement from STH and SPH).

Discussion of the proposal was wide-ranging. It included concerns expressed around the event timing window; whether the event was a scholarly examination or a reflective-experiential discussion; vagueness over the presentation/application details provided; the limited extent of GRS involvement; whether another sponsor's claim on broadcast content obliged GSO to fund a thank you dinner for presenters pitched as compensation related to the recording. There was also a sense expressed that the oral presentation stressed academic content, while downplaying the proportion of testimonials evident in the written application.

Some reps voiced that the GSO certainly has the funds available to fund the event. Along these lines, it was also expressed that—despite the highlighted reservations—the event presented the GSO with a welcome opportunity to support activities beyond pub nights.

A vote was held beginning at \$50 of support. Support was expressed by 15 of 22 departmental voters. This level of support (68%) did not meet the 75% threshold. It was stated that the event organizers could reapply, although reapplication does

not appear possible given the event date.

This application was also likely impacted by timing and distribution. It was emailed to GSO Reps less than two hours before the meeting. Although a hard copy was circulated, few GSO Reps were able to examine the proposal in advance and in detail.