

Boston University Graduate Student Organization

Minutes

Monday, February 10, 2014
5:30 – CAS 200

1. Announcements

Evan Judd, GSO President, opened the meeting by welcoming attending GSO representatives.

BGLO will be holding an event at the Liquor Store, located near Boston Common, on February 20th at 7pm with a \$5 cover. Although the event was not sponsored by the GSO, the BGLO would like to invite the GSO representatives and others from their departments to attend.

GSO Social Chair, **Kasey Aderhold**, reminded attending representatives the next pub night has yet to be scheduled. After the success of the last pub night, which was held on a Thursday, the consensus was the future pub nights should be scheduled on Thursdays. A date will be set for late February.

2. Treasurer's Report

GSO Treasurer, **Adam Iaizzi**, reported that the organization's operating funds of the remainder of the academic year are **\$7,354.45**. There is **\$3,236.99** in the travel funds.

3. Parental Leave

Adam Iaizzi, updated attending representatives on the status of the Parental Leave Policy.

The current draft of the policy will be presented to the University Council of Administrative Policies on **February 19th**. Pending approval, the draft will then be sent to the University Council.

The current draft has received the following changes and/or clarifications since the last discussion:

- Both parents are eligible for parental leave. The parents may take this leave within one year after the birth or adoption for up to sixty days.
- Students in the Masters portion of a Ph.D. program are eligible for the leave.
- There is no extension of funding or specific deadlines outlined by the GRS or individual departments. "No stopping of the clock". Students must be engaged in some level with their own work. It was stressed that this policy is an accommodation,

not a leave (although this was not stated within the language of the pending draft of the policy).

The following comments and discussions were brought up after the update:

- Is it normal to maintain academic responsibilities while on parental leave?
 - In the discussion amongst the attending representatives, it was assumed that the current language of the policy was meant to decipher between a leave of absence, in which a student discontinues schoolwork, loses access to campus resources, and is not considered a student thus losing stipends and/or insurance, and the proposed parental accommodation policy, in which a student would remain a student without the responsibility of teaching and course work, and would maintain access to campus resources, insurance, and stipends. The amount of work a student must engage in while taking the parental leave was unclear, and attending representatives were not sure how this would be qualified.
- How would the policy tie into the funding structure?
 - Attending representatives were reminded that Ph.D. students would continue receiving their stipends throughout the 60 day period whether they had a service or non-service fellowship.
 - Concern was expressed about specific deadlines in a student's program, specifically in regards to the lack of an extension of funding.

An update will be given next meeting on the status of the current draft. This draft can be viewed on the GSO website.

4. Open Access

Steven Bhardwaj, updated attending representatives about the open access policy.

Last spring, Boston University petitioned for open access, and since it has been sent to the provost, who has attempted to bring it to University Council.

Steven stated that when an author chooses to publish a work in a peer-reviewed journal, the publisher will ask the author to sign away rights to the work upon publication. Some of these rights to open access at an author's university may be maintained by sending an addendum to the publisher. This allows access at the university level, but also allows the publications to be viewable on internet searches.

Steven is proposing an open access policy similar to the student-driven policy developed at Stanford, which he says is stronger than the current BU opt-in model. This program and other policies were discussed with the attending GSO representatives.

Steven stressed that this is a policy, not a mandate, so it will not be forced on the students.

What can the GSO do?

The GSO representatives were encouraged to start discussions in our departments about a new open access policy. Spread the word for policy change. It was agreed that a committee would be created, pending interest, at the next meeting to continue the work being done towards a new policy.

5. Co-Sponsored Event Application

Event: 22nd Annual Graduate Research Conference in African Studies

Michael Pagan from the department of History of Art and Architecture represented the African Studies Center's Conference for this event on March 28th and 29th. The event features six panels with four presenters each from BU and other colleges in the Boston area and beyond, as well as a keynote speaker. The event is interdisciplinary, including members from history, anthropology, political science, art history, and public health departments. The ACS predicts about 50 people will attend the conference.

Due to lack of response from other sources, the ACS has requested to change their original funding of \$500 to \$1000.

The attending representatives reviewed the request for additional funds. Although the amount requested was quite large, it was within 40% of their total budget. Additionally, last year the GSO encouraged the ACS to apply for more funding, as it seemed like a great conference and brought a lot of attention to the university.

Leila motioned to hold a vote to fund the ACS \$1000. Evan seconded the motion. The motion passed.