

Boston University Graduate Student Organization

Minutes

Tuesday, January 21, 2014
5:30 – CAS 200

1. Announcements

Evan Judd, GSO President, opened the first GSO meeting of the Spring 2014 semester by welcoming attending GSO representatives.

2. Treasurer's Report

Evan Judd, filling in for GSO Treasurer **Adam Iaizzi**, reported that the organization's operating funds of the remainder of the academic year are **\$9,825.70**.

3. GSO Officer 'Vacancies'

Evan Judd announced a few vacant officer positions. The vice president, **Casey Aderholt**, serves also as the Social Chair. Evan also holds the position as the Travel Grants Chair. Officers interested in occupying a position are encouraged to announce it at a future meeting.

4. Proposed BGLO Event

A representative of the Boston Graduate Leadership Organization from Tufts University reached out to the GSO through **Evan Judd** requesting funding for an event at "Tequila Rain". The event would be a dance party, hosting about 700 students across seven Boston area schools. The representatives of the GSO were reminded that in the past the usual \$300 supplied to the BGLO would be reimbursed with funds from the door.

The BGLO requested a \$500 contribution. It was suggested by the BGLO that these funds would not be matched as in past years.

The event is intended to stimulate networking across the universities, but due to the lack of participation anticipated by the departments of the GSO representatives, no motion was made to approve or deny this funding.

It was suggested an e-mail be sent to encourage the BGLO contact the GSO in the future about future events.

5. GSO Research Travel Award Funding

Evan Judd explained to the GSO reps the need to approve two new research travel grants for the Spring 2014 semester. These grants are intended to support those students who do not qualify for the **Graduate Research Abroad Fellowships** who wish to travel for thesis work, not conferences.

The two grants are for \$500 each. This past semester, the GSO received eight applicants. The award winners can be found on the GSO website. There was a brief discussion about the vague instructions and application parameters that will be clarified at a further date, involving students eligible for GRAF funding.

The research grants for the 2012-2013 academic year were funded out of the operating budget as a pilot program, with the hope of obtaining additional funding from the GRS in the future. As a result, the GSO would also need to fund the \$1000 from the operating budget for research grants occurring at the end of the Spring 2014 semester.

Evan motioned to allocate the \$1000 from the operating budget to pay for research grants between July and December 2014.

Leila Haery seconded this motion.

The motion passed.

6. Socially Responsible Investing Committee

Nolan Little, the GSO representative serving as a representative on the Socially Responsible Investing Committee, was asked to describe the purpose of this committee and ask a list of informal questions to the GSO reps.

The SRIC consists of nine members—three alumni, three faculty members, two undergraduate students, and one graduate student. The committee has been ad hoc for the past two years and played a crucial role in Boston University's divestment from Sudan during Darfur. After Sandy Hook, they have begun to discuss civilian gun manufacturing and what this should entail, serving as a case study for the future of this committee.

Nolan was asked to take a poll from the GSO representatives as to the areas the graduate students would be interested in divesting or investing in the future. As of now, there are no details as to which areas the university has divested or how much money has gone to these corporations.

The following is a list of areas in which the meeting attendees were asked how important they considered the following issues with respect to future investments:

- (1) Environmental (climate change, oil, coal, natural gas companies, green tech., etc.):
Highly important

- (2) Alcohol companies:
Unimportant
- (3) Tobacco companies:
Unimportant
- (4) Gambling:
Moderately important
- (5) Defense industry:
Highly important
- (6) Companies with contentious labor rights/ human rights issues:
Highly important
- (7) Companies with diversity problems/ employment issues:
Highly important
- (8) Community Development:
Highly important
- (9) Animal rights
Highly important
- (10) Israel
There was not a general consensus with President Brown's recent formal rejection of the American Studies Association's anti-Israel academic boycott.

The next meeting will occur at the end of January/ beginning of February. Nolan will report at a later date.

7. Open Access

Steven Bhardwaj, the representative responsible for the open access updates, was not in attendance. He wanted to invite the head librarian to talk to the GSO about and Ph.D. student-only open access policy, in which students individually upload their publications to an open access forum similar to the one run by Stanford. It was suggested that the representatives receive more information prior to a presentation by a librarian.

8. Parental Leave Policy

Adam Iaizzi received an update about the parental leave policy from Tim Barbari. He was informed the parental leave policy was a **parental accommodation policy**, meant to be handled case-by-case. Since Adam is not present, this item was moved to a future meeting.

9. Gender Equality Announcement

Leila Haery announced that **Joyce Wong**, from the biomedical engineering department, has received a new position as the person responsible for gender equality in STEM fields. If anyone is interested, contact her.

10. Co-Sponsored Event

Representative from the Archaeology department, Jade Luiz announced the Archaeology Department's Bi-Annual Graduate Student Forum will be held February 14th through February 16th. The theme of the forum this year is boundaries and how people relate to political, economic, and social boundaries.

Three graduate students from Boston University will be presenting of the sixteen students in total. There are twelve participants outside of New England (from UCLA, New Mexico, and Cambridge, among others).

The department requested \$500 in funding to help pay for breakfast, lunch, and coffee, that allows the students to network. The event is free to attend and participate.

Nolan Little asked what departments would be represented at the forum. Jade answered that students were presenting on archaeology, anthropology, art history, political science, and other social sciences. She anticipated around sixty people in attendance.

A motion was made by **Evan Judd** to fund the maximum \$500.

Leila Haery seconded.

The motion passed.

11. Pub Night

Casey Aderholt, GSO Social Chair, has requested funding for another pub night in February. Details will be forthcoming.

A motion to allocate \$1000 in order to fund a pub night was made by **Evan Judd**.

Nolan Little seconded the motion.

The motion passed.