

Boston University Graduate Student Organization

Minutes

Wednesday, April, 23 2014
5:30 – CAS 200

1. Announcements

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

The deadline for the **GSO Travel Grant Application** is set for Sunday, May 4th at 11:59 p.m. The research travel grants will also be due at this time. Representatives interested in being on the GSO Travel Grant Board should e-mail the GSO.

2. Treasurer's Report

The organization's operating funds of the remainder of the academic year are **\$4, 278.94**, with an additional **\$500** from the unused funds of the Co-sponsored Event held by the Archaeology department.

3. GSO Grants

GSO Representative **Maggie Finnegan** from the History of Art and Architecture Department proposed possible changes to the current application for GSO Travel and Research Grants. Members of her department who do not receive funding for travel from their department were upset with the lack of clarity on the application in terms of specific funding situations. It was suggested that the grants be narrowed down based on financial need.

The current application includes a section to propose a budget and to describe the funding or potential funding for the grant. There is currently no section on the application that allows the student to indicate if they will still be able to go without the GSO grant. There was also some concern about students receiving a GRAF and a GSO grant for the same trip.

Evan Judd informed attending representatives that the strength of the application gives you the best chance at funding, and that the budget and funding situation is taken into consideration in the process. He also mentioned that there is nothing officially on the application about the GRAF as it is a new funding mechanism. These are typically reserved for students going on longer trips, whereas the GSO grants are for students going on shorter trips. It was suggested that a clause be added to the application asking students who receive a GRAF to return the money if they also received a GSO grant.

A few representatives asked if we should make the GSO grants needs based, merit based, or both. Does the GSO want to fund people who have funding from their departments? It was suggested that a small comment section be added to the application for students to explain their funding situation. This would ensure that students from well-funded departments who may want to find other means of obtaining money, as well as students who received no funding from their department would be considered for a GSO grant. This would not disqualify people from applying, but would give them an opportunity to make an argument.

It was agreed that the application would receive an overhaul to include these changes and clarifications. There will be a list of changes circulated that the GSO representatives will be able to vote on. The revised application will then be reviewed at the first meeting next semester.

4. Funding Policy Changes

Following up last week's discussion, **Evan Judd** reported from the Director of Graduate Studies of the Chemistry Department and Tim Barbari. New students are guaranteed five years of support as long as they remain in good academic standing. Prior to 2013, the first year students would receive support, but the specific manner in which that funding would be provided was not clear or guaranteed. For most students in the GRS, funding is for eight months with no summer funding. The policies differ widely from department to department.

The questionnaires should be forwarded to the GSO for compilation.

5. Budget

The current budget of \$4, 778.94 (including the \$500 from the Archaeology Department) has been allocated to the following after successful votes:

- (1) \$1000 to a pub night.
- (2) \$1000 to a coffee event.
- (3) Fund all alternates for grants.
- (4) All remaining funds in the budget will be allocated to another coffee event.