

GSO Meeting 09/07/10

1. Welcome and welcome back!
2. Finances:
 - a. Our budget for this fiscal year (July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011) is \$15,000. We have a separate travel budget grant of \$5000 for two semesters. We allocate five \$500 awards each semester for students to present at conferences outside the Boston area. We vote on all expenditure for the year, except for refreshments at the GSO meetings.
3. Cosponsored Event Chair Elections and Travel Grant Committee
 - a. We are looking for a new Event Chair and for people to serve on Travel Grant Committee
 - b. For Events, we use some of the GSO budget to fund events with department groups, provided the event is open and will be advertized to the entire graduate student community.
 - c. The Events Chair position involves communicating between applicants and the GSO, reading over applications for cosponsored events, and ensuring that they are complete.
 - d. Travel Grant Committee reads applications for travel grants
 - e. Email GSO if interested.
4. Academic Committees
 - a. The Deans are looking for students to serve on the following committees:
 - i. Academic Policy Committee (2 students)
 - ii. Natural Sciences Committee (1 student)
 - iii. Social Science Curriculum Committee (1 student)
 - iv. Humanities Committee (1 student)
 - b. Email Dean Hughes if interested at Hughes@bu.edu
 - c. In the email, include who you are, what you do, and why you want to be on the committee.
5. Student Issues
 - a. BU Mental Health
 - i. Check out bu.edu/mentalhealth and bu.edu/helpinfo for mental health services on campus
 - ii. Services through BU Mental Health are confidential
 - b. Health Insurance
 - i. We have discussed getting TFs and RFs covered under the Plus Plan instead of the Basic.
 - ii. We are still working on this and need volunteers to help move the issue forward.
 - c. Continuing Student Fees
 - i. GSO has been working on getting these fees waived.
 - ii. The Administration argues that the fees cover any advising that the student continues to receive.
 - iii. We can argue that
 1. If not much advising is going on, then the fees might be too high.

2. Compare us to other research universities and argue that this policy is not comparable, if so.
 - iv. However, we need volunteers to take on this task. It would involve designing and administering surveys of graduate student experiences.
 - v. Email GSO if interested.
6. National Association of Graduate Professional Students
- a. This is an organization that has an office in Washington, DC and they lobby for student issues, such as getting tax exempt status for graduate student stipends, increasing H1B visas, they have a health insurance plan available through membership etc.
 - b. Last year we joined for the first time and got a discounted rate. We teamed up with SAGE and split the cost, so we paid \$150.
 - c. Do we want to renew membership?
 - i. To renew costs \$500 (no more discount)
 - ii. We could team up again with another group. SAGE is less inclined to join again.
 - iii. Comments – We could use extra money from budget for this since it seems like a worthy cause; We haven't seen any benefits so far and so it is not worth it.
 - iv. Decided that we needed more information about what this group does before we decide.

Upcoming Events:

1. Pub Night: Friday September 10, 5:30pm, BU Pub
 - a. 150 drink tickets
 - b. \$1 each
 - c. Money goes toward the tip for the bar
2. BU-MIT Party: Thursday September 23, 8pm, Tequila Rain
 - a. This is the 3rd of these BU-MIT parties.
 - b. MIT has done all the work (planning, reservations, mixer games etc). They've paid \$750 so far, and are asking us to cover \$375. We voted YES to allocate funds to this event.
 - c. 150 drink tickets provided with mixer game
 - d. \$5 cover charge. Once costs covered, extra proceeds go toward charities (Oxfam, Pakistan Flood).
3. Boston PKD (Polycystic Kidney Disease) Walk: Saturday 25, 9am, Artesani Park. You are welcome to attend!
4. BGLO Party: Thursday October 7, 8pm, Tequila Rain.
 - a. This event is for all graduate students in the Boston area (such as BC, Babson, Northeastern, Suffolk, BU, MIT etc).
 - b. Again, they've asked for \$250 for help with this event. We voted YES to allocate \$250 to this event.
 - c. \$5 cover charge
5. Future GSO meeting dates: Sept 27, Oct 19, Nov 8, Dec 1

6. The Ombuds will be coming at the next meeting (Sept 27) to tell us about this role etc.
7. CHECK OUT THE NEW GSO WEBSITE! Thanks Erica! Send comments and/or suggestions to ezimmer@bu.edu
8. Also JOIN OUR FACBEOOK GROUP!