Minutes: GSO Meeting, 1/21/09
5:30-6:45pm, CAS 200

Welcome from Marc—first of five meetings for the Spring 2009 semester

Introduction of department representatives

Discussion of finances (Besim)
--Budget $10,000 (fiscal year: July 1-June 30)
  --$6,230 remaining in our budget, as of tonight
  --GSO spends up to $1500/year in co-sponsored events (up to 5/year)
  -- Already booked one cosponsored event for the spring – IR, tomorrow
  --Other potential proposals:
    --conference on East Asian studies, Feb. 13 and 14; open to entire university
    --conference on African American studies
  --Comment: we need to know what we’re paying for in proposals for cosponsored events (Basil)
--GSO events also coming out of our budget: pub nights; summer BBQ (which we’d like the dean to pay for this year, as it cost $2000 last year); proposed jazz brunch

Discussion of events (Laura)
--Pub Nights
  --Vote on first pub night of the semester: this Friday, Jan. 23 or Friday, February 13?
    --Issues
      --SAGE occupies BU pub every 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays of the month; do we find another venue or work around their schedule?
      --Decision of vote: a pub night this Friday would be too soon (not enough time to contact all students); we need to either find a new venue for Friday, January 30, or reserve the BU Pub for Feb. 13
    --Other potential pub nights: Friday, Feb. 13; Friday, March 27; Friday, April 24 (all already reserved)
      --Should we then skip January pub night since we only have enough funding for three pub nights this semester?
      --GSO voted to approve pub nights in March and April
  --Typical costs at BU Pub: 4.75/drink at the pub; 150-200 drinks/night = approx. $750
      --We charge $1/ticket; becomes bar tip at the end of the night

--Jazz brunch (dormant GSO tradition revived by Eugene)
  --Includes brunch, bloody marys and mimosas at the BU Pub sometime this spring – potentially Saturday morning, April 4 (paperwork already in process)
  --Costs – might need to cut costs (advertise set price for musicians; issue drink tickets)
--Last year’s costs: $250 spent on drinks last year; $800 on food ($12.25/person – 60 people total); $900 on jazz trio musicians – band was too expensive
  --Trio should cost $200/person or $450-500/group (Basil)
--Ideas: rent a room on Beacon Street for brunch on Marathon Monday, April 6 (to watch marathon) – pay for room, not band; charge attendees ($3/person)
--Concerns: would this brunch wipeout cosponsored events in our budget?
  --Perhaps not: hosting only 3 pub nights would save us $360, and last year we only spent $1,000 (out of $1500) on cosponsored events
--Vote to book room and set budget cap: vote passed to reserve pub on April 4

--Winter Social
  --Suggested and to be paid for by the deans
  --Reservations in process for one of the following weekend evenings: Feb. 20, 21, 27 or 28
  --Potential venue: the Atrium at the top of Student Village, or similar space
  --Volunteers for planning committee?

--Other events proposed by MIT (wants to host joint events with BU) and BUGS; also still discussing hosting a Poster Session (need to discuss booking a room with the deans)

Discussion of Policy Issues (Abram)
--Health –Abram and Marc met with Dr. McBride and representatives from Aetna on Jan. 12
  --Deans/students are lobbying for either a free upgrade to health plus plan (lower co-pays and more expansive plan) OR free dental insurance (BU student dental plan)
  --Current status: health coverage is only given to students funded by BU; for students on non-BU grants, payment for health benefits comes out of grant and goes to BU (BU is making some money on that deal)
  --Issues discussed at meeting:
    -Consider waiving copay for referred ER visits
    -Need for increased mental health allowable visits
    -Students want a dental plan and the BU dental plan has low satisfaction
    -We need to increase awareness of the plan levels through the Associate Deans
    -Desire for more access to travel vaccines
    -Grad students would like the U to buy them the higher level plan
    -Families should be eligible for the higher level plan
    -Plan max, drug benefit are concerns, high enough?
    -Students would like more information about immunization clinics
--GSO wants/needs to make people more aware of their rights as beneficiaries of student health plans
--Continuing student fee ($2,000/tuition; health coverage not included) – volunteers for committee? Need to put together package to present to deans.

February meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 10, 5:30pm, CAS 200