

GSO Meeting Minutes: February 10, 2009 (5:30-7pm)
CAS 200

Welcome from Marc:

Last two meetings: Tuesday, March 24, and Monday, April 27 (both 5:30pm in CAS 200)

Besim on Finances:

Current budget total: \$6070 (minus today's pizza)

--After the pub night this Friday our budget will be \$5245

--\$1150 are remaining for cosponsored events, jazz brunch, summer BBQ, etc.

Laura on Events:

--Pub night this Friday, February 13

--Upcoming pub nights are in March (after Spring Break) and April

--Winter Social

--Deans have offered to underwrite a "Beating the Winter Blahs" party (needs to book soon, while it's still winter)

--2 Versions:

Version 1: Faculty Dining Room, March 20 (5:30-9pm) – already reserved

--Would like to include 2 drinks/person, appetizers and music (perhaps jazz)

--More of an after-work reception

Version 2: Hotel Commonwealth ballroom is free if we pay for catering, drinks and small service fee

-- \$20/person for 2 drinks; \$20 more for food

--More of a formal dance event

Concerns: How is this different from a pub night? Will we get a mixed crowd? Would this be limited to GRS students, or could we bring a guest? Would people pay a cover? Should guests pay cover? Could GSO help pay (rather than individuals)? Should we collapse this with the jazz brunch to save the money?

Regardless of version preferred, we should have a backup option when we go to the deans, as they'll probably counter with budget issues.

Voting: GSO voted for a semi-formal party on a Friday, beginning at 7pm, with jazz music (whether live or not)

--Jazz Brunch: going to wait to reserve the BU Pub for the jazz brunch until the Winter Social is booked and our budget has been determined accordingly.

--MIT mixer with BU (BUGS): Thursday, February 26 (8-11pm) at Tequila Rain

--drink tickets will be available; attempts will be made to mix students from different schools

--Harvard mixer with BU for Valentine's Day – not enough support shown for us to participate

--Potential mixer on March 14 (with Harvard and Tufts) for St. Patrick's Day – problem: this is the last Saturday of our Spring Break

--More likely: a Boston-area event in April (Harvard, Tufts, Suffolk, MIT, Northeastern, BU)

--Financial Planning Event: would a personal finance talk be of interest to GRS students?

--Deans would like us to organize professional development events

Stephanie on Travel Grants:

--Deadline for both semesters will be April 15

--Requires only one meeting with the dean (better logistically)

--New information form online for students

--Eligibility for spring applicants: 3 meetings must have been attended in fall 2008

Basil on Co-sponsored Events:

Two applications to be voted on:

--BU African Studies graduate student conference (17th annual), March 13-14: lots of participation, worldwide; interdisciplinary; sponsored by African Studies Center

--\$1750 total (60% for food) -- \$250 requested from GSO

--approx. 50 student presenters

--Asian Studies conference (2nd annual), this weekend: interdisciplinary conference on East Asia, organized by Political Science students and Center for Asian Studies (?); panels chaired by faculty members; undergraduate participation

--\$4495 (75% for food and alcohol) -- \$500 requested from the GSO

--25 student presenters plus 5 undergraduate presenters

--Both events were approved for funding (the Asian Studies conference passed by 80%)

--Potential changes to the co-sponsored events application process will be sent by Basil over email, to be discussed at the next GSO meeting

More information from Marc:

--Christopher Ricks's plagiarism seminar: will send around information by email

--Policy issues: MIT has dental insurance (\$130/semester) – would we be interested in something similar?

--GSO officers will ask the deans next week about a health insurance upgrade to the student plus plan