

Minutes - GSO Meeting 12/01/2009 - CAS 200, 5:30 PM

1. Introductions.
2. Election preview: overview of positions.
3. Treasurer's report: \$6090.36 in account – good financial shape. ~\$1200 in unallocated funds, *after* travel grants, meeting food, 3 planned Pub Nights and other things are accounted for.
4. NAGPS Membership
 - a. Follow-up to last meeting: GSO and SAGE agreed to jointly purchase a membership. FYI for anyone who wants to become involved (they're searching for an exact time for their annual meeting in Pittsburgh).
5. Travel Grants Update
 - a. Good turn-out: as of this meeting, 45-50 applications received.
 - b. Request for student committee members to review applications.
 - i. Current student committee has 3 people, 1-2 more needed, preferably in the sciences.
 - ii. Approval Meeting has been set to: Dec. 11.
 - iii. Faculty members are welcome to participate on the committee.
 - c. How strictly to enforce the Dec. 1 @ 5 PM deadline will be left to the discretion of the committee.
 - d. Review of eligibility criteria.
 - e. Note: Dean Shapiro requested that a strong preference be given for ABD/senior students/mature research projects. This guidance will be passed on to the committee.
 - i. General discussion of the merits, pros and cons and difficulty of creating a strict guidelines.
 - ii. This preference was given in conjunction with restoring Travel Grant funding to previous years' function.
6. Proposed Amendments (pre-Election)
 - a. Background review re: proposed amendments (adding a method of absentee voting).
 - b. General discussion of the need, efficacy and whether or not this should be changed.
 - c. Decision to table the proposed amendments for the next meeting (to allow time for elections).
 - d. Suggestion: add the sentence "At least 10 departments must be represented at the meeting or by absentee voting" to the proposed amendments.
 - e. Continuing debate. Suggestion: to only incorporate changes for email/absentee voting for constitutional changes, but not general elections.
 - f. New proposed change:
 - i. To By-laws: "If two-thirds or more of the GSO representatives present at a meeting, or casting an absentee vote prior to the meeting, vote in favor of creating or amending the Bylaws, the changes will be adopted. All

proposed changes should be circulated to the GSO voting body at least one week prior to a vote. At least 10 departments must participate in the vote.”

1. Approved by unanimous vote.
 - ii. Keep the proposed amendments to Article XI and IX.
 1. Approved by unanimous vote.
7. Social announcement: there’s a “graduate student night” with free food at BU Pub (no discounted drinks) from BUGS (SAGE is paying for food), 5-8 PM. Vodka and latkes at Hillel next door.
8. Proposed end-of-semester eggnog event.
 - a. Last day of classes, Friday, Dec. 11 @ 5:30 PM.
 - i. We’re still trying to get a price quote from the BU Pub (quote received from Catering already, if in a normal “event” context).
 - b. Alternate event idea – something with music
 - i. Sentiment to combine with Eggnog Event
 - c. Vote on funding
 - i. Abram gave a DJ price quote of \$150 for music for up to 3 hours
 - ii. \$623 is an average drink budget for Pub Night drink ticket subsidy
 - iii. Proposal: budget ceiling of no more than \$1000 total for food, drink & music
 1. Approved with more than $\frac{3}{4}$ majority.
9. Elections
 - a. General overview & reading from GSO Constitution.
 - b. Call for nominations.
 - c. Voting.
 - i. Final-results in a landslide:
 1. Co-sponsored events: Emily Ronald
 2. Secretary: Zophia Edwards
 3. Webmaster: Erica Zimmer
 4. Travel Grants: Damien Sulla-Menashe
 5. Social Events: Kate Iserman
 6. VP: Erick Rabin
 7. President: Marc McGuigan (with a potentially short term)