

## **Welcome**

### **Finances:**

\$15000 at the beginning of the year. \$12619 remaining for the rest of the year until June 30, 2011, not including the NAGPS meeting (\$115).

### **Elections:**

President – Eliza Wallace (Archaeology)

Vice President – Ren Cashman (Astronomy)

Treasurer –

Travel Grant Chair – Daniel

Social Chair – Elizabeth (College of Fine Arts)

Secretary – Zophia Edwards (Sociology)

Webmaster – Erica

Co-sponsored Events Chair – Basil (now – March), Bessum (from March – till)

### **NAGPS Conference:**

The conference was held at MIT. Attendance was \$115. Should we do this again in the future? We are already members for a year so we should use that. For future years, you need to be involved for membership to mean something. NAGPS is an organization that gathers student governance officials from across the country. The Northeast is the model region for the NAGPS as it was started here. NAGPS also lobbies in Washington for university graduate students. Congressman Capuano was in attendance. Many of the panels were useful e.g. you can learn about other school's health care plans, the NAGPS health plan includes dental and eye care, best practices, how to survey, etc. Regarding the continuing student fees, many schools charge full tuition so it seems that BU students are paying less. We should probably get a good list together concerning our issues and get advice on how to develop surveys. NAGPS also has parties.

### **Votes:**

1. First GSO Pub Night for the spring – APPROVED!
2. Boston Graduate Leadership Organization (BGLO) Ice Skating Event, Monday Feb 28<sup>th</sup>, Frog Pond, Boston Commons, and then a drinking event to socialize afterward. The cost is \$1150 to rent the rink, and they propose that schools chip in to cover the event costs. Their plan is to charge attendees \$2 and donate this to a local charity. The actual entrance fee (\$11.50) will be paid for by participating schools (hopefully). \$8 for skate rentals. Vote to reserve \$250 for this event - APPROVED!
3. Co-sponsored Events:
  - a. Graduate Research Conference in African Studies – graduate students from all across the country and internationally coming together to present their work. There are people who come from all different disciplines (sociology, history, geography, etc.) Conference is over two days. Request for funds for dinner following the keynote address – APPROVED \$200
  - b. Graduate Research Conference in International Relations – this is a conference to bring together students from political science, international

relations, or any discipline with an international focus etc – DID NOT APPROVE.

- c. Graduate Music Conference – May 7, 2011 will be the fourth of these conferences. This year they secured a prominent speaker from Princeton University. The budget is doubled because the speaker is not local. This conference is free to all who want to attend – APPROVED \$300

Things we consider - Expected attendance, registration fees, and where the money is going.

**Things for the new board to consider:**

We need a new system of awarding travel grants that ensures that applicants are not double-dipping by applying for GSO grants and grants from their own departments.

Use NAGPS contacts to help you conduct a comprehensive survey of the graduate student population. GSO could attend the regional and national meetings and keep in contact with the members. A BU student could also run for positions on the NAGPS Board.

Johnathan Deschare – [deschare@bu.edu](mailto:deschare@bu.edu)

Have you used BU to pay for medical services?

Are you aware of any institutional support to advise you about how to move through your bills etc.?

There is no guidance to students for the way that AETNA health student plan bills students. We need to negotiate that anesthesia should be considered as necessary and not optional. We also need to advocate for improving the quality of care. Please email Johnathan if you are facing or have experienced similar issues.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Travel Grant Deadline is midnight tonight!**

Symposium of History of Art & Architecture – March 5, 2011.

GSO Pub Night – Friday December 10, 5:30pm. There will be music and eggnog.