

GSO Minutes 02.15.11

Announcements:

BU Pub Night - February 25th at 5:30pm. Drink Tickets are \$1 each.

BGLO Ice Skating at Frog Pond. Entrance fee is \$2 and skate rental fee is \$8. This event is open to all Boston graduate students. Each student who attends can bring one outsider for free. Students must present student ID to gain entrance. Money raised will go to charity.

Regional NAGPS meeting is coming up at the end of April at Columbia University. Please volunteer if interested in attending. We still need to check on the registration fee and other costs associated with attendance.

Finances:

Money left in budget - \$9144.56 (part of this money is for the winter reception).

Goodbye to Winter Reception - We have reserved the Trustees Ballroom for Wednesday March 9th. A representative from the Dean's Office must be present at the event.

Voted YES to have the event on Wednesday March 9th – GSO APPROVED!

Some things to keep in mind as we plan the event: How many people will attend and how will we recoup the expenses? Should we spend money on more drinks and less food? Last year we increased the amount of food because of previous complaints that there wasn't enough food, but we can advertise differently this year. How many drink tickets to offer and at what price? Note that there needs to be a cap on drink tickets. Last year \$5 entrance fee and \$2 drink tickets.

Last year we put on this event with SAGE. Without SAGE this year, there is a risk of going over the Dean's funding of \$5000 for this event.

Voted YES on using a maximum of \$500 of our own funds for the winter party – GSO APPROVED!

New Committee Chairs:

This person organizes several pub nights, one major event (i.e. the winter event), the summer bbq etc. The only thing we are obligated to do is the winter party because we get funding from the Dean for that event.

Voted YES to appoint Johnathan Deschere as Social Chair.

There is a Health Care Committee in the constitution already but it has been inactive. Johnathan Deschere moved to revive the Health Care Committee and serve as its Chair. Some of his duties will involve publicizing the existence of a service that helps students

with health insurance claims, developing health care-related survey questions and general information services.

Voted YES to revive health care committee – GSO APPROVED!

Voted YES to appoint Johnathan Deschere as Health Care Committee Chair.

Co-sponsored Events:

African Studies – last semester we voted on preliminary funding of \$200 for their annual two-day conference and suggested that they revise the application and resubmit. They are now asking for \$335. The guest speaker is a Tunisia and North Africa Expert, and is coming from Northampton. The GSO grant is requested to cover the honorarium (\$250) and food (38% total cost). All the flyers will say that some money comes from GSO and the event is open to all GRS students.

Voted YES to approve an additional \$335 to the African Studies Center for this event – GSO APPROVED!

Please note that for future Co-Sponsored Events Applications, GSO must add to the application guidelines, that it prefers not to fund honorariums.

Meeting with Dr. McBride:

He was amenable to getting resources about mental health services out to grad students. He is happy to hear about any ideas from the GSO about how to do that. He gave no final word regarding coverage e.g. maternity, dental insurance etc. He wanted to see a survey of the graduate student body. He has suggestions for questions that he might like to ask. Grad students should also send their questions to the GSO.

We also need to look into the BU health services fee of \$105 that is being charged to some students' accounts.

Proposals for GSO Review:

1. The Political Science Department is asking the BU Board of Trustees to create a Socially Responsible Investment Committee to examine what BU is investing in and what the practices of those businesses are (how they affect the environment and humankind). They would like the GSO to add its names to the list of supporters. We will include a copy of this in an email that will get sent to everyone, and we can put this on the agenda for next meeting (Presenter was not at meeting to explain).

2. At the end of every semester, the TFs and Professors get course evaluations. However, there is no mechanism for graduate students to give their advisors feedback. It's good for students (raise issues if your advisor is not helpful) and good for the university (improve advising relationships). Dean Hughes has also expressed interest in this issue. Perhaps, we need a general survey e.g. by department, in order to respect

anonymity. Also, we can think about a communication platform to educate students about where they can go to get advice e.g. the Director of Graduate Advising etc.