

## GSO Meeting Minutes 11/14/11

Finances: \$9,850 left in the budget, apart from travel grants funding.

Health Insurance: BU is fast approaching a renegotiation of the AETNA insurance contract. Jonathan discussed the survey being put together for health care and health insurance. The survey is aimed at gathering information on graduate students' concerns about insurance options and other general concerns. If you have any suggestions, email Jonathan.

### Travel Grants:

Damien Sulla on the Travel Grants Committee is looking for volunteers to serve on the travel grant committee, which will have two meetings make decisions about the travel grant winners. Applications range between 20 and 30 each year. Decisions about winners are made during the first week in December. Applications are due December 4, 2011.

### Childcare:

Joe Hommon- BU has childcare options but there is no subsidy for graduate students. Other comparable universities have some kind of subsidy or scholarship program for childcare. The cost is approximately \$1100.00 per month. There is also a one-year waiting-list for parents. We need to show that having childcare would make graduate students more competitive, reduce attrition, and put us on par with peer institutions.

If anyone has interest, email GSO or hommon@bu.edu. Questions can be added to the survey but we are aiming for 30 or fewer questions.

### Elections:

Elections for officers and chair positions will be held at the December meeting.

Eliza Wallace, President: President position is open. Duties include setting and distributing the agenda, running meetings, attending meetings with the Dean and the Graduate office staff, and managing GSO email.

Ren Cashman, Vice president: primarily concerned with setting meetings; pizza/soda; agendas.

Veronica, Treasurer: keeping track of expenses, paying out for events, maintaining receipts, requisitioning funds, travel grant funding.

Zophia, Secretary: This position is open. It involves taking and disseminating minutes.

Social Chair position: Open. This office is responsible for planning social events for GSO, orchestrating, and spending budget on events.

Damien Sulla, Travel Grant Coordinator: puts together a committee each semester and carry out judging and selections of travel grant applications.

Co-sponsored events chair: organizes GSO coordination with departments or organizations for graduate student focused events, especially where open to all graduate students.

This week's minutes recorded by Justin Stoll (Sociology).