

# Boston University Graduate Student Organization

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## Minutes

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

5:30 – 6:30 CAS 200

### 1. Announcements

**Kristen Carey** began the meeting by introducing Matthew Danish who notified GSO representatives of a public meeting for the road plans for the upcoming construction project on Commonwealth Avenue. The long-awaited public meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in KCB 101.

Jenna from the BU Science Library has set up a date for the introductory session on data management, which was discussed at November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting last fall. The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 – 7 pm in CAS 200. They'll touch upon the basics – best practices, DMP tool, research data repositories, data storage, security and archiving and would be happy to address any specific data questions or issues that grad students may have. GSO representatives were encouraged to attend, as well as notify their departments of the event.

Any representative interested in legislative action was encouraged to contact Kristen about a potential subcommittee. The MIT Legislative Action Subcommittee is looking to collaborate on local and state matters. Their legislative platform can be found at [http://gsc.scripts.mit.edu/wptest/wp-content/uploads/LegislativePlatform\\_2015\\_passed.pdf](http://gsc.scripts.mit.edu/wptest/wp-content/uploads/LegislativePlatform_2015_passed.pdf) For more information, please see their homepage at <http://gsc.mit.edu/committees/arc/lasc>

Kristen and Vice President, **Catherine Scott**, will be meeting with Drake Douglas, the new Graduate School Associate replacing Laura Wipf. GSO representatives were encouraged to submit questions, comments, concerns, or recommendations for his office.

There will be two upcoming forums organized by the Advisory Committee on Social Responsible Investment. The first will be held on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4pm in the Trustee Center Ballroom, 1 Sibley Way, and will discuss “The Economic and Societal Impact of Climate Change.” The second will be held on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Trustee Center Ballroom, and will discuss “Assessing Climate Change and Its Impacts.” For more information and to RSVP, go to <http://www.bu.edu/trustees/boardoftrustees/committees/acsri/investment-issues/fossil-fuel/community-forums/>

## 2. Treasurer's Report

The organization's operating fund for the remainder of the academic year is **\$7,360.98**. The budget is higher than anticipated as the event held by BGLO last semester earned a profit, and the GSO was given an additional \$250.

Adam suggested the following in order to spend the remaining budget:

1. Fund all spring travel grant alternates (6) for \$3000.
2. Allocate money for next year's travel grants for \$2000
3. Fund additional pub nights or coffee events.

The floor was open for suggestions and questions:

- Could we increase the amount given to travel grants and if so, by how much?
  - If we were to make a decision like this, it would need to be a permanent one, and this year's surplus budget is an anomaly.
- The dates for the research travel grant are typically too early for members of my department. Do they need to happen this early, and is this causing the low application numbers?
  - It's important to let your departments know about the deadlines well in advance. But we could offer to fund over a longer period of time, perhaps up to a year. Adam will research this and report back to the representatives.

Kristen motioned to fund all spring alternatives for \$3000; motion passed.

Adam motioned to save \$2000 for next year's research travel grants in the travel account; motion passed.

Kristen motioned to fund a pub night for \$1000 for the month of April; motion passed.

## 3. Travel Grants

**Lindsay Alberts**, Travel Grants Committee Chair, notified representatives of the upcoming April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for travel grants. For details, please see [bu.edu/gso/travelgrants](http://bu.edu/gso/travelgrants). The grants are for conference travel, paper/presentations, and attending conferences related to research. Lindsay asked for volunteers for the travel grants committee to contact her after the meeting or via email.

## 4. BU Pub Accessibility

The Director of Disability Services and 504 Compliances, Lorraine Wolf, emailed the GSO regarding the use of the BU Pub for social events. It's not wheelchair accessible. Kristen has been in communication with the Drake Douglas, our Graduate School Associate, and Jeffrey Hughes, the Assistant Dean of the graduate school. They support our decision to continue to work with the BU Pub as it is centrally located, cheaper, and a university social center.

The following issues were discussed:

- Why doesn't the pub have to be wheelchair accessible, and why is this the responsibility of the GSO? Shouldn't this be a university issue?
- Are there students who have voiced concern, or is this only coming from the director of disability services?
  - Lorraine Wolf was not aware of any individual student this is currently affecting, but she may be in contact with students concerning this issue.
- The representatives agreed that more information needed to be provided, with alternatives proposed by the director. For now the GSO will continue hosting events at the BU Pub.