

Boston University Graduate Student Organization

Minutes

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

5:30 – 6:30 CAS 253, Gabel Museum of Archaeology

1. Announcements

Adam Iaizzi welcomed representatives, encouraging them to sign in. He added that the Google document which contains the agenda for meetings and co-sponsored event applications, is only accessible while signed into a BU account.

Aviva Cormier announced the treasurer's report, which contains \$6,179.46 in uncommitted funds. This amount is the remaining budget after money was allocated to the travel and research grants for the spring.

2. James Souza, Journal Initiative

James Souza from the Pardee School of Global Studies approached the GSO asking for funding to launch a student academic journal. Last year, Jocelyn, the editor-in-chief, and Jack, the co-managing editor, introduced this idea to the GSO. Currently, the journal has received and accepted submissions for the first issue, which they hope to launch online and in print. The mission of the journal is to allow students in early phases of their academic careers to send and publish their graduate writing. The journal is concerned with global affairs, but is not limited to international relations. They plan to publish the journal biannually, and they will consider publishing exclusively online after they have established a name for their publication.

For this first issue, there were a variety of submissions from Boston University students, as well as other institutes, from a variety of disciplines including education, archeology, religion, economics, art, and psychology, among others. They are hoping to publish physical copies so the journal does not get lost online. Their hope is to publish between 150 and 200 journals for between \$1,500 and \$2,000. They are requesting the GSO contribute \$700.

The following questions were posed by the GSO representatives:

- Currently, you are requesting funding for your first issue. Would you come back to us to request money for future issues?
 - Possibly, depending on other departmental interest. Our primary interest is getting the first issue in print. If we cannot find ways to fund additional issues, we can resort to digital, but it is imperative to get the first issue out physically.
- Are you charging authors to publish?

- Since we don't have an established name at the moment, we are not currently charging authors to publish, but we may in the future.
- What is the review process?
 - It is a blind review, which is read by an editorial board. The submissions are discussed and selected for review. Each accepted author is assigned an editor, who works directly with the author for three weeks of editing. There is a faculty review and one final edit prior to publication.
- Is the editorial board entirely comprised of Pardee students?
 - Currently, yes. However, the Pardee School includes students from other departments besides International Relations.
- Have there been any trends in the submissions thus far?
 - We did not have a theme for this first issue, so the submissions were very interdisciplinary.
- Are you hoping to maintain the interdisciplinary nature of the journal, or will you focus the journal towards more specific disciplines as the name grows?
 - In development, we hope to always maintain interdisciplinary publication to be open to more graduate students. Suggestions for themes will focus on particular issues that span across disciplines.
- When do you hope to begin publishing the journal biannually?
 - Ideally, immediately. We are waiting to figure out how this first issue performs, but if everything goes well, we will work to get a CFP out before the end of the spring semester.
- How do you plan to distribute the physical journal?
 - We have a social media presence on Facebook and Twitter. The issue will also be distributed to departments across BU and universities in the area, and we are contacting libraries in the Boston area to see if they'd be interested in housing a copy.
- How many articles are in the final issue?
 - This year, we are publishing eleven of the thirty submissions.
- Are you looking to get an ISN in order to get indexed?
 - We are looking into that, but we haven't gotten to this quite yet.

The GSO continued to discuss this matter. Adam commented that this is outside the normal funding model, but that does not mean the GSO cannot vote to fund it. He, however, felt uncomfortable unless there was some sort of written proposal, to include who has been contacted, rejected, or agreed to fund the project, as well as many of the details from the questions asked by the GSO representatives. **Sara Belkin** agreed to work on a form for them to submit, which the GSO will return to at the next meeting.

3. Co-Sponsored Events

There were three co-sponsored event applications to consider this meeting:

- 1) Romance Studies Graduate Student Association Conference

Amir Effat and Lillie Webb from the Romance Studies department requested \$700 for catering, flyer printing, and security detail for this event. This is a new event, which will be held on April 22nd and 23rd, but they hope to make this conference an annual event.

The theme is “remembering”, which includes many interdisciplinary themes, such as political revolution, the body, claiming space in society, trauma, and the grotesque. As of now, they have funding from the African studies and Women’s Gender and Sexuality studies departments, and are in the process of obtaining funding for their own department. They have received submissions from Columbia, Harvard, and other outside universities, but have not accepted any yet, as the deadline for submissions is March 1st. They plan to advertise on the BU Event calendar, online, on social media, as well as posters across campus. They plan to publish the best papers on the website after the conference.

2) African Studies Graduate Research Conference

Dima Hurlbut from the History department requested \$1,000 for the 23rd annual African Studies Graduate Research Conference on March 27th for the keynote dinner. This interdisciplinary conference draws students and scholars from all over the world. This year, there are presenters from history, political science, public health and medicine, among other disciplines.

The African Studies program cannot fund the entirety of the budget. The speakers will pay \$25 to fund some of the budget, but the African Studies conference committee needs \$1,000 for the keynote dinner, which is the most attended part of the conference. The event will host approximately 80 people at \$25 a plate. If the committee does not receive the GSO funding, they will not be able to host the dinner.

3) Eating Archeology

Ilaria Patania from the Archeology department requested \$900 for the “Eating Archeology” event, a cooking competition hosted by the students from the culinary arts, gastronomy, and archeology departments. The money will go towards providing the ingredients for the final event, instead of charging graduate students an admission fee to attend. The event date is to be determined, but will occur in early May.

Teams of students from different disciplines will research an ancient recipe and work to recreate it for the event. Each team will meet five times, including one meeting with a potter and ancient technology specialist in order to reproduce the ancient pottery that may have been used. The teams will set up the table as if it were a museum or a reenactment. The teams will prepare bite-sized samples of the recipes, and attending graduate students will vote for the winner. They hope this event will not only unite some disparate disciplines, but also make strides towards making graduate student events more visible and accessible to the public.

They have received a \$1,000 grant from the Archeology Institute of America and each of the involved departments. The Archeology Institute has also expressed an interest in making this an annual national event if this first one goes well. They also hope to bring in possible sponsors.

The GSO representatives deliberated over each of the co-sponsored event applications. Adam informed the representatives that the GSO typically does not see three co-sponsored events in the spring, and these events are important to the graduate student community. One representative expressed concerns about funding a dinner that was so expensive for the African Studies Conference, and asked if the GSO had funded this event in the past. The GSO has funded this event for several years, including last year, in which they requested and were given the same amount of money for the same event.

Adam motioned to fund the entirety of all three co-sponsored event applications. The motion passed.

4. Survey Report

Darcy Gordon and the survey committee sent out the first survey of the semester to the graduate student body. Approximately 125 people responded. Some of the issues addressed were cost of living, dental insurance, family leave, and parenting support. Most students want to see more professional development events and activities. Darcy suggested that in the future, a professional development committee be formed. She will forward this summary, including the raw data and break down of the survey, to GSO representatives.

5. Pub Night

The next pub night will take place on Thursday, February 25th from 6 – 9 pm. There will be another reminder email sent Wednesday evening. Darcy noted that in the survey, many students commented that the pub nights were poorly advertised, and urged GSO representatives to email their departments when there are pub nights in the future.