

**GSO Meeting Minutes**  
**17:30, Tuesday October 11, 2016**  
**Gabel Museum**

- Treasurer's report
  - BU's sheets: \$35,345
    - \$20,000 is travel grants
  - After already committed: \$11,239
- GPLC – Graduate Professional Leadership Council meeting
  - Thursday at 6 pm in CAS 132
  - This group is for issues that affect all graduate students at BU (including GRS, law, business, medical, etc.)
- Climate Action Plan Committee – formed on recommendation from Advisory Committee for Socially Responsible Investing
  - Want a graduate student representative
  - Requirements: We don't know yet
  - What was the commitment like for the ACSRI?
    - 2-3 meetings a semester
    - Not a huge burden
    - The CAP committee might get into the weeds more
  - Called for volunteers/nominations:
    - Ben Thompson volunteered (member of Socially Responsible Investing Committee)
    - **Vote:** Ben Thompson nominated by GSO to join this committee
- Social Events
  - Yoga – Social chair is coordinating a non-pub ongoing social
    - They will meet weekly for 8-10 weeks in spring semester
    - Giovanna – is looking into a space and instructor and what it would cost
    - Is it free? Will we subsidize it?
    - Space
      - Since we're not a student activities office recognized organization, we can't reserve rooms
      - Email Darcy with suggestions of rooms from departments that you can make a reservation in
      - We could look into the gym where there are already mats
      - GWISE – we could look at their system for scheduling rooms
        - For GWISE yoga, people do bring their own mats
  - Suggest a social event to Darcy if you have one you're interested in
- Travel Grants
  - We have \$15,000 more this year
  - We ran the plan by the dean – his goal is to provide as many people as possible the opportunity to travel
  - Reduce the lead time required to apply
  - Overall they should be more inclusive

- Plan:
  - Offer 40x \$500 grants
    - 6 are research travel grants
    - 34 conference travel grants
  - Application deadlines will be in the late fall, late spring, and late summer
    - No attendance requirement over the summer
  - The deadline will be in mid November before Thanksgiving
- We need an actual committee – group 3-4 people who will always work on it
  - They will come up with new standards and processes
- Deans Philosophy: GRS graduates 200 Ph.D.s a year, so at least 200 people should go to a conference a year, so our funding for these grants could increase even further
- Travel Grant Questions
  - Will research travel increase ever?
    - Probably not because it is viewed as less important. Everyone should travel to present at a conference
    - \$500 goes further for the conference than for research
    - We could consider changing our rules after we collect numbers for a few years
  - If an applicant has funding, will they be less likely to get the grant?
    - No, this is meant to supplement other funding, not providing the whole amount necessary
    - The dean things there are a lot of sources for external funding. There are not, but this is a good start
  - Can someone on the committee apply to the grant?
    - No, but they can not participate one semester
  - Is when you apply still dictated by when you are going to the conference?
    - You have to get the grant first and then go to the conference
    - The grant is good for 1 year from when you get it
  - Do you have to pay first and then get reimbursed?
    - Yes, this is a university policy
  - Who is interested in serving on the committee?
    - Talk to Getty, email him, or email [gso@bu.edu](mailto:gso@bu.edu)
  - What will the time commitment be like?
    - Time commitment will be different, but it used to be 2-3 days of reading all of the grants
- **Vote: on travel grant changes passed.**
- Issue: Parking lots for commuters were moved because of construction and are currently very far away
  - They have to park at Agganis, which is smaller and farther
- Illaria – salary dispute
  - 8<sup>th</sup> year in Archeology
  - When she reached 8 years, they offered her a writing instructor position, but she had to be a part-time instructor and only receive \$6200

- Her professors appealed and she wrote a letter, but the dean was rude and didn't understand, though he did give her an extra \$2000
  - Rules for all graduate students still apply: she can't work more than 20 hours a week and can't work outside the university, which makes it incredibly difficult
- Wants to tell her story because it has been the rules for a long time, it's not fair, and people should speak up. Minimum wage is \$13, but she makes \$8 and other graduate students make \$9
- Questions
  - Spoke to someone saying the paradigm is shifting towards no longer providing funding after the 7<sup>th</sup> year
    - This has been the case for a long time
  - Story: Only has half a semester in her 8<sup>th</sup> year before she will be forced to graduate
  - Lots of people drop out
  - Different degrees take different amounts of time – archeology takes a long time