

GSO Meeting
17:30
December 12th 2016
Gabel Museum
253 Stone Science Building

Treasurers Report

1. Balance on BU's sheet: 33,118.87
2. Uncommitted: 8,556.77

Three-Minute Thesis Update

- Deadline for submission: January 3rd
 - First round: March 23rd
 - Final round: about one week later
- Prizes: \$500 for first place, \$300 for second, \$100 for peoples choice
- They also want to hold a workshop for the 3 min thesis: elevator pitches for a diverse audience (non-specialist)
 - They are not requesting any money yet, but they may in the future for food for the workshop (professional development)
- Printed posters; Representatives should take a few to place in their respective departments
 - Adam will send this to all the representatives
- **VOTE:**
 - **Ajit motions to create a Three-Minute Thesis Organizing Committee, Adam seconds**
 - **Passes**
 - **Adam motions to make Ajit and Andrew co-chairs**
 - **Passes.**
- Ajit would like to have many participants on the committee

Alternative Academic Career Panel

- Committee: Andrew, Henry and Jessica
- Panelists (3) are professionals with PhDs who work outside of Academia
- Thursday, February 2nd; lunch panel
- Venue options: TBD
- Guests should have to RSVP
- Get pizza or lunchboxes from Catering on the Charles.

Science Informed Leadership Statement

- UC Davis sent out a consensus statement to encourage the new administration to use the statement as a guide
 - Adam says it is tame and not accusatory
 - <http://www.scileadership.com/consensus.html>
 - Full statement appended to end of the minutes
 - You can get involved here: <http://www.scileadership.com>

- They are asking GSOs around the country to sign
- **VOTE:**
 - **Adam motions to sign it, Sara seconds**
 - **Passes**

Social Update

- Friday was Pub Night/MFA night
- High turn out at the pub (sold out tickets)
- Provided rides for 5 different groups to MFA and pizza on the line
- Last time allotted money for the coffeehouse: Begins December 13th: It will be between 2 and 4 pm, limit one beverage (5 dollars)
- GRS is sending out an email to grad students tomorrow morning; must bring a letter
 - An email will be send each day it is happening
 - We will try to reserve the long table in the back
- Elections
 - Positions begin in January 2017 and run through January 2018
 - 4 elected positions
 - President
 - Tasks: Schedule 5 meetings at the beginning of the semester, send emails, reserve rooms, check GSO email account, maintain website
 - Interested: Getty
 - Treasurer
 - Tasks: Keep track of the balance and report it (you email Casey before the GSO meeting and she sends the numbers, then you correlate it to the spreadsheet), process expense reports (fill out the form and send it to Casey)
 - Interested: Jessica, Shravan
 - Vice President – Order the pizza and soda
 - Interested: Jessica
 - Secretary – Take minutes at meetings and make them pretty
 - Interested: Sarabeth
 - 2 chair ships
 - Social Committee Chair – Organize events, know the contact people, creativity is helpful, you have to show up at the events
 - Interested: Shravan
 - Co-sponsored Event Committee Chair – There is a form on the website for students to fill out if they want to request money for an event, the president sends it, you make sure everything is entered, then facilitate the conversation at the meeting
 - Interested: Adam
- **Voting**
 - President:
 - Getty – 5th year Ph.D. student in philosophy, rep for department for 3 years, on travel grant committee for 2 years (headed it for a year)

- **VOTE: Motion to elect Getty – Passed**
- Treasurer:
 - Shravan – Comp science, first year, masters – President of his debating club, manage day to day activities
 - Jessica – African American studies, Ph.D., first year – As an educator, fundraised for black history month, organized student rallies, worked with vendors, in undergrad was an office assistant and directly managed student organizations’ accounts, she is interested in having the experience of working the nitty gritty of money – **Withdrew**
 - **VOTE: Motion to elect Shravan – Passed**
- Vice President:
 - Jessica – African American studies, Ph.D., first year – As an educator, fundraised for black history month, organized student rallies, worked with vendors, in undergrad was an office assistant and directly managed student organizations’ accounts
 - **VOTE: Motion to elect Jessica – Passed**
- Secretary
 - Sarabeth – Internal communications chair for SJSF, Communications Director for GWISE
 - **VOTE: Motion to elect Sarabeth – Passed**
- Social Chair
 - Shravan
 - **VOTE: Motion to appoint Shravan – Passed**
- Co-sponsored Events Committee Chair
 - Sarabeth
 - **VOTE: Motion to appoint Sarabeth – Passed**

Other Issues

- Linked-In
 - Should we start this? – Adam will look into it
- GWISE – should we have a formal liaison?
 - We could send meeting notes to each other
 - In person might be better, but we would have to ask them
 - Ask GWISE if they will have one person at their meetings or if a member of GWISE could come to GSO meetings
- Constitution – Should we re-write it? We should make a constitutional reform committee
 - Reactivate the committee to make the constitution reflect how we operate
 - It was made in 1997
- **VOTE:**
 - **Motion to reinstate Committee**
 - **Passed**
 - **Members:** Adam, Aviva, Jessica

Consensus Statement on Science-Informed Leadership
Source: <http://www.scileadership.com/consensus.html>

Full text:

The Honorable FULL NAME

ADDRESS

Dear Senator LAST NAME,

We, the graduate student associations from the the undersigned universities, are writing to express our concern about the role of science in the incoming presidential administration. Science-informed leadership in federal departments and agencies requires appointees that support and promote scientific integrity. Scientific integrity includes both the application of current, peer-reviewed research that is broadly accepted by the scientific community to policy decisions and a process of transparent decision-making and independence for federally-employed scientists to pursue research and communicate findings without political interference. We request that the incoming presidential administration and Congress take the following into account when appointing leaders in federal agencies and departments:

1. Appointees should demonstrate a track record of science-informed decision-making that is consistent with the best available scientific evidence.
2. Appointees should not have conflicts-of-interest (financial or political) with industries or organizations that actively seek to suppress or obfuscate science or scientific opinion.
3. Appointees should express a commitment to engaging the scientific community in relevant policy decisions.

We recognize the important role that science plays in society by driving innovation, illuminating problems, and providing evidence-based solutions that help safeguard public health and environmental quality. Science-informed leadership is crucial to making effective policy that addresses our current and future challenges. It is essential that presidential appointees to cabinet-level positions and federal agencies, including the Department of Interior, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Education, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, are leaders that promote the inclusion of science in policymaking.

We view this transition period as an opportunity for the federal government and the incoming presidential administration to demonstrate their commitment to evidence-based policy and science-informed leadership that will both help us tackle future challenges and discover tomorrow's opportunities.

Signed: