

# Boston University Graduate Student Organization

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## Minutes

Thursday, October 22, 2015

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

### 1. Announcements

**Kristen Carey** began the meeting by welcoming all GSO representatives and encouraging attending representatives to sign in.

Treasurer, **Adam Iaizzi**, reported the current remaining budget for the GSO. As of today, there is \$12,152.58 in uncommitted funds for the remainder of the year.

### 2. Pub Night

The first pub night of the fall semester will be held on October 26<sup>th</sup> between 6:30 and 9:00 at the BU Pub. The pub will host trivia for attending graduate students, providing the first two rounds of drinks for each table. The teams will be randomly selected by assigning tables to individuals upon entry to encourage graduate students to mingle between departments. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team.

Representatives were asked to send an email to their departments alerting them of this event.

### 3. Travel Grant Committee

The travel grant committee chair is out of the country, so the first committee meeting will meet at the end of November when she returns. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please email [gso@bu.edu](mailto:gso@bu.edu).

As this is the first year with the rolling budget, Kristen suggested we be more conservative with the travel grant awards, in terms of awards given and amounts awarded, until we know how much money we'll have for the remainder of the year. If there is a budget surplus, the GSO will still have the ability to fund the fall grant alternates.

### 4. Digital Humanities

The coordinators of the Digital Humanities Symposium are hosting more events and workshops in the near future due to their first successful event a few weeks ago. They have organized a few

workshops for the spring semester and a digital humanities fair for students from Boston-area universities. If you, or members of your department, are interested in the digital humanities, email Kristen for up-to-date events.

## 5. Co-Sponsoring Graduate Student Events

As mentioned in the previous meetings this semester, the GSO has considered sponsoring or co-sponsoring academic or social events for graduate students to supplement the current pub nights. Currently, Kristen is in contact with a woman interested in giving workshops on financial planning for graduate students. Each workshop consists of an hour-long talk with a half hour question and answer session. The cost is \$500 for 1 – 50 students, \$1000 for 50 – 100 students, \$1500 for 100 – 200 students, and \$2000 for 200+ students.

One representative asked if this is a solicitation, and if this is something the student body could figure out on their own. The general consensus seemed to be that many students would be able to utilize her workshops. One student suggested that something like this would be better suited for an orientation or planned for the beginning of the year and new students.

Kristen mentioned that there are other ways to spend the money, but we need more ideas. A few ideas were suggested, including BBQs, seminars, professional development workshops, journal articles, mental health days, and events to get to know the city (museums, landmarks). The general consensus was that the events the GSO sponsors should be applicable to both the sciences and humanities, or that events are carefully balanced.

Vice-president, **Sara Belkin**, volunteered to spearhead the idea of a mental health day and will update the GSO representatives at the next meeting.

## 6. Tom Holstein – Research and Data Management

Tom Holstein from the Research and Data Management department at the Mugar library approached the GSO for graduate student collaboration with bi-weekly study groups for coding and documenting computer software. These study groups are designed based on graduate student need and by request for people looking to learn more with specific technology. It serves as an informal network for graduate students.

The groups are made to be as wide-reaching as possible, but if there is a program that your department could benefit from learning, email Tom at [tah@bu.edu](mailto:tah@bu.edu) at least two weeks in advance.

## 7. Three-Minute Thesis Project

Kristen was approached from the GRS about co-sponsoring a Boston University hosted Three Minute Thesis Project. This is an international competition in which contestants present their entire thesis or dissertation in three minutes using one static PowerPoint slide. The GRS would

award prizes to the winners. The GSO is being asked to co-sponsor the event not financially, but by advertising, providing participants and an audience for the event. The GSO representatives would like to know how many people they would be expected to provide if we co-sponsored before we commit to this event.