

GSO Meeting Notes 9/13/17

- **Introduction**
 - What does GSO do?
 - Travel grants
 - Co-sponsored events
 - Social events
 - Professional events
 - Advocacy committee
 - We will be making some big picture changes with the GSO this year
- **Elections**
 - At the end of the calendar year we will have elections and Getty will be stepping down as president
- **Treasurer's report**
 - \$44,463
 - \$31,481
 - Actual
 - \$2589.45 – travel grants
 - ~\$600 – Professional Development
 - A lot of our money has been allocated to the travel grants
- **Committees**
 - **Travel grants**
 - Deadlines: December, April, and August 1st
 - MA and first years are not eligible
 - GRS has decided this
 - They want older Ph.D. students to have the opportunity to attend conferences
 - Previously, if you had already received a travel grant, you couldn't receive another one
 - Now, the cycle starts August 1st, so if you win one, you are not eligible until the next cycle, but can then reapply
 - There weren't a lot of applications over the summer (40% of people received one)
 - We want more applications so that we can get more money
 - Information about the grants will be sent out to everyone through Casey next time, not just to the representatives to forward to their departments
 - **Social events** – Jacob (social chair)
 - We will try to get people off campus more
 - The schedule will be decided soon
 - Potential ideas
 - Gardener museum
 - Red sox game (discount tickets)
 - Breweries
 - Jacob would love to get new ideas! – email him or add him on Facebook

- Feedback from representatives:
 - It would be better to do them sooner because the semester gets busy
 - We will try to spread them out, but start them early
 - Email Jacob if the dates are bad for a lot of people
 - Will they be on the weekend?
 - Yes, we want to have one on the weekend
 - There was excitement about this
 - The MFA and Gardiner museums are always free for BU students
 - Project the super bowl or movie nights (at an apartment, in a classroom, outside, etc.)
- **Professional Development Committee**
 - We are trying to be more efficient this year
 - It's hard to plan things for all disciplines
 - New organization
 - We want to host some for specific disciplines
 - Go by areas: humanities, natural sciences, social sciences
 - We want people to be more engaged and make it your own
 - Give a space to create opportunities for people in your disciplines
 - Feedback
 - Ellie Ash – Religious studies
 - Interested, but needs help organizationally
 - Pardees – English Department
 - Good idea
 - English graduate students association just started this year
 - They do colloquia on professionalization
 - We could also advertise events from different departments
 - This could promote interdisciplinary work
 - There are many departments that don't have professional development
 - Jacob – Pardee has their own system, reps probably have to discuss this with their departments
 - It might not be necessary?
 - BGSA – Bio Grad Student Association
 - Small budget, so they would be interested in working with GSO
 - E+E – One person is trying to do professional development work and could use help
 - We could ask people from the department too to bring them in
 - Psychology – they also do events, this could incentivize departments to open their events up on a bigger scale
 - We could have an application system
 - The goal is one event per area per semester
 - We could probably get more money for this if we do well and show that there is a need for it

- Send any ideas to Getty and bring it back to your departments for feedback/interest
- **Advocacy Committee** – we need to work on this more and come up with a better idea of how to do this
 - This is to help with addressing issues facing graduate students
 - We sent out a survey a few years ago to ask what issues people are facing
 - This committee would be the go between with different organizations and make sure we're all working together
 - We will address this later
- **Graduate School Governance Committees**
 - Committees – on these, students get equal voting power as the faculty and can impact GRS policy
 - Graduate academic affairs committee – reviews grad courses
 - Academic policy committee
 - Curriculum based committees – humanities, social sciences, natural sciences
 - See if we can find out who is on these committees!
 - We want to get our voice on them and be aware of what is happening
 - This is an opportunity to have an impact
- **Diversity and Inclusion Plan**
 - Talking about curriculum is a part of this
 - There was a task force looking at this to determine how inclusive we are
 - They made a committee to determine how we can fix it
 - There is an active push to change this, so we should get involved if possible
 - We will try to get Daniel Kleinman to come back and tell us what the status of this committee is
 - He told us to bother him about this
 - Tell us if there are diversity issues
- **Graduate Student Day**
 - The Provost is trying to revive a poster day to make it a graduate student day
 - It would have food, activities, engage people across disciplines, and opportunities to share our research
 - Get feedback about how to be professionals
 - It will be in the spring
 - Tell us if you have ideas
- **Urban Inequalities Workshop**
 - This is happening this semester, there are talks about urban inequality
 - The person who sent the information about it isn't here today
 - Getty will send an email about it
- **Open**
 - For travel grants is there a department bias for departments that are underfunded?
 - No
 - We have data on this, but nothing has been implemented

- E+E rep asked because there was a very low funding rate
 - So it is hard to ask people to apply again
 - There is one event each year that is really important
- Response:
 - If you're not presenting, you should apply under research, less people apply for research
 - For research the percentage is closer to 50%, for conferences the success rate is closer to 30-40%
 - Only 15 people will get it each round
- Is there a preference for people presenting?
 - Yes