GSO Meeting Notes
Tuesday, March 19th, 5 pm, CAS 226

Announcements from Diane
- Put up flyers for 3MT and UGSO in your departments!
- Survey sheets - please fill out!
  - Email Blast Survey
  - Graduate Student Groups
  - Representative Information
  - Department Info
  - TF Survey

Introductions, News
- Conference on weekend of April 12th (AMNESF), find information on Facebook, volunteer opportunities

Ombuds Office Presentation - Office at 930 Commonwealth Ave

Treasurer’s Report
- Starting Balance: $43,339.68
- Allocated Funds: $20,753.37 → Travel Grants (where the recipient has been informed but hasn’t necessarily taken the trip yet)
- Coffee Hour Budget $1300
- End of Year Party $1000
- Meetings $800
- E-Board $150
- Everything else: Uncommitted Funds: $3,250.52
  - $1000 co-sponsorship, bring this to $2250.52
  - Fiscal year ends June

No CIRCLE Presentation

Co-Sponsored Event (Sarah)
- Romance Studies Graduate Student Conference, “Technology and Literature”
- April 27th, 2019
- Requesting $386.50
- Taking a vote - UNANIMOUS - passes!

Coffee Hour Dates:
Students of Color, International Students, LGBTQIA+
  ● March 28th - CAS 132, 9 am-noon
  ● April 2 - BRB 113
  ● April 4 - BRB 113

GSO Parent’s Group
  ● Is there interest? Yes (Biology, History, Anthropology, Chemistry)

Speed-Networking
  ● Requested by someone from Pardee
  ● Hosting in mid-April
  ● For everyone at BU
  ● Food, drinks, talking to other grads
  ● Volunteers?

Proxy System
  ● Some departments are downsizing - small programs that stop taking new grad students; this poses questions about eligibility for travel grants
  ● Revamp proxy system to make it more accessible
  ● Current system: find someone to take your place at a meeting, but can still be tricky
  ● Instead, identify a permanent designated proxy:
    ○ Email the proxy before the meeting; “I read through the agenda, I’m participating, this is how I would vote, etc”
  ● What if everyone stops coming?
    ○ Put a limit of number of times on proxy
  ● Try it, see if it becomes a serious problem?
  ● What if we consider the dimension of the departments?
    ○ Small departments, okay, makes sense
  ● Vice president has no duties - make Paul our Proxy
  ● Voting to “must send in opinions/votes by 4 pm on the day of the meeting” - PASSES
  ● Would count for an attendance
  ● Will think through limits as things unfurl

Center for Teaching and Learning
  ● Graduate teaching workshops
    ○ Having difficult conversations, promoting discussion, writing a lesson plan
  ● Pilot program called Graduate Teaching Consultants
    ○ Grads who apply, participate in all facets of the CTL programming for graduate students; go to workshops, co-lead, events, be a resource
○ Useful for people both in/out of academia
○ Not just about leading a discussion section
○ Opening applications for next year - closes mid-April, will do interviews
○ Low time commitment, get paid for 5 hours a week at $14.50
  ● Pass it along to departments! Hiring 3 people

Improving the Graduate Student Experience
  ● How do we get requests heard & dealt with?
  ● BU-wide group to have a little more power
  ● Using the GSO to coordinate things
  ● TF survey - does this information exist anywhere?
    ○ Change question about contract → course guidelines, expectations instead

Mass Grad Federation
  ● State House visit
  ● 2-3 hours commitment
  ● Help with document on renewable energy policy - reach out to Diane if you want to help