

Boston University
Graduate and Professional Leadership Council

Minutes

Thursday, April 17, 2014
5:30PM - L-311 72 E. Concord Street

1. ATTENDANCE

School (# attendees)	Voting representatives
Communications (0)	
Fine Arts (0)	Sarah Bellott (sdinsmore@bu.edu)
Engineering (2; 0 voting)	Lauren Mangano (board member, non-voting) Tony Gao (board member, non-voting)
Arts and Sciences (7)	Matthew Danish (md@bu.edu) Tommy McCauley (tmccaule@bu.edu) Leila Haery (board member, non-voting) Kira Sullivan-Wiley (board member, non-voting)
Management (1)	Aaron Lemmon (alemmon@bu.edu) Tung Vuong (tgvuong@bu.edu)
Law (1)	Monisha Chakravarthy (mochakra@bu.edu)
Medical (7)	Lou Yu (louis.bhy@gmail.com) Sami Hiemer (shiemer@bu.edu)
Metropolitan (1)	Victor Jaworski (gtg169g@bu.edu)
Public Health (3; 1 voting)	Chase Crossno (ccrossno@bu.edu)
Education (1)	Tom Hunt (tomh@bu.edu)
Dental Medicine (4)	Lyle Smith (lsmith@bu.edu) Mary McClintock (maryfmcc@bu.edu) Kate Goodmon (board member, non-voting)
Sargent (0)	Liem Huynh (liemh@bu.edu) Jessica Pate (jpate@bu.edu)
Theology (1)	Joseph Kyser (jkyser@bu.edu)

2. OPENING

Leila Haery opened the meeting at 5:45

- Two representatives from each school will be *Voting Representatives*, these are marked on the school attendance sheets.
- All attendees were encouraged to participate and give input.

3. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Ratification of the Constitution

- a. A proposed change was submitted prior the meeting (see Appendix I).
- b. *Result: Amended Constitution PASSES.*

2. Guaranteed Funding model

- a. **Tommy McCauley** presented on the issue, citing that current 1st year students get paid more than senior students in some departments. Information from President Brown's office: new GRS students get minimum \$30,000 per year and each department must accept 4 new PhD students annually. In some cases, this means taking funds from old students and giving it to new.
- b. A motion was made and the vote was passed to form a committee to further research this issue. **Tommy McCauley** was elected as Chair of the committee.
- c. *Result: Guaranteed Funding model becomes Committee Item, Chair: Tommy McCauley.*

3. Saturday BU Shuttle

- a. **Lyle Smith** proposed the idea of having BU shuttle (BUS) service on weekends to connect the two campuses. Examples of individuals that would benefit from this service include dental students and patients attending the Saturday dental clinics, and BU students with research laboratories on the medical campus.
- b. A prior working group at medical campus had previously brought this issue to the attention of the University administration, and surveys have shown that a majority of medical students report that they would benefit from weekend BUS service. Cost is a major obstacle in offering Saturday BUS service.
- c. It was suggested to reach out to undergraduates (possibly UROP) for input on this issue
- d. A motion was made and the vote was passed to form a committee to further research this issue. **Azeez Swarup** is elected as Chair of the committee.
- e. *Result: Saturday BU Shuttle becomes Committee Item, Chair: Azeez Swarup.*

4. Student housing at the medical campus

- a. **Lyle Smith** presented on the issue, citing that despite the large student population, there are very few housing opportunities offered by BU at the medical campus.
- b. It is suggested that a better website for graduate student housing would also be beneficial for incoming students new to the Boston area. A suggestion was made to connect the housing and BUS issues when discussing these issues with the BU administration.
- c. A motion was made and the vote passed to defer this issue to a future meeting.
- d. *Result: Graduate Medical Campus Housing item is deferred.*

5. Student Health Services at the Medical Campus

- a. **Lyle Smith** presented on the issue, citing a need for Student Health Services at the medical campus. Currently the only services available are occasional vaccine clinics.
- b. It was also suggested that mental health services be made available on the medical campus.
- c. A motion was made and a vote passed to form a committee on this issue. **Kate Goodmon** was elected as chair.
- d. *Result: Student Health Services at Medical Campus becomes Committee Item; Chair: Kate Goodmon.*

6. Reconstruction of Commonwealth Ave

- a. **Matthew Danish** presented on the ongoing project to reconstruct Commonwealth Avenue. He cited that phase 1 was 5-6 years ago (Kenmore Square to the BU Bridge). There has been talk that next phase is moving forward, but there had been little to no discussion about it in the community for the past few years. Phase 2A of this project will include the area from just past the BU bridge to near Packard's Corner and is supposed to begin this summer. In particular, Matthew reported a lack of consideration for improving the existing bicycle infrastructure and reducing the number of MBTA stops on Commonwealth Avenue (the B-line of the Green Line). Overall, Matthew introduced the idea of transitioning the area into a pedestrian-friendly thoroughfare.
- b. Problems with the current bicycle lane on Commonwealth Avenue are related to the fact that the bicycle lane is in the "door zone," where collisions between cyclists and motorists are highly likely. Safety is further compromised by motorist obstruction in the bike lane (deliveries, cars pulling over, cars parking, drop-offs, pick-ups), which forces motorists to enter into traffic.
- c. A motion is made and a vote passed to form a committee on this issue. **Matthew Danish** is elected as chair.
- d. *Result: Reconstruction of Commonwealth Avenue becomes Committee Item; Chair: Matthew Danish.*

7. Masters students auditing classes

- a. **Lauren Mangano** presented on behalf of **Jill Richardson** (absent) on the fact that while PhD students can audit classes for free, Masters students are required to pay.

- b. There is input that this issue primarily affects Masters students in specific departments. One reason Masters students want to audit classes is to build their resume.
- c. A motion is made and a vote is passed to defer this issue.
- d. *Result: Masters Student auditing policy item deferred; **Joseph Kyser** requests that interested students reach out to the GPLC and volunteer to organize on this issue.*

4. CLOSING

The next GPLC meeting will occur in the Fall 2014 Semester, where committees formed today will update the GPLC general body. Committee chairs are encouraged to meet with their committees over the summer and ultimately collect pertinent data and design a proposal/action item for this issue. Proposals will be presented at the next GPLC Council Meeting (Fall 2014).

5. SUMMARY

- a. *Amended Constitution.*
- b. *Four Committees formed:*
 - a. *Guaranteed Funding model becomes Committee Item, Chair: Tommy McCauley (tmccaule@bu.edu)*
 - b. *Saturday BU Shuttle becomes Committee Item, Chair: Azeez Swarup (agsdmd@bu.edu)*
 - c. *Student Health Services at Medical Campus becomes Committee Item; Chair: Kate Goodmon (kgoodmon@bu.edu)*
 - d. *Reconstructing on Commonwealth Avenue becomes Committee Item; Chair: Matthew Danish. (md@bu.edu)*
- c. *Two Agenda Items deferred:*
 - a. *Graduate Medical Campus Housing item is deferred.*
 - b. *Masters Student auditing policy item deferred; though **Joseph Kyser** asks if we can get feedback from departments on Masters students who might be interested in this issue.*

6. APPENDIX I

Article 4, Section A: Representation

Current language:

"Representative will be nominated from their departments (including self-nominations) and elected by the graduate students of their college or school."

Proposed changed:

"Representative will be nominated from their departments (including self-nominations) and (a) elected by the graduate students of their college or school, or (b) appointed by, or elected through the overarching graduate student government, if such government exists."

Rationale:

If a top-level student government exists within a college or school it the working arrangement with the GPLC must be mutually beneficial. Having a pathway to university administration that unassociated with the existing government may undermine the effectiveness of both organizations.