

Boston University
Graduate and Professional Leadership Council

Minutes

Tuesday, October 28, 2014

5:30PM – CAS 132, 675 Commonwealth Ave.

1. ATTENDANCE

School (# attendees)	Voting representatives Name in bold indicates attendance
Communications (0)	
Fine Arts (0)	Sarah Bellott (sdinsmore@bu.edu)
Engineering (2; 1 voting)	Joanna Chiu (jgchiu@bu.edu) in place of Lauren Mangano (board member, non-voting) Tony Gao (board member, non-voting)
Arts and Sciences (8; 2 voting)	Matthew Danish (md@bu.edu) Tommy McCauley (tmccaule@bu.edu) Leila Haery (board member, non-voting) Kira Sullivan-Wiley (board member, non-voting)
Management (2; 1 voting)	Aaron Lemmon (alemmon@bu.edu) Tung Vuong (tgvuong@bu.edu)
Law (0)	Monisha Chakravarthy (mochakra@bu.edu)
Medical (2; 1 voting)	Louis Yu (louis.bhy@gmail.com) Sami Hiemer (shiemer@bu.edu) Kate Goodmon (board member, non-voting)
Metropolitan (1 voting)	Cassandra Ashir (sauny@bu.edu) in place of Victor Jaworski (gtg169g@bu.edu)
Public Health (2; 1 voting)	Chase Crossno (ccrossno@bu.edu)
Education (1 voting)	Tom Hunt (tomh@bu.edu)
Dental Medicine (3; 1 voting)	Lyle Smith (lsmith@bu.edu) Mary McClintock (maryfmcc@bu.edu)
Sargent (0)	Liem Huynh (liemh@bu.edu) Jessica Pate (jpate@bu.edu)
Theology (1 voting)	Jackie Blue (STH, jbbblue@bu.edu) in place of Joseph Kyser (jkyser@bu.edu)

2. OPENING

Leila Haery opened the meeting at 5:32

- Executive Board members in attendance are introduced: Leila Haery, Kate Goodmon, Tony Gao, and Kira Sullivan-Wiley.

- Existing committees are asked to give updates on progress lasting no more than 5 minutes, with time allowed for questions and follow-up. This will be followed by the introduction of new agenda items up for review by the GPLC.

3. AGENDA ITEMS

Review of existing committees.

A. Committee of Commonwealth Ave Reconstruction (*Chair and presenter: Matthew Danish*)

- Discussions ongoing regarding Comm Ave reconstruction from Packard's Corner to BU Bridge. Main issues involve multiple stakeholders. Items under discussion include installing a buffer track for cyclists as opposed to the current plan of only a painted lane.
- Committee is attempting to coordinate with the GSO and BU Bikes to write letter to President Brown and perhaps the Mayor, to call for a meeting with President Brown and discuss student concerns regarding the reconstruction. They are currently working on draft of the letter.
- Kate Goodmon recommends them to contact TransCom on BUMC- an office that represents student transportation issues and is distinct from BU parking and transportation
- A public design meeting for Phases 3 and 4 (as opposed to Phase 2A through BU) will be held on November 17th. Planning a cycle track in these phases, but the space is different in these two areas.
- This plan overlaps with elimination of two Green Line-B Line stops. The idea is to free up that space and streamline Green Line service. The problem is that they are planning to do that after city does its reconstruction project, so that space wouldn't be available for use in the reconstruction.
- *Committee to continue.*

B. Student Health Services on the BU Medical Campus (MC) (*Chair and presenter: Kate Goodmon*)

- Committee found that there had been a task force 3 years ago with the same goal, the result of which was that Masters students were given an additional fee to use CRC facilities instead. There wasn't enough money to get one going at BUMC. This result was confirmed by Dr. McBride.
- New goal is to advocate for mental health services at BUMC because many students that use the mental health services at CRC are from BUMC, so it makes sense.
- They have drafted a letter to the BUMC provost to sum up the needs and tell them what people want (General Wellness, Women's Health, Mental Health, and website interface that makes clear the healthcare options available to BUMC students). The letter has been vetted by the Assistant Dean. Now in the process of getting committee member signatures.
- It is commented that BU just held a national depression screening day with ~ 160 people screened and high rates of depression. There was also a survey done 2 years ago by public health students on the same issues, the results of which may provide support to the committee survey.
- *Committee to continue.*

C. Committee of PhD Funding model (*Chair and presenter: Tommy McCauley*)

- Found that incoming students got guaranteed at a rate of 30k annually, while current students remain with a guarantee of only 20k annual funding, because of directive from President Brown. Departments were required to manage this difference.
- In some departments, this resulted in an inequality among graduate students when funds were insufficient to shift all graduate students over to the 30k model. In the Mathematics Department, a solution was reached by expanding summer course offerings so that nearly all graduate students got at least one summer course position at a rate of 5k so that all students were able to earn between 25k and 30k annually. Graduate students accepted this solution in that department and it could perhaps be exported to others.
- The committee has tried to coordinate with the GSO on this issue, with limited success.
- *Committee to continue.*

D. Weekend BU Shuttle Schedule (*Chair: Azeez Swarup; presenter: Lyle Smith*)

- BUS runs on Saturdays now! In large part, this is a result of the Dental School's efforts. It now runs four times per day and chances for increasing that are likely to be very low because of safety issues, since the last one is pretty late.
- BUS also removed the Medical Residence stop, making the trip shorter.
- *Committee resolved.*

New Proposals

A. Credit/debit cards at all BU dining locations- introduced by Aaron Lemmon

- Current state of affairs is confusing and contradictory and it prevents easy access. Some locations accept cards and other don't though they serve the same population. TerrierPoints aren't available to graduate students or visitors and cash is cumbersome.
- Support arguments include: it's a question of access; fees to use ATMs if your bank isn't represented on campus; some departments/ offices lack refrigerators, so students are forced to purchase food, and then incur additional costs to do so (time and fees).
- Dissent arguments include: businesses are independent and if they don't accept cards, you don't have to patronize the establishment; the costs to the vendor may be high because of the credit card company fees
- A member comments that on average, the campus adds one dining location per year that will accept debit/ credit cards.
- A motion was made and the vote was passed to form a committee to further research this issue. Aaron Lemmon was elected as Chair of the committee.
- *Result: Credit/debit cards at BU Dining Locations becomes Committee, Chair: Aaron Lemmon.*

B. Graduate Student “Bill of Rights” - introduced by Aaron Lemmon

- The idea of a social contract between students and the institution because there doesn't seem to be equal respect afforded to graduate students within the university hierarchy.
- The example noted is in the unequal adherence to the rights of Orange (graduate) and Green (faculty). Students get penalized/ ticketed for parking in (newly converted) Green spots along Storrow Drive, while Green permit holders do not get penalized for parking in Orange permit spots. BU facilities vehicles also tend to park in Orange permit spots and claim a right to do so, while the Parking and Transportation office claims that this is not its policy. However, no ticketing or penalty is apparent for infractions. This perceived lack of accountability reflects poorly on the university's approach to graduate student life.
- It was questioned at what level these unequal policies are sanctioned and what can be done to even them out.
- It is suggested that a social contract already exists on both the [Charles River](#) and [Medical](#) campuses.
- *Result: committee formation deferred until more information can be gathered.*

C. Safety concerns on the Medical Campus- presented by Kate Goodmon

- Concerns raised about the recent increase in violent crime on or near the BU Medical Campus.
- It is noted that the BUMC abuts Roxbury, and incidents have been near Healthcare for the Homeless; the problem has been compounded recently as the “bridge to long island” expanded, a fitness center closed to try to house the homeless, and people were moved over; furthermore a methadone clinic shut down and people from there moved closer to BUMC, and Healthcare for the Homeless.
- Safety concerns were general. BUMC students get texts when there are safety issues on or near campus and there has been a bigger police presence recently. Also, students can text BU Security to let them know that something unsafe is happening (TIP411) or for escort service, the number for which is on the back of the BUID.
- *Result: committee formation deferred; resources about campus safety to be posted on the GPLC website in association with this issue.*

D. International Marketing Dual degree- presented by Kate Goodmon

- Concerns about taking international online classes and the funding for them.
- *Result: committee formation does not pass; this is a departmental issue.*

4. CLOSING

The next general GPLC meeting will occur in the Spring 2015 Semester, where committees will update the GPLC general body. Committee chairs are encouraged to meet with their committees over the fall and winter, to collect pertinent data and design a proposal/action item for this issue. Proposals will be presented at the next GPLC Council Meeting.

5. SUMMARY

- a. *Four committees reviewed; 1 resolved; 3 continued.*
- b. *One committee formed:*
 - a. *Credit/debit cards at BU Dining Locations becomes Committee, Chair:*
Aaron Lemmon (alemmon@bu.edu)
- c. *Two agenda items deferred:*
 - a. Graduate Student “Bill of Rights”
 - b. Safety concerns on the Medical Campus
- d. *One agenda item referred to departments*
 - a. International Marketing Dual degree
- e. Tony gives website as bu.edu/gplc, where can be found the constitution, information on active committees, minutes and agendas, updates, etc
- f. Kira mentions challenges with the [Childbirth and Adoption Accommodation Policy](#) and solicits informal feedback