

**Boston University**  
**Graduate and Professional Leadership Council**

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**Minutes**

Wednesday, April 29, 2015  
6:00PM – Medical School L103

**1. Introduction**

**Lauren Mangano** (ENG, executive board member) began the meeting. Current additional executive board members:

- Tony Gao, ENG
- Kate Goodman, GMS
- Leila Haery, GRS
- Kira Sullivan-Wiley, GRS (not present)

**2. Previous Issues**

• **Mental health (Chair: Kate Goodman, GMS)**

The issue of lack of Student Health Services (SHS) at the medical campus introduced last spring and a committee led by Kate Goodman was formed. Since then, Kate has pursued the issue via discussions with Dean Antman and administration of a survey on SHS usage among BU students (approximately 700 responses were collected). Based on the results of this survey and efforts from Dean Antman and President Brown, it was decided to offer mental health services at the BU Medical campus.

Upon successful completion of the objectives of this committee, a motion was made to close this committee. The vote passed.

• **Commonwealth Avenue reconstruction (Chair: Matthew Danish, GRS)**

Reconstruction has been proposed to take place on Commonwealth Avenue. A committee was formed last spring and led by Matthew Danish. Matthew reported (via email) that:

The city hosted a public meeting about Phase 2A (BU Bridge - Packards Corner) on March 24th in which they presented a protected intersection and bike lane design that was significantly satisfactory to most people. In February, MassDOT hosted a public meeting about Phase 2B (overpass of the Mass Pike) with little to no protection provided, but recent updates have been positive, claiming that the team is working on extending the protected bike lane across the overpass. That leaves Phase 1, BU Bridge to Kenmore, which was completed over 5 years ago, but might someday be retrofitted. Committee could follow-up on progress on each Phase, to make sure things keep heading in the right direction.

Matthew is potentially leaving and is stepping down from his position on this committee. He requests that the committee follow up on the progress of this issue.

Michelle Divelbiss (midiv@bu.edu) volunteered to take over this committee.

- **Ph.D. funding model (Chair: Tommy McCauley, GRS)**

This issue was introduced last spring, and is regarding limited funding for current Ph.D. students who were admitted prior to the institution of the “guaranteed 5-year funding model,” and the funding discrepancy that has developed between these students and older students who are not guaranteed funding. Tommy believes that it should potentially be resolved. He explored the prevalence of this issue among other Ph.D. students and found that this problem seems to be unique to GRS students and there is little interest in pursuing this issue. His department (math) has seemed to resolve this issue, but he is willing to continue to work on this issue if other students are interested.

Kristen Carey from the history department reported that this was a common problem in the history department, and she volunteered to work on moving it forward.

- **Debit/credit cards at BU dining facilities**

No update was obtained from the committee chair. Because these establishments are individual businesses, there is little to be done.

A motion was made to close this committee and the vote passed.

### **3. GPLC feedback**

This was the first full year of GPLC, and feedback was solicited from those present at the meeting.

Some suggestions/comments included:

- It was noted that attendance at this meeting was low (and mostly medical students), so trying to unify both campuses may be limiting.
- Hold more (at least 2) meetings per semester.
- Regular maintenance of the GPLC website.
- Publicity- many students were unaware of the GPLC. Methods for improving publicity were discussed. Because the student body is so large, it was difficult and timely to send student body-wide emails to the entire graduate population. A possible alternative is regularly emailing student groups within each college.
- Mention GPLC at the orientation for all incoming students.
- Facebook page- may be convenient to advertise meetings.
- GPLC should have officers from both campuses.
- A news-letter to report on GPLC accomplishments may be useful in recruiting students. (e.g., The BU BUS, which previously did not run on Saturdays, was a major accomplishment of the GPLC that students may respond to.)

#### 4. New Executive Board

Nominations and votes were held for a new executive board. The new executive board is:

Clark Yin (MED) (cyin@bu.edu)  
Carl Ceraolo (MED) (ceraoloc@bu.edu)  
Kira Sullivan-Wiley (GRS) (kswiley@bu.edu)  
Lauren Mangano (ENG) (lmangano@bu.edu)

All votes passed and there were no other nominations.

#### 5. New items

- **Auditing courses at the BU Fitness & Recreation Center (fit rec) (Proposed by: Kristen Carey, GRS)**

The issue is related to limits on the number of courses a graduate student can audit, and the effect this has on taking certain courses at fit rec. Once graduate coursework is completed, there is a limit of one audit per semester. Many of the courses (e.g., dance courses) are not available for punch cards, only for credit, and thus are not available to graduate students (unless they register as a full time student, which is very expensive). The audit limits exist to ensure graduate students limit their coursework and focus on their research, however, it was likely not intended to limit participation in recreational courses.

It was suggested that a petition be started to get a list of interested parties. Kate Goodmon volunteered to help set up the petition. Clark Yin also volunteered to help

- **Open access (Proposed by: Eli Shobin, GRS)**

This February, BU adopted an opt-out policy for the deposition of faculty publications into an online repository of publications. However, currently there is no such policy for BU students (who may publish independently of their faculty advisors).

It was noted that in the humanities there is a culture of opposition to open access, but that there is a limited understanding of what open access means (and thus much of the resistance may have no basis).

It was decided that there should be two separate goals: (1) to change the policy (by working directly with the administration and library) and (1) to disseminate information about open access (possibly at student orientation).

- **Lack of vision & dental insurance (Proposed by: Julia Lai, MED/GMS & Sujithra Reprakash, MED/GMS)**

The issue is that there is no vision or dental insurance in the basic student plan (Aetna) for graduate students.

It was noted that the BU Dental School holds clinics, which may provide an economical

option for students seeking dental care.

It was suggested to post information about the BU Dental Clinic on student group websites (e.g., the GPLC site)

A motion was made to start a research group on this issue, and the vote passed... this motion was passed and the vote passed.

It was suggested to look into local optometry schools as a potential economical option for students seeking vision care.

<b>6. The meeting was adjourned</b>
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