

Graduate and Professional Leadership Council  
Open Meeting One  
October 13, 2016

### **Executive Board 2016 – 2017**

Executive Board and Attendee Introductions  
Explanation of Executive Board Function

### **Announcement on Provost of Graduate Affairs**

No current Provost for Graduate Affairs (Tim Barbari resigned)  
Tentative Replacement: January 2017  
Exec Board meeting on 10/25 - with Provost of UG  
Discussions that need PGA might be delayed

### **Survey Overview**

The Survey will be aimed at the entire Graduate Student Body  
Goal - information gathering based on committee issues to bring data to administration  
Would be distributed University wide. (Graduate)  
Incentivized Survey

### **Committee Updates:**

Fit Rec Auditing Committee: (Kristen Carey, Chair)

- Changed a lot of the classes.
- More variety in terms offering and price.

Move to Close

**Closed: Seconded**

Credit and Debit Card: (Zoe Plympton, Chair)

Moved to Keep to the Open

- New goal is to extend this to medical school campus
- Sila Ataca to be put in contact with Zoe Plympton to facilitate

**Open: Seconded**

Comm. Ave Reconstruction: No Update

Move to Keep Open as information gathering committee

**Open: Seconded**

Student ID Card Replacement Fee: No Update

Moved to Close - based on lack of contact with committee chair and information posted on GPLC website regarding how to have fee waived if card is stolen

**Closed: Seconded**

Basic Plan vs. Plus Plan: (Soren Hessler, Chair)

- Propose to include a survey question to get student opinion

- Would students want to pay a premium for the Plus Plan
- Current - default of Basic Plan but ability to opt into Plus Plan (for large sum)
  - The amount paid for the Plus Plan would be an additional amount
    - The University would pay 80% of the premium for the Plus, with students responsible for the other 20%
  - Currently, the basic plan is paid for
  - This is applicable for PhD. Students on Charles River Campus ONLY
  - Medical Campus is on the Plus Plan by default and it is paid 100%
- Will be added as a survey question:
  - Does your funding include health insurance?
    - If yes - do you have the Basic Plan or Plus Plan?
    - If Plus Plan - are you on the Med Campus?
  - If on the Charles River Campus, would you be interested in paying a small fee (somewhere in the area of \$100 per year) to have your health insurance upgraded to the Plus Plan (or have this amount taken out of your stipend?)

Move to keep Open

**Open: Seconded**

PhD. Funding Model (Andrew Henry, Chair)

- Equality of payment (between departments, schools)
- Loosen rules of working externally
  - Cannot work at all
  - Can work 5 hours a week or for a certain percentage amount of what is awarded in the fellowship
  - Rules Vary
- Loosen rules on outside Fellowships
  - Can decrease institutional funding
  - Why is the university funding decreased?
  - Institutional funding would go into Summer funding or a 6<sup>th</sup> year.
- Dean Hughes supportive of committee goals.
  - Has allowed funding to be extended if outside fellowships are granted
- Union talks continue, to be supported by committee
- Current discussions have essentially hit a wall - no leverage to move forward on parity in funding, or implementing University wide changes in language about restrictions on work
- There should be an option to move funding around for individual employment situations
  - Scenario:
    - No employment in summer months
    - Gain relevant employment to program in Fall
    - Use institutional funding for summer, use employment for Fall
- Issues can be structural and hard to address on a general level

Move to keep Open

**Open: Seconded**

Dental Plan (Sila Ataca, Chair)

- No dental plan currently offered
- Previously, \$300 to go to cleanings, fillings, etc.
- More expensive treatments, crowns, can be thousands
- Dental School provides services - Student Discount Service
  - Open to the public - not just the BU community
  - Dental students perform cleanings
- BU offers installments on payment for more intensive procedures and a 10% discount
- Survey Questions:
  - Have you used Dental School services?
  - Do want comprehensive Dental Insurance?
  - Do you want to just get the discount?

Move to keep open

**Open: Seconded**

#### Graduate Students with Dependents (Kyle Hansen, Chair)

- Goal of committee to gather information on BU students with dependents or those who may be deterred from perhaps having children while a graduate student because it's financially unfeasible
- Need to gather data on comparable fellowship/stipends at other universities
- Need to gather interests from students for which this would apply
- Survey Questions:
  - Dependents would be classified as Legal Dependents
    - Based on Tax Returns
  - Dependent" would be defined in the beginning of the survey section

Move to keep Open

Open: Seconded

#### New Issues

- Vision Plan
  - Plus Plan covers eye exam
  - Aetna has vision discounts
    - Used at eye wear retailers (ex. Lens Crafters)
  - Use student health services
    - Not for glasses
    - Medical test, ex: test for glaucoma
- Unionization
  - Introduced by Romance Studies student (Edgardo Tormos)
  - Romance Studies department created a survey around how funding is spent by students for living expenses
  - Earn 21,500 stipend in Humanities
  - National Labor Board new decision
    - Graduate Students now recognized as employees
      - Those that receive stipends
      - Teach
      - Receive funding

- Proposing a union for students at BU through SEIU
  - SEIU organized faculty and students for contract negotiation
  - SEIU known for a positive extension to other social justice movements
- Would be willing to work in tandem with GPLC to benefit graduate students
- Objective is to ensure that current benefits are protected and additional benefits could be advocated for
  - These benefits would have legal backing
- How would the union work in terms of GPLC committee objectives and initiatives?
- Union would a different bargaining process that has a certain legal standing
  - Different legal category
  - Union gives power to bargain alongside the faculty
- Why SEIU?
  - Following current SEIU contacts, relationships with BU, and momentum
  - Cohesiveness with adjunct faculty, full time faculty (negotiated their contract earlier in 2016; also represent the janitorial and facilities staff)
  - Extends to other social justice organizations
    - Example: Fight for 15
- UAW
  - Potential alternative

#### **Additional Notes**

- Sasha's request for a Social Sciences or survey creator

Move to close meeting

Close: Seconded @ 7:21PM