

Boston University
Graduate Student Organization

Minutes

Wednesday, April 24, 2013
5:30PM – CAS 200

1. Announcements

None.

2. Treasurer's Report

Nolan reported that we currently have **\$6514.41** available in the GSO operating account. This figure does not include this meeting's pizza. We currently have \$499.99 in the travel grant account. Previously, we set aside money to subsidize 8 individuals for the YuleFest 5K run (at \$20 pp), but so far only 6 people have claimed reimbursements, so we have an extra \$40 that will likely remain unclaimed.

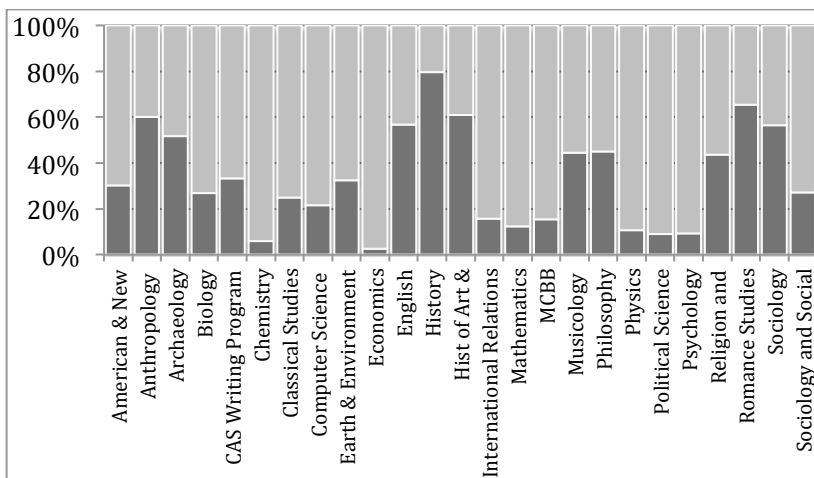
3. Travel Grants

The travel grant deadline for summer/fall travel is May 5, 2013. Evan made a request for volunteers to serve on the travel grant committee. Volunteers should email gso@bu.edu

4. Update: Library Petition

Leila Haery, Eliza Wallace, and Jennifer Lindsay (who initiated the petition) met with members of the library administration two weeks ago to formally present the petition. There were 560 total signatures collected in support of the petition, most of whom were PhD students (72%) who were affiliated with the humanities. Other supporters were Masters students (18%), Faculty (8%) and Staff (2%). We also saw support (likely in solidarity) from engineering students, likely as a result of reaching out to SAGE with the petition.

Number of signatures per department as a percentage of graduate student enrollment:



The meeting with the library administration was very positive and library administrators were very receptive to our petition and impressed by the level of engagement garnered by the GSO. They explained that the initial shift in borrowing policy was made in an effort to help students by making a unified borrowing policy. It seemed as if particular libraries wanted shorter durations, and so they decided to match all libraries to this minimal borrowing duration.

Summary of current policy: 4-week borrowing duration, unlimited renewals and no late fees (except for books on reserve or recalled books), recalled items must be returned in 1 week, accounts are locked when there are more than 4 overdue book but this can be fixed remotely by emailing a library staff.

Due to the petition and expressed needs of graduate students, they are considering a longer lending duration, which will possibly be implemented this summer. They also plan to fix issue of unlabeled missing texts by going through all the library texts this summer and properly identifying all materials. They also plan to restore email notifications for upcoming due dates (which was a technical problem). Library staff encouraged graduate students and departments to ask for library orientation or workshops on using library materials- they would be happy to provide these services at any time. Library also asked about best way to communicate with graduate students in the future, and we encouraged them to use email and the GSO to distribute information. According to Leila, members of the library staff were extremely helpful, accommodating, and willing to work with graduate students to ensure the best use of university resources.

5. Open Access proposal

Leila Haery and Steven Bhardwaj present the GSO with a proposal calling on BU to change its current opt-in open access policy to a more effective opt-out system. There were no questions or objections to the content of proposal. A vote was called for GSO to support this proposal, which passed unanimously.

6. Social events and remainder of budget

Due to lack of our regular large winter social event, we have leftover funds. Several ideas of ways to spend the budget were discussed, including networking and seminar events, a skills workshop, and events including faculty. There was discussion about GSO organizing more events that were based on networking and skills as opposed to solely social events. Due to the high demand for travel grants, there was also discussion on increasing the travel grant budget. A proposal to support bicycle repair stations was not supported due to concern about too few students being affected. With the exception of travel grants (which do roll over), the money remaining in our budget will not roll over if not spent by June.

Votes were called and passed to support the following:

- Summer BBQ (\$1500)
- Joint pub night with SAGE (\$500)
- One travel grant (\$500), which would cause a rollover in the \$499.99 in the current travel grant budget to next semester.
- Several breakfast/coffee events in the last weeks of the semester (remainder of funds, ~\$2400). Eniola (Ela) Soyemi from political science volunteered to reach out to Espresso Royal Café (ERC) to host such an event. If ERC is unavailable, we plan to host a breakfast at the Editorial Institute on Bay State Road.

7. End of meeting