

Boston University Graduate Student Organization

Minutes

Wednesday, October 22, 2013
5:30PM – CAS 200

1. Announcements

Leila Haery, GSO President, began the meeting by welcoming attending GSO reps.

Nolan Little, GSO Treasurer, promoted a **volunteer opportunity** on **November 7** in Quincy, MA with The Prison Book Program. The organization packs and sends books to prisoners.

Flyers were available at the meeting for GSO reps to take to their departments. Interested persons can contact erobins@bu.edu (Elizabeth Robinson, PhD student, Philosophy), for more information. The website for The Prison Book Program is <http://www.prisonbookprogram.org/>

Graduate Students in the History of Art & Architecture (GSHAAA) promoted the organization's upcoming **used book sale**. The sale will be **Friday, November 8**, from **10AM to 4PM** and will be held on the first floor of CAS. Sales support GSHAAA programming.

In addition to purchasing books, persons interested in donating books can deliver them to the mailroom in the History of Art & Architecture office, CAS 302. Or, alternatively, leave them in the grad lounge. For more information contact Bridget Hanson or David Silvernail dsilvern@bu.edu.

French department invited GSO reps to share with their departments the upcoming **French Film Festival**. It begins on Friday, November 1, and runs for one week. The films will be show in the Photonics building, 2nd Floor.

Leila asked if anyone is willing to take over the **GSO Webmaster** duties? She is currently doing this work and would like to pass it on. Interested persons should contact gso@bu.edu

2. Treasurer's Report

Nolan Little, GSO Treasurer, reported that the organization's operating funds of the remainder of the academic year were **\$12,767.25** before purchasing pizza for tonight's meeting.

3. GSO Social Chair

Kasey Aderholt, GSO Social Chair, was unable to attend the meeting. She emailed several questions to Leila to open discussion about the next pub night.

The Wednesday and Friday surrounding Thanksgiving were suggested. Given that most people will be out of town, it was decided not to hold a pub night on either of those days. Therefore, the next pub night will be in December.

GSO members voted and passed \$1000 for the December pub night.

7. GSO Seminar Series

Evan Judd, GSO Vice-President, announced that the next GSO Seminar will be held on **November 11** at 5PM. The location will be room 103 in the Life Sciences & Engineering building.

These seminars feature 3-4 presenters giving 10-12 minutes presentations of their research and include a few minutes of Q&A. The talks are intended to have general scholarly appeal. Persons wishing to present at this or future seminars should send a title and brief abstract to gso@bu.edu

8. Parental Leave Policy

On the parental leave front, last week Tim Barbari, the Associate Provost for Graduate Student Affairs, provided a draft of the policy for parental leave. It is for 60 days of leave.

Adam Iaizzi raised a number of questions based on his reading of the policy. Among them, could the policy explicitly state that the health insurance is retained during parental leave? Should prevention of discrimination based on pregnancy be addressed in the policy?

Other questions raised were:

- What about terminal masters? Like the MFA?
- What is a documented full-time primary caregiver?
- If this policy is intended to be general guidance, should departments subsequently draft departmental policy that follows this document and is more specific?
- Could the policy be more explicit in stipulating that eligibility is not up to the discretion of the advisor?

It was suggested and agreed that the current draft be put up as a Google Doc for further comments and suggestions.

9. Travel Grants

Evan Judd, GSO Travel Grants Committee Chair, announced the decision taken at the last meeting to award two travel grants of up to \$500 for research. These two grants are in addition to the traditional five travel grants of up to \$500 for conference presentations.

10. OPEN ACCESS

Steven Bhardwaj (PhD student, Economics) address the topic of Open Access, first broached with GSO in April. He reported that, following the discussion, a proposal went out last May and a response was received from the Provost's office. The Provost's office reported that Open Access will be a top priority.

Steven reported that there is a presentation tomorrow (Oct 23) from 12-2PM at the School of Hospitality (across from the FitRec). At that meeting, Gloria Waters, Robert Hudson, and some folks from the General Counsel's office will discuss Open Access as it relates to the BU community. The event is geared more toward the faculty, but students are welcome to attend.

When the University Council discussed the Open Access issue, they decided to route it to the Faculty Council. Ostensibly, the event tomorrow is intended to provide background to faculty prior to the Faculty Council's deliberations.