

Boston University Graduate Student Organization

Minutes

Wednesday, October 22, 2014
5:30 – 6:30 CAS 200

1. Announcements

Evan Judd opened the meeting by welcoming attending GSO representatives.

The **BGLO** club night the GSO sponsored last meeting will be held on Friday, November 7th from 8 – 11 at Wild Rover (61 Chatham Street, Boston). There will be a \$5 admission fee, and free food. The \$250 the GSO allocated to this event may be returned depending on how much is earned from the admission fees. For more details, see the Facebook event, or the website bu.edu/gso. If there are any other ideas for events that could be sponsored alongside the BGLO, please email BGLO or GSO.

The **deadline for travel grants** will be Sunday, December 7th at 11:59pm.

2. Treasurer's Report

The organization's operating fund for the remainder of the academic year is **\$11,006.47**.

3. Update from Commonwealth Ave. Reconstruction Committee

Matthew Danish updated the attending representatives about the recent meeting of the Commonwealth Avenue Reconstruction Committee. About 20 people attended the meeting on October 9th, consisting of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty members.

Danish also updated GSO representatives about the recent meeting with the city, which he stated was inconclusive. They expressed an interest in the renovations, but the preliminary numbers they presented were not helpful. They were waiting to hear back from the Federal Highway Administration about specific details regarding these renovations, but they still have not contacted them. Danish hopes to hear back sometime in the next few days.

Students interested in participating can help by joining BU Bikes, the undergraduate bike organization, sign one of the petitions they are circulating, or volunteer to gather support and signatures in the Marsh Plaza on Fridays 12 – 3.

BU Bikes intends to send a letter to President Brown in support of the reconstruction of bicycle lanes, pedestrian walkways, and MBTA stops. Danish suggested that the GSO draft a letter to send to President Brown as well that can be sent at the same time as the letter written by BU Bikes. Danish volunteered to draft the letter and circulate it for editing to the GSO representatives through a Google Doc. The link will be circulated in the next week or two. The letter will include topics such as signal priority, cycle ways on sidewalks, crosswalks, address sidewalk width, as well as additions of crosswalks across the T tracks in more places. The letter will also urge the President to inform and include students in these kinds of decisions in the future, as well as to meet in person to discuss this matter further. An additional letter will also be drafted to send to the mayor.

One representative reminded the GSO representatives that a survey was circulated at the beginning of the year polling about transportation. This was sent to both undergraduate and graduate students. The representative suggested finding these statistics to make the information in the letter as directly relevant to the graduate student population.

There will be an informational meeting on Thursday, October 23rd at 6pm in the Boston Public Library to discuss station consolidation along the Green Line. Renovations such as this have not been seen for many years, so all interested parties are encouraged to attend.

3. Last Minute Items

Social chair, **Alex Yen**, announced that the first pub night would be held in early November.

Additionally, she announced the Art History department would be having its annual Bake and Book Sale on Thursday, October 30th from 10 – 5. They will be selling low price, good quality books on the first floor of the CAS building in order to raise money for travel grants for the art history department.