GSO Meeting--16 February 2018

1. Introductions
2. Treasurer’s Report/Diane
   a. Start 2018: $40,256.78
      i. 20,256.78 from last year and an additional 20,000 from this year
      ii. Thus far, we have spent, $18,730.79
   b. Remaining balance: $21,525.91
      i. Most of this money is already allocated!
      ii. We also have $634.50 allocated for professional development
   c. Unallocated: $3,081.34
      i. This doesn't yet include the coffee hours
   d. $950 allocated for social (see below)
   e. Remaining budget: 2,131.34
      i. We also need to factor in money for bagels/coffee at future GSO meetings (=?)
3. Social Chair/Jess
   a. Last meeting, we confirmed idea of 3 coffee drop ins:
      i. International Students
      ii. LGBTQ students
      iii. Students of color
      iv. 1 hour or so on a weekday on Charles River Campus
      v. Estimate: $150/event
      vi. Tentative dates: right after spring break (mid/late March)
      vii. Jess will seek help day-of to help set up
      viii. Requests people in their department to spread the word--emails, flyering, word of mouth
      ix. At the moment, we can start spreading the word
   b. Yoga idea--passed a vote last month
      i. Problems:
      ii. We might not be able to pay Mariah directly for yoga sessions (payment issues)
      iii. BU might not allow GSO to schedule yoga rooms via Fitrec because of “potential liability” (location issues)
      iv. Ideas to help?
         1. Make participants sign a waiver?
         2. Pay Mariah via gift card?
         3. Perhaps we could expand the donation per person
   c. Other ideas now on the table for filling the spending void?
      i. pub/brewery night at Scoozi or Cornwall’s?
         1. Give first 40 people their first drink free?
         2. Trivia night?
      ii. Ticket to Fenway/other sporting event?
iii. Games/board games night?
   1. There is a group of young hikers that do these sorts of events
   2. Knight games?
      a. Cost to rent the whole space?
   3. Bring your favorite board game?
      a. Issues with turnout?
iv. Custom trivia night?
   1. There is a company that will customize trivia games for folks, apparently they have good reviews
v. Arcade night--e.g., Jillian’s
vi. Best to do the events toward the end of the semester?
   1. Weather will be better, we’ll have more other events behind us
   2. We should avoid doing it the week of April 18th (professional dev. event)

vii. Let’s allocate **500** for the potential “trivia night” event
viii. We’re already allocating **450** for the coffee hours

4. Funding Request: Stephanie/Amir: Romance Studies conference (“Power in Dystopia”)?
   a. April 28, 8am–6pm; keynote at 1:30
   b. Total cost: $1886.50
   c. Now an international event
   d. Conference a good chance to bring scholars together
   e. Co-sponsored by African Studies (250$) Women’s studies (300$)
      i. Last year, GSO gave $700 for the conference
   f. This year, $1000 requested
   g. Romance Studies will cover the difference
   h. Keynote Speaker: Jorge Oliviera Castillo
      i. Speaker fee: $500
      ii. Former prisoner in Guantanamo; journalist; poet
      iii. Keynote lecture will be advertised to whole BU community
      iv. Might be one of the last opportunities to see Castillo speak as he will soon return to Cuba and will in all likelihood be arrested
   i. GSO Requirement: we “generally” don’t fund more than either “40% of the total cost or $1000”
      i. Ambiguous! Can we actually spend $1000? Check in with GRS
      ii. If 40% is our max, we could then fund up to $750.46
   j. How many cosponsorships do we get in an average semester?
      i. We usually do between 2 and 4 of these per semester?
      ii. Should we request more funding in the future so that we aren’t pushed into a “zero-sum game” scenario
   k. Should we institutionalize a deadline for GSO cosponsorship requests?
      i. This would help stave off possibility of running out of money
   l. Amanda: professional development would only ask for an extra $250
   m. Should we have a rule that a GSO will only re-fund an event for 5 years
n. Vote: unanimous for cosponsoring at $750

5. Amanda/Professional development
   a. Event coming April 18th: "Academic Voices in the Digital World"
      i. 4 speakers
      ii. Budget: Everything without honoraria: $139
          1. With $200 honoraria: $939
          2. With $150 honoraria: $739
          3. With $100 honoraria: $539
      iii. Should we do honoraria at all?
           1. Maybe not: especially since they’re all BU professors
           2. Get a gift instead?
           3. Take them out to dinner instead?
      iv. “GSO prefers not to fund honoraria” (bylaws)
      v. New proposal: $50/person gift budget
      vi. Total cost: $339

b. Christine/3-minute thesis:
   i. 6 judges: 2 confirmed, 2 pending, 2 needed
   ii. Will probably ask for MCs next meeting
   iii. Will be the week after our next GSO meeting

6. Whitney/Advocacy
   a. Will start an advocacy committee to make cross-departmental connections
   b. A committee will help us brainstorm and facilitate conversation on advocacy
   c. Sexual harassment forum run by New England GWISE: look out for more information

7. Next meeting: Friday 16 March, 10am, CAS 226