

**Boston University**  
**Graduate Student Organization**

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**Minutes**

Wednesday, October 30, 2012  
5:30PM – CAS 200

**1. Announcements**

**DEPARTMENTAL AVAILABILITY SURVEY**

Leslie reminded GSO reps about the department availability survey. Please complete the survey—the link was in the email reminder for this meeting.

The survey will assist the GSO with scheduling professional development events. The GSO would like to have all departments represented.

If you have any problems accessing the email, please contact Leslie. Reps will have to use their BU email account to log in to complete the survey.

**ACCEPTANCE of NEW DEPARTMENTAL GROUPING**

As a procedural matter, the GSO must to vote to accept the new departmental grouping of **Earth & Environment**. This department has resulted from the combination of previously separate designations.

Based on the number of students enrolled, Earth & Environment will have two votes in the GSO. Acceptance of Earth & Environment was moved, seconded, and voted by a show of hands.

**BGLO**

Eliza reported that there is a BGLO meeting today at 7PM. No BGLO meetings have been held since the last GSO meeting at the beginning of October.

**TRAVEL GRANT COMMITTEE**

Evan made a plug for the Travel Grant Committee. Contact Evan Judd or email [gso@bu.edu](mailto:gso@bu.edu) if you are interested to be a part of this year's selection committee.

Mention was made of last meeting's discussion of travel grant considerations. Damien directed representatives to an updated version of the travel grant information now on the GSO website. Persons who wish to comment on that

document are welcome to do so.

Travel grant deadlines in December and May were outlined. It was also clarified that, while an abstract must be submitted, the abstract does not have to have been accepted at the time of the application.

## **2. Treasurer's Report**

Carol reported that the GSO's current account balance is **\$13,027.84**.

This balance reflects the funds spent for pizza for today's meeting and the monies GSO dedicated to the October pub night held last Friday.

## **3. Pub Nights**

Basil reported that the second pub night of the year was fairly well attended, given that many Halloween events were also held on the same evening.

The night was a bit slower than the norm, evidenced by the 17 drink tickets that remained at the end of the night.

Basil proposed pub nights for November and December. The dates of Friday, November 16 and Friday, December 7 were selected. On November 16<sup>th</sup>, GSO will share the venue with SAGE due to their prior booking.

It was suggested that the December pub night might be a bit more of a celebration with the addition of music and eggnog or some other seasonal drink(s). Basil will look into the options available and report back.

A vote was taken to approve both pub nights (Nov 16 and Dec 7) with funds commensurate with 150 drink tickets and two nacho platters, as per usual. Basil will present a price quote for December 7 at the next GSO meeting for costs above the standard expenses.

The vote to approve the dates and standard disbursement passed.

**Friday, November 16**, is the next Pub Night.

#### 4. Meeting with Associate Provost for Grad Student Affairs

A group of the GSO officers will meet with the Assistant Provost for Graduate Student Affairs tomorrow. He's new to BU. GWISE has already met with him and stressed healthcare in their meeting.

GSO officers will introduce the organization and bring forward some of the key issues raised by our membership in the surveys conducted last year.

A few copies of the 2-pager for the meeting with the Assistant Provost were circulated. Suggestions can be sent to [gso@bu.edu](mailto:gso@bu.edu) before 2pm tomorrow, Wednesday, October 31.

#### 5. Professional Development & Co-Sponsored Events

##### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ren reported that GWISE has an upcoming event this **Thursday, November 1**. They are hosting workshop on writing National Science Foundation GRF fellowship applications. Broader participation is welcome.

Previous award winners from BU will be on hand. There is also a valuable opportunity to have peer review of essays. One GSO rep who attended a past workshop underscored the value of the event for folks seeking NSF funding.

More details—including location and time of day—can be found on the GWISE website. RSVP is requested. [www.bu.edu/gwise](http://www.bu.edu/gwise)

*A plug was also made for interested others to join the Professional Development Events committee and help set plan professional development events.*

##### CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

Leslie stressed that GSO is interested in entertaining applications for Co-Sponsored events. These should be events that will be of interest beyond any single department and will be open to attendance from across GRS. Details are on the website.

GSO's support does not usually exceed \$400. Contact Ren, the co-sponsored events coordinator, for more details ([lcashman@bu.edu](mailto:lcashman@bu.edu)). Otherwise, email [gso@bu.edu](mailto:gso@bu.edu)

In response to a question about applications it was stated that it is generally preferred that applications only be considered during the semester in which the event will be held. However, February events are encouraged to apply in December, given the holiday break.

Ren stressed that applications should be submitted a week before the meeting at which they will be considered. This enables the Coordinator to review the application and help clarify key items in advance of the meeting so the application has the best possible airing. Basil stressed that it is generally better to submit early, if possible, because there is time to seek more information and re-submit if necessary.

Examples of past Co-Sponsored events were: IR Grad student conference, Archeology symposium, African Studies Graduate conference, and a Musicology conference. A number of these events are perennial applicants.

## 6. GSO Representative Guide

Eliza introduced the draft GSO rep guide. The first meeting of the year underscored why such a guide is needed. While the GSO constitution is on the website, it does not really describe what GSO and GSO Reps do in obvious detail.

This document seeks to address that gap. When completed, it will have a home on the GSO website and will be given to reps at the first meeting of every year.

The first draft of the document was circulated in the email from Leslie reminding representatives of this meeting.

Suggestions and comments can be sent to Eliza and/or Leslie. Discussion items can be discussed at the next meeting.

The next GSO meeting is Wednesday, **November 14**.