

# Boston University Graduate Student Organization

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**Minutes**  
Monday, April 6, 2015  
5:30 – 6:30 CAS 200

## 1. Announcements

**Kristen Carey** began the meeting by welcoming all GSO representatives and making the following announcements:

As of next semester, the TF/RA funding will be increased to \$10,500 per semester.

The GSO is in need of a webmaster, as many of the content on the current webpage is out of date. If you are interested, please email Kristen Carey.

There will be another event hosted by BGLO on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 8 – 10 pm at Naga in Cambridge.

Zachary Gersten (gerstezp@bu.edu), the graduate representative at the African Study Center would like to advertise the Boston University African Language Program, which is one of the few programs in the U.S. offering seven African languages. The program is looking for higher enrollment due to a grant they received. Students who have taken classes have gone on to successfully receive Fulbright scholarships. If interested, please contact Zachary at the email provided.

## 2. Treasurer's Report

The organization's operating budget is \$1760 including the \$500 from BGLO. \$2200 has been transferred to the travel grants fund. The remainder of the budget will be decided at the next meeting, but will most likely be put towards a pub night or a coffee event.

**Kristen** and **Adam** are in the process of discussing the timeline of the allocation of funds for the GSO. Currently, the fiscal year ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>, which means all expense reports need to be filed by mid-June. There are two account — an operating budget of \$15,000 deposited every July which does not roll over, and a travel grant account which receives \$7,000 but rolls over at the end of each fiscal year. The research grants are funded from the operating budget, which causes problems with funding for some applicants. The hope is to merge the two accounts into one that rolls over every year, with \$22,000.

### **3. Ashley Penvose from GWISE**

Ashley Penvose spoke to the GSO representatives on behalf of GWISE (Graduate Women in Science and Engineering). The organization is looking for new officers. GWISE is an organization that supports women in the STEM fields, which meets once monthly. They host frequent events, including professional development meetings, communications workshops, career fairs, and public school events.

If you or members of your department are interested in becoming an officer, please email Ashley, or join the GWISE mailing list.

### **4. Drake Douglas. Graduate Service Associate**

Drake Douglas, the new Graduate Service Associate in the GRS Dean's office, spoke to the GSO representatives about changes happening in graduate student services. Drake serves as an advocate for graduate students and encourages students to approach him and the office with any questions or concerns they may have throughout the semester and the summer.

### **5. Joshua Bruno on International Relations Peer-Review Journal**

Joshua and Jocelyn from the International Relations department approached the GSO representatives about funding a new student-run peer-reviewed journal for graduate students. A topic would be selected each year by a group of students, and students campus-wide would be able to submit their work. The submissions would be anonymously reviewed, and those selected would work one-on-one with an editor to work towards publication online and in a published book. Faculty members would work with the students to provide authority to the journal, as well as contribute editorials, but would have no say in the selection process.

The hope is to have the first publication for Spring 2016, and they asked the GSO to support \$750 - \$1000 next semester. The Pardee School of Global Studies will provide additional funding, but they requested the International Relations department to consult with the GSO prior to applying for funding. The money provided would go towards publishing the physical journals, which was estimated at about \$1200.

**Kristen** suggested that the International Relations department return at the beginning of the Fall semester to ask again, as she was unsure if we could fund this project as it is not a co-sponsored event, and it is beyond the year's fiscal budget.