

# Boston University Graduate Student Organization

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## Minutes

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

5:30 – 6:30 CAS 253, Gabel Museum of Archaeology

### 1. Announcements

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

**Kristen** encouraged the representatives to forward suggestions for the year to [gso@bu.edu](mailto:gso@bu.edu).

Diane Flynn is the new Director of National and International Scholarships at BU. Her job is to provide information to high achieving student about competitive national and international scholarships such as Rhodes and Fulbright awards. Diane's job is to do the research for you and see which awards you may be eligible for including scholarships, grants, and post-docs. She can be reached at [diflynn@bu.edu](mailto:diflynn@bu.edu).

### 2. Budget Change & Travel/Research Grants

At the last meeting of the Spring 2015 semester, there was a proposal to alter the pre-existing budget for the GSO. **Adam Iaizzi**, the GSO treasurer, updated new and existing GSO representatives about the updates.

In years past, the GSO was given \$15,000 for an operating budget which would fund social events, co-sponsored events, and anything else that came up during the year. Another \$5,000 was allocated to a separate account for travel and research grants.

The new budget merges these two accounts, providing the GSO with \$20,000 annually, which may be rolled over into the next fiscal year. The GSO has allocated \$7,000 of that budget towards travel and research grants (5 travel grants and 2 research grants each semester). Because of the new structure, students no longer need to feel the stress of the travel/research grant deadlines, as the roll-over budget allows for more flexibility.

**Lindsay Alberts**, the GSO's Travel Grants Committees Chair, informed new and returning GSO representatives about the current structure of the travel and research grants. Currently, we award five conference travel grants of \$500 each and two research grants of \$500 per semester. There is an application process (for more information see [bu.edu/gso/travelgrants](http://bu.edu/gso/travelgrants)), and a sub-committee is formed from GSO representatives in good-standing later in the semester to read applications and select award recipients and alternatives.

**Kristen** suggested that the current deadline schedule needs improvements. She suggested that we increase the time frame in which a grant may be used from six months to a full year. She believes this would be possible due to the new flexible budget. Kristen also suggested we spend more on grants per year, as we typically have a surplus in the budget. She suggested that we may do one or more of the following: add more grants awarding the same amount per grant, increase the amount of grants awarded, or a combination of the two. She suggested that attending representatives poll their departments and send emails to her prior to the next GSO meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup>, at which time the GSO representatives will take a vote.

The floor was then open for questions:

Has the GSO considered retroactive funding?

This has been difficult in the past due to deadlines, but it is assumed that many people will know they are planning on attending a conference well in advance. The GSO explicitly states in the application that a submission to a conference is sufficient for a grant application. In the event the submission is rejected, the money would not be provided. The GSO needs to make this option more transparent in individual departments.

Can these grants be transferred to another conference?

Typically, students apply for these grants detailing why the specific conference would be beneficial for them. It would be unlikely that a student would be able to do this for travel grant, but it could be possible for a change in venue for a research grant.

How many grant applications do you receive?

In the Spring semester, we received 12 – 15 travel grant and 5 – 6 research grant applications. Typically, the GSO will receive more in the fall semester. Most recipients require more than \$500.

### **3. Co-Sponsored Event: Digital Humanities Symposium**

Sarah and Erica from the History department spoke to the GSO representatives about their co-sponsored event application for BU's first ever Digital Humanities Symposium, which will be held on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Day one will feature roundtables allow students to wade into the field hosted by graduate students from a variety of departments. These roundtables will include an introduction into what the digital humanities are, a showcase of ongoing projects by graduate students at BU, and how to incorporate the digital humanities into the classroom. Day two will be workshops with interdisciplinary teams, as well as an introduction to mapping and crowdsourcing.

The History department is requesting \$1,000 to cover conference expenses, including the keynote honorarium, which will introduce graduate students to tools and profession careers in the field of digital humanities.

**Kristen** mentioned that typically the GSO refrains from funding honorarium, but due to their \$6,000 budget, we could potentially ask for them to spend the money elsewhere, or we can opt to give less than they requested.

**Kristen** motioned for full funding of \$1,000 with the contingency that they do not spend the GSO funds on the honorarium. Motion passed.

Graduate students who are interested in attending this event should check out the Facebook page: BU DH 2015 Facebook event. This is a free event, but they encourage everyone to register, as there will be food provided.

#### **4. Co-Sponsored Event: Archaeology Department's 12<sup>th</sup> Bi-Annual Conference**

The Archaeology Department is requesting funding for their 12<sup>th</sup> Bi-Annual Conference entitled "Breaching Boundaries: Perspectives on Identity and Conflict" which will be held on October 23<sup>rd</sup> through October 25<sup>th</sup>. BU has the only stand-alone archaeology department in the country. Their conference is interdisciplinary with abstracts from several different departments nationally and internationally. There was a large applicant pool and they have had a generous amount of attendees reply already. The GSO has funded this conference in the past.

They are requesting \$790 from the GSO that would go towards covering the audio visual fees and food for a reception with the presenters and keynote speaker.

**Kristen** motioned to fund the full amount of \$790. Motion passed.

Graduate students who are interested in attending this event should look for an email from the department and RSVP so they can order food. Abstracts and a general program should be released within the next few weeks.

#### **5. Social Chair Elections**

At the end of last semester, the social chair position became vacant. The social chair's responsibility is to host and organize any social event, which mainly includes pub nights and free coffee events. The position requires very minimal time. **Darcy** was nominated for the position.

**Kristen** motioned to elect **Darcy** as the GSO Social Chair. Motion passed.

**Kristen** also mentioned the GSO should provide a wider variety of social activities, especially ones that would encourage graduate students to intermingle across departments. Some ideas included trivia nights and the use of the Faculty Blues Band.

**Kristen** motioned to allocate \$1,000 to a pub night for the month of September. Motion passed.