

Boston University Graduate Student Organization

Minutes

Monday, January 25, 2016

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

1. Announcements

Adam Iaizzi welcomed representatives, encouraging them to sign in and create a name tag. These will be used at each meeting, so representatives were asked to place them in a folder or hold onto them for each meeting.

Adam introduced the new and returning officers, which are as follows:

Adam Iaizzi, President

Sara Belkin, Vice President & Co-Sponsored Events Committee Chair

Aviva Cormier, Treasurer

Kristen Edwards, Secretary

Darcy Gordon, Social Chair

Getty Lustila, Travel Grants Committee Chair

Aviva Cormier announced the treasurer's report, which contains \$8,919.87 in uncommitted funds. This amount is the remaining budget after money was allocated to the travel and research grants for the spring.

2. Adam Kleinberger, Associate Ombuds

Adam Kleinberger, the Associate Ombuds at BU visited the GSO to inform students about the services the Office of the Ombuds can offer graduate students. The Ombuds Office talks with students, faculty, and staff about concerns and issues. The office is an independent, impartial, informal problem-solving resource. The office maintains strict confidentiality, and provides a safe place to have off-the-record conversations on issues related Boston University. They are there to be helpful, and it is a free service.

The Ombuds Office at BU follows four ethical principles: (1) independence, (2) confidentiality (unless imminent risk of serious harm), (3) impartiality/neutrality and (4) informality.

Adam was open to any ideas the group might have for ways to further reach out to graduate students to let them know about the office.

Appointments can be made via email at ombuds@bu.edu or via telephone at [617-358-5960](tel:617-358-5960) or by walking into the office. More information including an FAQ can be found on the Office of Ombuds website at www.bu.edu/ombuds.

3. Kristen Carey, Update on Three Minute Thesis

Kristen Carey updated the GSO representatives about the ongoing Three Minute Thesis plans. The deadline to register has passed, with about 30 participants registered. The event will contain three heats with ten people per heat. This will take place on Thursday, March 24th from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm. There will be a finals round help on Tuesday, April 5th as well as a reception.

Kristen is looking for representatives to help out with advertising, attendance, and assistance on the day-of. All representatives were asked to encourage their department to attend. **Adam** motioned to create a committee for the Three-Minute Thesis event. **Sara** seconded this. Motion passed. **Adam** motioned to nominate Kristen Carey as chair of the committee. Sara seconded this, and the motion passed. The following students volunteered to comprise the Three-Minute Thesis committee: Sara Belkin, Lindsay Alberts, Dan Fallu, and Getty Lustila.

4. Survey Committee

Darcy Gordon addressed the GSO regarding the existence of a survey committee, whose responsibility in the past had been to survey students inquiring about the types of events, programs, and services they'd like to see from the GSO. As this is in the GSO constitution, **Darcy** suggested the committee be reinstated, and the GSO survey students at the start of the semester. She has drafted a rough set of questions and information the GSO may be interested in, and is looking for more ideas, questions, and people to be on the committee. Committee members would help draft the surveys, gather the data, and analyze the results.

Darcy motioned to create the survey committee; **Adam** seconded the motion. The vote to reinstate the committee passed. **Adam** motioned to nominate **Darcy** as chair of the survey committee; **Lindsay Alberts** seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The following GSO representatives volunteered to join the survey committee:
Aviva Cormier, Sara Belkin, and Dan Fallu

5. Co-Sponsored Event – American & New England Studies Program

PJ Carlino from the American and New England Studies Program Graduate Student Association approached the GSO with a co-sponsored event application for their annual student conference, “Directions in 21st-Century Preservation, The Dynamic City: Futures for the Past” help on April 1st and 2nd, 2016. They are requesting \$1,000 in order to maintain the student registration fee at \$45, rather than the professional fee of \$90. The program and conference are interdisciplinary, and the event boasts a wide range of presenters, including graduate students, scholars, mayors,

and working professionals (urban planners, architects, government officials, etc.). The conference looks at the city through different lenses, including contested spaces, sustainability, and public housing. The key note speaker is Maurice Cox, the urban planner for the city of Detroit.

The following questions were asked:

Are you planning to advertise around campus?

The AMNESP has taken advantage of posting services, advertised to program directly, and posted on many List-Servs. They are open to further advertisement suggestions.

Is this open to other departments?

Yes, the conference is open to anyone, and there will be some speakers and presenters from outside the department.

The GSO representatives determined that the conference and the theme looked applicable to a large range of disciplines and the AMNESP was very well-prepared. As the funds would be used to enable students to have a lower registration fee, the money would be well spent. **Adam** motioned to fund the full \$1,000. **Sara** seconded the motion. Motion passed.

6. Doug Edwards, Ph.D. Career Options

Doug Edwards from the Center for Career Development addressed the GSO representatives about the opportunities for graduate students seeking employment in a non-academic setting. The career councilors at the CCD hold a workshop once a semester for late-stage students (within one year of finishing their degree) that guides them through the process of locating work with which their degree could be applicable. The next workshop will be held on Friday, February 5th, and the deadline for applying is January 29th. They focus less on what a student can do with the degree, and more on what the student wants to do with the degree. Generally, there is a lot of interest, but Doug asked the GSO representatives to spread the word to their departments and encourage students to use this service. The career councilors are interested in discussing new ideas with students to gauge what they can do to help doctoral students considering other options besides academia.

The following questions were asked:

Is this service open to anyone?

Yes, the service is open to all students and alumni.

In my department, there is a lot of stigma in even mentioning pursuing non-academic careers. Would you consider working with young faculty members to advise them to encourage this, rather than discouraging students who want to pursue a job in a non-academic field?

Many of the faculty members are trained to get you academic jobs, and that is what they know how to do. Some brush it off, but this is becoming the minority as the reality of the job market in academia is becoming more apparent. This is a good consideration.

How much have you polled departments about the preparation in how to apply for faculty positions.

The CCD office is targeted towards aiding students with non-academic job applications. This would fall under the placement officer in your department who is charged with aiding graduating students through the academic applications. This may be taken up at a higher level for all graduate students. There may be things the CCD could do to help, such as connecting skills to a posting or exploring opportunities available or overcoming the experience hurdles expected of applicants.

How are appointments made?

Appointments can be made online, through the office, or via phone. These are one-on-one appointments open to all students, including alumni.

7. Pub Night

Adam suggested hosting another pub night prior to the next meeting on Tuesday, February 23rd. **Adam** motioned to allocate \$1,000 to a pub night in February. **Sara** seconded this, and the motion passed. **Darcy** will organize the event, and send an email with more details.