

# Boston University Graduate Student Organization

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## Minutes

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

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

### 1. Announcements

**Adam Iaizzi** welcomed representatives, encouraging them to sign in and grab a nametag.

**Getty Lustila** reminded GSO representatives that the Three-Minute Thesis competition will be held on Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 5pm.

**Aviva Cormier** announced the treasurer's report, which contains \$4,474 in uncommitted funds. This amount is the remaining budget after money was allocated to the travel and research grants for the spring.

### 2. James Souza, Journal Initiative

Per requests at the last meeting, the student representatives from the Pardee School provided the GSO representatives with clarifications and answers to a few questions. This includes more information on other graduate-run journals at Boston University and other colleges, as well as a funding plan and a promise to acknowledge the GSO pending support of funding. The Pardee Journal produced a proposal, which can be found by clicking on the link below and signing in with your BU account:

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B\\_3aAgaHwbk3TC1tZnRkR3N2dmpTd3FSd1NGY19XR3dWazhj](https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B_3aAgaHwbk3TC1tZnRkR3N2dmpTd3FSd1NGY19XR3dWazhj)

One representative asked if the journal would ask the GSO for continuous funding in the future. Currently, they do not know the future funding, as their department may provide more monetary aid pending a successful first edition. They hope to leave the GSO as an option for funding in the future, but only intend to use the money as a seed investment.

Adam asked if they would be printing other copies of the journal, or would the first volume be the only one printed. The representative noted the importance of the print copies, but suggested that it may be possible to publish exclusively online if the reputation of the journal grew in the future to gain a large enough audience.

**Sara Belkin** motioned to fund the journal initiative the requested \$700. Motion passed.

### **3. Co-Sponsored Event Application**

Representatives from The Editorial Institute approached the GSO requesting \$350 for the first annual One-Day Graduate Student Conference in Editorial Studies that will be held on April 30, 2016. The conference will deal with issues such as managing information, the intersection of material and digital studies, and the field of editing. They have already received proposals from area colleges from early career scholars and graduate students.

One representative asked why they were requesting so little money. The Editorial Institute has provided them with a sizeable percentage of the budget, but they value co-sponsorship from other organizations.

Another representative asked who was allowed to attend. The event is open to the entire BU community and the general public. There are advertisements forthcoming.

Sara motioned to fund the full \$350. Motion passed.

### **4. TA/TF Pay Differences**

Adam addressed the GSO with concerns that were brought to him about discrepancies between payment for Teaching Assistants and Teaching Fellows, specifically that Master's students are paid significantly less for identical work. A student was switched from one designation to the other and the department did not explain why. As there were no Master's students at the meeting, no one could personally comment on this issue.

Currently, all Teaching Fellows are PhD students and are funded on the same semester model. Some departments offer funding over the summer. One student from the Economics department noted that when BU standardized the funding model, summer funding was left up to each department's discretion.

Adam will be in contact with Tim Barbari to investigate this matter further.

### **5. Travel Grant Committee**

The deadline for the Spring travel grants is April 15. The committee needs four volunteers for this round of applications. On April 15, the committee will receive the about 30 page and a half applications. These will be reviewed and discussed at a meeting. The following people volunteered: Lindsay, Emily, Sara, and Beth. If anyone else is interested, email Getty.

Travel grant alternates will be notified after the last meeting regarding funding, pending a budget surplus.

## **6. Ben Thompson, Socially Responsible Investment**

GSO representatives, Ben Thompson, was sent to the advisory board about divestments. He was not present at the meeting, and this matter will be pushed to the next meeting.

## **7. GSO Survey Results**

There were a few concerns brought up by graduate students as a result of the GSO Survey that was circulated via email a few weeks ago. Adam urged students with issues to get involved: unless someone decides to come forward with a problem, the GSO cannot help.

One representative asked if there was a procedure for meeting with the administration. Adam answered that there are no regular meetings, but the GSO has never had difficulty organizing such meetings. Sara suggested sending the summary to the administration and inquiring about a meeting.

Another representative suggested another email be sent to students requesting specific anecdotes or issues. Lindsay mentioned that we needed to decide what the GSO mission is in this inquiry – to act as advocates or planners. Getty suggested selecting issues that are not departmental decisions and make a shorter, more general list to work with the administration on.

Adam, who was involved with the parental leave revision in the past, realized it would have been helpful to have someone who knew the issue more directly. Lindsay added that for some of the smaller concerns raised, students who were more involved with those issues may be knowledgeable representatives.

Students expressed a strong interest in professional development events. Adam suggested creating a professional development committee at the next meeting and planning an event over the summer. There was also a suggestion for collaboration with other university groups such as BU BEST or GWISE.

Adam also suggested that the GSO should host social events outside the BU Pub. GSO representatives were encouraged to bring ideas to the next meeting.