

GSO Meeting Minutes
17:30, Tuesday September 6th 2016
Gabel Museum

Logistics

- Introduction
 - Introduce officers
 - Meetings will be roughly monthly
 - Mix of mon/tues
 - All meetings this semester will be here
 - Website has been updated to a responsive design format that should work on mobile devices.
- Treasurer's Report
 - Starting Balance: \$40,290.95
 - Current Balance: \$38,334.752
 - Our budget increased by \$15,000 to a total of \$35,000 annually. The increase can be used only for travel grants, so our travel grant budget is now \$20,000 annually
 - Previously our annual budget was \$20,000
 - Conference Travel Grants: \$5,000
 - Discretionary: \$15,000 (\$2,000 from the discretionary budget was used for research travel grants)
 - Often Travel ended up being \$7,000 to \$10,000
- Travel Grants
 - We got the money in order to fund more people
 - i.e. award 40 grants instead of 10 for less money
 - There will be no more \$500 grants
 - Travel grants are intended to be a supplement to other sources of funding.
 - Administration wants us to reduce the lead time to apply
 - We currently accept applications twice annually
 - We could consider taking applications on a rolling basis, but that is logistically difficult
 - We may start accepting applications three times per year
 - We get around 40 good applications annually
 - 40 \$500 grants would be \$20,000
 - We need to advertise more: we could have GRS send out an email to the DGS of each department
 - Looking for a good way to increase travel of students
 - If we do this, we could possibly get more money
 - A rolling deadline is difficult because we need to bring together a committee
 - Criteria for being accepted?
 - Prefer to send people towards the end of their career
 - This will help with CV building
 - It is a formal application

- Did you fill out the whole application correctly?
 - How clear is the project?
 - Does it make sense?
 - Reimburse based on your receipts, so we only pay for what they use
 - If there is extra money, we fund alternates
 - How should we get more applicants?
 - Cut down the application length
 - Shorter page limit
 - 2 applications/semester is a lot of work for the committee
 - Maybe 3 we could have three per year
 - Everyone can always apply, but we could make it so you can get one towards the beginning of your career and one towards the end
 - Advertising
 - The numbers will increase if we report back to our departments saying there is more money
 - We will look at options and finalize them at the next meeting
- Social Events
 - Pub nights – get a ticket for a drink, free food and a game
 - Want to expand this to have a committee
 - Ideas
 - Yoga
 - Red sox games
 - Hike in the countryside
 - MFA outings
 - Salem, Provincetown
 - Whale watching
 - Interested students: Anahita (abahri@bu.edu), Dan (fallu@bu.edu), Christina (clfossa@bu.edu)
 - Money – \$1,000
- Professional Development Committee
 - Want people for the committee
 - One event in the fall and one in the spring
 - Options:
 - Seminar on personal finance
 - Seminar on outside fellowships and grants – Diane Flynn
 - This will be for humanities
 - We would prefer to have people from BU
 - Seminar or conference on alternative academic careers
 - Panel of Ph.D. students who have done other things
 - Spring because requires more planning
 - How much is department specific?
 - We want to have a lot of people (3 or 4)
 - Practice job talks – public skills of academia
 - Better to do not in your department

- GWISE – for fellowships for the sciences, there will be a panel next week on Wednesday at 5:30 in LSEB 103
 - GWISE holds great events
 - Interested Students: Miguel, Darcy
 - Anna Newman – Open access specialist at the library
 - Holding a satellite event for Open Con 2016 here
 - Open Con is a community for open access and data issues
 - Attendance is limited at the larger conference, so they encourage people from different institutions to host mini conferences
 - Details: Some time between November 7th-10th
 - 3 hour event
 - 3 sessions
 - Session 1: About opening up Boston government data to make it accessible to anyone
 - Session 2: Stream a session from the larger conference about what open really means and talking about information justice
 - Session 3: How to work in open round tables and discuss tools or approaches for to how to do it (i.e. how to sign up for orchid, open publishing tools etc.), quick overviews
 - This will be open to anyone in the Boston community
 - Also want a planning committee, minimal time commitment
 - Email newmanaa@bu.edu
 - Will have an online presence that could be shared
 - Interested Students: Dan (fallu@bu.edu), Betsy (ecowdery@bu.edu), Alexey (ashiklom@bu.edu)
 - Ben Thompson - Socially responsible investment committee (this has: 3 faculty, 1 grad, 2 undergrad, 3 trustees) – update
 - At the end of last year they recommended to the board of trustees that the university stop investing in companies which continue to explore for fossil fuels or coal/tarsans
 - And that they create a process to create a climate action plan
 - To make ambitious goals for the campus related to issues such as where we get our energy etc.
 - Board of trustees will be considering the recommendation mid this month
 - The board meets 3-4 times a year
 - Dean Elmore suggested we should choose another person
 - Term limit of 3 years
 - Ben Thompson is happy to do it again
 - We re-elected him
 - Adam will send Dean Ellmore an email that we re-elected Ben