GSO Meeting Minutes
17:30, Tuesday October 11, 2016
Gabel Museum

- Treasurer’s report
  - BU’s sheets: $35,345
    - $20,000 is travel grants
  - After already committed: $11,239
- GPLC – Graduate Professional Leadership Council meeting
  - Thursday at 6 pm in CAS 132
  - This group is for issues that affect all graduate students at BU (including GRS, law, business, medical, etc.)
- Climate Action Plan Committee – formed on recommendation from Advisory Committee for Socially Responsible Investing
  - Want a graduate student representative
  - Requirements: We don’t know yet
  - What was the commitment like for the ACSRI?
    - 2-3 meetings a semester
    - Not a huge burden
    - The CAP committee might get into the weeds more
  - Called for volunteers/nominations:
    - Ben Thompson volunteered (member of Socially Responsible Investing Committee)
  - **Vote:** Ben Thompson nominated by GSO to join this committee
- Social Events
  - Yoga – Social chair is coordinating a non-pub ongoing social
    - They will meet weekly for 8-10 weeks in spring semester
    - Giovanna – is looking into a space and instructor and what it would cost
    - Is it free? Will we subsidize it?
  - Space
    - Since we’re not a student activities office recognized organization, we can’t reserve rooms
    - Email Darcy with suggestions of rooms from departments that you can make a reservation in
    - We could look into the gym where there are already mats
    - GWISE – we could look at their system for scheduling rooms
      - For GWISE yoga, people do bring their own mats
  - Suggest a social event to Darcy if you have one you’re interested in
- Travel Grants
  - We have $15,000 more this year
  - We ran the plan by the dean – his goal is to provide as many people as possible the opportunity to travel
  - Reduce the lead time required to apply
  - Overall they should be more inclusive
Plan:

- Offer 40x $500 grants
  - 6 are research travel grants
  - 34 conference travel grants
- Application deadlines will be in the late fall, late spring, and late summer
  - No attendance requirement over the summer
- The deadline will be in mid November before Thanksgiving

We need an actual committee – group 3-4 people who will always work on it
- They will come up with new standards and processes

Deans Philosophy: GRS graduates 200 Ph.D.s a year, so at least 200 people should go to a conference a year, so our funding for these grants could increase even further

Travel Grant Questions

- Will research travel increase ever?
  - Probably not because it is viewed as less important. Everyone should travel to present at a conference
  - $500 goes further for the conference than for research
  - We could consider changing our rules after we collect numbers for a few years

- If an applicant has funding, will they be less likely to get the grant?
  - No, this is meant to supplement other funding, not providing the whole amount necessary
  - The dean thinks there are a lot of sources for external funding. There are not, but this is a good start

- Can someone on the committee apply to the grant?
  - No, but they can not participate one semester

- Is when you apply still dictated by when you are going to the conference?
  - You have to get the grant first and then go to the conference
  - The grant is good for 1 year from when you get it

- Do you have to pay first and then get reimbursed?
  - Yes, this is a university policy

- Who is interested in serving on the committee?
  - Talk to Getty, email him, or email gso@bu.edu

- What will the time commitment be like?
  - Time commitment will be different, but it used to be 2-3 days of reading all of the grants

Vote: on travel grant changes passed.

Issue: Parking lots for commuters were moved because of construction and are currently very far away
- They have to park at Agganis, which is smaller and farther

Illaria – salary dispute
- 8th year in Archeology
- When she reached 8 years, they offered her a writing instructor position, but she had to be a part-time instructor and only receive $6200
• Her professors appealed and she wrote a letter, but the dean was rude and didn’t understand, though he did give her an extra $2000
• Rules for all graduate students still apply: she can’t work more than 20 hours a week and can’t work outside the university, which makes it incredibly difficult
  o Wants to tell her story because it has been the rules for a long time, it’s not fair, and people should speak up. Minimum wage is $13, but she makes $8 and other graduate students make $9
• Questions
  o Spoke to someone saying the paradigm is shifting towards no longer providing funding after the 7th year
    • This has been the case for a long time
  o Story: Only has half a semester in her 8th year before she will be forced to graduate
  o Lots of people drop out
  o Different degrees take different amounts of time – archeology takes a long time