

# Boston University Graduate Student Organization

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## Minutes

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

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

### 1. Announcements

**Kristen Carey** began the meeting by welcoming all GSO representatives, and introducing Casey, the new point person for the GRS. She is responsible for organizing Ph.D. commencement, orientations, professional development seminars, and other events. If you have a question, you may email graduate services at [grsgs@bu.edu](mailto:grsgs@bu.edu) or go in person to room 112 at 675 Commonwealth Avenue.

### 2. Travel/Research Grants

The date for the travel and research grant deadlines has been finalized. The fall deadline will be November 1<sup>st</sup> and the spring deadline will be April 15<sup>th</sup>. Grant recipients will now have a year from the date of award to apply for reimbursement.

There was no consensus on awarding more grants versus increasing the amount awarded per grant. It was decided the travel grants committee will come to the decision based on the applicant pool. Committee members are responsible for reading applications and rating them; however, they are not eligible for grants while serving on the committee. If you are interested in joining the travel grants committee, email [gso@bu.edu](mailto:gso@bu.edu).

Kristen also requested that in the interim that application be updated as a fillable PDF.

Just a reminder that the representatives are responsible for informing their departments about the grants, as well as other GSO events and opportunities.

### 3. Website Updating

There are many items on the website that are out of date, as well as many broken links. If you are interested in updating any of the documents on the website, such as the PDF for housing, email [gso@bu.edu](mailto:gso@bu.edu).

### 4. Sponsoring Events

Kristen asked the representatives if the GSO would be interested in hosting other events, such as financial advising or speed reading events. The representatives agreed that it would depend on the event, but it would be good for students, and we should start with one event per semester or year to gauge student interest.

## **5. Pub Night**

The GSO will host a trivia pub night on either Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> or Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Tables will be assigned randomly for teams to encourage student mingling. If you have ideas for prizes that can be awarded to the winning team, email [gso@bu.edu](mailto:gso@bu.edu). Gift cards cannot be awarded, as these need to be taxed. Other ideas were BU Pub coupons, free drink tickets, and free coffee at Pavement.

## **6. Continuing Enrollment Issues**

Students who do not register for classes for the Fall semester until late in the summer are faced with library circulation issues. In order to renew books online for the summer, graduate students need to be enrolled in courses for the fall. For those smaller departments where course descriptions are not released until the late summer, the students are required to return their books for the summer. Since this matter was only a small departmental issue, no action was taken.

Continuing students are also ineligible for free FitRec courses. Every graduate student is allowed one free FitRec course per semester. The current policy prohibits students who are not enrolled in courses from taking courses for free that are not punch card classes, and prohibits students from auditing these courses as they do not advance degrees. There will be a survey to gather data that will be circulated by Laura Wipf in late October. GSO representatives were encouraged to mention this issue to their department.