

Boston University Graduate Student Organization

Minutes

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

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

1. Announcements

Kristen Carey began the meeting by welcoming all GSO representatives and encouraging attending representatives to sign in and made the following announcements.

The annual BGLO Mixer will be held on November 13th, 2015 between 8pm – 11pm at the Wild Rover. There will be an hour-long open bar and free appetizers. Typically, more than 600 graduate students from the Boston area attend this event. If you are interested, RSVP via Event Brite for tickets.

The first trivia pub night held on October 26th was very successful. Students mingled with other departments much longer than normal pub nights, and it was suggested the GSO host another trivia night next semester. One Thursday pub night will be scheduled prior to the end of the semester. Adam motioned to allocate \$1,000 to a pub night, and the vote passed.

The Smithsonian Fellowship, which is available for graduate students in art, natural history, American history, and certain science programs, is looking for more applicants for its December 1st deadline. If you or anyone in your department are eligible, please forward this information.

Treasurer, **Adam Iaizzi**, reported the current remaining budget for the GSO. As of today, there is \$12,114.28 in uncommitted funds for the remainder of the year.

2. Travel Grants

The Travel Grant Committee Chair, **Lindsay Alberts**, updated the representatives about the fall grant applications. The committee met and decided on the winners. Those people will be notified, and their names will be released upon confirmation of award. The applicant pool was conference heavy, perhaps due to the lack of research travel in the spring semester. GSO representatives were encouraged to advertise the research grants for the next semester.

Kristen asked the representatives if there should be language on the application restricting applications for both travel and research grants or that students may only be eligible for one per year. Lindsay mentioned that these details were taken into consideration during the deliberations. If multiple applications are received from a single student, that doesn't necessarily eliminate them, but it does factor into their decision. It was agreed that these matters should be decided

judiciously by the committee and that applicants should not be limited. It was suggested, however, that language be included in the judging criteria.

3. Three-Minute Thesis

Kristen met with the Dean to discuss the GSO's responsibility in the upcoming Three-Minute Thesis event. The event has been scheduled for Thursday, March 24th. The deadline for registration is Friday, December 19th. Depending on the number of participants, this may turn into a two-day competition. The prizes will be monetary, but the GRS is waiting to see what the interest will be before they determine the amounts. There will be both a people's choice and a judge's winner for this event.

The GSO will be responsible for recruiting student participants and faculty/staff judges. The GRS is looking to make this an annual event, which may eventually attract city officials and community members outside the university. The GRS is looking to get at least 10 competitors; all must be ABD or passed comprehensive exams by the competitions. In addition, the GSO will also need to help with minor logistics during the event and garner graduate student interest through advertisement for an audience.

Kristen asked that GSO representatives email faculty and students in their departments as soon as possible. She suggested stressing its usefulness in job talk, networking, perfecting the elevator pitch, and showcasing what each department is doing.

4. Elections

Elections will be held at the next meeting in December. Kristen and Lindsay will not be here in Fall 2016, but will be in the Spring 2015. Kristen encouraged representatives to take initiative and volunteer for these positions, or ask members of their department to send interested parties to run.

The Travel Grants Committee Chair is responsible for keeping track of the committee, organizing meetings and applications, evaluating applications and scoring, awarding winners, and keeping in contact with recipient. Lindsay added that this position allows you to see the other side of the grant application process and it looks great on a CV.

The President is responsible for maintaining the GSO email, setting up agendas for meetings five times a semester, documenting attendance, updating the website, and occasionally meeting with the Dean. This position is excellent for CV and shows great leadership to potential employers.

If you or someone you know is interested in this position, you may nominate yourself or ask for a nomination. Send Kristen an email if you are interested in either of these positions.