

GSO Meeting Notes
5:30, Tuesday, February 22nd, 2017
Engineering Product Innovation Center (EPC) 204
Attendance: ~30 (?)

- **Treasurers Report**

- Starting balance: \$40,299
- Remaining balance: \$6,388

- **Committee Updates**

- Travel Grant
 - The next deadline is April 1st
- 3 Minute Thesis – Andrew Bell
 - Thursday February 23rd 12:00-1:30, ERC
 - Elevator speech/Research pitch
 - Panelists:
 - Dean Anne Cudd
 - Dolan Bottacharia (?) – Center of Space Physics, Last year's winner
 - Jennifer Talbot – Biology Department
 - GRS will fund half of the money for lunch tomorrow
 - Asking for \$140 from GSO for lunch
 - **Motion:** Grant the 3 Minute Thesis committee \$140
 - **Passed (unanimous)**
- Professional Development
 - Alternate Academic Career Panel Event – another plan A, careers beyond the academy
 - Thursday February 23rd 12:00-1:30, Photonics 211
 - 30 people attending
- Social Chair – We need someone to take over
 - Description of position (Darcy) – It is not hard/a big time commitment, you must send emails to the BU pub, communicate the order, go to the events and host it, collect money from people if necessary, hand out drink tickets, and add a game if you would like
 - There is a guide
 - 2 events/year
 - **Motion:** Elect Jacob H, Pardee School to the position of Social Chair
 - **Passed (unanimous)**
- Co-Sponsored Events – Romance Studies, graduate student conference
 - About: Examining literature on the borders of genre, transitions, and culture
 - They held it for the first time last year and it was a success
 - People from many departments and other schools attended (African studies, English literature, French, Spanish, etc.)
 - We did contribute money to this last year

- Need funds for catering, facilities, etc.
 - \$700, which is 40% of their budget (which is the same amount as last year)
 - They have money from Romance Studies and the Women Gender and Sexuality Studies Program
 - Questions:
 - What do we normally spend money on?
 - (In order of amount of budget spent) Travel grants, co-sponsored events (mostly conferences), social and professional development events
 - What is the money for?
 - They included a budget
- **Meeting with the Dean**
 - Travel Grants – we are collecting data on results this year and if we need more money, they will most likely give it to us
 - BU's goal is to have us attend conferences
 - Teaching Evaluations – they are the same as the professors, so it can be confusing for the students
 - These evaluations can be important for people who are considering going into teaching where they actually ask for the numbers from teaching evaluations
 - We asked for different evaluations – this is not something that Dean Hughes manages
 - There is a task force being that will holistically look at undergraduate education and most likely reconfigure the TF evaluations to more accurately reflect what TAs do
 - We should have at least graduate students on the panel (one from the sciences and one from the humanities)
 - This could take a few years
 - Summer Funding
 - This won't happen in a uniform institutional way because of restrictions with budgeting
 - The budget for summer funding is contingent on how much funding the sciences receive
 - The residual money is the wiggle room for summer funding
 - This is distributed to each department and the department decides how to award it
 - This varies greatly between departments
 - some people were not aware of this opportunity
 - Quick Math: On average, they give 6K packages for 4 months
 - If each department gets \$36,000 dollars, that's for 6 people
 - Only one person got this in Romance Studies
 - Summer research fellowships through GRS are another opportunity

- Applications are due April 15th and the DGS, director or graduate studies helped send out the information
 - GRAF is a similar option for only social science students
 - GPLC – They had a summer funding committee, Andrew headed this
 - They tried very hard to get this for years, but it was not possible
 - There will be an open meeting Tuesday February 28th, 6-7:30 on the med campus
- What happens after the 5-year package? What does BU pay for?
 - If you are making \$5,000 or more they will pay for health insurance and tuition, but will not cover the stipend
 - If you are not taking classes, they will cover fees (continuing student fee)
 - The continuing student fees are not automatic
 - The department has to sign off that you are in good standing
 - If you make under \$5000, they will not pay for health insurance
 - You can get a fellowship to teach
 - i.e. A writing one fellowship (this isn't available after 7 years)
 - If you are a TF, you get health insurance
 - In some departments, you can not be a TA after 5 years
- If you get an outside fellowship, will you still get 5 years of funding?
 - If you get a fellowship, you can defer your 5 years and use it after your fellowship ends
- Security issues, we didn't get to discuss it, but we will email Dean Hughes