GSO Meeting Notes 9/13/17

- **Introduction**
  - What does GSO do?
    - Travel grants
    - Co-sponsored events
    - Social events
    - Professional events
    - Advocacy committee
  - We will be making some big pictures changes with the GSO this year

- **Elections**
  - At the end of the calendar year we will have elections and Getty will be stepping down as president

- **Treasurer’s report**
  - $44,463
  - $31,481
  - Actual
    - $2589.45 – travel grants
    - ~$600 – Professional Development
  - A lot of our money has been allocated to the travel grants

- **Committees**
  - **Travel grants**
    - Deadlines: December, April, and August 1st
    - MA and first years are not eligible
      - GRS has decided this
      - They want older Ph.D. students to have the opportunity to attend conferences
    - Previously, if you had already received a travel grant, you couldn’t receive another one
      - Now, the cycle starts August 1st, so if you win one, you are not eligible until the next cycle, but can then reapply
    - There weren’t a lot of applications over the summer (40% of people received one)
      - We want more applications so that we can get more money
      - Information about the grants will be sent out to everyone through Casey next time, not just to the representatives to forward to their departments
  - **Social events** – Jacob (social chair)
    - We will try to get people off campus more
    - The schedule will be decided soon
    - Potential ideas
      - Gardener museum
      - Red sox game (discount tickets)
      - Breweries
    - Jacob would love to get new ideas! – email him or add him on Facebook
Feedback from representatives:
- It would be better to do them sooner because the semester gets busy
  - We will try to spread them out, but start them early
  - Email Jacob if the dates are bad for a lot of people
- Will they be on the weekend?
  - Yes, we want to have one on the weekend
  - There was excitement about this
- The MFA and Gardiner museums are always free for BU students
- Project the super bowl or movie nights (at an apartment, in a classroom, outside, etc.)

Professional Development Committee
- We are trying to be more efficient this year
- It’s hard to plan things for all disciplines
- New organization
  - We want to host some for specific disciplines
  - Go by areas: humanities, natural sciences, social sciences
  - We want people to be more engaged and make it your own
  - Give a space to create opportunities for people in your disciplines

Feedback
- Ellie Ash – Religious studies
  - Interested, but needs help organizationally
- Pardees – English Department
  - Good idea
  - English graduate students association just started this year
    - They do colloquia on professionalization
  - We could also advertise events from different departments
- This could promote interdisciplinary work
- There are many departments that don’t have professional development
- Jacob – Pardee has their own system, reps probably have to discuss this with their departments
  - It might not be necessary?
- BGSA – Bio Grad Student Association
  - Small budget, so they would be interested in working with GSO
- E+E – One person is trying to do professional development work and could use help
- We could ask people from the department too to bring them in
- Psychology – they also do events, this could incentivize departments to open their events up on a bigger scale
  - We could have an application system
- The goal is one event per area per semester
- We could probably get more money for this if we do well and show that there is a need for it
o Send any ideas to Getty and bring it back to your departments for feedback/interest
  o **Advocacy Committee** – we need to work on this more and come up with a better idea of how to do this
    ▪ This is to help with addressing issues facing graduate students
    ▪ We sent out a survey a few years ago to ask what issues people are facing
    ▪ This committee would be the go between with different organizations and make sure we’re all working together
    ▪ We will address this later

**Graduate School Governance Committees**
  o Committees – on these, students get equal voting power as the faculty and can impact GRS policy
    ▪ Graduate academic affairs committee – reviews grad courses
    ▪ Academic policy committee
    ▪ Curriculum based committees – humanities, social sciences, natural sciences
  o See if we can find out who is on these committees!
    ▪ We want to get our voice on them and be aware of what is happening
  o This is an opportunity to have an impact

**Diversity and Inclusion Plan**
  o Talking about curriculum is a part of this
  o There was a task force looking at this to determine how inclusive we are
    ▪ They made a committee to determine how we can fix it
  o There is an active push to change this, so we should get involved if possible
  o We will try to get Daniel Kleinman to come back and tell us what the status of this committee is
    ▪ He told us to bother him about this
  o Tell us if there are diversity issues

**Graduate Student Day**
  o The Provost is trying to revive a poster day to make it a graduate student day
  o It would have food, activities, engage people across disciplines, and opportunities to share our research
  o Get feedback about how to be professionals
  o It will be in the spring
  o Tell us if you have ideas

**Urban Inequalities Workshop**
  o This is happening this semester, there are talks about urban inequality
  o The person who sent the information about it isn’t here today
  o Getty will send an email about it

**Open**
  o For travel grants is there a department bias for departments that are underfunded?
    ▪ No
    ▪ We have data on this, but nothing has been implemented
- E+E rep asked because there was a very low funding rate
  - So it is hard to ask people to apply again
  - There is one event each year that is really important
- Response:
  - If you’re not presenting, you should apply under research, less people apply for research
    - For research the percentage is closer to 50%, for conferences the success rate is closer to 30-40%
  - Only 15 people will get it each round
- Is there a preference for people presenting?
  - Yes