GSO Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, February 5th, 5 pm, CAS 226

Announcement from Other Organizations:
- From the UGSO
  - Looking for new members of the UGSO, meant as an organization for PD and social inclusion for people of color at BU; if you would like to get involved, we do panels with undergraduates, planning a symposium for next semester, need new members
- From Pardee Graduate Council President
  - PGCI is hosting a conference the 22nd and 23rd - encourage people to come, submit any type of paper you’re working on, taking submissions up to Friday, free food

Money Matters:
- If you are buying anything for the GSO, or have a Travel grant → no Amazon!
- The GSO has a deal with Amazon, so we must order through the GRS

Treasurer’s Report:
- Starting balance on BU’s sheet
  - Starting in fall of 2018: $43,339.68
- Allocated funds
  - $13,253.37 Travel Grants
  - $634.50 PD
  - $1,583.00 still to go out
- GSO uncommitted funds
  - $14,255.77
- Releasing PD funds
  - Useless sitting there; we can do more with it
  - Voting to release the $634.50 of PD back into budget - PASSES
  - Now $14,890.27

Co-Sponsored Event:
- 27th Annual ASC - one of two graduate-only conferences in the country
- Held on 29th and 30th of March, really proud that it’s multi-disc
- Travel grant program for scholars from the African continent (with citizenship)
- 250 applications, room for about 20 papers
- Asked GSO to sponsor $1000, something under 20%, would go a huge way, underwrite a welcome dinner the first night, all from BU are welcome
- Voting to co-sponsor the African Studies Conferences - PASSES

Travel Grants:
• Improve transparency of eligibility
• Make sure you sign in every time you come!
• Tally will go up on website soon!
• Enrollment: nothing has to change unless you want it to
  ○ Up to 50 members → 1 rep
  ○ Up to 100 members → 2 reps
  ○ 100+ members → 3 reps
• You only have to send one, but can have more for voting power
• If we ever get the point where this is a massive debate, maybe we should allow 150+ to add a 4th rep?
• Won’t affect our money - just voting numbers
• Increase representation of large departments vs. balance with smaller departments, or introduce a cap of 4 reps?
• Vote: do we want to change this? Currently is maximum number of representatives is 3
  ○ DOES NOT PASS, only 1 vote in favor
  ○ Vote to keep the status quo
• Increasing accessibility by small departments
  ○ Merge departments under 1 umbrella?
  ○ Attending fewer meetings?
  ○ We do have a proxy system, it works pretty well
  ○ If a rep needs a proxy, they request one from a different department
  ○ Reach out with proxy information
• Vote to keep the proxy system as is - PASSES
• Representative just means you’re coming from your department
  ○ Would like to keep the same people if possible for consistency
  ○ For proxy, if you’re proxying you should have someone come for your dept
• You can absolutely rotate reps - just make sure you’re all listed

Expanding Travel Grants
• From 40 a year to 50-55 a year
• Budget-wise, (Diane spoke with Barman recently) $20,000 and then $15,000 → will always come in 2 installments

Budget:
• $2000 for co-sponsored events
• $800 meeting food
• $300 for small coffee hours
• $1000 for big coffee hour
• $1000 for end-of-semester social event
• $300 E-Board
• $200 Mass GF
• With some safety, $8290.27 leftover -- 16 TGs
• 3 cycles of TGs
But within this fiscal year, we only have April 1st deadline
- 12-13 people get a travel grant / cycle
- Travel grant info session soon
- Vote to expanding travel grant - unanimous, PASSES
- Vote to add 16 travel grants to the year - unanimous, PASSES
- Do we want to separate it as 8 and 8? It changes every cycle (Alex)
- All in favor of doing 8 for the fall deadline and 8 for the spring deadline? - unanimous, PASSES
  - 6 alternates for the winter? TG committee can add 2

Events:
- TG Application Workshop - February 26th - 3 weeks from now - instead of a regular GSO meeting, will hold this workshop
  - Will count as one of 5 meetings for your department reps
  - Would we like to supply food? Yes, unanimous
- Coffee hours
  - 3 coffee hours for underrepresented students - queer, POC, international
  - Would UGSO be down to co-sponsor?
  - Scheduling: about a month apart
  - Rooms? 147 Bay State, ASC
  - Brian will set it up
- Pavement coffee hour for GRS
  - Need 3 weeks advance notice
  - Alex will help manage that
- Any other ideas?
  - PGC had their first meeting - Pardee students said they lack networking, social event with bowling, nametags, communicating with each other
- 3 Minute Thesis
  - Any interest in coordinating? Potentially E-Board
- Kleinman is looking for representatives from humanities
  - Lizzy will give Diane names from last meeting
- Students who have children during grad school get additional time to graduate - push back the funding
- Office of Ombuds will send someone March 19th
- Emily will attend April 30
- Any other people? Sarah Farkas - Alex
- Emails about other graduate student opportunities
  - Diane will forward to reps
- Mass Grad Federation
  - Allocated $200 - next meeting of MGF at BU, end of February, all welcome to come, will send more info
  - All of the mass grad schools getting together for a big collegial union of students
  - Babson is running a grad student bar night
- Interested in taking actionable items to state reps
  - Do we want to send these kind of messages? Majority vote yes, one unopposed - PASSES