

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*