

GSO Meeting Notes

Tuesday, March 19th, 5 pm, CAS 226

Announcements from Diane

- Put up flyers for 3MT and UGSO in your departments!
- Survey sheets - please fill out!
 - Email Blast Survey
 - Graduate Student Groups
 - Representative Information
 - Department Info
 - TF Survey

Introductions, News

- Conference on weekend of April 12th (AMNESP), find information on Facebook, volunteer opportunities

Ombuds Office Presentation - Office at 930 Commonwealth Ave

Treasurer's Report

- Starting Balance: \$43,339.68
- Allocated Funds: \$20,753.37 → Travel Grants (where the recipient has been informed but hasn't necessarily taken the trip yet)
- Coffee Hour Budget \$1300
- End of Year Party \$1000
- Meetings \$800
- E-Board \$150
- Everything else: Uncommitted Funds: \$3,250.52
 - \$1000 co-sponsorship, bring this to \$2250.52
 - Fiscal year ends June

No CIRCLE Presentation

Co-Sponsored Event (Sarah)

- Romance Studies Graduate Student Conference, "Technology and Literature"
- April 27th, 2019
- Requesting \$386.50
- Taking a vote - UNANIMOUS - passes!

Coffee Hour Dates:

Students of Color, International Students, LGBTQIA+

- March 28th - CAS 132, 9 am-noon
- April 2 - BRB 113
- April 4 - BRB 113

GSO Parent's Group

- Is there interest? Yes (Biology, History, Anthropology, Chemistry)

Speed-Networking

- Requested by someone from Pardee
- Hosting in mid-April
- For *everyone* at BU
- Food, drinks, talking to other grads
- Volunteers?

Proxy System

- Some departments are downsizing - small programs that stop taking new grad students; this poses questions about eligibility for travel grants
- Revamp proxy system to make it more accessible
- Current system: find someone to take your place at a meeting, but can still be tricky
- Instead, identify a permanent designated proxy:
 - Email the proxy before the meeting; "I read through the agenda, I'm participating, this is how I would vote, etc"
- What if everyone stops coming?
 - Put a limit of number of times on proxy
- Try it, see if it becomes a serious problem?
- What if we consider the dimension of the departments?
 - Small departments, okay, makes sense
- Vice president has no duties - make Paul our Proxy
- Voting to "must send in opinions/votes by 4 pm on the day of the meeting" - PASSES
- Would count for an attendance
- Will think through limits as things unfurl

Center for Teaching and Learning

- Graduate teaching workshops
 - Having difficult conversations, promoting discussion, writing a lesson plan
- Pilot program called Graduate Teaching Consultants
 - Grads who apply, participate in all facets of the CTL programming for graduate students; go to workshops, co-lead, events, be a resource

- Useful for people both in/out of academia
- Not just about leading a discussion section
- Opening applications for next year - closes mid-April, will do interviews
- Low time commitment, get paid for 5 hours a week at \$14.50
- Pass it along to departments! Hiring 3 people

Improving the Graduate Student Experience

- How do we get requests heard & dealt with?
- BU-wide group to have a little more power
- Using the GSO to coordinate things
- TF survey - does this information exist anywhere?
 - Change question about contract → course guidelines, expectations instead

Mass Grad Federation

- State House visit
- 2-3 hours commitment
- Help with document on renewable energy policy - reach out to Diane if you want to help