

GSO Meeting Notes
17:30, Wednesday, October 13, 2020

Time	Item	Notes
17:30	Welcome (President - Khadija El Karfi)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation by Adam Kleinberger from the ombuds office Adam Kleinberger, the Associate Ombuds at BU Discussed the services the Office of the Ombuds can offer graduate students. The Ombuds Office talks with students, faculty, and staff about concerns and issues. The office is an independent, impartial, informal problem-solving resource. The office maintains strict confidentiality, and provides a safe place to have off-the-record conversations on issues related to Boston University. They are there to be helpful, and it is a free service. The Ombuds Office at BU follows four ethical principles: (1) independence, (2) confidentiality, (3) impartiality/neutrality and (4) informality. Appointments can be made via email at ombuds@bu.edu or via telephone at 617-358-5960. More information including an FAQ can be found on the Office of Ombuds website at www.bu.edu/ombuds. 2. Maybe Dean Jeffries - Sent a request for her to come to address the following points: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Clarity and transparency of stipends and funding between the BU Administration and GRS students b. Communication between BU's administration and grad students c. The issue with the 5 hours of work policy & its inconsistency with other universities' policies d. The 8-month stipend issue e. Clarify the Emergency Fund. Is it a loan or is it a grant? Is it being taken out of students' stipends? f. The issue that TFs have to teach an empty in-person class while all students are remote. 3. Vote on urgent funding request for GPRSA Conference from Ellie Ash (Religious Studies): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. \$800 for sign language interpreter b. Unanimous vote to fund of all reps present 4. The GSO is searching for a rep who would be interested in a website/communications manager. It will be a short-term position with the possibility of being changed to an official position on the E-Board. Contact us for more information. The duties will include:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Creating and managing database/list of GSO emails b. Updating the website c. Assisting the social chair with advertising d. 3-5 hours maximum commitment per week e. Send email to gso@bu.edu if you're interested <p>5. Representative Email List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Please fill out this Google Doc if you haven't already with your name and department to help us keep track of the rep email list. <p>https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mCkmd1usU1SkyFqqXZgW4WJOtbkbVfcvB3_kOkwQI/edit?usp=sharing</p> <p>6. The proxy system:</p> <p>If you can't make a meeting rather than finding a replacement student, we have a designated proxy - our Vice President, Shannon Bewley. To use our proxy system, your representative simply has to read through our agenda ahead of time and coordinate their comments and votes with the vice president before the meeting, preferably via email (sbewley@bu.edu).</p> <p>7. GSO's Mailing List:</p> <p>You can subscribe/unsubscribe from our mailing list by following this link:</p> <p>https://www.bu.edu/gso/join-our-mailing-list/</p> <p>8. New collaboration form for GSO non-monetary requests</p> <p>https://www.bu.edu/gso/cosponsoredevents/</p> <p>9. Any other opening comments from outside groups etc.</p>
	Updates from President - Khadija El Karfi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The GSO has been asked to collaborate with GWISE and the PhD Coalition to push the administration to develop a PhD sick leave policy and bolster their child care policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Received an email this week about new \$600 fund for childcare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Meeting with GWISE and PhD Coalition on Friday about what their policy requests are going to be 2. Graduate students working at the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) will come to our meeting on November 11, 2020, to discuss resources available to students.

	<p>Updates from Vice President - Shannon Bewley</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tax Workshop: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Find good dates and times for the workshops b. (Tentative) When to Meet for Domestic Students c. (Tentative) When to Meet for International Students d. Waiting to hear back from Robert Underwood about recordings and hand-outs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Possible to have password-protected video on our website but making sure he's feeling comfortable with that format ii. Waiting to hear back about any informational handouts etc iii. Perhaps waiting until Spring class schedule gets released in late November <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The above poll will provide an initial view of when reps would like to have the workshop that we can then bring to Mr. Underwood
	<p>Updates from Secretary - Jessica Garber</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Structure of daily symptom survey and the non-compliance email <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Hannah Howard - Anthro <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Has felt and heard that other people think the non-compliance email was inappropriate and condescending <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summary of Hannah's meeting with Kleinman: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Help revising the form email potentially? Haven't taken her up on that offer b. Poor communication from BU admin to grad students → Kleinman cited lack of overarching administrative structure 2. Kleinman emailed back regarding PhD the possibility of extending the time to degree for Phd students, he agreed that grad students being lumped into the same category as undergrads is problematic, and that grad students could potentially being given the option that they're not coming to campus instead of filling out the symptom survey <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. All of these were under discussion by BU admin b. Sybil Johnson: there's signs up saying that you need to complete survey only when you're coming to campus c. Nicole Berry: has experience with filling out survey every day but still being labeled as non-compliant because of a system

		<p>error → needed to contact Healthway and GRS; they don't all have the same information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. It's labeled as our responsibility to email people to resolve any issues <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. BU Student Health Insurance workshop/info session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. No updates
	Treasurer's report (Treasurer - Open position)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call for Election Candidates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sending out a description of the position and will be calling for potential candidates 2. Starting Balance on BU's sheet: \$35,000 3. Allocated Funds: 4. GSO Uncommitted Funds:
	Updates from Travel Grant Chair (Alex Yen)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GSO grant webpage: https://www.bu.edu/gso/travelgrants/ 2. We are looking for one or two new travel grant committee members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Requirements: you need to have won a GSO grant (research or conference before) b. We are looking for one person in STEM and one person who is in the humanities → that's everyone in GSO! c. Expectations of committee members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. See email update sent out by Ethan d. Possibility of extending the deadline to December 15-20th but currently it's December 1st e. Email: gsogrant@bu.edu to express interest, identify when you won a grant, and why you would like to serve on the committee f. If you want to team up with 1+ departments to have an info session, please email Travel Grants to provide an info session g. There is NOT a public list of people in every dept who've received a travel grant → could potentially find a list of people for the past 3 years if you email them <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Lack of practice though h. Requirement for having to have received a Travel Grant before → idea that you would be able to understand the balance of explaining your research to non-specialists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The grant app questions haven't changed so they're able to use this as a minimal bar for who can be on the Travel Grant Committee

	<p>Updates from our Social Chair (Ethan Mccaslin)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Weekly newsletter updated to shorter pdf format 2. Book club <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Limited feedback on that so far (only two votes!) b. Click the link in the pdf GSO newsletter! 3. Pavement <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Free coffee at Pavement on the GSO b. Needing to figure out voucher or discount code → likely be a specific time-period 4. Movie night <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Collaboration with Students of Color for Public Health possible collaborations (from BUSPH) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Suggested "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" possibly later in the semester b. Poll for Halloween-themed movie night → see pdf GSO newsletter!
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