

GSO Meeting Notes
18:00, Monday, February 1st, 2021

Time	Item	Notes
18:00	Welcome (President - Khadija El Karfi)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Representative Email List <ol 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 style="text-align: center;">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mCkkmd1usU1SkyFggXZgW4WJOtbkbVfcvB3_kOkwQI/edit?usp=sharing</p> 2. The proxy system: 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). 3. GSO's Mailing List: You can subscribe/unsubscribe from our mailing list by following this link: https://www.bu.edu/gso/join-our-mailing-list/
18:15	E-board Elections	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. President Position <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Sobia Shadbar</u>: My name is Sobia Shadbar and I am a second year candidate for Masters in Arts in International Affairs (MAIA) with a specialisation in Global Economic Affairs at the Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies here at BU. I am of Indian ethnicity and nationality which is where I spent most of my life before moving here to Boston for over a year ago. I would like to be YOUR GSO President for the year 2021. The GSO has always contributed substantially to the well being of graduate students in all senses. I would love to be of service to everyone at BU by shouldering the responsibilities of this presidency. I believe I'm fit for the role because I not only possess soft skills and clear communication abilities, but am

		<p>also an approachable person. I am very meticulous and organised. While I agree graduate school work can get overwhelming, I am someone who functions best on a well planned schedule and multitasking has never been a setback for me. I am currently serving as the Secretary for the Pardee Graduate Council (PGC), the student body for graduate students at Pardee and have had experience taking on presidencies and leadership roles in the past at university and at workplaces (Details of which can be found in my resume, PFA) which reinforces my capability for the candidacy.</p> <p>Connecting with people within and outside of our communities has been one of the major challenges for all of us as we still engage in the process of learning and unlearning and continue to pave our way through the much novel remote way of life. Numerous graduate students, faculties and departments across BU are engaged in immensely enthralling projects and research, many of which could be enriched by propelling collaborations. One of my major goal as the GSO president would be to connect these entities and catalyse these collaborations in order to thus be a resource in furthering growth and evolution of the many individuals associated to BU in numerous capacities and of the entire BU community as a whole.</p> <p>b. <u>Natasha Phatarphod</u></p> <p>Hi everyone, I am Natasha, a first year graduate student at Questrom School of Business pursuing my dual degree in the MBA and Master's in Economics program. And I am running for GSO president. My goal here at BU is to grow into a well rounded person and this club is just the thing to help me with that. I aim to work towards building a stronger community and to pave a seamless path between us students and the administration and faculty. I aim to create an environment that is a fun experience for all members involved but that also helps evolve us all into our best possible selves. In my undergrad I headed the Creative and Marketing team for several projects. This experience as well as my time at BU has honed my skills as a team player as well as a leader. And if you choose me to be your president, I promise to be the voice representing the graduate student body and to make sure we all have the best experience at BU.</p>
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		<p>Thank you and don't forget to vote Natasha for president.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How to get more master's students involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sobia: creating a roster of all the interesting things happening around the university beyond the current newsletters, reaching out for collaborations across the university and beyond ■ Natasha: things are really hectic as grad students, having a lot of interactive and fun events catches people's attention so that we can build community ○ One role of GSO is to advocate to the admin about student issues and what's one issue you would focus on? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sobia: I'd be confident getting in touch with admin and advocating on behalf of graduate students; a lot of us face a lot of trouble multitasking coursework and career development ■ Natasha: would have the ability to advocate regarding issues we're facing; would like to address a sense of community amid COVID, having more networking and social events across different departments ○ Are you planning to address the restraints on international students for work outside of their stipends <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sobia: very aware of this problem and would love to work on that issue with the Deans of all schools and admin generally and ISSO ■ Natasha: in Questrom she does get CPT but in other colleges she knows it's not an opportunity and would love to take this up with the Dean • Voting Results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sobia 74% Natasha 26% → Sobia is the incoming President <p>2. Vice President Position</p> <p>a. <u>Ryan O'Dea</u></p> <p>Hi All!</p> <p>My name is Ryan O'Dea and I am a masters student in Statistical Practice here at Boston University. I did my undergrad at Washington State University and, while there, was a part of our student government as a student senator. Now moved to Boston, I've started up my masters part time and work full time as an administrative coordinator for the Boston University Medical Group, but I was looking to become more involved in the school I now call home. I recently took on a role in the Academic Policy Committee within GRS to learn more about the interworking of Boston University, but I would be excited to share my</p>
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expertise in coordinating meetings and other arrangements within the position of Vice President and further serve BU Students!

b. Mariana Cabrera:

My name is Mariana Cabrera, pursuing a Masters in International Affairs at the Pardee School. I would love to serve on the GSO e-board to be able to connect our graduate community and to build our relationships within it. This last year has been a difficult one for all, and whether we began grad school in 2020 or are in our hardest semesters now, I believe that we need a strong support system to get us through grad school. In my undergrad I held numerous positions in my sorority, Phi Mu Fraternity, such as Academic Excellence Chair, Vice President of Chapter Development, Vice President of Committees and even Interim President. All my life I have been involved in school because I believe the key to getting through life is having a team with you. Through my experience I believe that I have the skill set and ability to help lead our graduate community. I have held responsibilities that the GSO Eboard also holds, attending weekly meetings, organizing weekly meetings, providing academic, social, or professional resources to help others, and working together as an exec board to fulfill the wants and needs of the BU grad community. It would be an honor to serve as Vice President to the GSO for 2021.

- **Q&A:**

- VP's often take on a lot of Presidential duties as well. They're also helping to decide which initiatives are going to be prioritized in the Fall vs. the Spring. What's one goal you'd like to accomplish alongside the president?
 - Ryan: introducing more part-time students and professional track students; often these meetings are exclusive of students in these tracks, reaching out to them and seeing how they can get involved
 - Mariana: building community and specifically have a forum where grad students can celebrate their accomplishments, need a bit of an outlet within the graduate community on top of having a closer community; wanting to have more zoom hangouts to share individual accomplishments
- I admire Ryan's BUMC work but have concerns about him being able to juggle all of his roles. How will he address that?

- Ryan: being very forward and stating his availability will help fix these issues. Planning ahead as well

- Voting:

- Ryan 74% Mariana 26% → Ryan is the incoming VP

3. Secretary Position

a. Arcadia R. Ewell:

Hello, my name is Arcadia. I'm a first-year doctoral student in the college of psychological and brain sciences. Within my program, I spend much of my time pursuing my research interests in the effects of early adversity and stress on neurocognitive development. Prior to starting my program, I worked for two years as a lab manager where I led a team of 20 undergraduate and master's students and served as the project manager for an NIH and NSF-funded study. Outside of school, I'm a passionate volunteer and spend time advocating for comprehensive dating education in high school, an avid reader, and a coffee-addict.

As a first-generation college student, I've often felt alone in navigating my way through academia. I've struggled to both find resources and opportunities as well as get the same amount of guidance as my peers. Starting my doctoral study during a pandemic certainly compounded with these feelings. I'm running for the Secretary position as I am passionate about getting involved with GSO and working to help support our graduate students at BU through their endeavors both personally and professionally.

- Q&A:

- No questions asked

- Voting:

- Arcadia is unanimously elected as the new Secretary

4. Social Committee Chair Position

a. Hector Grande:

Hi! My name is Hector Grande, and I am a first year PhD student studying Materials Science and Engineering! I just recently graduated from Northeastern, and I am looking to hopefully help in continuing GSO to grow in being a valuable resource for grad students at BU! I am currently the Public Relations Chair and Webmaster for BU SAGE and although this semester has made it difficult to all meet in large groups, we managed to both organize and

		<p>market fun events that were able to provide community for students even if it was mainly online. My previous experiences as President of NU Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers for two years, helping fellow students in the Career Department at NU as a Career Fellow, and helping both organize and market events as a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers have all helped me be successful in my current position, and I am excited to hopefully work with you all to continue GSO's success. I'd like to say that I am a big proponent of building community, and the pandemic really made me notice how much of a social creature I am / was! Before the pandemic, my hobbies were soccer and rock climbing but since the pandemic made it difficult to be in small spaces with people, I've switched over to skateboarding and photography! I hope to soon be able to share my hobbies and do such events with other members of GSO if interested!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Q&A: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What kind of events are you interested in planning for the GSO while everything is remote? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hector: BU SAGE is currently organizing a paint night so that you can participate remotely with a kit mailed to them; with BU SAGE have done trivia nights through Geeks Who Drink, virtual cocktail nights, and ice cream giveaway; helps when things get rough for people to keep motivated and connected ● Voting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hector is unanimously voted as new Social Chair <p>5. Treasurer Position</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Cameron Dixon:</u> <p>My name is Cameron Dixon and I am a second year PhD student in the McCall Lab. My research focuses on hormonal/gene interactions as a result of traumatic brain injuries. Now that I am in my second year and starting to learn the ropes of being a PhD student, I would like to become more involved in the BU community and to help my fellow students. I think being a part of GSO in a leadership role would allow me to give back to the community and help promote a healthy and inclusive graduate student environment.</p> ● Q&A: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Travel Grant Chair works closely with the Treasurer and often they need to sit in uncomfortable meetings asking the Dean for additional money for Travel Grants. How
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		<p>comfortable do you feel being in those meetings advocating for and negotiating additional funds for grad students?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Cameron: hasn't been in a particular position where he's had to advocate in this way, but has had to advocate for creating oSTEM group in a relatively conservative university (his undergrad); knows what it's like to advocate on behalf of groups that need more help and having those awkward conversations with people in leadership positions <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Voting:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Cameron is unanimously voted as the new Treasurer
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