

BU GSO – General Body Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 27, 2022

Time: 5:00 pm

I. Welcoming remarks by the President

- a. Join Slack Channel for GSO Reps:
https://join.slack.com/t/bugso2021/shared_invite/ztobqpc210-gxJTsxWWkWL7n4ioaAfkiw
- b. Join the GSO mailing list: <https://www.bu.edu/gso/join-our-mailing-list/>

II. E-board Reports (10 mins)

- a. President's Report
 - i. Please be in contact if there are any events or initiatives you would like to see GSO do for the fall. GSO used to do co-sponsored events with departments/programs, and as we are now back in person that is an option to think about. These could be social, professional development, etc.
 - ii. We are also working to plan LinkedIn Headshots again
 - 1. From chat: It would be good if we could get a different photographer for the headshot this time — the last photographer really aggressively airbrushed the photos of me, my face looked swollen like I was having some kind of allergic reaction!
- b. VP's Report
 - i. Overview of proxy system – reminder that using Monan as proxy for votes doesn't count towards 3 required attendances to qualify department for travel grants
 - ii. Monan attended a meeting of the Engineering subgroup of BUGWU
- c. Treasurer's Report
 - i. Working with the social chair to organize our first GSO pub night of the semester, which will be in October
 - ii. Continuing to work with GRS to process reimbursement requests
- d. Secretary's Report
 - i. Although GSO not able to participate in the Graduate Student Resource Fair, pulled together past event flyers and photos from GSO social media platforms and the BU site for a slideshow. Reminder that if you have photos from old GSO events, please share with Meghan (matownes@bu.edu)

- e. Social Chair Report
 - i. GSO Pub Nights are back – the first one for Fall 2022 will be held on October 14.
- f. Travel Grants Chair Report
 - i. August 2022 grant cycle:
 - 1. Received a total of 21 applications for Conference Grants and 7 applications for Research Grants
 - 2. Awarded 14 applicants with \$500 grant (9 conference, 5 research)
 - 3. Continue to disburse money for previous grant winners – if you have won an award in the past 12 months and need a reimbursement, you can still send it in
 - 4. Moved application to Qualtrics
 - ii. December 2022 grant cycle:
 - 1. Approved to give \$1000 per award
 - a. Means fewer awards overall
 - b. Using rollover money in the meantime (leftover from COVID conference cancellations)
 - c. Can partially fund and fully fund
 - 2. MFA students are eligible to apply
 - 3. Looking for additional committee members! You can be on the review committee and still apply for funding. Hoping that review committee members will better represent the breadth of backgrounds/disciplines receive applications in.
 - 4. Grant committee is planning to host a webinar/workshop on how to write good travel/research grant application – see applications that don't receive funding but don't understand how fell short.
 - iii. Deadline for applications – Dec. 1, Apr. 1, Aug. 1 (currently application down because making edits in Qualtrics. Normally rolling application. Can be on committee and receive funding but would just need to step out during discussion.
 - iv. Discussion:
 - 1. What sort of reduction in overall award numbers should we expect? Answer: Likely to give out 10 awards rather than 15 for next 2-3 cycles, but if we partially fund some of those awards, we could probably give somewhere in the realm of 12-14 still.

III. Old Business (5 minutes)

- a. Union support statement approved at August meeting has been released on all GSO social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram).

IV. New Business (20 minutes)

- a. Elections – turnover in December, so if interested in getting more involved, consider taking an executive board position. Current officers happy to talk about positions.

Prior to December meeting when we vote, candidates would need to let us know and prepare a personal statement on why they are interested and what they would bring to the role. January will be transition between old and new executive board

- b. Day of Action Updates – BU currently not formally organized due to lack of group able to take this on, but students can still participate independently or support on social media
 - i. Background: The Graduate Student Action Coalition is a group of student government and union leaders from over 50 schools. They plan to design and administer an anonymous survey to assess whether students have a plan to access abortion if needed (and other relevant questions). They are organizing a nationwide day of student action for reproductive justice on October 6 encouraging students to leave labs and classrooms to gather at a campus rally to make demands of federal and state legislators. Email: rkuintzl@caltech.edu
 - ii. The National Association of Graduate and Professional Students is organizing a #Health4Grads Call Congress Day on October 6. Email: legislative@nagps.org
- c. Cones for Consent
 - i. Get free ice cream on BU Beach this Friday from 12-3:30pm
 - ii. Learn about the services and opportunities SARP has for all BU students

V. Final remarks by the general body (5 minutes)

- a. Discussed travel grants (details in travel grant notes)

VI. Closing remarks by the President

- a. Contact the GSO at gso@bu.edu
- b. Contact GSO president, Arcadia, at awell1@bu.edu

Attendees: Arcadia Ewell (president), Meghan Townes (secretary), Hafsa Arain (travel grants chair), Makenzie Coker, Abishek Malakar, Caryne Nicholas, Catherine Lennartz, Connor O'Brien, Dilan Eren, Elinore Avni, Gizem Kaftan, Graham Stopa, James Fifer, Jessica Garber, John Fallon, John Sim, Jordan Pickard, Julian Ingham, Kangjoon Cho, Maya Chakravorty, Morgan Snoap, Okrah Oppong, Renee Brown, Xavier Toledo