

BU GSO – General Body Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 26, 2022

SCI 117 and on Zoom

Time: 7:00 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

- A. President's Report
 - 1. Consider running for E-board! Great resume builder
 - 2. Things I've been able to do as President:
 - a. Meet with Provost Kleinman and Associate Dean Jeffries-El
 - b. Meet with representatives from parking to advocate for lower rates for graduate students
 - c. Meet with GSO representatives at schools across Boston
 - d. Work with the Graduate Student Advocacy Network
 - e. Been invited to serve on three administrative committees
 - 3. Don't forget to send along event ideas (professional development, advocacy, social) that GSO can offer to distinguish itself from other graduate student organizations
- B. VP's Report
 - 1. Consider running for GSO VP! Here are the things I did during my tenure:
 - a. Meet and collaborate with MIT, NEU, Tufts' GSO e-board members
 - b. Work with PDPA and ISSO to help doctoral and international students
 - c. GSO Pub nights
 - d. Lower pressure than the President
- C. Treasurer's Report
 - 1. Continuing to work with Janette to get PhD students' reimbursement requests processed
 - 2. Worked with Ayshwarya (Social Chair) to host our first GSO pub night of the semester (October 14)
 - 3. Continuing to answer budget-related questions from other officers for event planning
- D. Secretary's Report
 - 1. Why E-board?
 - a. Secretary role is low pressure but high exposure to the different events and collaborations GSO does
 - b. Great opportunity to get to know people from different schools and programs at BU
 - c. Chance to see a need or opening for an event and work with E-board to make it happen

- d. Useful for helping make connections across student organizations - as a member of the BUGWU Organizing Committee and GSO E-Board I felt lucky to share information and promote collaboration between
 - e. Moving old event flyers and online programs into GSO Google Drive folders to help in future event planning and promotional materials
- E. Social Chair Report
 - 1. Pub night was held on the 14th October 2022
 - a. There was still a turnout but not as successful as the previous ones, possibly due to midterms, etc. Hopefully it will pick up in the next one.
 - 2. More events are being lined up this semester. Suggestions are always welcome!
- F. Travel Grants Chair Report
 - 1. December 2022 Grant Cycle is now open
 - a. Spread the word
 - b. Maximum of \$1000 per award
 - c. Does not mean that if you apply for \$1000 grant you will get all of it - some will be partially funded
 - 2. Still looking for additional committee members
 - a. If you are interested in being on the grant review committee, please email gsogrant@bu.edu
 - 3. Held a workshop on how to write a GSO grant and the link for the recording is on our website
 - a. Please share this with your departments
 - b. A lot of people need help with grant writing!

III. Old Business

- A. Elections in the last meeting of the semester. If interested, please reach out to E-board with questions and/or submit an application here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfXv2GAnHX_YkbtHUmFyH73c_LUewmS2qK1maFHYv60bSomA/viewform?usp=sf_link
- B. E-Board compensation
 - 1. Have secured \$250/semester stipends for all E-board members. This is a non-service stipend, which means it won't interfere with other funding

IV. New Business

- A. LinkedIn Headshot Event
 - 1. **Friday November 11th, 2022, GSU 310, 10-12 pm**
 - 2. Free headshots will be offered to the first 35 people who attend the event. The 36th person (until time is up) may pay \$20 out of pocket.
 - 3. You will be given a password to access your photos and will have the choice of three photos
 - 4. Also in plans: LinkedIn Webinar
- B. Coffee Hours
 - 1. Coffee Hours for LGBTQIA+ Students
 - a. **Monday November 7th at 9:30am, ENG 245**
 - 2. Coffee Hours for First-Gen Students
 - a. **Wednesday November 30th at 9:00am, ENG 245**
 - b. Co-Sponsored with Newbury Center, representatives will be in attendance and will share what they do and offer
 - 3. In the works: Coffee Hours for International Students and Students of Color
- C. Advocacy opportunity: Improve the Dream

1. [ImproveTheDream](#) is looking for students, student governments, and universities (especially in red states) to support an [amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\)](#) that would prevent 200k documented dreamers from aging out of the immigration system and possibly having to self-deport.
 2. More info on how to support by writing letters to your senators [here](#).
- D. Belongingness survey (Submitted by Arcadia)
1. BU has been planning and is currently creating a university wide survey to assess the climate on campus. It is being run by an unbiased third-party (Rankin Climate). The survey will be distributed to all affiliates of BU (i.e., undergraduate, graduate, hourly staff, non-tenured faculty, faculty, etc.)
 2. Report from the survey will be publicly available at its completion and will be used to make policy recommendations to university leadership
 3. Survey will be live in the spring
 4. To learn more: <https://www.bu.edu/belonging-culture-survey/timeline/>
- E. Graduate Student Advocacy Network Initiatives
1. GSAN seeking for students interested in contributing to nation-wide advocacy initiatives for graduate students.
 2. Initiatives include:
 - a. contributing to a survey in order to build a database with information about various grad school programs.
 - b. LGBTQIA+ rights
 - c. Workplace organizing / unionizing
 - d. Campus safety
 - e. And more...
 3. Learn more about GSAN: www.gradaction.org
 4. Sign up for working groups: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfxZhL6R495tRQHLISpQd8uRvRYM_cPc94n7WWa0GnyD03xfTg/viewform

V. Final remarks by the general body

- A. Spring tax webinar will be planned by new e-board = we will suggest to new Eboard but will be their decision

VI. Closing remarks by the President

- A. Contact the GSO at gso@bu.edu
- B. Contact GSO president, Arcadia, at aewell1@bu.edu

VII. Attendees: Arcadia Ewell (president), Meghan Townes (secretary), Krishna Ammini (Treasurer), Ayshwarya Venkataramana (Social Chair), Hafsa Arain (travel grants chair), Makenzie Coker, Jessica Garber, James Fifer, Maya Chakravorty, Arden Radford, Ayush Gupta, Caryne Nicholas, Renee Brown, Pol Pardini Gispert, David Long, Gizem Kaftan, Nicole Correr, Elinore Avni, Jessica Martin, Alexa Yiqing Li, Jared Pincus