
GSO February Meeting

— Welcome Back! —

Meeting Agenda

- Introduction of new E-board members
- Presentation of budget
- Introduction of potential new GSO policies:
 - Hybrid meetings going forward
 - A renewed focus on professional events
 - Better use of website: <https://www.bu.edu/gso/>
 - Department Representatives + Department Standing
 - Operation: Clean Slate
- How do travel grants work? (And new amendments)
- Presentation from Maggie at ERC
- Closing: Discussion of next meeting time

Remember to Sign in!

Online:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CJQj-lcrVy29rsYRaBtIgvIhwYAqWrMjpHeFMZ0dfL4/edit?gid=1408690166#gid=1408690166>

- We will paste this in the chat

In person:

Please see Dane who has the spreadsheet open!

EBoard Introduction

Hello from your new E-Board!

President: Allison Jodoin

Vice President: Olivia Kulczycky

Secretary: Dane Scott

Treasurer: Jackie Reynolds

Travel Grant Chair: Averì Giudicessi

Social Chair: Seeking Applicants!

International Students' Chair: Seeking Applicants!

President: Allison Jodoin



Email: Ajodoin@bu.edu

Office Hours: Fridays 12pm-1pm in person or via zoom

Responsibilities: Plan GSO meetings, provide an agenda prior to meetings, meet with the E-board and administration regularly, work to advance the growth of the GSO

Vice President: Olivia Kulczycky

Email: Okul@bu.edu

Responsibilities: Maintain communication with committees and treasurer, coordinate with the president and, in the president's absence, assume responsibility, record attendance for GSO meetings, order food for meetings



Secretary: Dane Scott



Email: descott@bu.edu

Responsibilities: Attend each GSO/E-Board meeting, take notes and provide minutes based off agenda and topics covered in each meeting, post meeting notes to the GSO website within 1 week of each meeting

Treasurer: Jackie Reynolds

Email: jalreyno@bu.edu

Responsibilities: Set budget and manage GSO funds, submit reimbursement forms within 2 weeks of receiving receipts, maintain contact with GS Associate, give budget updates at each meeting including starting balance, current balance, and budget allocations



Travel Grant Chair: Averig Giudicessi



Email: averig@bu.edu

Responsibilities: Delegate Travel Grant committee tasks and meetings (if necessary), stay in touch with president and vice president on monthly basis, provide updates for each meetings, anonymize applications, Recruit/replace reviewers when people step down. Update Qualtrics applications each cycle.

Budget

Presentation of Budget

- A. This year's starting budget: **\$33,427.89**
- B. Remaining Balance: **\$3,388.00**, Total spent: **\$30,039.89**
- C. Allocation rules (with **\$35k budget**): \$20k to Travel Grants
\$15k to GSO events/expenses

Presentation of Budget

- A. This year's starting budget: \$33,427.89
- B. Remaining Balance as of 02/10: **\$3,388.00**, Total spent: **\$30,039.89**

Actual Allocation (FY 25)

\$20k to Travel Grants

\$13,427.89 to GSO events/
expenses

\$20k to Travel Grants

\$15k to GSO events/expenses

FY 2025 Numbers: *GSO Events and Expenses*

Social Events: **\$5,996.72**

Professional Development: **\$2,300.00**

Co-sponsored Events: **\$1,000.00**

E-board stipends: **\$1,500.00 (2025 E-Board members)**

Meeting Food: **\$385.71**

Total: **\$11,182.43 out of \$13,427.89**

FY 25 Numbers: *Travel Grants*

Total promised within fiscal year (June '25- July '26): **\$19,815.00**

Total promised for year to date (including FY): **\$29,643.71**

16/21 total Travel Grants have been reimbursed

Value of Travel Grant Awardees *Remaining*: \$14,860

Total *Reimbursed* so far: **\$14,783.71** out of \$20,000.00

Total Expenses this Financial Year (FY'25)

Travel Grants (\$20k)

\$14,783.71

GSO events/ expenses (\$13,427.89)

\$11.182.43

Total Expenses this Financial Year (FY'25)

Travel Grants (\$20k)

\$14,783.71

GSO events/ expenses (\$13,427.89)

\$11,182.43

Allocated Total:

\$25,966.14

Totals for FY'25

**Allocated:
\$25,966.14**

**Unallocated:
\$4,073.75**

**Remaining:
\$3,388.00**

Solutions for Spring Semester

- All 2026 E-board members are forgoing their stipends for Spring semester, saving \$1,000.
- No social events/ professional development events that cost money until Fall 2026
- No Travel Grant Award Cycle for April 2026
 - Per GSA, asking all Travel Grant Awardees to **hold off** on submitting reimbursement requests until June 2026, if possible. Students' reimbursement forms will be filed and then submitted **after** July 1, 2026.

Once the FY'26 begins (July 1st)

- Travel grant awardees are **encouraged** to submit their reimbursement requests
- Depending on the above number, we will reallocate the remaining funds for the remaining fiscal year with the following goals:
 - Do our best to maintain the travel grant allocated amount (\$20k)
 - Ensure that Travel grant awardees/amounts are dispersed equally to cover THREE funding cycles: August '26, December '26, and April '27
 - Adhere to rules regarding meeting expenses/social events and prioritize professional development events (e.g. headshots, co-sponsored conferences)
 - Meeting expenses should ~\$100
 - Social events, like pub nights, should not exceed \$1,000.00

Restatement of Budget Balance (as of 02/11)

Travel Grants (\$20k)

\$14,783.71

GSO events/ expenses (\$13,427.89)

\$11,182.43

Allocated Total:

\$25,966.14

Balance for remainder of FY '25:

\$7,461.75

Questions or Concerns?

New GSO Policies

Hybrid Meetings

As we voted last year, all meetings will now be hybrid.

For the time being, we will not be providing refreshments at GSO general meetings.

If the budget allows, the last meeting of S' 26 might be recast as a end of the year celebration, with refreshments provided!

Focus on Professional Events

We are a professional organization, our events should focus on professional development

For now, any events this semester need to be at none to minimal cost:

Events through ERC:

Writer's Salon on 02/26 from 1pm-3pm, register below or via QR code:

https://bostonu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6QIB4NdezczTAwTQ



Please contact gso@bu.edu and/or come to my office hours to discuss!

Using the Website - <https://www.bu.edu/gso/>

Goal: Make better use of our website!

Updates in the works

- E-board information updated
- Updated Meetings and Events
 - Meeting minutes uploaded within 2 weeks of each meeting
- Representative page does not reflect accurate numbers
 - New: names of the representatives
 - New: standing always available on the website
- Updated mailing list
 - Currently in progress!

Operation: Clean Slate

Our primary goal for Spring 2026: renew confidence in the GSO

Departments no longer active or missing representatives with the GSO:

Astronomy, Bioinformatics, Biostatistics, Computer Science, Economics, Musicology, Philosophy, Physics, Sociology, History of Art, etc.

Goal: reinstate all departments into good standing, effective if voted through by GSO representatives

Travel Grants

How do Travel/Research Grants work?

Three application cycles per FY: August, December, and April

All applications are anonymized and then reviewed by 2 separate student reviewers

Applications are scored on quality of research proposal, academic situation, and project impact and a bonus point can be awarded for an excellent application

Reviewers meet as a group after scores are submitted to discuss what grants will be funded

We try to get results out within 1.5-2 months of application deadline

What does a successful Travel/Research Grant Application look like?

Write the grant application targeted towards a non-specialized audience

Avoid jargon and field-specific terminology

How the conference/project is going to be helpful in advancing your studies/what value it will provide to your trajectory as a student

Clarity in your proposed budget

Include what other funding sources are available to you

ERC

Next Meetings

Potential Meeting Times

Tuesday 12-1

Wednesday 11:15-12:15

Thursday 1:30-2:30

Friday (5/1 or 5/8) 4-5pm for last meeting at the pub?

We aim to have a variety of times so all reps can attend some meetings.