

GSO – Sept. 30, 2008

I. Welcome

- Marc – please sign in. In the future, he'll post the agendas to the website. Unfortunately, with our email list, we can't attach documents. So, use the website please.

II. Report on Finances – Treasurer

- Besim – The BU pub charged us inaccurately for the July BBQ. Besim had to discuss this with admins, and was able to adjust the books appropriately for this fiscal year.
- Thus far, TF Orientation, meetings, and our first pub night have been the expenditures.
- We'll probably have around \$1,500 for co-sponsored events this year.

III. Report on Travel Grants

- Deadline – Friday, November 14, 5pm
- Remind our departments that this exists and they should apply.
- Sue – we'll still need people to be on the committee. She'll need two more people and one faculty member to get involved.
- If you want to consider this, you can convey that you'd like to help out via emailing the GSO email. Marc will get it to Sue.

IV. Report on Social Events

- Pub nights
- This past pub night we had a lot of people show up. So, we improvised by buying an additional 50 drink tickets.
- The next pub night will be on October 10.
- Besim: The budget is also contingent upon projections of five more pub nights with 175 tickets available at each pub night.
- Carol in Astronomy—John suggested that we do a hike at May meeting. This summer they did a Middlesex Fells hike and 20 people attended. The suggestion is we repeat this activity, perhaps traveling to Maine or New Hampshire.
- Also reminded we should ensure we are covered under risk management should anything happen on this event. Marc: We'll check on that, but we should operate on the assumption that each individual is in charge of his/her insurance.
- Day hike could be around \$35 a head, to more like \$65 for an overnight, or \$90 for meals brought up the mountain to you for an overnight.
- John proposed we do a day hike, with an ad hoc carpooling scenario, and the GSO pick up the attendees' dinners (at \$10 voucher each). For 20 attendees, there was a preliminary vote held to approve \$200 toward this social event. Motion carried to approve this amount for this event.
- Professional Development ideas? Please pass them along. The deans at the last meeting specifically requested that we do more professional development events (besides resume building). There was discussion and suggestions were read from surveys conducted at the last pub night. There was a vocalization that we should consider that these programs are cross-departmental.

V. Amendment Proposal: The presiding officer shall count the votes of all GSO officers, even if the number of GSO officers from a department exceeds the number of votes apportioned to that department.

- Table it and send an email to clarify this proposal, as there was some confusion.
- Secretary – this position is now vacant for the remainder of the semester. Please nominate via email for next meeting.

VI. Healthcare Policy with SAGE

- Marc met with the head of SAGE. If you are funded in your department you are funded in health insurance. If you aren't funded, you probably aren't. There is dental insurance for going to the dental school for \$300 a year.
- Link on our website under the healthcare tab. SAGE is interested in getting better health benefits and their head is trying to work out something if you are an RA or a TF that would upgrade the insurance.
- If you are interested in serving on this committee, please let Marc know.

VII. BUGS event

- BU has many schools and a collective of these schools' representative organizations have come together to coordinate events. It was proposed to have an event at Jillian's in November to have a social event/mixer with this loose confederacy of these schools' graduate organizations.
- This is very sketchy currently, but they have reserved a date for November 17<sup>th</sup>. The organization does not have a budget, and it would need to be a democratic contribution between these organizations.
- Idea is out there and will vote in October once we have more details.