

**Minutes: GSO Meeting, 1/21/09**

**5:30-6:45pm, CAS 200**

Welcome from Marc—first of five meetings for the Spring 2009 semester

Introduction of department representatives

Discussion of finances (Besim)

--Budget \$10,000 (fiscal year: July 1-June 30)

--\$6,230 remaining in our budget, as of tonight

--GSO spends up to \$1500/year in co-sponsored events (up to 5/year)

-- Already booked one cosponsored event for the spring – IR, tomorrow

--Other potential proposals:

--conference on East Asian studies, Feb. 13 and 14; open to entire university

--conference on African American studies

--Comment: we need to know what we're paying for in proposals for cosponsored events (Basil)

--GSO events also coming out of our budget: pub nights; summer BBQ (which we'd like the dean to pay for this year, as it cost \$2000 last year); proposed jazz brunch

Discussion of events (Laura)

--Pub Nights

--Vote on first pub night of the semester: this Friday, Jan. 23 or Friday, February 13?

--Issues

--SAGE occupies BU pub every 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of the month); do we find another venue or work around their schedule?

--Decision of vote: a pub night this Friday would be too soon (not enough time to contact all students); we need to either find a new venue for Friday, January 30, or reserve the BU Pub for Feb. 13

--Other potential pub nights: Friday, Feb. 13; Friday, March 27; Friday, April 24 (all already reserved)

--Should we then skip January pub night since we only have enough funding for three pub nights this semester?

--GSO voted to approve pub nights in March and April

--Typical costs at BU Pub: 4.75/drink at the pub; 150-200 drinks/night = approx. \$750

--We charge \$1/ticket; becomes bar tip at the end of the night

--Jazz brunch (dormant GSO tradition revived by Eugene)

--Includes brunch, bloody marys and mimosas at the BU Pub sometime this spring – potentially Saturday morning, April 4 (paperwork already in process)

--Costs – might need to cut costs (advertise set price for musicians; issue drink tickets)

- Last year's costs: \$250 spent on drinks last year; \$800 on food (\$12.25/person – 60 people total); \$900 on jazz trio musicians – band was too expensive
  - Trio should cost \$200/person or \$450-500/group (Basil)
- Ideas: rent a room on Beacon Street for brunch on Marathon Monday, April 6 (to watch marathon) – pay for room, not band; charge attendees (\$3/person)
- Concerns: would this brunch wipeout cosponsored events in our budget?
  - Perhaps not: hosting only 3 pub nights would save us \$360, and last year we only spent \$1,000 (out of \$1500) on cosponsored events
- Vote to book room and set budget cap: vote passed to reserve pub on April 4

#### --Winter Social

- Suggested and to be paid for by the deans
  - Reservations in process for one of the following weekend evenings: Feb. 20, 21, 27 or 28
  - Potential venue: the Atrium at the top of Student Village, or similar space
  - Volunteers for planning committee?
- Other events proposed by MIT (wants to host joint events with BU) and BUGS; also still discussing hosting a Poster Session (need to discuss booking a room with the deans)

#### Discussion of Policy Issues (Abram)

- Health –Abram and Marc met with Dr. McBride and representatives from Aetna on Jan. 12
  - Deans/students are lobbying for either a free upgrade to health plus plan (lower co-pays and more expansive plan) OR free dental insurance (BU student dental plan)
  - Current status: health coverage is only given to students funded by BU; for students on non-BU grants, payment for health benefits comes out of grant and goes to BU (BU is making some money on that deal)
  - Issues discussed at meeting:
    - Consider waiving copay for referred ER visits
    - Need for increased mental health allowable visits
    - Students want a dental plan and the BU dental plan has low satisfaction
    - We need to increase awareness of the plan levels through the Associate Deans
    - Desire for more access to travel vaccines
    - Grad students would like the U to buy them the higher level plan
    - Families should be eligible for the higher level plan
    - Plan max, drug benefit are concerns, high enough?
    - Students would like more information about immunization clinics
  - GSO wants/needs to make people more aware of their rights as beneficiaries of student health plans

--Continuing student fee (\$2,000/tuition; health coverage not included) – volunteers for committee? Need to put together package to present to deans.

February meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 10, 5:30pm, CAS 200