

GSO Meeting: April 27 (5:30-6:30pm), CAS 200

Besim on Finances

We have \$2,850 left in our account -- \$2000 for the BBQ and pizza for this meeting

\$742 unaccounted for

- VOTE: \$500 for an additional travel grant for spring 2009 – PASSED
- VOTE: remaining funds go towards BBQ, assuming deans don't need it for Winter Party spending – PASSED

Laura on Events

Pub Night last Friday went well

Next Pub Night will be in early fall, potentially during Orientation for new students

This Thursday: MIT event at the ROXY (8pm-1am), graduate students from around the Boston area are invited (Harvard, Emerson, BU, BC, Suffolk, Tufts)

This Sunday: Walk for Hunger – we met our fundraising goal of \$1000

Summer BBQ: no current date (probably will be in the first two weeks of June); at the BU Pub

Stephanie on Travel Grants

We received 20 applications for spring 2009

Question: what sort of dean/faculty involvement is necessary in evaluating applications?

--Dean Whitaker doesn't seem overly interested in participating

--Seems best to have some faculty involvement, to maintain neutrality and offer expertise – perhaps from a department with no student applicants?

--If no faculty member volunteers, perhaps add another student to the committee to balance arts/sciences evaluators

Marc will draft email to faculty members and send to GSO members to be forwarded to departments, requesting faculty participation

Remember: a department must have attended three meetings per semester in order for its students to be eligible for travel grants

Marc on Policy

Health Care: working with SAGE to draft a second letter to deans to request increased health care benefits for graduate students (deans seem receptive to arguing on our behalf); using statistics collected through a SAGE questionnaire in letter

--We want the default Student Complete Plan (\$1500/year premium) to be converted to Student Plus Plan (\$2000/year premium); would increase coverage from 80% to 100% and drug cap from \$2,500 to \$250,000

--Other option would be to request dental insurance, but better health insurance seems a more feasible (and reachable) goal

Co-sponsored Events policies will be reexamined in the coming year

Misc.

High cost of poster printing (approx. \$250) – should GSO purchase a poster printer for grad students?

--Or perhaps departments with poster printers should collaborate and contract their printers out to departments sans printers?

--Committee to be formed and Deans to be notified of this concern at next meeting

NAGPS – Marc posted information about this organization online – looking to recruit new members (\$500 membership fees) – SAGE seems amenable, but have contacted Law or Business

Dean offered us the chance to plan Orientation for all new students – dean-funded, student-planned

--Should include a social event, a tour, and an informational meeting or two

--Need committee – proposal letter to be submitted by Memorial Day

Besim on parking issues