

## **GSO Meeting – September 9, 2009**

### 1) Welcome

Introduction of representatives present.

Announcement dates next meetings: Tuesday 9/29

Monday, 10/19

Monday, 11/9

Tuesday, 12/01

Explanation of proceedings of GSO meetings; introduction of role of Dean Whitaker: dean of graduate students; the person we deal most with.

Changes: - office location: now Physics Research Buildings, 3 Cummington

### 2) Finances, report by Besim

Budget is \$10,000 from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>

So far: only pub night (+ pizza of meeting): \$ 980 spent

Bbq went over budget by \$ 90: so in total \$ 1080 spent

### 3) Travel grants, report by Marc

Travel grant budget is a separate budget from normal budget and is normally \$3000 per year; however, we recently found out that almost half that budget consisted of an anonymous alumni donation, which was depleted somewhere last semester.

Consequently, we now only have \$ 1800 (instead of \$ 3000) per year for travel grant funding.

Besim calculated that we went over our budget because of this situation last year for \$ 602, which means in total we have \$836 left for Fall. We already promised grants to the three winners, so we will have to use some money from the actual GSO budget to be able to award these grants in full.

Vote to allocate \$ 200 to travel grant budget to be able to honor people's awards for the Fall – passed

Note: We have no budget for the Spring, so it was additionally decided that we will petition Dean Whitaker for additional funds

### 4) Social Events

Pub Night last Thursday: sold 230 tickets

Next pub night: 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of October: 10/09

Vote to buy 150 tickets for this event – passed

W 09/23: Social Sciences Research Council Event: Information Session about Fellowships available, with reception afterwards – relevant for social sciences and humanities

CAS 525

R 09/24: BUGS has arranged to have a social with MIT at Tequila Rain from 8 pm until midnight – would be a cover charge

R 10/13: Tequila Rain: Boston area mixer (variety of colleges participate)

Peter from Romance Studies announced: Tournée Film Festival @ BU: 09/23, 24, 28, 10/1, 10/2 organized by Romance Studies and International Programs which won funding from French government

Photonic, room 206

See facebook for more info

5) Graduate Committees: CAS committees looking for graduate students to serve – e-mail Dean Whitaker's secretary if you're interested

6) Various Issues:

Suggestion from Carol regarding possible professional event that has been coming up in meetings: Graduate Seminars Series – once a month, seminars with volunteer speakers and volunteer moderator about information of general interest. Discussion followed about what is already in place in individual departments Peter mentioned worry about seminars not applying to and thus disappointing people from different disciplines – job market, publishing, etc. different for different fields

Perhaps (Abram): using what is already in place but promoting it through GSO

Basil: music department prepared to propose a co-sponsored event that would comprise a series of lectures given by BU professors going from very general lectures about things pertaining to the whole of CAS to more particular seminars on individual disciplines

Meeting agreed to have representatives ask their departments what kinds of professional events are in place; next meeting we make a list and see if some of them are compatible.

Carol Carveth also brought up: Issue of child care: BU Child Care costs \$1055 – cheaper than child care elsewhere in Boston but still expensive. Carol is looking for other parents and information regarding what they have done when it comes to child care. The creation of a forum for parents at BU might already be helpful.

Send replies/suggestions/ideas to Carol (ccarveth@bu.edu)

Important Info: Carol has revamped our website: pay specific attention to the new health care page

Mischa brought up (and has looked into) Bike Subsidy Fund: apparently, employees can be reimbursed up to \$20 a month for commuting to work by bike Suggestion to bring it up tomorrow at the Bike and Pedestrian Safety Event, so far little response from BU.

Other suggestion: join staff efforts to get this fee reimbursed.