

Minutes from November 2001 GSO General Meeting

1) Social Events

Review of Halloween Happy Hour held on October 31, 2001. Event deemed a success, with about 100 students attending. Some shortcomings included not-clear boundaries between GSO members and "general" patrons, and lack of formalized ice-breaking events. At our next party, we hope to address these issues by providing some structured opportunities for grad students to meet.

Allocation of \$600 for a year-end party approved for a Holiday Happy Hour for GRS graduate students. Date decided on December 13th, 2001 with location TBA. Prime options are Dugout Cafe on Commonwealth Ave and Cask n' Flagon on Brookline Ave near Fenway Park. Masako Yamada (Social/Publicity) has considered about 10 restaurants/bars in the Kenmore area. Primary considerations are cost, availability of private room, proximity to BU. Ellen Howard will create the publicity posters.

2) Healthcare

Discussion on the current state of healthcare at BU, including general student dissatisfaction with regards cost and coverage. Strategizing on how we can convey these grave concerns to the administration. Options including asking administration to pay for health care, asking for stipend increases commensurate with the increase in health care costs, and asking for a installment pay program.

3) Travel Grants

Seven applications applied to be considered for the GSO Travel Grant. Applications were due on November 1st, 2001. The committee is currently in the active process of finding a faculty member who will serve on the selection committee. Usha Govindarajulu, Joe Navitsy, and Susan Allen are the graduate student members on the selection committee.

4) Housing

Discussion on the housing crisis among graduate students, especially first-year students who are new to the area (including students from abroad). Ideas on improvement include building special housing for graduate students, a more modest and realistic proposal raised on how BU might allocate some of its undergraduate housing to graduate students. The university will likely have to provide subsidies to graduate students if they are to be able to afford current on-campus housing.

5) Call for New Officers

Current officers Amanda Serenevy (president) and Masako Yamada (acting VP) are ready to take a back seat as the next generation of officers steps forward. Serenevy and Yamada will continue serving as their department representatives. Usha Govindarajulu will continue her duties as Treasurer until the end of the Spring Semester.