Senate Meeting Minutes
02 February 2017--11 AM

In attendance:

Senators:
Yuchao Li  James Vamboi  Craig Ford
Amy Northrup  Adair Bender  Caitlin Gilchrist
Mark D’Angelo  Matthew English  Karina Hamamouche
Anatoly Arlashin  Katherine Baker  Peter Lee

Observers:
Mikayla Robinson (BCGEU)  Caelisha Comely (BCGEU)
Hannah Trost (OGSL)  Betsy Pingree (BCGEU)
Christine Rojcewicz (Philosophy)

Absent:
Graduate School of Social Work Collective Representative

Director of Programming Updates

General Comments

GSA has been very successful with respect to executing programming. We have sold out at every event that we have put on. This successful momentum is one that we’d like to continue. One distinct goal that James Vamboi has is to be more proactive in the planning process, so as to avoid a great amount of last minute programming.

Vamboi also noted that it is imperative for the success of our organization to make sure that news of our events are shared in a timely manner, as the GSA has no direct access to the student body in the same way that Senators do through their list-serv’s. Moreover, be mindful of the date on which the newsletter will be sent out, so as not to advertise events that will have already occurred.
Newsletter

February’s GSA Newsletter goes out on Sunday, February 12th. Vamboi requests that all announcements be sent to James by Monday, February 6th. In the future, GSA newsletters will go out on the 12th of each month, and all updates should be turned in by the 6th.

Grad Ball

Grad Ball will be on Saturday, April 29th from 8pm to 12am at the Ritz Carlton in Downtown Boston. Tickets are $40 each, and we have 300 tickets total. GEA has generously sponsored the photo booth again, and we are currently looking for a DJ. Adair (GMA) will be in touch with James about a potential reference.

GSA-LSA Valentine Mixer (Rescheduled)

Union Street Patio
Friday, February 17 (Rescheduled to March 16)
6 PM--9 PM
Appetizers provided; Cash bar

Spread the word using our FB event. We also have a flyer that you can disseminate as well.

Director of Finance Announcements

- Allocation of Spring II grants, week starting 02/06/2017.

Finance Committee Announcements

In the coming weeks, Peter Lee and the Finance Committee will work on the following projects:
- Determining a more feasible schedule for applying for conference and research grants.
- Determining a more standardized process for budget reconciliation for future treasurers.
Organization Announcements

BCGEU (Boston College Graduate Employee Union)

The BCGEU intend to file and have an election by the end of the semester. Union organizers are interested in continuing to have conversations with students from SSW, LSOE, and Nursing.

GASA (Graduate Arts and Sciences Association)

The 1st Graduate A&S Conference will be held on 21 April. Length of the conference (full day v. half day) depends on number of submissions. All students in the Arts and Sciences have received a Call for Papers via email. Students interested in applying for the conference can send a 250 word abstract and presentation type (poster or 15 minute talk) to Chris Berger (bergerce@bc.edu) by March 20th.

GNA (Graduate Nurses Association)

At present, GNA is focusing on the following programming:

Caring for the Transgender Patient: Disparities in Health Series
Tuesday, March 28 (tentatively), 7:30 PM, location TBA

Caring for the Homeless Patient: Disparities in Health Series
Tuesday, April 4, 7:30 PM, location TBA

Race and Healthcare: Disparities in Health Series
April
Looking for Speaker

GMA (Graduate Management Association)

GMA is having its annual ball on Saturday evening. They have slightly less than 150 attendees, which is less than they would have liked.

GMA is in the process of gathering Boston-area CEO’s to speak at a series of events they run through the Spring semester.
GMA will provide an update on CSOM elections.

GEA (Graduate Education Association)

Saturday, 04 February: The GEA is offering free rock climbing.
Thursday, 09 February: GEA moving Screening *Before the Flood* | Campion 139 | 7 PM
Wednesday, 22 February: Career Panel | Campion 139 | 7 PM

STM Student Forum (School of Theology and Ministry)

Saturday, 11 February: El Salvador Service Learning Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
  Suggested Donation: $10; V-Day themed raffle available.
  Location: Jesuit Faber Community

Wednesday, 08 February: “Present and Future of Ibero-American Theology in Times of Globalization, Interculturality, and Exclusion.” | Robsham Theater | 5:30 PM

GISA (Graduate International Students Association)

Last Fall semester, GISA was able to host roughly two events per semester.

Upcoming elections will be held in March

Detailed Events Planning:

- **Culture Night - Chinese New Year Party (Done)**...Friday, 17, January
- **Culture Night - International Talk**...Friday, 24 February
- **BCGEU-UAW & GISA - Immigration Law Event**...TBD, February
- **Museum of Science**...Saturday, 18, March
- **Culture Night - American Night**...Friday, 31, March
- **Bowling Club**...Friday, 14, April
- **Culture Night - Asian Night**...Friday, 28, April

Projects In Progress:

- **Volunteer Project** - Culture Partner Project (20 hours) applied
- **Study Group** - CPA/CFA/FRM study groups establishing
- **Election**
GSCA (Graduate Students of Color Association)

Thursday, 09 February: Paint Night
    GSCA will coordinate with GEA, since there may be a timing conflict.
Friday, 24 February: Yoga Class | Midday | Location: TBA

Graduate Pride Alliance

The GPA has a series of upcoming events that are still awaiting date-time-location details:
   ● Taza Chocolate Factory (Somerville) Tour
   ● Midway Cafe Social Event

Office of Graduate Student Life

Saturday, 08 April: Grads Give Back
    Collaboration between GSA, LSA, and GSL
    Registration link to come soon.
Friday, 21 April: Grad Talks
    Applications due: Sunday, 12 February

Elections Committee: Links for GSA positions are up. Link will also be placed in GSA newsletter going out on 12 February.

Theology Department Request

The Theology department’s GSA made a request to the Senate to provide $500 in order to fund its “Engaging Particularities” Conference in April. Move to fund was requested by GASA Senator, and passed unanimously.

Graduate Veterans Association

Over the last few months, the Graduate Veterans Association filed paperwork with the Office of Graduate Student Life in order to become a registered student organization. This association requires official confirmation by the Senate in order to form. Motion to so form was requested by
GMA Senator, and passed unanimously. GVA was granted a $1500 operating budget for the Spring Semester.

Executive Director Updates

Graduate Student Town Hall

Murray Function Room, Yawkey Center
Wednesday, February 8th
6:30 PM

- With respect to town hall, it was suggested to have an individual present who would feel comfortable mediating disputes.

Discussion of Current Sociopolitical Climate

The discussion of our current socio-political moment--characterized around concern generated by the passing of President Trump’s recent executive orders--prompted a concerned conversation among senators. Some critical insights about the needs of students that we as leaders should try to meet:

- Students want to hear about additional substantive actions they can take after events like the Women’s march.
- Students need information about connecting with elected representatives as well as providing resources on self-care.
- Conversations need to happen about healthcare coverage, especially for women on topics of contraception and birth control.
- Freezing of hiring at Federal level will impact graduate students.
- One Senator mentioned that costs have increased (perhaps even doubled) in order to secure visas for students, regardless of country of origin.
- Students--but particularly LGBT students--are concerned about the possible signing of an executive order on religious liberty.