Executive Director Updates

Search for New Director of Finance

Arrangements are underway for the election of a new director of finance. The job description is awaiting confirmation for the Office of Graduate Student Life. After this, the job will become live. **We ask that you distribute this advertisement through your networks.** We are looking to have a new Director of Finance as close to February 1st as possible.

Interested applicants can apply at the following link: [https://orgsync.com/76783/forms/224166](https://orgsync.com/76783/forms/224166).

Finance and Election Committee Projects

Following the meeting, the finance and election committees will be formed officially and will begin projects to complete for the academic year. At present, I believe the following are our current needs (by committee):
Finance Committee

The following potential items were brought up at the meeting by the executive director, for which he will act as chair until a new Director of Finance is appointed.

- Craig will be acting chair until new DoF is appointed.
- Review of SABSC reimbursement and account balance determination processes

Chris Tansey (GEA) raised the point that, in addition, the finance committee should look into how feasible it is to have group budgets available before August 15th. Adair (GMA) added that the Finance Committee should specifically look into whether the balances carried forward by professional schools should factor into allocations for the following year.

Election Committee

While a chair has yet to be officially determined, the following items were raised as projects for the committee.

- Appointment of New Director of Finance
- Review of Requirements for each position for posting of position by end of November 2016.

Graduate Student Childbirth and Adoption Accommodation Policy

At the most recent Provost Advisory Council Meeting (Oct. 6th), the Dean of the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences presented a draft of a graduate student childbirth and adoption accommodation policy. In its current form, the accommodation (which is, significantly, not a leave of absence, which would remove one’s status as a full-time student) allows for the following:

- Any full-time graduate student in good academic standing who is the primary caregiver of an adoptive child under the age of 13 newly placed in the home is eligible for an accommodation extending up to eight weeks.
- Upon the birth of a child, the mother is eligible for an accommodation extending for a period of up to eight consecutive weeks.
- Upon the birth of a child, the father is eligible for an accommodation of one week, provided that the it is taken within twelve weeks following the birth of a child.

During the period of the accommodation, the student is allowed to attend classes and complete coursework to the extent possible. Their funding provided by the university, including health insurance, continues during this time. Restrictions on the policy are the following:

- The accommodation will not extend the total number of years of funding available for a student.
For students with nine-month stipends, funding is for the academic year only. Conversation around the policy heavily criticized the lack of a gender neutral policy. Other points made included allowing for the accommodation to begin prior to the arrival of the child; extending the accommodation from eight weeks (half of a semester) to sixteen weeks (a full semester); and allowing for the accommodation essentially to “stop the clock” of a graduate student’s program, so that the accommodation does not “eat up” a period of funding when the student is unable to work.

At the Senate meeting, Anatoly (GASA) made the point that the reason why administrators might resist “stopping the clock” for graduate students is that such an accommodation essentially commits the university to another semester of funding added on to the student's tenure at BC.

The Senate agreed to distribute a survey to their constituencies, asking for graduate student feedback on the policy. The survey is live, and the GSA will receive responses until Nov. 3rd. On November 4th, the GSA will collate and forward student reactions directly to the provost’s office.

Action Tank 2017

The GSA has teamed up with Dr. Catherine Wong (Urban Initiatives, BC), Dr. Dean Sparks (LSOE), and Chris Tansey (President--GEA) to begin planning what we’re provisionally entitling “Action Tank 2017.” The goal of the conference is to bring the entire BC community together in order to discuss strategies for dealing with structurally disadvantaging forces in the classroom and school setting (e.g., the racism, sexism, heterosexism, etc., formula), as well as to put forward policies that will help continue to hold our community accountable to our insights as well as to minoritized communities on campus. We hope to invite together faculty, administrators, as well as graduate and undergraduate students.

At this current stage, we are looking for “buy-in” among the deans in the schools. Dean Sparks has heard positive remarks from her colleague in the School of Social Work. The Core Team of the #AT2017 is looking for senators to help identify administrators. During the discussion, Anatoly (GASA) asked about how we can ensure that participants feel comfortable talking about these potentially difficult issues in such a space. Chris (GEA) replied saying that participants are not required to speak; rather, they are asked to attend and to use the space in whatever way is helpful for them.

Anatoly (GASA) will raise the idea with Dean Hetzner at his next meeting with her in two weeks. Amy (STM) will contact Jackie Regan to see if she would be interested in such an initiative. Adair (GMA) is reaching out to the relevant dean in CSOM. Sam (CSON) will look into which deans in the Nursing School can be most helpful in pushing the initiative along.
Director of Programming Updates

The Apple Orchard Outing is this Saturday, we are close to selling out. If you have not purchased a ticket, you should ASAP. (https://commerce.cashnet.com/bcgsl).

The Programming Committee met this past Sunday, and we have started to plan De-stress week. It will be December 5- December 9. We have one senate seat open for the programming committee, reach out to James if you’re interested in joining.

The website will be completely updated this Friday, sorry for the delays. If you have not sent me your bio at this point, it will not be included.

Posh Cocktail Hour was a success, hopefully more senators can attend in the future.

We are in final conversations with Ritz Carlton about Grad Ball. It will be Saturday, April 29, 2016. If anyone knows of really great/affordable DJs, please send James their information.

James is really interested in meeting students in the graduate community, could you send him dates and times of your general meetings?

Senator Updates

School of Social Work

Self-Care Fair (20 October 2016; McElroy 237; 12:30-2PM)

This event will include four massage therapists; acupuncturists; and chipotle. Primarily for SSW students, though it is open to senators if they want to come.

Graduate Management Association

Happy Hours

These events are ongoing, and are mainly to connect first-years.
Tailgates
The GMA hosts tailgates. However, they are no longer seeking formal collaborators. If Senators are looking for a place to go during games, they are welcome to come.

School of Theology and Ministry

International Student Night (11 November; 5:30 PM; All invited)
This event features an ecumenical worship service.

Graduate International Students Association

With Hannah as the official advisor, in partnership with OISS and GSL broadly, GISA has planned the following events:

- 10.8 --- House Warming Party
- 10.16 --- Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Tour
- 10.23 --- GISA Mini-culture Night 1 (American Culture Night)
- 10.29 --- Boston Culture Tour
- 11.5 ----- GISA Mini-culture Night 2
- 11.14 --- GISA International Education Week Event (Seeking to talk about the impact of the election on international students at BC)
- 11. 19-- GISA Mini-culture Night 3
- 12.3 --- GISA Mini-culture Night 4

Graduate Education Association

The GEA hosted paint nite on 28 September, remarking that there was a very good showing, and that there was “great food,” and that it was a “great time.”

Upcoming events are the following:

- Faneuil Hall Halloween Pub Crawl
  10/22 12 PM-7PM

- "Abrazos" Documentary movie showing
  10/26 at 7 PM in Campion 139
Follow-up event with Elizabeth Badger (Kids In Need of Defense) on Thursday, November 11th at 7 PM.

-Pumpkin Decorating Grad Hour
10/27 in Campion 132
Snacks and Hot Cider served

"Most Likely To Succeed" movie showing
11/2 at 7 PM in Campion 139
- In collaboration with the Social Work School

Other upcoming events: Linked In events with Career Center (November 14th and 16th), December Ugly Sweater Party at Harpoon, Service trip to Cradles to Crayons.

At the meeting, Chris also mentioned “hug a dog day,” which will take place some time during the first week of December.

Graduate Students of Color Association

The following updates were submitted by the GSCA:

1. Through the potluck, GSCA learned that people are looking for more spaces to engage in deeper dialogue the racial issues going on in this country. To address this need, GSCA is introducing "Dialogue & Dine". This will be a dinner event with RSVPs capped at 15-20. Because there topics we could talk about are endless, we will be polling people asking for what they believe to be a worthwhile conversation topic. Then, we will send out a google doc with the top 3 choices so people can choose their number one option. The date is TBD but we are aiming for early November. Location will be Murray. We are looking for collaborators as well. Examples of topics we are thinking of are Police Engagement, Invisibility of Black Women, Asians as the “model minority”, Queer People of Color, Mental Health in Communities of Color etc.

2. Racial Healing Open Mic -- December 7th. Time TBD, but it will be an evening time. Collaboration with GSA during De-Stress Week. Space to be reserved, but we are thinking either Higgins 300 or Vanderslice Cabaret Room. Looking for a variety of performers. Also hoping to collaborate with UGBC, AHANA Leadership Council, and any other interested groups. Some BC groups we are looking to reach out to are BEATS (Black Experience in America Through Song), SLAM Poets, Sexual Chocolate, etc. Individual performers welcome and encouraged! Let us know if you are interested in performing/collaborating.
3. Collaboration with Women’s Center to bring Shane Ortega, the first openly transgender man of color in the US military, to campus for Love Your body Week. GSCA contributed $250.

4. Looking to do something with 13th (documentary on Netflix). Afua said that a social work group is apparently already working on this. Potential for collaboration?

**Graduate Arts and Sciences Association**

GASA’s updates were aimed at the Senate more broadly. First, there was concern to be aware of the need for data in preparation for GSA’s annual presentation to the board of trustees (December 2nd.) Anatoly brought up the possibility of extending the healthcare and stipend survey to all graduate students via their Senators. He also hopes to ask students for areas of need for which more data can be gathered. At some point Anatoly will approach Senators, asking them to gather input from their various central offices. GASA is working closely with the GSA on this project.

GASA also seeks an opportunity for professional photos to be taken by BC media services, given that many A&S students are entering the job market this month and next month. Craig (GSA) agreed to work with Anatoly in order to help turn this into an event university-wide.

GASA is also looking into whether an outdoor company that works through BC can accommodate grad-only events. These events would include activities from skiing to hiking to rock climbing, etc.

**Graduate Nurses Association**

The following updates were received from the Graduate Nurses Association:

All Members Lunch Meetings
When: October 17 &18, 12-1 PM
Where: TBD

Harpoon Brewery
When: Friday, October 21
Where: Harpoon Brewery

Head of the Charles- volunteering with first aid
When: 10/22

Events to be planned:
- Alumni Panel in Spring
- Interview Workshop with Holly Fontenot
- Volunteer with Corey Hill Nursing Home
- Transgender health and care needs lecture/panel
- Health fair 10/25, looking to see if members can volunteer

Graduate Pride Alliance

The following updates were received from the Graduate Pride Alliance:

Our Bowling for Pride event went really well - we had about a dozen attendees and enjoyed candlepin bowling and pizza @ Flatbreads in Somerville - and nearly everyone who came were new GPA members!

Autumn Hiking excursion set for 10/29 in Saugus - gathering RSVPs now...

Planning a queer pub crawl as well...

And our last gen membership meeting (which happened while I was away) was apparently well attended!

Office of Graduate Student Life

GPS Retreat: 18-19 November. Looking for more 1st year masters/doctoral students, especially male students.

Observer Updates

Mikayla Robinson, Boston College Employee Union--UAW

Mikayla updated the Senate, saying that she is seeking to create networks in LSOE, Law, SSW, CSON. She is interested in working with any senators in order to expand efforts.

It is now possible for interested students to sign a union card online.

Mikayla submitted an item for inclusion in the next GSA newsletter. The GSA will work with her to finalize wording, which will then be submitted to the Senate for approval.
New Business

School of Social Work

Lazaro (SSW) made an intervention calling for a senate vote on the budget proposed at the September 2016 meeting. He would also like to move to repeal the results of the Carryforward project. The SSW alleges the following:

- The current budget under which the GSA operates has not been approved by the Senate per the Constitution.
- The Carryforward approved by the Senate at the 2016 meeting has not been carried out as the Senate ordered.

In support of its allegations, the SSW compiled documentation which included excerpts from the Constitution as well as excerpts from email exchanges between Craig, Lazaro, and other persons at the School of Social Work.

Craig responded briefly to these allegations at the Senate meeting, and requested from the Senate the opportunity to formally respond in view of a hearing at the November Senate meeting. This motion passed the Senate.