Senate Meeting Minutes
02 March 2017--11 AM

In Attendance:

Senators:
Lazaro Silva
Mark D’Angelo
Craig Ford
Quingmei Cheng

Amy Northrup
Katherine Baker
James Vamboi

Karina Hamamouche
Caitlin Gilchrist
Peter Lee

Observers:
Gloria McGillen (Eradicate Boston College Racism)
Elizabeth Pingree (BCGEU)
Christine Rojcewicz (Philosophy Dept)
Mikayla Robinson (BCGEU)

Absent:
Graduate Management Association Representative
Graduate Students of Color Association Representative

Boston College Graduate Employees Union

BCGEU representatives indicated that they were still sticking to their current timeline for an election. They are looking to gain more support with students in the School of Nursing, the School of Social Work, and the Law School.

They requested that GSA move to endorse the unionization initiative. This motion was made, and was seconded. However, at that time, there was no quorum, and so the vote will need to be rescheduled for the April Senate meeting.

BC Policies Related to Speech, Expression, and Assembly

During the month of February, Craig Ford (Executive Director, GSA) and Gloria McGillen (member, EBCR) met with the Office of the Dean of Students in order to gain clarity about the
current policy enforced at Boston College related to speech, expression, and assembly on campus. Their observations, together with several recommendations, were issued to Senators in their report, “Stance of the Dean of Students’ Office on Policies Related to Protections for Student Free Expression and Right to Assembly.”

The Senate received these recommendations very warmly, and are interested in discussing them with Dean of Students Tom Mogan, who will receive an invitation to come to the April meeting of the Senate. After a conversation with the Dean, the Senate will consider which actions to take subsequently.

Eradicate Boston College Racism’s Demands

Gloria McGillen, member of EBCR, presented the EBCR’s current demands of the administration. Due to concerns about time, the Senate was not able to discuss them more fully.

Proposal from the SSW Collective

Lazaro Silva (Senator--SSW) presented a proposal moving the Senate to support the ‘Walk for Change’, put on annually by the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, this year on Sunday, 23 April 2017. The motion was seconded and approved, allowing the Senate to commit $900 of its monies to be used for the sponsoring the registration fees of sixty Boston College students. This event is open to all graduate students, not only those in the SSW.

Executive Director Report

BC and the Trump Administration

The majority of the Executive Director’s report focused on the conversation had by the Provost Advisory Council at their last meeting on 23 February 2017 concerning how Trump’s recent executive orders and stated policy goals might affect the Boston College community.

- Education policy: BC’s most vulnerable area with respect to education policy is the ambiguity surrounding how Trump’s policies will affect research funding and federal financial aid.
- Immigration: Consonant with the actions of other universities, Boston College will most likely not declare itself a sanctuary campus. However, because of existing FERPA laws, BC is unable to share any information about individual students in the absence of a court order. Nevertheless, Fr. Leahy has signed two statements: the Pomona College Statement (to uphold DACA program) and the AACU statement (upholding DACA program and pledging to support students through existing resources). Leahy has also
issued his own statement to the BC community (email detailing how Trump’s executive order from 1/27 threatens the strength of higher education, in addition to pointing out the order’s deviation from the Jesuit and Catholic values of BC).

- Reproductive Healthcare for Women Graduate Students: The presenting concern is that, if the ACA is rescinded, women will lose access to contraceptives. Under the ACA currently, students are provided access to contraceptives including birth control, emergency contraception, and sterilization procedures, among other things, at no additional cost via Blue Cross Blue Shield. Among attendees at the Provost Advisory Council—including a representative from the Office of General Counsel—little more than speculation could be offered. The Provost opined that it is possible that the Trump administration would take more of a federalist stance and allow for states to decide how to cover their residents. In this case, something like “Romneycare” could be on the horizon. Since Boston College has claimed a religious exemption to the provision of contraceptives since the ACA was enacted, it is unclear whether even access to birth control will be extended to its students if the ACA were rescinded.

Resources to Part Time Students

Kiara Manosalvas (Senator—GSCA) has been conducting focus groups with part-time students under the auspices of the Office of Graduate Student Life. This is a constituency that we, as a GSA, have been less responsive to than the full-time students. Over the course of two meetings, the concerns of part-time students seemed to involve three areas:

- Program/School Specific Needs: There is uneven support for students in terms of offerings of orientation among schools; some students receive inconsistent information from administrators as well as from professors concerning program details; making a more meaningful cohort experience.
- GSA Level Needs: Developing programming that fits in with part-time student schedules; orienting students properly. Some students claimed not to get either the GSA or the GSL newsletter. These students spoke of the need to connect with full-time students as well.
- Lifestyle Differences: The older graduate students get, the more their social needs change because of age and family obligations. Part-time students have the additional need of a lifestyle that generally accommodates full-time work.

Potential Solutions

- For Senators representing schools, perhaps finding out how many of your students are part-time, and then doing your own focus group with them before the end of the year.
- For all groups, developing programming that is oriented towards weekends, late nights, middle of the day, or family friendly. GSA having a smaller version of its activity fair at a time that PT students can make it; in addition to a smaller version of orientation itself.
- Perhaps an evening recreation league (though this could be challenging because the plex is not included in our activity fees).
- Dividing part-time students into cohorts divided by availability and then emailing and developing programming as appropriate.
GSA Town Hall II

The first GSA town hall in February ended optimistically because of our intention to gather again in March in order to bring together graduate student activists across the university to have simultaneous meetings and work on projects on which they are currently engaged. We are intentionally leaving time in the gathering for groups to share out what they are working on; what are their goals; and how other groups can collaborate. This next gathering is scheduled from Monday, March 13th at 6:30 PM in the Walsh Function Room.

The gathering has grown since information about it was first circulated. For example, Craig Ford has been in conversation with faculty members who are organizers and are working to bring other faculty on board for the evening’s gathering.

Director of Programming Report

A. Grad Ball update
   1. 142 tickets sold. 155 tickets left to sell
   2. Hard publicity efforts to sell tickets
      a) Meeting with group individually
      b) Direct emails to senators to send to their constituency
      c) Facebook Event?

B. Newsletter
   1. Materials were due March 6
   2. Newsletter dropping March 16

C. Town Hall: Monday, March 13
D. (Rescheduled) Law School Event
E. Website edits or updates
F. Co-sponsorship opportunities
   1. If you are planning a program and need extra support please reach out to me (James)
G. Kickball tournament idea

Director of Finance Report

Presented a memo which addresses the carry forward issue. We discussed various problems that we expect to encounter and have opened the floor to feedback and suggestions on this proposal before we take any further action. Peter will send an email to senators requesting this feedback.
Organization Updates

Graduate Nurses Association

- 3/26 3-6p, Wound Care Workshop led by Beth McNutt-Clarke in the Maloney skills lab, tickets on sale this week
- 4/4 @ 7:30p in Cushing 209, Caroline Maguire, pediatric NP, kicks off our healthcare disparities lecture series with a talk on caring for homeless youth
- 4/18 @ 7:30p in Cushing 411/412, As a part of the GNA’s health disparities series, CSON’s Diversity Advisory Board is presenting their findings from a recent survey on diversity within CSON and discussing CSON’s planned response. This meeting is open specifically to grad students in order to better understand the concerns and needs of grad nurses and the ways in which CSON can address those concerns.
- Grad Gala 5/21 5-8p in Lyons Dining Hall
- Initial elections complete. Full board elections to be conducted in May.
  - Co-President Elect: Katy Curran
  - Treasurer Elect: Colleen McGauley

Graduate Management Association

Graduate Education Association

"Before the Flood" Documentary Showing:
- Thursday, March 16th
- 7 pm in Campion 139
- Catered by Dates & Olives

Free Bowling at Saccos in Somerville:
- Saturday, March 24th
- 9-11 pm
- Meet at bar in Somerville before

Lynch Research Symposium:
- Monday, March 27th
• 2-4 PM
• Two PHD candidates will present their research
• BC catering

Donation Drive for Community Day Center beginning in Mid-March

Graduate School of Social Work Collective

School of Theology and Ministry Student Forum

There are no updates from the STM.

Graduate Students of Color Association

Graduate International Students Association

March 21th, initiate the proposal for the election for GISA leaders in next semester

March 30th @ 5-7 pm, Murray House, international talk night;
   Gather the international students from different countries to share our experiences in America and opinions about the cultural differences for various topics.
   To social, relax and enjoy food together with international students

April 15th @ 10 am, Museum of Science

April 28th Bowling club

May 7th Cultural night -- Asian Night
Have a few representatives from Asian countries to communicate about the Asian cultures with the international friends.

Graduate Pride Alliance