Graduate Student Association  
Senate Meeting Minutes  
April 6, 2018

Senators in Attendance

Jasmine Hamm (GSA)  
Peter Lee (GSA)  
Megan Ottati (GSA)  
Carole Hughes (OGSL)  
Katie Baker (GEA)  
James Hadaway (GEA)  
John Laing (GSCA)  
Christopher Berger (GASA)  
Jessica Poracky (GMA)  
Andrew Timmons (GPA)  
Marcus Smith (SSW Collective)  
Sarah Mary Toce (STM Forum)  
Laura Aseltine (GNA)  
Gabriel Ezema (GISA)  

Observers in Attendance

Peter Berard (BCGEU-UAW)  

Executive Board Updates

Executive Director Updates

The Graduate Student Association is hiring a new Executive Board for the 2018-19 academic year. The GSA has selected one candidate for each Executive Board position, including the Executive Director, Director of Programming, and the Director of Finance. All references have been checked by the Director of Graduate Student Life and the Assistant Director of Graduate Student Life. The candidates were presented to the Senate and the Senate did not have any objections.

Jasmine (GSA) met with the Department of Transportation & Parking on March 22 and proposed that the Boston College Shuttle route to Brighton Center, Oak Square, Allston, Brookline/Coolidge Corner, and Newton Center. Jasmine (GSA) received the recommendation to conduct a new shuttle survey and include more undergraduate students. The shuttle is currently funded by the Office of Residential Life and costs $86/hour to operate. The new shuttle survey is recommended to increase buy-in from undergraduate students. There is also a survey being conducted with faculty members. It is possible that there will be overlap. The Department of Transportation & Parking plans to reform the Parking Advisory Council, which would include 2 GSA representatives, 2 LSA representatives, and 2 UGBC representatives. The Parking Advisory Council would meet at least once a semester.
Jasmine (GSA) is working with the Affinity groups to create job descriptions for the leadership positions to ensure consistency and ease of measurement. Jasmine (GSA) has two meetings scheduled on April 10 and one meeting scheduled on April 12.

Jasmine (GSA) requested 2-3 items that could be turned into a proposal with creative solutions to be discussed with the Provost or Vice Provost in the form of a dinner, similar to the VPSA Dinner.

**Director of Programming Updates**

Megan (GSA) announced that Grad Ball is sold out and she is forming a waitlist. The event will take place on April 21 from 8PM-12AM at the New England Aquarium. There is a Facebook event for Grad Ball.

Megan (GSA) announced that the GSA newsletter was sent out on April 2. There are 3 events for Grad Appreciation Months, including Treat Yourself to Heath with the Office of Health Promotions (April 18 from 12PM-1PM in the Murray Graduate Student Center), Outdoor Yoga (April 19 from 12:45PM-1:45PM on Hovey House Lawn, weather dependent), and Free Day at the Plex (April 26).

Megan (GSA) notified the Senate that there will be one more newsletter during the academic year. Please submit events directly to Megan for inclusion in the May newsletter.

**Director of Finance Updates**

Peter (GSA) recommended that Senators spend the remainder of their budgets. Budgets are designed to be utilized by the current students who paid an activity fee for that academic year, not to be carried forward. June 30 is the closing balance date. There is a $1,000 threshold for carry forward. Please contact Peter (GSA) if you need ideas or suggestions to help spend the rest of your funds and if you have any questions or concerns.

Peter (GSA) notified the Senate that the GSA is working with the Director of Graduate Student Life on the payment of organizational representatives. GSA and OGSL are considering the numerous subgroups within larger organizations and are working to find a system that is fair, considering that there are varying groups with varying budgets. The structure that will be put into place will have to ensure accountability and the payments and leaders will have to be monitored.

**Programming Updates**

**Graduate Pride Alliance**

April 6 from 7:30PM-9PM: Self-Care Friday at Samara Yoga in Davis Square
April 11 from 5PM-6PM: Queer Identity in the Workplace in Stokes S205. There is a Facebook event for this program.
April 14 from 12PM-3PM: The 5th Annual LGBTQ+ Alumni Luncheon in The Heights Room
April 21 from 6:30PM-8PM: Grad Ball “Pre-Game” at Tiki Rock
May 4 from 12PM-2PM: Lavender Graduation in the Walsh Conference Center. Lavender Graduation is a celebration that recognizes LGBTQ+ students of all backgrounds and acknowledges their contributions to the university.

Graduate Students of Color Association

April 20: GSCA plans to host a discussion about the term POC "people of color", its origins, who is considered a person of color, among other things. Food will be provided as well. Location to be determined.
April 27 from 4PM-6PM: GSCA has an event with the Social Workers for Social Justice where a guest speaker, Taina Asili, will speak on the issue of mass incarceration. Location to be determined.
May: In May, GSCA is interested in having a karaoke night.

Graduate Education Association

April 5 from 3PM-4:30PM: Grad Hour - Registration 101 in Campion 132
April 12 at 7PM: Diversity Night, Documentary Showing in Campion 204
April 20 at 8PM: Paint Nite at the Green Briar
Red Sox Game: TBD

GEA is interested in hosting a group Red Sox event in April or May. Jess (GMA) recommended to look into purchasing group tickets during the Class of 2018 Red Sox events, so each ticket bearer would receive a free t-shirt. Jasmine (GSA) will send Katie (GEA) the purchasing link for the promotion.

Graduate Management Association

April 7: BC MBA 5K - The 5K is open to everyone, including walkers, runners, families and friends. The event will start around 9AM. The meeting location is by the Eagle statue.

Graduate Nursing Association

April 13 at 7:10PM: Red Sox Game

STM Forum

April 12 from 6:30PM-8:30PM: Conversations That Matter: One Humanity, Many Faces…The Challenge of Racism Today
- RSVP requested by April 10 to barbara.quinn.3@bc.edu.
- Open to all graduate students.
**Additional Updates/Items for Discussion**

Jasmine (GSA) recommended that a way to spend remaining funds could take the form of an end of year celebration to wrap up the semester and congratulate.

Carole (OGSL) distributed a Crisis Text Line that allows people in crisis to anonymously speak with a Crisis Counselor. This information is important to distribute, especially with finals approaching.

- In crisis? Text HELLO to 741741 – Free 24/7 support for people in crisis.

Jasmine (GSA) congratulated all Senators graduating in May and wished everyone a wonderful rest of their year!
In crisis?

Text HELLO to 741741 and speak anonymously with a Crisis Counselor.