Racial Justice Symposium Proposal by Melissa Bartholomew & Dale Maglalang

The Racial Justice Symposium (RJS) is a student-initiated event that aims to bridge the gap between scholars and practitioners within the field of Social Work. Furthermore, it seeks to encourage participants to leave with action-oriented commitment, tools, and resources that they could use in their practice and research.

Melissa and Dale are requesting funding and support from the GSA and Senators. Due to conflict and illness, Melissa and Dale were both unable to attend the Senate meeting. Marcus (SSW Collective) explained their proposal and answered questions to the best of his ability. Outside of finalizing logistical details of the event, Melissa and Dale are working with a faculty member and the SSW Associate Dean to obtain a grant for the event.

The event is currently only open to students enrolled in SSW. There was a recommendation to consider opening the event to all graduate students and changing the dates. The dates may conflict with the LSOE comprehensive examinations and Saint Patrick’s Day. There was a disagreement regarding cost of the honorariums – if $300 was too expensive or a low-ball estimate.

GSA is unable to collaborate on the event due to not having enough money in the budget to support the needed funds and its restrictiveness to only SSW students. GSA recommends that Melissa and Dale subject a request for GSA’s Conference and Research Grant program. The
maximum amount that can be requested, but not guaranteed, is $125 per applicant. GSA will submit an official Senate decision to Melissa and Dale, along with the names of interested collaborators.

**BCGEU-UAW Updates**

Victoria and Patrick presented updates about the Union. BCGEU-UAW has been organizing for 3 years and filed with the NLRB in March. The election at BC took place on September 12 and September 13. The union won the election. The next step is for a contract to be agreed upon by both the Union and BC. BC is filing an appeal against the Union’s efforts. In response, the Union created a petition against BC’s appeal. Presently, there are 250 signatures from current graduate student workers. The petition is scheduled to be delivered to the President of BC on October 17. The petition is the Union’s first step. Beyond the petition, the Union plans to bargain with BC to create a contract. Anyone can contribute to the contents of the contract, but only Union members can vote for the final version.

GVA wanted to know about the Union’s expectation of BC to bargain. The Union plans to continue to pressure BC, but will get an attorney involved if necessary. GNA and their constituents did not feel well informed about what was at stake and why their students should be involved. The Union offered GNA, and anyone who is interested, personalized informational sessions. [www.bcgradunion.com](http://www.bcgradunion.com) was recommended to the Senate for general information and updates. GASA inquired about the process for opting out of the union, as a number of GASA constituents do not support the political agenda of the Union and do not want to pay. The Union responded that a student is not a member unless the student signs a pledge card. Unions are required to charge for coverage, but a student can opt out by paying an agency fee. With the agency fee, the contract effects will still apply. The agency is not avoidable if a student does not want to be a member of the union. If a student does not sign a pledge card, they are not a member. To remove a name off the member list, please contact organizer Mikayla Robinson, mikayla.robinson846@gmail.com. SSW Collective constituents were in field placement during the election and were upset about being unable to vote. SSW requests information sessions from the Union. The Union responded that, unfortunately, the date and time of the election are decision by the lawyers, the Union, BC, and the NLRB. There were people who were in favor and against the Union who were unable to vote. Once the contract is drafted, Union members will vote on it. After the contract is agreed upon, the contract will be set for approximately 3 to 5 years. The contract timeline and length of contract are difficult to estimate at this time. The Union is currently establishing committees and creating bargaining surveys. GASA requested the cost of union dues and agency fees. The Union presented that union dues are 1.44% and the agency fee has not been set. Agency fees are specific to the university and will be set after the contract has been agreed upon by both parties – BC and the Union. After the contract expires, in approximately 3 to 5 years, the contract will be redrafted.
Executive Board Updates

Executive Director Updates

VPSA Dinner with Dr. Barb Jones: Join GSA in a dinner with the Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Barb Jones. A small group of graduate students will have the opportunity to discuss personal experiences at Boston College with Dr. Jones and learn about the resources VPSA offers. The VPSA dinner will occur Wednesday, November 8 from 5PM-6:30PM. The event will be capped at approximately 15 students. Please submit representatives to Jasmine, if interested. There will be a meeting scheduled prior to the dinner to brainstorm points of discussion.

Please note that the VPSA Dinner with Dr. Barb Jones is now scheduled for Wednesday, November 8. The event is open to all graduate students. Jasmine requested that Senators email the flyer to their listservs and CC her on the email.

Committee Formation: GSA is seeking to form the Disciplinary Committee, Election Committee, and the Programming Committee. Chris (GASA) volunteered for the Disciplinary Committee. Andy (GPA), Osato (GSCA), and Chris (GASA) volunteered for the Election Committee. Gabriel (GISA), Marcus (SSW Collective), and Ferg (GMA) volunteered for the Programming Committee. GSA is still looking for two representatives for the Disciplinary Committee. If necessary, two Senators will be assigned to this role. Jasmine proposed renaming the “Election Committee” and calling it the “Hiring Committee.” The Senate did not oppose.

Please see below for committee descriptions:

Disciplinary Committee (3 Senators): The purpose of the Disciplinary Committee is to monitor the carrying out of the duties by Senators and members of Executive Board and to propose to the Senate any actions necessary to enforce the proper carrying out of those duties.

Election Committee (3 Senators): The purpose of the Election Committee is to organize and carry out the elections of the members of Executive Board for the next year according to the election procedures and policies.

Programming Committee (3 Senators): The purpose of the Programming Committee is to assist the Director of Programming in planning large-scale social events for the graduate student body.

Leadership: Jasmine reviewed whether leadership overlap is possible in GSA and if it is financially feasible to have the E-board work over the summer as part of the job description, in addition to the academic year. GSA proposed a new hiring process that would potentially include one 1st year GSA E-Board member and two 2nd year GSA E-Board members. This structure may take a couple years, as two of the current E-Board members are graduating. GSA cannot afford for all three E-Board members to work over the summer. During the interview process for next year’s E-Board, the interviewee must answer a question about their summer availability.

SSW Collective and GASA questioned if GSA could hire earlier and SSW Collective inquired about having the new hire shadow the current E-Board. GSA is currently unable to alter the
timeline of the interview process, as it begins very early in the Spring semester. Shadowing is more than welcome by the E-Board, but the new hire may not be in the area until the start of the academic year. GSA hopes to have new hires chosen as early in the timeline as possible. If the Senate does not approve candidates brought forward by the Hiring Committee, the Committee must regroup, and possibly reopen applications.

Director of Finance Updates

Old Reimbursement Link: Peter notified Senators, and treasurers, that there is an old reimbursement link online. SABSC is aware of the problem and trying to remedy the situation. Peter requested that Senators notify their orgs and recommend going directly to http://www.bc.edu/offices/sabsc.html to access forms. Please visit SABSC’s financial form page directly for the most updated reimbursement form: http://www.bc.edu/offices/sabsc/GraduateStudentOrganizationTreasurers/FinancialForms.html.

Hour Adjustment: As an international student, Peter is only allowed to work a maximum of 20 hours per week legally under his visa. Peter’s internship requires 6 hours of work. As a result, GSA office hours for Peter have been shortened to 14 hours per week. The Senate did not oppose.

Computer: A new computer was purchased for the GSA office. Peter’s computer was outdated and could no longer function efficiently. The new model cost approximately $1,000. The Senate did not oppose this expense.

Director of Programming Updates

Upcoming Events: GSA will be hosting an Apple Orchard Outing on Saturday, October 21 at Shelburne Farms from 10:15AM-1:50PM. Posh Cocktail will be held on Thursday, November 16 at Murray House. Grad Ball will be in April, and save the dates will be sent out soon.

Newsletter: The deadline for GSA newsletter submissions is October 25. The newsletter will go out on October 29.

Programming Announcements: GSA requests that event announcements through the listserv be submitted at least 3 days before the event to allow Senators enough time to distribute the information. When submitting programming announcements to the GSA newsletter, please submit as soon as possible.

Website Updates: Megan will be updating the Senator and Affinity Group pages on the GSA website. Senators, please submit a short biography and photograph (optional) to Megan, no later than October 20. Affinity Groups, please submit/update organization information to Megan, no later than October 20.
Senate Meeting Calendar

Friday, November 10 from 12PM-2PM

Peter Hunt, from the Career Center, will visit the November Senate meeting and is interested in hearing thoughts on what career-related topics or needs the Career Center should address in the future. Please prepare at least one question/idea for the speaker.