Graduate Student Association
Senate Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2018

Senators in Attendance

Jasmine Hamm (GSA)
Megan Ottati (GSA)
Hannah Trost (OGSL)
Katie Baker (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)
Elizabeth Avina (GNA)
Qingmei Cheng (GISA)

Observers in Attendance

Bryn Spielvogel (BCGEU-UAW)

Boston College Emergency Management Presentation
John Tommaney, Director of Emergency Management & Preparedness
Eileen O'Donnell, Emergency Management Planner

John Tommaney, Director of Emergency Management & Preparedness and Eileen O’Donnell, Emergency Management Planner spoke to the Senate about emergency management about Boston College and allowed opportunities for questions, comments, and feedback about how to best share this information with graduate students. Everyone on campus has a role to play in emergency management and it is important to know the ways that the office communicates with the campus community. Communications can be found online at [http://www.bc.edu/emergency](http://www.bc.edu/emergency), in the Boston College specific application, email, and text message. In a crisis situation, it is important to avoid hearsay and to listen to Boston College account communications. In an emergency, call Boston College Police Department directly. Calls to 911 can be rerouted throughout Boston and can delay reaction time. Make sure to practice alternate routes to campus, in case an emergency blocks travel.

Committers of violent acts and active shooters are generally lone actors and 90% of attackers engaged in some behavior prior to the incident. 75% of attackers plan the incident. Most shooting incidents, 67%, were stopped by other reasons that do not involve the police, who arrive in 3-5 minutes. Be sure to report threats or behaviors of concern. Boston College has a Behavioral Evaluation Team that meets weekly, and includes Counseling Services, Health Services, Human Resources, the Provost, and Residence Life. Help can be provided to that
person in crisis, to protect the individual and the overall campus community. If you come across a person in crisis, remain calm, actively listen, communicate understanding, be respectful and patient, set clear boundaries, and never make promises you cannot keep. When in doubt, consult. If you see something, say something. In the event of an active shooter, do not go and investigate or confront the person. Plan before something happens. Actions of response depend on other variables at play. Consider the situation and your options to evacuate. Respond by contacting the Boston College Police Department or 911. John (GSCA) asked if this emergency management preparation could be applied to other violent acts, such as an attacker with a knife. Mr. Tommaney responded that these preparations can apply to other violent actions, in addition to active shooters. Sarah Mary (STM) asked about classroom protection methods. Mr. Tommaney is in early conversations about finding ways to implement locks on classroom doors and added shades to windows throughout campus. Jasmine (GSA) asked about ways the training could be shared with graduate students. Mr. Tommaney recommended directly students directly to his office and showing them the resources on their website. Mr. Tommaney is currently seeking feedback and suggestions. Mr. Tommaney can be reached via email at john.tommaney@bc.edu and Ms. O’Donnell can be reached via email at eileen.odonnell@bc.edu.

Executive Board Updates

Executive Director Updates

The Graduate Student Association is hiring a new Executive Board for the 2018-19 academic year. The GSA Hiring Committee consists of Carole Hughes (OGSL), Hannah Trost (OGSL), Jasmine Hamm (GSA), Peter Lee (GSA), Megan Ottati (GSA), Andrew Timmons (GPA), Chris Berger (GASA), and Osato Egomwan (GSCA). The GSA Hiring Committee will review applications, schedule and conduct interviews, and bring selections to the Senate for approval. Applications opened on February 12 and closed on March 11.

Jasmine (GSA) attended the Provost Advisory Council Meeting on March 15. Jasmine (GSA) will meet with the Vice President of Student Affairs for a check-in on March 20. Jasmine (GSA) will meet with the Department of Transportation & Parking on March 22 to discuss last year’s shuttle bus initiative. Hannah (OGSL) offered survey data to the GSA to use for this meeting. Jasmine (GSA) will meet with the Boston College Career Center on March 22 to discuss an upcoming event to support graduate students.

Jasmine (GSA) requested a proposal from GASA to outline the payment of organizational representatives in detail. Jasmine (GSA) requested a brief meeting with all Affinity groups after Senate meeting.

The GSA awarded 61 conference and research grants and the total value was $7,050.

The VPSA Dinner occurred on February 20. Topics discussed included, Ph.D. student stipends, graduate student housing, diversity training, unisex bathrooms, and parking. The Senate would like to have a similar dinner with the Provost. Jasmine (GSA) requested 2-3 items that could be turned into a proposal with creative solutions to be discussed with the Provost.
The Office of Graduate Student Life conducted an Administrative Program Review with external reviewers. The GSA was allowed the opportunity to speak with the reviews on March 14 to discuss graduate student issues, requested resources, and the strategic plan.

**Director of Programming Updates**

Megan (GSA) notified the Senate that there are 127 Grad Ball tickets left. The event will take place on April 21 from 8PM-12AM at the New England Aquarium. Megan (GSA) is finalizing the events for Graduate Appreciation Month. The events currently include Grads Give Back, outdoor yoga, and a discussion with the Office of Health Promotions. The second Posh Cocktail will be on March 23 in Connolly House. The event is sold out, with 50 tickets sold. Megan (GSA) requested Senator events that can be featured in a calendar that will be included in the newsletter.

**Programming Updates**

**Graduate Students of Color Association**

April 13: 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 International Student Association**

April 7: Cultural Discussion & Dining (Location/Date Not Finalized)
April 13 at 12PM: Restaurant Hopping (Location/Date Not Finalized)

**Graduate Education Association**

March 21: Trivia Night at the Green Briar
March 22 from 3PM-4:30PM: Program of Study Workshop in Campion 139
March 22 from 6:30PM-8:30PM: International Food Festival in Campion 107

**Graduate Management Association**

April 7: BC MBA 5K

The 5K is open to everyone, including walkers, runners, families and friends. Jess (GMA) will supply a flyer to be distributed to the Senate listserv. The event will start around 9AM, but the time is not yet finalized.
Graduate Nursing Association

March 23 from 7PM-10PM: Sunset Cantina Social Friday
April 13: Red Sox Game Friday

Both events are restricted to the Nursing School.

BCGEU-UAW

The graduate employee's union continues to visit the offices of Father Leahy and Provost Quigley to request a meeting about the union effort. This week we spoke to the Vice Provost directly, and he agreed to deliver our message to Provost Quigley.

On Wednesday, four major unions (including the UAW) began an unprecedented national campaign to aid graduate workers at private universities in attaining collective bargaining rights. This will promote resource sharing between unions and grow the movement of graduate workers, which will put more pressure on private universities to honor graduate worker voices. The heights wrote a nice article about it: http://bcheights.com/2018/03/15/unions-announce-national-campaign-to-aid-grad-workers/

We continue to speak to students across the university about re-affirming support for the union and completing bargaining surveys. We hope to hold more departmental information sessions, especially in departments where students are on campus less frequently or work in labs and are therefore harder to reach. We could use assistance reaching students in social work, nursing, business, and political science in particular.

Senate Meeting Calendar

Friday, April 6 from 12PM-2PM