Graduate Student Association  
Senate Meeting Minutes  
September 15, 2017  

Senators in Attendance  

Jasmine Hamm (GSA)  
Megan Ottati (GSA)  
Katherine Baker (GEA)  
Osato Egonmwang (GSCA)  
Laura McCormack (STM Forum)  
Christopher Berger (GASA)  
Jessica Poracky (GMA)  
Ariadne Nelson (GPA)  
Marcus Smith (SSW Collective)  
Qingmei Cheng (GISA)  
Matthew Goggin (GVA) 

Executive Board Updates  

Executive Director Updates  

Academic Year Goal: Build community among graduate students across communities and increase graduate student involvement in programming. Program attendance will serve as a measurement in reaching these goals.  

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 Thursday, November 9 from 5PM-6:30PM in Maloney 414. 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.  

BCGEU-UAW: The Union has won the election, with 270 votes in favor and 224 votes against. The Union was invited to September Senate Meeting, but was unable to attend. Jasmine will reach out to a representative to ask if attendance at October’s meeting is possible. The Senate would like clarity about how the Union will impact graduate students. The Director of Graduate Student Life will provide updates to be presented to the Senate.  

UGBC: A meeting with Jasmine and UGBC is in the works to gather information on the organization’s academic year goals. Awaiting a Doodle Poll availability response from the President of UGBC.
Provost Advisory Council Meeting: Jasmine will be attending the first PAC meeting of the year on Wednesday, October 4 from 8:30AM-10:00AM. In the future, there may be requests for information to be presented by GSA at the monthly meeting.

Senator Retreat: A senator retreat would encourage relationship building among senators and provide useful information to better perform in these leadership roles. The floor was opened to group goals and recommendations to best execute a retreat.

Leadership: Jasmine is reviewing 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. Jasmine will review the structure of administrative leadership.

Director of Programming Updates

GSA will be hosting an Apple Orchard Outing on Saturday, October 21 at Shelburne Farms from 10:15AM-1:50PM. Tickets will go on sale soon and transportation will be provided to all attendees.

The deadline for GSA newsletter submissions is September 20. The newsletter will go out on September 25.

Posh Cocktail will occur in November. Destress week, featuring a Celtics game, will occur in December. More details to follow.

Director of Finance Updates

A macro-project of Peter’s is to make financial processes paperless. More details to follow.

Approximately 85% of treasurers of received training. Peter is working with the remaining treasurers to finish training.

Senator Updates

Graduate Education Association

Academic Year Goal: Build community throughout the Lynch School, while simultaneously trying to build events with other graduate student groups.

Graduate Students of Color Association

Academic Year Goal: Develop a stronger community among students of color and allies, while developing a professional network and increasing access to resources.

School of Theology and Ministry Forum
Academic Year Goal: Encourage all student clubs within STM to collaborate and encourage students to better serve their communities in a variety of capacities.

Retreat Brainstorming: Discover how to foster the learning within student relationships and promote students learning from other students.

Graduate Arts and Sciences Association

Academic Year Goal: Build on successes from last year (i.e. interdisciplinary conference), continue to serve as a representative for students, including generally and socially, and reconstruct role now that the union is a reality.

Retreat Brainstorming: Learn the agendas, goals, and cultures of other organizations, outside of A&S.

Programming Announcements: GASA will host a research conference in April that will encourage students to learn how to present their work to someone who is not in their discipline. Being able to do so is an important skill to have in the job market.

Additional Updates/Items for Discussion: GASA would like to see paid GSA workers over the summer to assist with continuity and processes. GASA would like to see a better streamline of communication from Dr. Barb Jones and more respect to students – email is not the answer. Lack of parking, especially for graduate students with night classes, and going green are areas of concern. More opportunities should be available for graduate students to meet with administration – perhaps over lunch on a Friday.

Graduate Management Association

Academic Year Goal: Elevate the student experience, academically and socially. Increase networking opportunities and integrate first year, second year, part-time, full-time, MSA, and MBA students. Elevate the presentation of internal CSOM clubs and encourage collaboration.

Retreat Brainstorming: Come out of the retreat with an action item that can be implemented. Use the retreat as event, delegation, and regroup time. Establish ways to increase presence in the City of Boston.

Programming Announcements: A mentorship program that will pair first year and second year students will launch in October. The program will integrate students in CSOM and serve as a pilot that would open to the rest of graduate programs. More details to follow and GMA will be looking for someone to help expand the program for next year.

Additional Updates/Items for Discussion: GMA’s treasurer is trained, but seeks a first-year representative trained.

Graduate Pride Alliance
Academic Year Goal: Host community building events, with the inclusion of queer students and marginalized students. Connect with graduate queer groups on campus, including Social Work, Law, and School of Theology and Ministry groups.

Programming Announcement: There are upcoming social events, including bowling on September 15 at Flatbreads in Davis Square, Queeraoke in Jamaica Plain, and kayaking on the Charles River in the last weekend in October. Babson College reached out to GPA to host a mixer at Hopewell. Senators can join the GPA listserv if interested in attending events and hearing announcements.

Additional Updates/Items for Discussion: GPA would like a better method of reserving rooms on campus, that would require less running around. GPA would like Event Management to better explain which rooms are better for certain events. There is also chartstring confusion for GPA. Administration is not open to LGBTQ individuals in the community. How do we progress when action is not taken to make change?

School of Social Work Collective

Academic Year Goal: Diversify programming to be more inclusive to part-time and full-time graduate students. Use the E-market for more apparel orders. Push bookstore to have graduate program apparel in stock.

Retreat Brainstorming: Overcome the reality that BC is very undergraduate focused. Discover our needs and how the strategic plan can be prioritized in our favor to make graduate students a primary focus. Brainstorm leadership transitions to make the process smoother.

Programming Announcements: Working to increase school pride at tailgates. The SSW Collective will host a costume tailgating event for the FSU game. Collaboration is sought for this event and future tailgating events. GMA has a tailgate sport reserved for the full season and offered to assist with collaboration.

Graduate International Student Association

Academic Year Goal: Although there is an over-abundance of resources available to Chinese graduate students, there is a lack of support and resources to students from other countries. GISA will work to attract students from different countries and build a website that integrate the available information, as graduate students want information.

Retreat Brainstorming: Learn better ways to attract people to attend events and how to organize events effectively with more reasonable arrangements and more detailed plans. Work with other organizations and other departments to build community.

Programming Announcements: GISA is working to organize a monthly or bimonthly meeting for students from different countries to introduce their countries with informal discussion. Collaboration is sought for upcoming events. GISA also wants to form a conversational partnership program that would match international students and American students.
Graduate Veteran Association

Academic Year Goal: As a new club, GVA will work to identify graduate veteran students, host social events, assist veterans with their transition out of military into college life, and host resume building programs.

Additional Updates/Items for Discussion: GVA seeks a 2 to 3-year goal from the GSA and identify E-board candidates that would maintain the goals, instead of creating a new goal each year. OGSL guidance would be necessary to ensure the goals are passed along and implemented with each incoming leadership team. GVA hopes to establish alumni networks and create an identity for the organization. GVA seeks inclusion on the UGBC newsletter, as not all veterans are graduate students. GVA would like clarification on the BC administrative structure. A common theme on campus is disconnect. For example, GPA is an organization that makes BC a more-friendly environment, but BC acknowledges the organization, but does not embrace it. There should also be another dinner with Dr. Jones at a different time to accommodate more graduate student schedules.

Senate Meeting Calendar

Friday, October 13 from 12PM-2PM
Friday, November 10 from 12PM-2PM

Alternate senators were added to the Senator listserv for ease of communication.