Graduate Student Association
Senate Meeting Minutes
March 12 2019

Senators in Attendance

Tyler Johnson (GSA)
Roshan Chandapeta (GSA)
Lauren Rodriguez (OGSL)
Scott Noddin (GMA)
Sophie Savelkouls (GISA)
Dana Ostberg (GNA)
Anthony Russo (STM Student Forum)
Ryan Mossman (SSW)
James Hadaway (GEA)
Margaret Summerfield (GPA)
Vicente Munoz Reja Alonso (GASA)

Absent:
Ryan Mossman (SSW)
Melissa Dilillo (GSA)
Carole Hughes (OGSL)

Boston College Accessibility Speaker
Eliza Manriquez
Undergraduate staff member at the Boston College Women’s Center, now acts as the university liaison for the accessibility marketing. Tips for making marketing strategies more accessible:

Including image descriptions on all pictures, PDFs, or inaccessible documents can assist visually impaired people who use screen readers that would not otherwise be able to access it. Trigger and content warnings are important for students with anxiety, PTSD, depression, etc. to opt out of reading potentially disturbing topics they don’t wish to be exposed to. Using high contrast images with large text on promotional items make it easier for colorblind people or visually impaired people to access content.
**Executive Board Updates**

*Executive Director Updates*

Hiring Process: Carole, GSA, and hiring committee will begin interview process for the new GSA (Executive Director and Director of Programming replacements). Asking anyone interested to apply including incoming first year students.

Senate Bios and Portraits: any representatives that have not yet submitted theirs, please send them to Melissa so the GSA website can get updated and look professional.

MIT/All-Boston GSA Meeting: Melissa, Roshan, and Tyler met with seven other Boston area GSA’s on the MIT campus. Brandeis, UMass Boston, Bentley, Babson, Boston University, Boston College, and MIT. The BC GSA will be meeting with this group of a monthly basis focusing on combined social initiatives and programming between schools. All schools will be making a combined trip to the MA statehouse to support bills that match our GSA initiatives. GSA acts as a representative for all schools and the Senate leaders act as representatives for all our schools. We would like all Senate leaders to speak to students in their programs and come up with a few bills and initiatives important to them that we can sign off on and potentially bring to the MA statehouse trip in April.

Joy Moore Meeting: Melissa, Tyler, and Carole will be meeting with Joy Moore VPSA at BC to address what is being done concerning racial incident on campus that occurred with an undergraduate student last semester. The GSA will be drafting an official letter addressing their stance and what is being done on campus to create a safer environment.

*Director of Programming Updates*

- Pottery paint night in Brookline. BYOB! (March 22nd)
- GRAD BALL (April 6th)
- Grads Give Back (April 13th)
- Graduate Appreciation Week (Last week of April)

*Director of Finance Updates*

- Stipends for graduate affinity groups should’ve gone through over winter break for previous semester, this semester’s will be sent by SABSC some time over spring break
- Hannah Chalufour, AD for Graduate Student Life will be out on maternity leave in the next few weeks. Carole Hughes will be replacement sign-off on financial forms, Tyler will take over all financial documents/questions as well as providing ticketing reports through CashNet Services
- Asking for donations of any amount from graduate organizations to contribute to our Grad Ball funding. Organizations that donate can be represented on our walk-of-fame stars or get shoutouts from our Dn
GPA:
Monday March 25th 5-6pm
*Seminar - Being Out in the Workplace*
Career center representative speaking on workplace rights and what questions employers are allowed to ask interviews.

April
*Career Center Event - Queer Identity as an Instructor*

GEA:
Monday March 20th
*ACT Certificate Program*
Service and Diversity Committee
*Styx*

Thursday March 28th
Diversity and international food night

Thursday April 25th
Research symposium
Around 60 conference grants

GASA:
Preparing E-board for next year

GMA:
March 30th
Law School vs GMA basketball tournament

April 23rd
Red Sox night at Fenway

Grad Week

Elections for next year early April

STM:
Wednesday March 20th
*Sexism in the STM*

April
*Conversations that Matter*
Research Symposium April 10th

STM Dialogues (end of March early April)
Working to add more volunteer opportunities
Elections trying to revamp process

GISA:
Beer tasting event Sam Adams/Harpoon
Some time in April

Restaurant Hopping - International food restaurants

Elections already occurred

GSCA:
The E-board elections will be happening some time in the next few weeks.