

GSC November 2013 Meeting  
Wednesday, November 6, 2013

Start at 6:36pm

**1. At Large Representative for Masters Students Election**

Vacancy in this position.

Is anyone interested? No

**2. Paid Parental Time off policy (Dean Garth McCavana)**

New process that has just been introduced

Garth wants to describe what it is and what is doing, and who is using it

*It is time off, not leave*

Worked on this for the past year through the women in science and engineering

Students should not have to give up student status. There is the pay part and time off. They can happen separate from each other

We are paying students 6 weeks time off. Equivalent to 2/5 of teaching, \$6k

Both for male and female in child birth and adoption

What can you do with that money? Garth and others are meeting with people interested in the program, lots of interest

Tried to make clear that if you do not decide to take time off, you still get funding

Some of the ways we work with students to think this through

Everyone in the category gets a G year adjustment

Registrar's clock, starts when you start at Harvard and when you leave Harvard

Then there is the adjustable department clock (lots of ways to get adjusted, family, medical, etc)

Can get a department adjustment of a year. G4 time off, come back with department G4 after a year off

10 humanities, 6 science, 5 from natural sciences using it now

Examples:

Student in humanities, take off 1/5 and then work the other 1/5. Did the math, so she could receive more money.

One student wanted to keep teaching position and pay a person to work for 6 weeks in that position

One student wanted to take time off, male, and talk to PI, thinks there should be no problem

One student wanted to use money to pay for baby's health insurance

One student due later in fall and watched to teach 2 sections still. Made an agreement to take a few weeks off and use money to pay for babysitting while working.

Need to work individually with each student. Then they can get a good idea of numbers, who is interested. Not able to get an exact number of births last year (~50?)

Questions?

Are you and the others satisfied with this level of assistance?

Yes, want to offer more. If more money was given then more services could be provided. Need a number in order to get a better pic of what is going on

Need to hear from people that is effected by the program

Any restriction on fathers or others when they can take the leave?

Try to make it near birth. But that's why we need to sit down with every individual.

Should happen within 2 weeks of childbirth

Scope for asking for more money...but can we add more than 6 weeks?

Yes, we need to do better.

Does someone's G clock have to stop?

No, student's choice.

Desire to make more regulation in what can happen in the teaching? Like if they feel pressured to teach.

The desire to teach varies from department to department

Looking at what has happened in the past.

Should find what is expected of the students to teach

Plan for what you might do for those programs that do not have an undergrad department? They have to teach outside their program. They have to compete for the class. How do they make sure to get the 6 weeks of teaching?

Come at least 4 months before birth or adoption.

Then we can work with the department

What info you give to the department about the student when talking about this with the department?

First the conversation has to happen at the student level

Then garth and others follow up. There must be a discussion about the need for teaching

In cases where the professor refused the 6 weeks. What about sick leave? There does not seem to be anything.

There is no plan for the program right now. There should always be a conversation with the department

It always seems to be a case by case basis, there is no budget right now

### **3. Mini-Courses Funding Increase**

a. Due date: Nov 15<sup>th</sup>

Hopefully you have received an email about mini-courses funding

These courses are taught in Jan and designed by your expertise. Can do them every day or every other day, anything you want.

Funding was just going to fund supplies, but now we have more funding from GSC Needed to have a conversation with admin, and got an additional \$4k

Would be great if you send an email to department admin and forward it to the students informing them about these mini courses

Great way to earn money if you aren't earning money.

May add an additional week to the deadline if not enough people sign up

How much stipends?

\$750 max, but could change

Course registered by J semester? How do they get students?

Not sure how to determine student enrollment. Need to have convo with the previous president.

You are responsible for advertising the mini course

You can ask for students to email to enroll

In past years it has been a part of the J course

Can look at how many people are attending by looking online.

Closed registration on the GSC website

Will, email Cory Tucker to find out how they did it last year

Team teaching is encouraged. May split stipend, but have a lot of money! So it may change

### **4. Teaching Survey Advisory Committee Members**

a. Incentives approves: 2 iPads, plus more!

b. Problem: No gift cards! Other ideas?

There are issues related to teaching that has come up over the years. GSC collects info, so we want to do a teaching survey

As an exec board we approved funding for gifts, award to incentivize the survey

But want a committee to find out questions (in sciences and the rest) since there is a lot of differences

Want questions to be applicable to as many people as possible

Anyone interested? Jack Nicoludis (nicoludis@fas.harvard.edu), Callin Switzer (cswitzer@fas.harvard.edu), Katherine Bercobitz (kbercobitz@gmail.com)

Question: Surveying anyone who has taught

Incentive ideas: were going to give gift cards BUT admin informed us that we cannot award gift card (it is taxable and like giving cash)

But need new ideas for incentives: running shoes (citisport stuffs), headphones, computer bags, taxidermy, target furniture, vacuum (hoover, red devil), household appliances (knives, food processers), binders, school supplies, flash drives (30GB or a terabyte), camera, iPhone cases, dongles, Harvard gear (sweatshirt), gsc tote bags, usb mouse/keyboard

Or have winners buy something and we reimburse

#### **5. Financial Preparation Working Group (Sam Parler)**

a. Education measures

b. Financial planner

Idea that basically came from my department, it is frustrating thing called a top up until 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Not receiving money that I was expecting. Need someone to mention the change in the amount of money given to you in your third year

Need something include with orientation info to tell you about the schedule of payments. This will be variable, but it should be noted.

Or something on the my.harvard website

Have an ad hoc committee. Meet at least once before the end of the semester and meet the next semester. Report proposal at the beginning of spring

Report to GSAS to get it approved

Need people, low commitment and high return to get the write wording for the education measures

Good to go around from department to department since some already have this.

Admin letter does tell you, but not very specific

Idea to be aware that you must pay admission when in 6<sup>th</sup> year and pay health insurance. Can get 6 years tuition coverage

**Interested?: Monica Hershberger (mhershberger@fas.harvard.edu)**

Design skills needed?

Top up: teach 2/5, additional stipend mid semester so you make the same amount in the first two years

GSC and other club is working together to get a tax advisor

#### **6. Conference grant demystification (Shelley and Darcy)**

First round in fall have been completed.

What does it look like when we select people? Darcy and Shelley will answer questions

February reminder will be sent out at the beginning of the spring semester

Need to submit receipts before 60 days after the conference, but have 6 months once awarded to use funds. It's okay if the flight or hotel booking is made longer than 60 days before

**If you have any other questions, please email Darcy or Shelley.**

Darcy will be going through the list to find out who still needs to attend the next meeting

The list will be posted to the website

7. GSO funding applications (Janis)

a. Due date: Nov 17<sup>th</sup>

b. GSO formation info session on: Tuesday, Nov 12, 5-6pm

Final point, does it say the 18<sup>th</sup>? NOV 18<sup>th</sup>

Janis will hold info session about GSOs

Will have an info session on nov 12<sup>th</sup> on the fireside room down in Dudley

There is a lot of money for each department, like team building and speakers.

Should put together an application for your department

Which departments? History, American studies, anthropology, German, medical biology, OEB

Good idea to submit for money, good idea to get together with everyone, talk about professors, meet with lower grad students

How much money? No cap, but need to stay under budget. About \$13k for student groups and organizations. \$100 to \$1500. Some will ask for an excess, but not everything will get funded.

**8. Open Floor**

Committee to change logo??