

10-9-13 October GSC Meeting Minutes

Start time: 6:38pm

Sign ups can happen at any time during meeting

Discussing issues we have in Gsas, but first business! Need committees to be staffed.

After we confirm you are on a committee please come up after you are elected.

1. Committees and Elections

Committee on Graduate Education (2)

They meet with the dean's on gsas, and work with students groups. Could approve interesting situations, like changing names of a program. Pose committee and attend an hour once or twice a year.

Meetings times set? First is, but the date is unknown.

Other duties: report back to the body what is being discussed. Not a lot of reading should be involved.

Those interested:

Natasha, 1st year, EPS. University of Colorado, university sustainability grants, to promote green uses. 5

Jennifer: 5th year in psychology. Student govt experiences. Working in outreach committee, wants to be on the committee to continue the work she did before, student decision making. Can have a say about professors. wants to make the student's voice heard 27

Scott: 1st year, middle eastern lang and civilizations 5

No experience, but wants to get involved in the grad student decisions.

Funlayo Wood: wants to make student voice heard, in a similar committee last year 26

Carrie: Interested getting involved

Winners: Jennifer and Funlayo

Official dept rep allowed to vote, do not have a vote if you are not a rep.

Safety Committee (2)

Deals with lots of issues and deal with the police and dudley. Bike safety, health, lighting, etc.

Those interested:

Marina: member of both groups in safety (bike and women's health). Publicity and work with groups.

Wants to help make women's safety more aware

Clarice: has background to make campus safer for women. did most work in PIT to help with safety on campus. has a passion to bring community together and help out.

Winners:

Marena and Clarisse

Can vote yes or no (no would be open position)

IT Committee (2)

Don't know much about. They work on substitute study cards for an electronic study card. (yay) They are working on other issues with computers. Make sure emails are being read.

They are very open to changes, get things to happen straight away. They meet monthly and determined ad hoc.

Interest:

Bao: 1st year RCA, software engineer for 3 years. Worked at NASA

Winner: Bao

bchau@fas.harvard.edu

Reps to Harvard Graduate Council (4)

Phil came last time to talk about their big events. All schools are reped by the grad council. It's a great group and 4 spots available!

Meet once a month, and wine and dine. Represent the voice of GSC. It allows for diversity and bring everyone together by social events. Spend lots of money.

Interested:

Ester: master's program. Interested b/c take classes at all these different schools. working on women's alliance to mix better with other grad schools because she already does it

Jack: 2nd year, program in public health and take classes here. In business school alum team. Like to see more interaction between schools

Oliver: 2nd year, obe, lots of mathematics. So he works with two schools and notices problems as well.

Scott: Interested in getting involved. have panache

Winners: Esther Tetrushvily , Jack, Oliver, Scott

At-large Rep for Masters Students (1)

Have an opening grad student council exec board for masters student. Don't have to be a masters student though. Here to rep masters students and they pay so different issues

Interest: None

Ad-Hoc Committees? Teaching, Outreach, etc.

Teaching Committee: Ben at large rep for natural sciences

Put together task force to improve the teaching aspects for nat sciences, hope to spread.

Couple problems, expectations to work is not uniform. Lots of frustration. Work with admin to identify the big problems and address. Anyone can join.

Interest: Janice, Jon, Nare

Yay!

Outreach committee: Jane, initiated last year. Collected data and made a survey to find student grievances. Group to gather data and progress. Get surveys and find useful info from this data. Have happy hours and talk more

Interest: Karri

anyone want to form a committee? No, not yet

2. January at GSAS due date: November 15th

Mini courses is something we are in charge of and we fund resources. Chance to teach based on passion. Great experience for G1 and G2. It is fun too!

Drink wine at times. Reps need to speak to their dept
\$4k allocated to fund materials, not stipends.
Not sure of when the courses run, but you can determine that later.
Can teach a mini class if you are in your dissertation year

3. Breakout Session: 5 groups

Issues you have had or people in your department regarding graduate student problems. Also find solutions to these problems.

Organizing groups into 5 based on position

Exec board will help facilitate. It is okay if the problems are unique to you and not just your dept

20minutes pass

-Rearranging the furniture back after break out-

Issues:

- Sexism, racism in class and out of class by students and prof (lack of accountability)
 - sensitivity training? There are dept teaching fellows, have information about these sensitive issues
- Lack of clarity in parent leave program
 - form ad-hoc committee. have science and humanities
- Conference funding
- Forced into meal plan: find a way to use at longwood
- Not enough mixing of different programs
- dental and eye insurance (issues right now because no one is sure. Maybe make the insurance more appealing. Student health committee right now and need someone to start this)

- Students starting in summer not aware of what to do
 - form a group and have ice cream to talk to each other
- Sick leave: no policy for long term illnesses
 - alternative registration status
- No say in what they teach or how and when they get paid
- Taxes: no one knows how to do this, especially if they have outside funding
 - tax advisor brought in last year. GSC needs help, give info to have a rep about taxes
- Dental and vision for
- Have better discounts for MBTA
- Parental leave: issues with teaching

- conference funding
- taxes
- new policy implemented where conference funding is now taxable. reduces what we get effectively.
- program vulnerability: external review last year and results were bad. Discussing issues that were not needed to maintain programs. People devalue languages
- travelers money: lose money if you get funding for one year externally, so don't get full money promised. Counter-productive rules in place
- Parental pay plan off: how to advocate 8 weeks How to improve similar situations

- Health care: dental
- Social funding: dept does not do weekly happy hours. How do you know what is happening with the money
- teaching training: dependence on faculty
 - lump everyone into one course. advocate for more split up relevance
- Conference grants: people don't know about conference grants
- Color printing: smaller dept don't have access to printing. greater simplicity
- Pay: what are the exact sequence of payments, make more lump sum payments, transparency
- Clarity on teaching: do not know if you are getting a teaching spot until eh 1st or 2nd week
- Sections: smaller sections
- Better coordination of joint programs: offer more support
- Not enough funding for masters student: not enough funding for research and conferences more scholarships
- TF burdens: workload is very different and inconsistent, too tied to size of class
 - postdoc fellow teaching position. money from dept and don't have to pay this person. then they can teach in place of grad students
- resources to help students write and submit to journals: writing and stats. How to write cover letter, job hunt, etc.
- Programming and stats courses
- Parties that are well funded and fun: socials
- conference and traveling funding is not much from dept: not consistent

General Items regarding issues:

Very common themes: dental and vision and employment status. Need to be kept in conversation. Organization around health care and improvement can be done. there are schools that have better programs.

Reps need to tell people about conference grants and where it is available

want to take excess money and give it to reps. Need to form a grad student org and apply for funding next round. talk to people in dept to form a group

4. Student Group Funding

Janis will take attendance and all vote to approve funding.

We have the funding amounts on the pamphlets. Total granted is less than requested. As treasurer looking at past records and found money gets locked up in fall. Only a certain amount can be distributed, so hopefully this money will be used throughout the year instead of holding onto it. Next funding dates coming up.

If you have any comments, please email Janis.

Take attendance.
Any questions? no

Vote to approve:
In favor. Funding approved

5. *Open Floor*

No issues

Tax Group:
Marika Aleksieieva

Issues	Potential fixes
<p>TF burdens: workload is very different and inconsistent, too tied to size of class.</p> <p>do not know if you are getting a teaching spot until the 1st or 2nd week</p> <p>what are the exact sequence of payments?, make more lump sum payments, transparency</p>	
<p>Health care: dental and vision</p>	
<p>Parental pay plan off: Lack of clarity and want to increase time</p>	
<p>Conference funding</p> <p>New policy implemented where conference funding is now taxable, reduces what we get effectively.</p>	
<p>Tax Help</p>	<p>Bring in tax advisor</p>
<p>Sick leave: no policy for long term illness</p>	
<p>Teaching training: dependence on faculty, it is all lumped into one course. advocate for more split up relevance (related more to language programs)</p>	
<p>Program vulnerability: external review last year and results were bad. Discussing issues that were not needed to maintain programs. People devalue languages</p>	
<p>Sexism, racism in class and out of class by students and professors (lack of accountability)</p>	<p>sensitivity training? There are department teaching fellows, have information about these sensitive issues</p>
<p>Want better MBTA discounts</p>	
<p>Want resources to help students write and submit to journals</p>	
<p>Not enough funding for masters student: not enough funding for research and conferences more scholarships</p>	
<p>Students starting in summer not aware of what to do</p>	<p>form a group and have ice cream to talk to each other (host a social)</p>
<p>Longwood students forced into a meal plan</p>	
<p>Better coordination of joint programs: offer more support</p>	
<p>Offer programming and stats courses</p>	

<p>Travelers money: lose money if you get funding for one year externally, and lose funding promised when starting graduate program. Counter-productive rules in place</p>	
<p>Transparency in Social funding: department does not do weekly happy hours. How do you know what is happening with the money?</p>	