

GC Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/26/18

Location: Glass Pavilion, Levering Hall

Minutes taken by: Eugenia Volkova, Secretary

Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes from 11/05
2. E-Board Report
3. Summer Payment Approval Vote for GRO Sport Coordinator
4. Update: Intercampus Events
5. Update: PhD Advisory Board
6. JHU-ICE Relationship Petition
7. New Petition regarding smoking ban on campus
8. Overview of University Committees and Plans
9. Payment Approval Vote for Elliot to shift hours to Elmer and Benj
10. Questions/Concerns

Approval of the Minutes. Motion to approve the minutes. Seconded. Motion passes.

EBoard Report

- Discussed summer payments for Debjoy
- Mission statement discussion
- Follow up on ICE, sending out the petition

Summer Payment for GRO Sports

- Debjoy was allotted a total of 70 hours at a rate of \$10.10/hour. He worked 74.50 hours total. We would pay for the extra 4.5 hours.
- This is based for the summer sports coordinator that we have an allocation for. There is no money left over from the allocated budget hour. So this has to go off the payroll allocation from the main account. This should pay out the extra hours for Debjoy.
- **Motion to pay the extra 4.5 hours. Seconded. Passes.**

Update on Intercampus Events

- Ping Pong Contest will be December 8th from 11:30 to 5:00PM
- Will send out information about the event - please promote the event
- There will only be space for 96 participants
- Winter Formal 2/16 In the Engineering Club, everyone is left
- Left to confirm: dishes, fix problems that occurred last year regarding the coats, waiting for approval from Hopkins Groups.
- Costs: For the moment, it will be the same as for the previous year. There is some discussion about getting a discount, but this is not something that has been promised thus far.
- How many people will be attending? Last year, 700 people. Majority was from Homewood. Last year we were sold out 3x. Last year they were \$10, but we may increase the price a little to help counteract the event costs.

PhD Advisory Board (Elliot and Karen)

- The Vice Provost's Committee on Education.
- Focus on professional development for PhD Students and a broad view of what things the graduate students go through. Unifying what happens over all departments.

- PhD Annual Review system and getting it standardized.
- There was a formal report written by the administration in 2012 that polled graduate students. There was also a survey sent out last year by the GRO. The advisee review issue has come out of that survey. One of the things that we want to consider is sending out a similar survey and getting department reps to get people to sign up. It's helpful if you can give personal stories. Personalize the pieces of information that are being fed to the administration. After this meeting, we will have a good idea of what the committee will focus on.

JHU-ICE Response

- Condemnation of the response given by the administration
- Another overview of the existing contracts with ICE
- Debate regarding Academic Freedom as protection for ICE contracts
- Restatement of the call to end administrative contracts with ICE
- What are the contracts: One contract with the School of Education (SOE) and one contract with the School Of Medicine (SOM). The school refuses to close, cancel, or put out a stance against either contract.
- Contracts are over \$6 million in value for both contracts.
- The school does support DACA students.
- The school has said that there is a benefit to the interaction between ICE and students for both parties. Not only ICE participates in these programs.
- There was a statement that JHU supports the strategic mission of ICE but it is no longer up on the website.
- **Motion to endorse the existing written statement as it stands, with an addendum statement attached to the endorsement explaining the GRO's discussions, concerns, and how we came to this decision. Lauren and Michael will draft something for the EBoard to approve and discuss and this document will then be sent out for the final vote by the GC. The statements needs to be approved by the GC prior to submitting. Seconded. 21 in favor. 4 abstain. 0 oppose. Motion passes.**
- **Motion to abstain as the GRO from the written statement. Motion is rescinded.**
 - Last time we did have more comments about this action than we have today.
- Based on the information given today, this is a figurative gesture that will not have any kind of felt impact, it is largely superficial. However, even superficially, we might need to be on the right side of an issue.
- How involved can the GRO get in this issue? Would any vote signal to some students that they are not welcome and that the GRO only accepts certain views. Is there a chance that the level of escalation of this matter.
- Whenever we have an idea, we need GC approval. Would every action be approved by the GC? Would we be able to have blanket approval for this?
- We aren't thinking of the ways that our silence would function as an utterance and as a non-response. Associating with socialist groups is not as problematic as being silent when the university is being so silent regarding its duplicity.
- Do we need clarify about whom the contracts are with? Are they with specific schools or Hopkins at large. They are with specific schools, not Hopkins at large.
- We have reached out to other schools (SOM) but have not heard a response.
- Conflict between what we personally feel and what would be a good action as an organization. Maybe going our own route and putting out a statement to the graduate students that we are encouraging advocacy.
- If SGA already endorses this, why would we have an issue with this? If this is good for the SGA then, why is this not good for us?

- They are also the governing body that regulates illegal antiquities coming in to the country. Their operation could change by the time that we get this out.
- We are operating from a position of imperfect knowledge. Maybe we would be able to vote one way or another if we had the written copies of these contracts.
- There is always an option to vote privately and to sign on as an individual. This is not an option according to our constitution.

JHU Petition on Smoking

- The undergraduate SGA is moving to ban smoking on campus
- Key points would be sponsoring a smoking cessation program, highly limiting/eliminating smoking areas
- Unlike last time, do not seem to consider general university workers
- This is unfair to workers. That was the outcome to when it last came up in 2015.
- Some undergraduate students were at universities that did this and have smoking areas around campus. You couldn't smoke a few feet beside building areas.
- Is the SGA open to receiving amendments? Yes, completely.
- Breaks should be conserved regardless of whether people smoke or not.
- We would like a written statement about this from the SGA before we sign on to this blindly.
- We have a part of their plan. Specifically, we have their smoking cessation plan. There is also a report from the university in 2015 about what was done.
- Unless this is really realistic, maybe moving to just designated areas this may not go anywhere.
- They will form a working group and will have two seats for GRO at large representing.
- So far, they have not considered the worker population at all.
- What are the current rules regarding smoking on campus? There are smoking posts in some locations. In some cases, they will put out smoking posts and then no-smoking signs.

University Committees and Membership on these Committees

- Growing, developing, and keeping graduate students updated on our committee involvement and interactions
- Trying to have the members on these committees ask for concerns prior to the committee meeting and then also cover what was discussed in committee meeting.
- This Spring we are working on a graduate happy hour at the biergarten.

Payment Approval Vote for Elliot to shift hours to Elmer and Benj

- Elliot is looking to donate some of his hours to Elmer and Benj.
- He was gone for the first two meetings, coffee hours, and happy hours.
- **Motion to shift 15 of Elliot's hours to Elmer and 10 to Benj. They have accepted these numbers and are happy with this. Seconded. Motion passes.**