

GC Meeting Minutes

Date: 04/08/2019

Location: Great Hall, Levering Hall

Minutes taken by: Eugenia Volkova, Secretary

1. Approval of Minutes from 03.25.19 Meeting
 - a. **Motion to approve minutes. Motion is Seconded. Motion Passes.**
2. E-Board Report
 - a. Communications Policy
 - i. Developing a professional communication policy for the E-Board. Plan to have something in place for the year-end. Plan to have a new and improved communication policy for the new E-Board to be elected at the next meeting.
 - ii. Meet and Greet with the Administration
 1. The student experience vs. the administration experience of campus
 - iii. Finalizing the Grad event during spring fair plan.
3. Funding Requests
 - a. GRO GC Update on the state of Group Funding.
 - b. Mind/Brain Sciences Alumni Networking Happy Hour
 - i. Planned last year, cog sci, neuroscience, and PBS departments. Inviting back alumni from Google, public research. All the travel is being funding by the career center.
 - ii. Requesting \$960 for food. Emailing people and will set up an event for the GRO mailing list.
 - iii. What is incorrect about the MATH? The food amount is correct, not sure where the other number is coming from. If we sum all the people, 80 students, so \$960 will be exactly \$12/person. Last year they ran out of food, so they are ordering more food this year. Hopefully buying all the food through foodify
 - iv. Event will be May 3rd.
 - v. **Motion to fully fund. Seconded. Passes.**
 - c. China-US Innovation Summit CSSA Funding Event
 - i. April 13th-14th, 2019
 - ii. First year they are trying to bring industry professionals and scholars together, sharing their opinions about what is trending in the industry and how to utilize innovative ideas in the industry. This summit is very informational and education to our students.
 - iii. Confirmed 20 speakers. Many coming from abroad.
 - iv. 100 graduate students expected. 300 students total.
 - v. Attendance cost will be \$25 for JHU students, \$45 for public
 - vi. Still running at a deficit.
 - vii. Planning to make this an annual event.

- viii. This event is in 2 weeks, how
- ix. How many tickets do you have sold? Over 150 tickets sold.
- x. What is the security charge? We need to pay an extra fee to the school for security. The event will be in Hodson Hall and we have the career fair coming. SLI informed them that they are required to have security. No minors, during the day, no overnight. The security number should not be that high. The event is in an auditorium.
- xi. What do you expect to spend \$1,000 on? Paying for travel for the speakers. One of the speakers is flying in from China, so we are paying for their Keynote is Franklin Ortiga and 2 Venture Capitalists from China and CEO of JHU Medical School.
- xii. Speaker lunch is for 30 people, \$600.
- xiii. The only restriction that we have is for alcohol, so we can stipulate that it cannot be used for alcohol.
- xiv. The pit competition, what is the \$1000 award? Is it a monetary award?
- xv. Motion to fully fund the event, but the money has to be strictly used for food. Seconded. Motion passes.**

4. Rachel S. Core Award

- a. Bestowed to an individual that has bestowed outstanding service on behalf of Homewood graduate students.
- b. Alexandra Sneider (WOW Co-President) and GSLC member.
- c. Jonathan Megerian: Above and beyond service to department, organization, community, and spirit.
- d. Heba Islam: #JHToo member
- e. Marios Falaris: #JHToo member, One of the organizers for students against private police and anti-ICE.
- f. Caleb Anderson: GSLC member, promote the department and organized many events and recruitment efforts.
- g. Peter Weck: Graduate student in physics, advocate on campus, democratic socialists of america, hopkins coalition against Ice, Written for the newsletter
- h. Suhas Eswarappa Prameela: Homewood Council for Inclusive Excellence. Integrated diversity in the department. Was awarded the engaged scholar award
- i. Allon Bran: History department PhD Student. Improve the overall quality of the PhD training program.
- j. Many people had multiple nominations. Some nominations had no information.
- k. Question: Is it possible to have Heba and Marios together or are we required to have them separately? Statement of support is for both of the students. They are the most deserving for university-wide.
- l. In the years past, we have selected one student, but we can select two students.
- m. Know both of them for the work they have done for #JHToo, worked with grad students and the administration. Policy work they did will impact all grad students around what the university is doing for Title IX enforcements. If our criteria is who has university-wide impact, this stands out.

- n. They are specifically organizing around the anthropology professor who was accused of sexual assault around the visiting student
- o. They have also gone further than that and are having meeting every two weeks and have realized that there was a more important issue that was not addressed.
- p. Challenged OIE and the administration that they feel have not fulfilled promises to graduate students.
- q. Motion that we consider Heba and Marios together. Seconded. Passes.**
- r. Allon: Heard many good things about him. He has been running a teaching workshop and has been getting many graduate students with teaching, something that they want to keep going for the humanities and around the university.
- s. Alexandra Sneider: Have experienced how much has been heard about WOW and has heard about the events. For example, the number of people in WOW and the number of events has been overwhelming. Taken a lot of notice. Very impressed by all of the candidates. She revamped this organization and she and her co-president started from the ground up. They had a symposium recently and about changing the norm in STEM.
- t. The GSLC did lapse for a year and Alexandra is not on it. Caleb is the current president of the organization.
- u. Heba and Marios: Intimately involved in campus-wide initiatives and they merit heavy consideration.
- v. Suhas: Very engaged in department and his work in teaching has been well-recognized by his undergraduates
- w. Three separate movements on campus.
- x. Motion #1 is made “Motion that we create an honorable mention award category with no monetary value and formally recognize the nominee’s contribution to the graduate student body.” Seconded.**
- y. Motion #2 is made. “In years past, we have had no formal notification of the event. Motion that we do what Motion #1 states and that we also send an all-campus email announcing not only the winner, but also acknowledging the runner-up.” Seconded.**
- z. Motion #1 is withdrawn.**
- aa. Reminder that you can only vote one time.
- bb. Motion to vote in two rounds, first for your first-choice candidate and then for the runner up. Motion is seconded, motion passes.**
- cc. Winner:
 - i. Alexandra Sneider: 7
 - ii. Jonathan Megerian: 0
 - iii. Heba and Marios: 24**
 - iv. Caleb Anderson:
 - v. Peter Weck:
 - vi. Suhas:
 - vii. Allon Bran: 3

dd. Honorable Mention

- i. Alexandra Sneider: 29
- ii. Jonathan Megerian: 0
- iii. Caleb Anderson: 0
- iv. Peter Weck:
- v. Suhas:
- vi. Allon Bran: 1
- vii. Abstain: 1

5. Funding Chair Hours Reallocation:

- a. The position is listed as 50 hours, but it has been discussed in the past that it should be listed as 70 hours.
- b. Jaime has logged 80 hours, 50 logged in last November because the first 3 lotteries occurred last semester.
- c. Jaime's position requires processing all of these applications, it is not easy to process the application. Also processes funding requests for every GC meeting. Communicate with everyone who has applied, received, and is inquiring about funding.
- d. Wants to request hours for this year and increase the allocated number of working hours for future positions. The way that it was voted was not clear as to whether it amended the position.
- e. The funding chair is a floating chair. We also increased the welcome coordinator's hours by a GC vote. It has happened the past 2 years.
- f. We have money to cover hours but it may not be fair to spend it out for the position. Making it to 70 hours from 50 hours is possible. Since this will take into account next year, we can re-structure our budget so that we re-allocate hours. We can do 20 hours more for this year and if it gets to it we will adjust it in the future.
- g. Jaime is officially requesting 30 hours. We do have money for 30 hours, this is not our last meeting. We can vote for it the last GC meeting or the meeting before. As of now, we can put it as \$70.
- h. We can do it before that date, but we don't know what date we will need to do it.
- i. In case we don't have quorum the meeting before this deadline, we don't want to screw over Jaime.
- j. **Motion to approve 20 additional hours for Jaime now and to also change the number of hours allocated to the position as 70 hours. Also to discuss the extension at the next meeting. Seconded. Passes.**

6. Graduate Events at Spring Fair

- a. Starting a tradition of a graduate happy hour at Spring Fair. Taking a Happy Hour Budget and buying beer/wine tickets at the beer garden.
- b. Saturday 12-1:30. Using the funds from the Happy Hour and to kick off this new thing.
- c. Discussed the shirts for Spring Fair. Giving out free tanktops to the first 50 people in line. This would be \$500. It's a 70/30 split beer/wine.

- d. Is the funding for this coming from the allocated happy hour budget?
 - e. We want to use the budget for the Guide Chair for the shirts.
 - f. Summary of the event and the amounts:
 - i. We spend 750 per happy hour. That is why we have so few per semester.
 - ii. Will use the last happy hour to buy tickets for the beergarden. We cannot afford the mead.
 - g. The only vote we need is for the shirts.
 - h. Motion is made to proceed with the shirts. Seconded. Passes.**
 - i. Do we have a budget estimate? We don't have a budget estimate for it.
 - j. There are usually two bands and areas. Kids under 12 can come in with parents.
7. Update on the JHU Sit-In
- a. Michael Busch Statement read - These are his words and do not represent any official organization
 - b. Garland hall situation is as follows: JHU Against ICE and Students Against Private Police joined forces and started a sit-in in Garland Hall.
 - c. There was a protest/march last week.
 - d. There was a sit-in that began last week at 1PM by dedicated students. The plan was to end the sit-in Wednesday night. The sit-in has an unknown end-time. Daniels did not give a response. Said that he is protecting the academic freedom of professors
 - e. 35 students are allowed to sleep in Garland Hall as per fire codes. There is a rotating administrator on duty at all time to interface
 - f. Homewood faculty assembly (the academic counsel) voted to make a statement with the students in mind. Will the administration confirm that the students not have anything against them.
 - g. Food and supplies are allowed to be supplied.
 - h. Just passed 123 hours.
 - i. How can people help? Bring food and supplies. There is current Venmo page established money can be donated. Excessive funds will be donated to an immigration defense fund and find a Baltimore organization that deals with legal defense for people that deal with police brutality.
 - j. How long is this expected to go on? There was an expected end time originally and there is currently no expected end time.
 - k. There was a request for negotiations with President Daniels and VP Kumar and they did not respond, so essentially they have no intention to negotiate with the students and the sit-in.
 - l. What are the negotiations intending to achieve? There is a list of demands that have been voted on? Mainly: no contracts with ICE, no Private Police on Campus, Justice for Tyrone West who was suffocated when someone sat on his back.
 - m. What are they asking about Tyrone West? That a university police force was engaged with a fatal encounter and that JHU ask that this be more fully

investigated. That came around in a university partnership. Most center around no private police force.

- n. How many graduate students are part of the current administration? 150 people are on this. Somewhere between 40-50 students that have spent the night and many of the main organizers are graduate students. 20/25 of the first night, were filmed in their sleep by an administrator. They told us that they could use the videos against the graduate students.
- o. The faculty had voted on “no punitive action”, what did the statement say? The faculty are stating that they want no punitive action against the protestors. Voted to draft a statement that students and other members of the campus community be free from punitive action for voicing their right to free speech and also that the faculty wanted a guarantee of no JHU Police Force.
- p. **Motion #1 is made that the GRO makes a statement saying that we would like to be assured that the students’ right to free speech is protected and that no punitive action is performed upon the students participating in the sit-in. Motion seconded.**
- q. They did verbally threaten the students that they violated the code of conduct and that students involved in an alumni breakfast could be brought as having violated the student code of conduct.
- r. Not everyone who has participated on the sit-in has participated on everything else that was affiliated with the sit-in.
- s. What happened in the president’s breakfast is a different matter. Students went to the stage at the President’s Breakfast, made an announcement about the private police force, President Daniels said that they had 30 seconds to leave, and then 2 minutes to leave, assistant dean said the breakfast was canceled, some alumni support, someone may have grabbed a student and afterwards the students marched outside building chanting.
- t. Several alumni from the LGBTQ breakfast said that they supported the message but not the way that the students did it. The administration is saying that the banging on glass is violation of student code.
- u. The sit-in, the breakfast, the march are the same.
- v. Since we don’t any documents. What can we do? We can put forward a statement at the very least.
- w. There is potentially some merit to thinking of a statement that is divided between the breakfast and the sit-in. People having unpleasant experiences or feel that there was damage to property, if there is any division or lack of understanding to what happened, in the interest of making a stronger statement we might want to focus on the sit-in. If we want to make a general statement about the right of students to free speech without punitive action, we can do this as well. As soon as we start more specifics, people are more divided and we may be
- x. Given that we receive funding from the administration, not sure how much we can support something that is a violation, because that is damage to property.
- y. The university has been very accommodating.

- z. Mention of harm to property and there has not been any harm to property.
 - aa. The first few days they were supportive, but now it has shifted. The fire marshal came and read things. They brought in the fire marshal and they wouldn't be able to see the actual report. They also said that BPD would not monitor them. Today there has been BPD in the event. There has been escalation on that regard and they are letting the students stay, there are indications that they are getting ready to force students out.
 - bb. It feels like we don't have a university statement. Has there been an official statement from the University? Is there a document with these details?
 - cc. Suggest that we can carry messages back to our departments and let them know and make them aware of what their rights are as student protestors. How can they get involved if they are interested.
 - dd. We shouldn't go on what we think about things. We should separate general rights as graduate students vs. the actual event itself. It does not need to be more complicated than that. We don't want to implicate the GRO in any nefarious event.
 - ee. The GRO has already made those endorsements in the past. We have made an anti-ICe and anti-Police Force statement. Yes, let's just say that we vote in support of what the facility.
 - ff. Motion #2 that we do what Motion #1 says and that we also reiterate the GC decision to stand with the "Students Against Private Police" and "Students Against ICEC" and mentions that we are only specifically asking for no punitive action for the sit in. Motion Seconded. Motion passes.**
 - i. 22 in favor, 3 opposed, 4 abstain.**
 - 1. Elmer would like the record to officially report that he voted against the motion due to the last sentence addition that was made and that he would have supported the original motion in its entirety.**
8. Hiking Trips (Sai)
- a. There were two hiking trips in collaboration with JHOC. They always gave us the leftover days 1 month before the semester starts. Bad weather days or something like that. Some of the students approached Sai about a grad program to be led by JHOC. The leaders of the program were not in favor of this,
 - b. Last semester we sent out a survey and many students voted for hiking trips higher than anything else that was a social activity. The prior wellness chair also had emails sent to him that suggested this matter.
 - c. Student wanted interested grads to sign up for volunteering
 - i. The wellness chair can schedule the trips a semester in advance. The issue is the transportation.
 - ii. There are many advantages and disadvantages. The transportation can be decided on the number of responses and can be figured out later.
 - iii. The students who approached Sai are very interested in this matter and the trips could also be organized during the summer. It gives an

independent outlook to the GRO. Volunteers can pitch in for different things like canoeing and camping

- iv. Disadvantageous are the liability and also we can put an incentive for the volunteers. If there is enough volunteers the next Wellness chair can take over this.
 - d. In terms of liability, how are the students planning on dealing with this? We would give a form. We would need to figure it out. The instructions are available, we would need to get access to it. You can register and take a test to take a van. Are they starting to start a club by themselves or is this going to be a part of GRO?
 - e. The GRO could potentially help. These are grad students who do not want to form a club. They want the GRO to do it, they do not want to form a club. They want some kind of support system so that grad students have access to the program. There is a lot of demand for this. The question is how we will deal with liability. This is a different procedure than it is just a different group. We would not be hiring volunteers not just getting them. With the number of people we always get and the kind of participation volunteers can do, we should be able to figure out the small things out. Not saying that these hurdles cannot be resolved. Saying that the GC needs to think about these issues before having a vote.
 - f. This is an initial phase, they should be another manner.
 - g. What kind of volunteer work or activities do you expect someone would need for this? The people would volunteer to lead trips. The volunteers will lead the trips.
 - h. EPS has a facility 1.5 hours west of campus that you can reserve through the department and there is a campfire and all that kind of stuff. Open to any kind of JHU student. The department has classes that go out there. We can offer this to the GRO.
 - i. Motion #1 to table the discussion of the departmental attendance and the travel grant policy proposed changes. Motion seconded.
 - j. Motion #1 withdrawn.
 - k. **Motion #2 to go forth with planning the hiking trip arrangements as an internal GRO matter. Seconded. Motion passes.**
9. GRO Guide Chair Organization/Reallocation Business
- a. We discussed about the matter of using the GRO Guide position, it is not a rotating chair, it has not done anything in some time and no one has use the position for a long time. They will use an outside digital services firm to take care of the website. Now we need to fit into the context of how we did the website. Aidan updated the guide that we have but the guide is now outdated compared to what happened. We have a physical book that we used to publish in paper that had information about everything you need to know about moving to baltimore, basically like an orientation and this information is available everyone. People often do not want to update it even when they are paid for it. It has not been a thing in rotation for some time. Benj has been doing welcome coordination for a long time. People like face-to-face orientation, see the city, talk about the campus with current graduate students. The welcome coordinator position is a floating

chair as of right now. We have been talking about merging the two positions and turning the Guide Chair into a non-floating position and merging the two budget. The budget for the Welcome Chair is 6K and the Guide Chair is 3K but we could move some of that money somewhere else, potentially reallocate the hours for positions. So the overall proposal: merge the two positions, re-allocated the hours.

- b. GRO functions as a liaison of providing service for graduate students and there is now a lot more centrally located information on the website so it has now become redundant.
- c. This is something that we wanted to make as a change at the beginning of this year. Recommendation is that next meeting we will have elections and it would be best to do this at the beginning of that next GC meeting and to limit discussion to 10 minutes.
- d. We need $\frac{2}{3}$ of all departments, not all active departments in order to vote on constitutional change. We do not have this majority right now.
- e. Next meeting we should vote on this language and positions on the guide chair because then we need to vote on that position at the meeting.
- f. We need to advertise
- g. Meeting adjourned.