1. **Call to Order and Agenda Review [2 min]**

Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM by Elliot, who welcomed the full GC back after the winter break and intersession.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

**Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion is seconded. The motion passes.**

1. **Elections [20 min]**
	1. **Advocacy Chair**

Shane, the secretary, acted as the elections official. Candidates are Divya Yadav, Adeshola Lawal for Advocacy Chair. There was a motion to vote by show of hands. It passed unanimously.

**Adeshola Lawal is elected.**

* 1. **Graduate Involvement Chair**

Candidate is Sebastian Link. No additional candidates from the floor.

**Sebastian Link is elected.**

1. **E-board Report [25 min] (Eugenia and Elliot)**
	1. **Constitution Overhaul (sending out after meeting)**

The secretary with assistance from the co-chairs and input from many executive board members has completed a re-draft of the constitution and drafted a set of bylaws. This document will be distributed after tonight’s meeting. The documents will be open for comments for several weeks, and the GC will dedicate discussion time to the changes at two GC meetings, allowing for addressing changes in-between the meetings.

There is a question as to what the GC is being asked to do. Clarification was provided that any comments, critiques, or questions are welcomed – this can span from pointing out typographical errors to questioning the underlying philosophy of the documents. The documents can be distributed among the graduate student body at large during the second review period.

* 1. **GRO Engagement with LGBTQ Life**

The GRO has been engaging with the lGBTQ life office recently. On February 29th and March 5th, the LGBTQ life office will hold Safe Zone training specifically for graduate students, where most trainings are open to all students (undergraduate and graduate) as well as faculty and staff. The training talks about how to talk to, share resources with, and better understand the issues faced by members of the LGBTQ community, with an overall goal to improve the experience of these members of the broader Hopkins community.

* 1. **Second Look Day for URM/FLI students**

Coming out of the PhD advisory committee meeting with Dr. Nancy Kass, there was a discussion of copying a technique used to help yield diverse students currently in use at the PhD programs from the School of Medicine, which this year will also include the School of Public Health. The idea is to invite URM/FLI students back to campus after their initial visit days to have a ‘Second Look Day.’ The GRO has been in communication with the BGSA (Black Graduate Student Association) to work together for this event. In the future, this even will have its own unique Homewood campus version, but for now it will be tagged on to the Medical School’s event.

* 1. **Changes in Summer and Intersession Course Selection Policies**

There were questions/concerns about course planning fees being non-uniformly distributed to instructors when courses were cancelled. The co-chairs kept pushing Dean Recroft come to a GRO meeting to discuss, but he has continually deferred. Matt Roller was able get a meeting with Dean Recroft and some others to answer some of the questions we have had, and the co-chairs distributed this earlier today.

The co-chairs are soliciting feedback from the GC members (or their department members) on the responses, IE what additional questions or concerns are there that we should continue to pursue.

* 1. **Graduate Resource Fair**

This event is being planned for February 20th to provide professional development, headshots, massages, and various mental health services and inform students of the Homewood campus of the availability of these services. The co-chairs will be part of a panel on community in graduate students (2:30-3:30 PM) – any GC members interested in representating additional groups on this panel are encouraged to reach out.

* 1. **WGS Updates (Daniel) [Townhall - Feb. 5th, 5pm, Gilman 400]**
		1. **Follow-up and Further Questions Regarding WGS Changes (12/16/19 responses from Matt Roller to be sent out after meeting)**

There will be 2 fellowships for the 2020-2021 academic year as a stopgap method of allowing WGS to continue. So far as we know, these fellowships are not guaranteed as permanent.

Matt Roller responded to the email that the GC approved last semester. The Co-Chairs will disseminate the information he provided after this meeting.

1. **Spring 2020 Graduate Group Approval [10 min]**
	1. **Deadline of April 1st.**
	2. **Name Change Request: "Saudi Students Organization (SSO)" to the "Saudi Student Club"**

This request was revoked by the group and was not discussed or voted on.

* 1. **New group approval:**
		1. **Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Graduate Student Liaison Committee (GSLC)**

The GSLC President (a Chem-BE GC rep) provided information to the GRO on the group.

The committee plans social, professional development, and outreach events for graduate students in the Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering department. The current documents do not allow for non-ChemBE involvement, but they will revise their documents to provide for this. They had around 30 members who have been involved in planning events in the past semester. They are currently in the planning stages for several social events as well as collaborative events with other groups on campus.

The group existed a few years ago but disbanded due to some challenges with the administration in the ChemBE department. A new department head has helped to reinstate the group and revitalize it. The group was not previously a recognized group and is seeking recognition now to allow for better event planning via room reservations. A comment was made that the group has been very inclusive in its new incarnation and has had a very positive impact on the department.

**There is a motion to approve the group, contingent on the appropriate changes to their governing documents to allow for all graduate students to be involved.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes.**

* + 1. **Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers**

The group was unable to have a member attend. The governing documents have been reviewed by the Co-Chairs and were found to be fully acceptable.

**There is motion to approve the group.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes.**

1. **Social Chair Update (Jack and Pranav) [10 min]**
	1. **Social Budget -- Funding for Spring Fair/Graduate Resource Fair**

The regular operations would allow for 12 coffee hours, 6 on campus happy hours, and 1 off-campus happy hour. Further expenditure may be for graduate resource fair (to have a happy hour) and for the beer garden at the Spring Fair (recurring from last year). With these changes, there is still a surplus budget of $5,000.

Jack presented some different budget options, including increasing expenditure at coffee hours (to improve supplies). The second proposal is to shift some money from the surplus to use for the beer garden or the happy hour at the graduate resource fair.

The floor was opened to questions or concerns about the proposed budget allocation changes. The idea of tee-shirts as giveaways was provided.

Some of the funding for the coffee and cookies at some events may be pulled from programming budgets. This needs GC approval.

**There is a motion to provide the funding from the programming budget, up to a limit of $1000, for coffee at the graduate student resource fair, if the excess coffee hour funding is insufficient.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes.**

* 1. **LGBTQ+ Outreach Efforts**
		1. **Safe Zone Training Dates and Rooms – Update**

This was discussed during a prior agenda item.

1. **Committee Updates [2 min each]**

The committee updates were tabled by executive decision.

* 1. **Student Security Advisory Committee (Steph)**
	2. **PhD Advisory Committee to Dr. Nancy Kass (PAC) (Daniel/Elliot)**
	3. **Provost’s Advisory Team on Healthcare (PATH) (Benj)**
	4. **Suicide Prevention Awareness, Response and Coordination (JH-SPARC) (Ashwini)**
	5. **Provost's Sexual Violence Advisory Committee (SVAC) (Tim)**
	6. **Wellbeing Working Group (Benj)**

The following committees are without an update:

* 1. **Parental Concerns Working Group**
	2. **Tobacco Cessation Committee**
	3. **Student Center Planning Committee**
1. **Open Discussion & Questions**

TRU is having a potluck with other graduate student unions in the area – people can reach out to Erini Lambrides at elambri1@jhu.edu.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.