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

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM.

There were no questions about the agenda.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

**Motion to approve the minutes.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes.**

1. **E-board Report (Eugenia and Elliot) [30 min]** 
   1. **Announcement Regarding Quorum and Meeting Limits**

Eugenia made an announcement reminding people that if they need to leave during a meeting that has run past the end-time

* 1. **Constitution Overhaul (Shane)**

This section (III.B) of the minutes was recorded by Elliot, as Shane was presenting.

* + 1. **Group Funding Request Comments**

There are several comments and concerns with the 33% threshold funding for a given group event requiring it to be held on the Homewood campus. There is suggestion that this is increased to 50%. Comment: Can we make this a suggestion (best practice, “should”-type language) rather than policy so that it’s up to the discretion of the GC for a variety of events. Comment: It’s better to have less-restrictive by-laws for maximum flexibility.

Comment: Cultural groups may be hit particularly hard by a low threshold, particularly with cross-campus cultural groups with members from other campuses. Why not suggest prohibiting events at private residences? Questions: What would we consider private residence? Social common rooms in apartments? Answer: Some undergrad events are held in spaces like this. At least it is (somewhat) publicly accessible. Question: Does SLI have off-campus site requirements? Can we use SLI requirements as our requirements? Answer: Yes and might help with planning and advertising from the group’s perspective. Question: What are SLI’s requirements? Answer: Need a fire safety walkthrough. Need to have insurance on the property, etc. It’s a pain to use Hopkins funding (in general) at a private residence. Groups in Homewood Arts programs were suspended some groups for things like hazing, etc., which happened in private residences? Question: How responsive is SLI moving forward with these kinds of oversights? Answer: Unknown. Clifton is leaving and most (if not all?) of the issues were undergraduate related.

Comment: Can we generate a “best-practice guidelines” document? Response: Yes, and we are intending to have an annual review written into the by-laws for use by the E-board and GC.

* + 1. **Additional New Changes**

A section was added that allows for the superceeding the bylaws given a 2/3 majority and quorum being called. This

Comment: This doesn’t seem necessary; it seems like it makes it too restrictive. Response: This isn’t a way of bypassing any given limitation. Because we are beefing up the by-laws we need to have mechanisms in place to bypass in real time extraordinary circumstances. Comment: This is coming from the idea that we want to build in contingencies to avoid ever binding future GC’s from taking action on something. Response to response: Specifically, regarding group funding, it puts a burden on student groups meet at 2/3 majority to have an event off campus.

A section was added requiring good attendance from E-board for all meetings (1/4 of all meetings or else prompts and internal review).

A section was added clarifying who is eligible to run for E-board positions as only graduate students from the Homewood divisions.

* 1. **Advocacy Items with status updates**
     1. **Security Advisory Committee Email**

An email was sent to the Provost, VP of Security, and other administrators about concerns relating to the security advisory committee. A brief response sent to the Co-Chairs is the only response so far. That will be circulated to the E-board later.

* 1. **Homewood Graduate Student Resources for Success Day 02/20**

The day went relatively well, though overall attendance at many workshops was low. The attendance to the happy hour/resource fair was good. Timing of the event was not ideal, and the advertising/registration occurred rather late – future years will hopefully be more successful in that way.

A quick poll was done as to how many members of the GC knew about the event and how many attended. Almost everyone knew the event was occurring, but a much smaller fraction attended any portion of the events.

Some changes are already in planning for next year’s events – it was suggested that all of the events should be in one building to facilitate easier transitions. This is a goal for next year, but planning this year started too late to make it possible. The event is likely to be in October in future years.

There was a comment that if the turnout at the resource fair next year is low, that the healthcare session should be held again as a stand-alone event. The person who held it is willing to do standalone events and given the complexity of the topic it would be useful to have it available to as many people as possible.

* 1. **Hopkins Votes**

The GRO is partnering with Hopkins Votes to encourage voting, absentee ballot signup and 2020 census participation. They will poll how many graduate students participated

* + 1. **Absentee Ballot Party 02/14**
    2. **The 2020 Census: We’re Counting on You! 02/24**

This event is concurrent with our GC meeting, and we will know afterwords how successful it is.

* + 1. **Mayoral Question Project Meeting 02/26**

We are partnering to propose questions for the mayoral candidates for Baltimore. The questions will be filtered through the GRO as well as Hopkins Votes. The SGA is also providing question suggestions. This is based on something the NYT did for the presidential candidates. The same questions will be asked of each candidate in succession and videotaped.

* 1. **Future Graduate Group Approvals**
     1. **The Johns Hopkins University Karate Club**

The group is not present tonight, but will be presenting their documents and requesting club approval later this semester.

* 1. **Gift of Life Donor Drive**

This is a bone marrow donor drive that wants to partner with the GRO. The Co-Chairs want to ask if the GC is interesting in partnering with the drive and providing planning support.

A clarification question was made as to whether the organization wants financial support. So far as we know, it is only a request for aid in planning.

If anyone is interested, they should reach out to the co-chairs at the end of the evening.

* 1. **Announcements**
     1. **Mardi Gras Celebration**
     2. **ISAH Ambassador Program**

Applications were due today.

* + 1. **Safe Zone Training**

The GRO-sponsored safe-zone training (with pizza!) is this coming weekend.

* + 1. **Appendices**

The co-chairs included many appendices with the agenda tonight for various events/meetings that could not fit into the main agenda. Nobody raised any questions, but they can submit any questions to the co-chairs should they desire.

1. **Group Funding Requests (Jaime) [30 min]**
   1. **Women in STEM Symposium**

The representatives from Women in Whiting presented about their event. This is one of their biggest events – it is the third annual occurrence. They invite many speakers to come for the event and focus on issues pertaining to Women in STEM fields. They expect ~75 total graduate student attendees. The total budget is $6,885, and they are requesting $1,000 from the GRO. They have many sessions on advocacy, a poster session, networking sessions and it is very student-centric. Lunch is provided for the attendees and contributors. They have many other funding sources. They have a well-developed advertising plan.

Jaime noted that the event has been very successful in prior years.

**There is a motion to fund the requested amount.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes.**

* 1. **Nowruz (Persian New Year)**

A representative spoke about the event. In some countries (including Persia), the calendar starts on the first day of spring (March 22 this year). This event has happened in the past, but not last year. It was successful in the past. It will occur this year on March 13th to accommodate better attendance. They expect attendance of 40 graduate students, with 100 students total. There will be traditional Persian music, a puppet show, and many other activities. The event will be advertised via facebook, physical flyering, and an email list.

The group is requesting $1000, from a total budget of $1800.

There was a question about location – as none was indicated. They temporarily have a space in Charles Commons, but do not have it finalized due to funding and group approval being pending. Jaime noted that we may be able to help in reserving the room.

**There is a motion to fund the requested amount.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes.**

Swetha noted that of the $1000 approved, they need to be sure that only $12 is used per person per meal.

* 1. **KGSA Bowling Night**

The Korean Graduate Student Association is hosting a bowling night at Mustang Alley’s Bar Bowling & Bistro. They are requesting $600 out of a total budget of $840. The location was selected as it is close to the Medical Campus and Peabody, as their events are usually focused on Homewood campus locations.

They expect a graduate attendance of 30, with a total attendance of 40. They do not have a method to provide transportation.

A note was made that the Shake ‘n Bake centre is a good alternative since it is a public space. Jaime noted that originally the event was meant to be there, but was changed for planning reasons. There was comments that this event is a good example of an off-campus event that the GRO can/should fund, as it is a reputable establishment and will not be problematic for SLI.

There was a question as to whether a signup list will occur before the event. The answer is that there will be a signup list before the event.

**There is a motion to fund the requested amount.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes.**

* 1. **ANSHE Lecture**

The ANSHE lecture is an annual lecture from the Near Eastern Studies department with an invited early-career Faculty member. This year the faculty is from UNC Chapel Hill. The department members cook food and provide beer/wine (which they know cannot be GRO funded). Prior attendance has been ~50 with ~25 graduate students. The event is open to the public. They are

**There is a motion to fund the requested amount.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes.**

* 1. **Maryland General Assembly Science Poster Session**

The event is a poster session about the importance of scientific research to issues in Maryland. They are requesting $150 out of a total cost of $400. They expect 15 total attendees with 5 graduate students. They want to give graduate students and post-docs a means to talk about their research to policymakers in a convenient way. Attendance to the overall session is open to the public. One of the other funders is paying for the posters.

Swetha noted that the funding request of $150 is only for food, and we can only fund $12 per person for food – meaning that we can only fund $60 of food.

There was a question as to how many abstracts have been submitted. They have received 7. Swetha suggested that perhaps the Phutures office could provide some of their funding for posters and some for food to allow us to fund more.

There is a question for transportation: it is currently open to attendees to determine how they want to make it to the event. There are some plans for carpooling.

**There is a motion to fund the requested amount.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes.**

1. **Social Chair Update (Jack/Pranav) [10 min]**

An off-campus happy hour at Peabody Heights is being planned for May 2nd from 6-11PM. The contracts are still being worked out. The venue rental is $800, and we will provide 250 drink tickets (an additional $1000 cost). They can have food trucks present, including vegan and vegetarian options. They will have non-alcoholic options as well as facilities for live music if we decide that we want to pursue such. Jack is looking into options for sound systems to utilize that space.

1. **GPSA Coordinator Update (Jessica) [10 min]**

Jessica presented on her plans for the GPSA week, which occurs in the second week of April. She has been working with the social chairs to plan events for this week.

ON April 6th, there will be an ‘enhanced’ coffee hour – larger food selection, raffles for gifts.

On Tuesday, there will be an ice cream social in Hodson hall.

On Wednesday, there will be an international food event with lots of variety of international cuisines. It will be in the great Hall from 1PM-2:30 PM.

On Thursday, there will be a game stand at the Wyman lower quad, with carnival games (darts to pop balloons, ring toss) with prizes purchased from the bookstore. In Thursday evening, there will be an enhanced Happy Hour.

On Friday, there will be an off-campus happy hour at Frazier’s on the Avenue – it will have 300 drink tickets and $500 worth of appetizers.

A suggestion was made that the international food event should be extended in time if possible to allow for more attendance. Jessica will make those adjustments.

Jack proposed that the funding for food for the enhanced happy hour needs to be increased slightly.

Elliot noted that this year we moved from 3 alcoholic events and 2 non-alcoholic events to 2 alcoholic events and 3 non-alcoholic events.

1. **Women and Gender Minorities Caucus (WGMC) SGA Request (Chanel) [10 min]**

Chanel, Senior Class Senator from the SGA, presented to the GC on the WGMC.

In December, Chanel founded this Caucus, and is asking for the GRO to send an email to encourage graduate students to join the caucus. The caucus wants to represent gender-based issues on campus and will form a place for discussion and action on those issues.

Some of the core focus areas: fostering a safe and inclusive space, promoting gender equality and inclusivity, supporting women and gender minorities in higher education, addressing sexual misconduct and violence.

Within these focus areas, there are some sub-aims – some of which are more strongly focused on undergraduate specific issues rather than graduate ones. Chanel wanted the caucus to be as inclusive as possible. At first she opened it only to undergraduate students, but has realized that graduate students could contribute highly and benefit from joining, since many of the issues relating to health, wellness and safety are important to all persons on the Homewood campus. One example was the cutting of WGS fellowships. She has already drafted an email and wants to have the GC approve the GRO distributing it.

There was a comment that there has been some progress/change on the WGS fellowship status, which may be relevant for Chanel to review before the email is sent out if that is a part of the communication.

There is a question as to whether the caucus is looking specifically for involvement from GRO members – particularly given that the GRO is already actively engaged in many of these topics.

**There is a motion that the GRO distribute the email as requested**.

A comment was made that there is value to have many different student groups and organizations active in pushing for change on important topics.

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes.**

1. **Advocacy Chair Updates on Registration**
   1. **Start Time changes**

There is a proposed change from the Registrar as to what time class registration should open for graduate students. Adeshola wants input from the GRO as to whether we should poll students broadly, or if the GC should vote on our opinion.

There is a comment that it would be most valuable to send a poll to all students, as some departments have significant issues with this while other students do not.

There is a comment that email fatigue may be problematic and we may not get a lot of responses.

There is a question as to any reason to believe why 7 AM may be a better time. A response was given that some students prefer to go to bed early and wake up early – it may disadvantage students with families. Since only 20/33 of the departments were present at this meeting, polling within the GC tonight may not sufficiently represent the student body.

Elliot noted that we could distribute this through departmental administrators rather than through an all-campus issue.

A note was made that if this is a strong

**MOTION 1: There is a motion to send out a survey and accept its results as the final recommendation.**

There is a request for a friendly amendment to add a question to the survey that inquires if a department has a routine issue regarding course registration and course availability. The request was denied as it was felt to be out of scope.

**MOTION 2: There is a motion to combine the first motion and the friendly amendment; ensuring that this polling is done through the survey rather than through a second poll emails.**

A note was made that a spot for comments at the end of the survey is present. It was responded that you get far fewer responses from an available spot for comments rather than a specific category of the poll.

**Motion 2 is seconded.**

**Motion 1 is withdrawn.**

It was suggested that a quick poll of the GC should be conducted as a strawpoll metric.

It was responded that this strawpoll will likely not give useful information.

**MOTION 3: There is a motion to have the advocacy chairs send a survey which gathers the desired information – graduate students preference for registration time and which departments have registration issues – in the most concise way they can determine.**

There is a request that the email specifically state the number of questions in the survey to encourage better participation. The friendly amendment was accepted.

**MOTION 3: There is a motion to have the advocacy chairs send a survey which gathers the desired information – graduate students preference for registration time and which departments have registration issues – in the most concise way they can determine. The email for this poll will include in the byline the number of questions in the survey.**

There was a note that we can determine what department a student is in based on their JHED.

A vote was taken on the as amended Motion 2, which was interpreted and read as follows:

**There is a motion to send out a survey and accept its results as the final recommendation. The survey will include a question that inquires if a department has routine issues regarding course registration and availability. This will be done through a single poll/email to avoid having multiple polls/emails circulated.**

**The motion passes.**

The other motions, never garnering a second, were not considered.

1. **Committee Updates [2 min each]**
   1. **PhD Advisory Committee to Dr. Nancy Kass (PAC) (Daniel/Elliot)**

No update from this committee.

* 1. **Provost’s Advisory Team on Healthcare (PATH) (Benj)**

A new platform for online cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) is being provided. It is called SilverCloud. It is not meant to replace traditional therapy, but as another supplementary tool available to all graduate students.

New enrolment for general healthcare (Gallagher) is being implemented soon. This has been delayed due to some changes with the vendor. It will likely be postponed until the next academic year.

* 1. **Wellbeing Working Group (Benj)**

The group met and discussed general improvements that could be made for wellbeing initiatives on campus, including the student response to the SilverCloud rollout. The group wants to ensure that we are improving student access to services, and focused on what the issues are with regards to student opinions on wellbeing on campus.

It was noted that one of the main action items that students were really in favour of was to have more psychologists/psychiatrists/therapists on campus, and that part of the response to SilverCloud was that rather than providing more long-term care we were only offered another short-term solution that is not even at the same level of the other short-term care available.

Benj responded by saying that both committees (PATH and Wellbeing Working Group) are very aware that one of the biggest deficiencies is the number of counsellors available. There is some action going on in this vein, but the idea of adjusting the mindset from always referring students out to external providers to keeping them in-network for mental health services seems very far away from being adopted due to logistical/cost concerns.

Eugenia asked if there is a long-term plan that we could request for how these services can/will be grown. Benj responded that he will inquire about this.

**There is a motion to table this discussion until we can schedule a longer period of time to discuss mental health and mental healthcare on campus and get input from all departments.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes.**

* 1. **Student Security Advisory Committee (Steph/Sebastian)**

There will be a meeting this Wednesday (2 hr extended meeting), which may be in response to the complaints from the students about the inefficacy and non-responsiveness of the committee so far.

There is a question as to why a letter sent to the committee referred significantly to comments made by President Daniels. The response is that the letter was sent to many others (including the provost) and because the President micromanages, he will be aware of it. Moreover, ultimately this committee and the person it will appoint will report to him and therefore his comments are germane.

1. **Wellness Coordinator Update [10 min] (Parijat)**

Parijat is planning one primary wellness event this semester. It will be an Acoustic Night on the 29th of March in Shriver Auditorium. It is the day after the Formal, but no other dates were available.

The event will be a night of live performances by Hopkins graduate students. She is hoping for an attendance of 100 people. The benefit of the auditorium is that the large stage allows for many different things, and includes lighting and sound. The downside is that no food is allowed. Food/dinner would therefore be challenging. An alternate space is the clipper room, which has a smaller capacity and allows for food. Parijat is not sure if the sound system can be set up in that space.

She is encouraging the following kinds of performances: musical (voal and instrumental), dance performances, small skits or improv acts, any other <10 minute act. No act can involve more than 20 students. The event is planned for 6PM-9PM, and thus limited to ~20 acts. If time permits an open mic will occur at the end.

A form/Facebook event will be sent out to allow students to register for these performances. Depending on the time/resources we can flyer, make posters, and publish online.

Parijat is speaking to the Shriver hall folks about stage/light/sound help. She needs volunteers for sound/light and backstage help. She may need help during rehearsals. If there is food served, she will need a lot of help organizing the food.

Anyone interested in helping or with comments should contact Parijat at [pbanerj5@jhu.edu](mailto:pbanerj5@jhu.edu).

Swetha noted that you can have food in the area just outside, so long as it is forced that nobody brings it inside. She also noted that the Clipper room is much smaller and does not have any audio. Instead, she would suggest the theatre in Levering hall as that is a much better space.

A suggestion was made that an event from 6-9 without food may not have much attendance. Changing the time was proposed.

A question was made as to how people will be incentive to sign up. Parijat responded that so many people are wanting an opportunity to perform and get together for such an event, there will be no need to incentivize engagement.

**There is a motion to table discussion until we have a better sense of the budget.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes.**

1. **Open Discussion & Questions**

There was no time for open discussion.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting is adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Appendices:

1. Advocacy Items with no major status update
   1. Changes in Summer and Intersession Course Selection Policies
   2. WGS Fellowships
   3. GRE Status
2. Meetings and Committees Occurred and Upcoming
   1. URM/LIFG Second Look Day Planning Committee 02/12, 02/19, 02/26
   2. Registrar Feedback Meeting 02/13
   3. Public Safety at Hopkins: A Dialogue Between Students 02/13
   4. Monthly Meeting with Dean Ruzicka and VP Shanahan 02/14
   5. Meeting with TRU 02/17
   6. Monthly Meeting with Advisors and Vice Deans 02/18
   7. Meeting with Allison Avolio about GRO/Administration Dinner 02/18
   8. USS Student Groups Financial Training 02/19
   9. University Archives (GRO Records) Meeting 02/20
   10. Meeting with OIE 03/06
3. Committees without an update
   1. Suicide Prevention Awareness, Response and Coordination (JH-SPARC) (Ashwini)
   2. Provost's Sexual Violence Advisory Committee (SVAC)
   3. Parental Concerns Working Group (Benj)
   4. Tobacco Cessation Committee (Benj)
   5. Student Center Planning Committee (Swetha)