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

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM – both quorum and an election quorum were met.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

**There is a motion to approve the minutes.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**A vote was taken – the motion passes with 19 votes in favor and 1 abstention.**

1. **E-board Report (Eugenia and Elliot) [10 min]** 
   1. **GRO FY21 Budget Completed and Submitted**

The budget was submitted to our advisors for review for the next week, then it will be passed on to SLI. We were not allowed to increase our budget requests, so we had to get creative on how the budget was laid out – increasing the allocations to various areas that will be helpful in COVID-19 related relief and initiatives, as well as increasing funding for travel grants to meet the promises we have made about grants next year.

We managed this by decreasing some of the operating costs and decreasing the funding for happy/coffee hours given that we expect interruptions to those events.

There were no questions from the floor on the budget.

* 1. **GRO Virtual Social Events**

There were two social events hosted last week – a trivia night with >50 attendees, and a game night with ~9 attendees.

Jack added that there was not significant GC involvement in the events, and he hopes that future events have more GC involvement – he provided a signup link for the upcoming Trivia event: <https://forms.gle/19E9MH9X8VNopJfMA>

* 1. **GRO-GSA-TRU COVID-19 advocacy for graduate students update**

We have been speaking to the administrators regarding food and cloth mask distribution to graduate students. We have also been speaking to them regarding supporting transport for students marked as essential.

Laura Stott approved our budget, but it got flagged due to the amount and therefore it was sent to the Dean of Student Life, who then had to send it even higher for approval. We do not know exactly what is happening with it, but will continue to push it forward.

Jaime – the Admin and Funding Chair – asked if we knew what the limits were.

Eugenia responded that we do not know, but that it was likely flagged due to the fact that we were trying to re-allocate the entire intercampus budget of >$20,000.

The GRO has continued to work with GSA, SA and TRU to meet with the vice provosts and advocate for graduate student financial concerns. We most recently met on Sunday this weekend to discuss our current thoughts and paths forward.

Last week, we submitted a number of questions regarding the budget and endowment to the board of trustees.

Jaime noted that some groups with large endowments have been considering giving up the federal money that is distributed. Do we know if JHU is considering remitting this funding?

Eugenia responded that the endowment at JHU is much smaller on a per-student basis compared to many peers. As such, it seems unlikely that JHU will give up the funding.

The Physics and Astronomy rep responded that she has heard from faculty that the funding would not be given up. Regarding holds on the endowment – there are clauses that allow for emergency spending from the endowment. There are also guaranteed funds for discretionary spending from every donation. This raises questions about what kinds of endowment based emergency funds can be provided – the answer was not provided to the faculty.

Eugenia noted that the GRO has requested similar information – we have not received any response yet. We are going to continue to push to get the Provost/President on our side regarding these issues to try to push matters with the Board of Trustees.

The political science representative noted that after Beverly Wendland sent an email that funding could be extended for students affected by COVID-19, she sent an email to the department chairs saying that the departments have to self-fund this support. This means that there is no broader support being provided by the University or school more broadly to support the departments or students directly.

* 1. **Forthcoming meetings with administration**
     1. **Advisors Christine, Rennee, Laura (May 1st, 7th, 13th)**
  2. **Library Request**

We heard that the request the GRO supported regarding direct shipping of books to students is not going to be feasible – however, the dean of the library is working on methods to improve access and is eager to get the library functioning and to restore services as rapidly as it can. Eugenia will forward the response to the persons who wrote the letter.

1. **GRO E-Board Elections [75 min]**

The Election Official, David Ganey, informed the GC as to the process by which elections would be conducted.

* 1. **Permanent Positions**
     1. **Co-Chairs (2)**

Nominees were: **Shane Arlington**, **Elmer Zapata-Mercado**, and **Alexander Helms**

Nominations from the floor were made for **Wangui Mbuguiro** and **Eugenia Volkova** – both declined the nominations.

The election was conducted: **Shane Arlington** was elected to one seat; the other seat was left unfilled.

* + 1. **Treasurer**

The nominees were: **Swetha Kumar** and **John D’Uva**

No nominations from the floor were made.

John D’Uva was not present at the meeting, and did not contact the GRO co-chairs about having trouble entering the meeting.

The election was conducted: **Swetha Kumar** was elected as Treasurer.

* + 1. **Secretary**

Nominees are: **Eugenia Volkova** and **Wangui Mbuguiro**

There is a nomination from the floor for **Alexander Helms**, and **Wangui Mbuguiro** withdraws her nomination

The election was conducted: **Eugenia Volkova** was elected as Secretary.

Professional Development; Advocacy; Graduate Involvement

* 1. **Fixed Positions**
     1. **Admin and Funding Chair**

**Jaime Martinez-Grundman** was nominated from the floor and accepted the nomination.

The election was conducted: **Jaime Martinez Grundman** was elected as Admin & Funding Chair

* + 1. **Social Chairs (2)**

Nominations from the floor are made for **Alexander Helms**, **Vittorio Loprinzo**, **Wangui Mbuguiro, Elmer Zapata-Mercado, Benjamin Shapiro, Theron Palmer, Jack Magann, and Weichen Liao**

**Vittorio Loprinzo**, **Wangui Mbuguiro, Elmer Zapata-Mercado, Benjamin Shapiro, Theron Palmer, Jack Magann, and Weichen Liao** do not accept their nominations

There was a quick discussion as to whether it will be possible to have events planned properly if we only have one Social Chair. It was noted that this is a time-intensive position, but that we will have more sessions of elections both via Zoom and over email if necessary.

The election was held: **Alexander Helms** was elected as a social chair

**A motion is made to advance to voting on positions with nominees provided prior to the meeting.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The vote is taken – the motion passes with 23 in favor.**

* + 1. **Advocacy Chairs (2)**

This position had no nominations prior to the meeting, and was therefore skipped for this round of elections.

*Per a motion later in the meeting, this election was revisited after the Intercampus Chair.*

Nominations from the floor were made for **Katiana Kontolani**, **Yuri Chia**, and **Erini Lambrides**.

**Erini Labrides** did not accept the nomination**.**

The election was held: **Katiana Kontolani** was elected to one seat; the other seat was left empty.

* + 1. **Communications Chair**

Nominees were: **Wangui Mbuguiro**.

No nominations were made from the floor.

The election was held: **Wangui Mbuguiro** was elected as Communications Chair.

* + 1. **Welcome and Guide Chair**

This position had no nominations prior to the meeting, and was therefore skipped for this round of elections.

* 1. **Floating Positions**
     1. **COVID-19 Concerns Chair**

Nominees were: **Maya Monroe** and **Kataiana Kontolati**

The election was held and **Maya Monroe** was elected as COVID-19 Concerns

**There was a motion to return to the vote on the Advocacy Chair(s) after the next election.**

**The motion was seconded.**

**A vote was taken and the vote passes – 11 for, 7 against, 2 abstentions.**

* + 1. **Intercampus Chair**

The nominees are: **Tatsat Banerjee**

There is a nomination from the floor for **Vittorio Loprinzo**, he declined the nomination.

The election was held: **Tatsat Banerjee** was elected as Intercampus Chair

* + 1. **Graduate Involvement Chair**

Nominees were: **Ona Ambrozaite**

No additional nominations were made from the floor.

The election was held: **Ona Ambozaite** was elected as Graduate Involvement Chair.

* + 1. **Health and Wellness Chair**

This position had no nominations prior to the meeting, and was therefore skipped for this round of elections.

1. **Open Discussion & Questions**

Elliot made a statement thanking the GC for their service and for ensuring that the meeting and elections were successful despite the really long meeting.

Eugenia added her thanks to the GC and E-board representatives.

In the chat, several thanks were extended to the Co-Chairs as well as the Elections Official (David Ganey.)

*There was some additional discussion post adjournment.*

There was a question as to whether when the campus opens graduate students will be provided masks to be safe on campus.

So far as the GRO knows – at this point it is not certain. These kinds of matters are being discussed in a committee on restarting research on campus – we are trying to get a seat on this committee, but do not have one yet.

Another question was posed as to expected restart dates.

So far as we know, there is no date set yet – a lot of it depends on the choices made by the Governor. However, individual departments/labs may have different dates depending on how the rollout of opening goes. There are estimates that range from beginning of June to end of July.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at **9:30 PM**.

Other attendees: Alexander Helms, Duncan Watts, Jo Giardini, Katiana Kontolati, Ono Ambrozaite, Tatsat Banerjee