

GC Meeting Minutes

Date: 04/22/2019

Location: Great Hall, Levering Hall

Minutes taken by: Eugenia Volkova, Secretary

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. **Motion to approve the minutes. Seconded. Motion passes.**
2. Eboard Report
 - a. Discussed elections and planning for next year.
 - b. What can we do to better prepare for next year?
 - c. Which floating chairs will we have next year?
 - d. The next year's transitions should happen more smoothly, since elections can happen now, the old E-Board can transition the new E-Board more easily into their roles.
3. Constitutional Votes
 - a. Guide Chair Changes: Mold Welcome/Orientation Coordinator position and Guide Chair together create a shared budget for creating and running orientation programs and initiatives.
 - b. Modify $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of all departments to a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of all active departments.
 - c. Where "active" is defined as a department that has sent a GC representative to GC meetings said semester.
 - d. What kind of voting majority do we need to pass this constitutional amendment? We need a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of all current departments. The problem is that any department that does not have a representative and any eboard position not filled counts against us.
 - e. Active membership should be defined elsewhere. This year or next year we will have a new constitution.
 - f. Point of clarification: we are only voting on this amendment, no additional amendments at this time.
 - g. **Motion to amend the constitution to define 'active membership' as including departmental representatives duly elected or nominated by their departments and Executive Board members duly elected by the GC. Seconded. Motion passes.**
 - h. **Motion to approve the restructuring of the guide chair so that it includes the welcome coordinator position. Seconded. Motion Passes.**
4. Funding Requests
 - a. Homewood Science Policy Group
 - i. Planning on attending the March in DC on May 4th.
 - ii. Requesting Funds for posters
 - iii. Asking for \$380 dollars, 95% of \$400 budget
 - iv. Transportation: \$240 for 15 people
 - v. Poster Prep: \$100
 - vi. Food: \$60

- vii. Can the GRO give money to a political group? Advocating for the use of science in policy and not any party in particular.
- viii. Expecting at least 15 people, all graduate students
- ix. According to the policy, there is no requirement against or for any political policy on campus.
- x. It is recommended that religious events be approved by SLI beforehand
- xi. We have \$1000 left right now
- xii. This is the 3rd annual March for Science in DC
- xiii. Motion to fully fund. Seconded. Passes.**

5. Elections

- a. Motion to vote by show of hands instead of secret ballots, seconded. Passes**
- b. Which positions are we electing? We will not be selecting floating chair positions today.
- c. The E-Board cannot vote on any of the positions/elections.
- d. Chair/ Co-chair (500 hours)
 - i. Nominees that accepted the nomination: Elliot Wainwright, Eugenia Volkova, Weichen Liao,
 - ii. Additional Nominees who rejected the nomination: Michael Busch, Prateek, Shane Arlington
 - iii. Elliot Wainwright: 4th year on the GRO, 4th year Mat Sci
 - iv. Eugenia Volkova: 2nd year on the GRO, 3rd year ChemBE
 - v. Weichen Liao: Contribute professional development and get the GRO more involved with the career center. Student center committee.
 - vi. Results: Eugenia Volkova is the new Chair, Elliot Wainwright is the new Co-Chair
- e. Treasurer (150 hours)
 - i. Nominees: Swetha Kumar (current Treasurer)
 - ii. Swetha is absent, Jaime read statement written on her behalf
 - iii. Found budget issues of over \$4k hours
 - iv. Results: Swetha is the new Treasurer
- f. Secretary (100 hours)
 - i. Nominees: Shane Arlington
 - ii. Shane Arlington: 2nd year on the GRO, 3rd year Mat Sci
 - iii. Results: Shane is the new Secretary
- g. Advocacy Chair
 - i. Nominees: Timothy Nickels, Joanna Behrman, Lauren Benjamin
 - ii. Timothy Nickels: 1st year in the Biology Department, involved in outreach groups. Boy Scouts of America. Has sat on many boards.
 - iii. Joanna Behrman: 5th year in the HST Department. Involved in healthcare improvements. Most advocacy has been outside JHU. Working on improving gender advocacy within Physics. Worked on the most recent diversity and inclusivity statement from JHU.

- iv. Lauren Benjamin: advocacy chair this past year. ICE, Private Police, Sexual Violence and Title IX Issues. Served on the sexual advisory committee and PATH
- v. There are often issues that only impact certain departments and certain schools. How can you balance this while advocating for issues that impact all students?
- vi. Are you interested in any other positions?
- vii. How will you seek feedback and communicate issues on progress throughout the year?
- viii. Timothy: Form a subcommittee within the GRO. Try to accurately represent everyone's opinion. Yes, very interested in other positions. Will keep everyone updated, like a 5-10 minute blurb after meetings.
- ix. Lauren: Specific issues impacting certain members. Understands specific needs. Interested in the Social Chair Position. Issue of returning information back to the graduate students. Recent movements or progress markers. Often there is not a lot of time within the meetings. Email blasts or website announcements.
- x. Joanna: Get feedback from individuals within specific departments. Individual students may not have the capacity or feel safe. Individual problems are symptomatic of wider problems at the university. Email blasts or website announcements. Revamped website. It may be a good place to put a feedback box to leave information about a specific news thing. Would also be open to other positions
- xi. Results: Lauren and Joanna are the new advocacy chairs
- h. Social Chairs (250 hours each)
 - i. Nominations: Pranav Mehta, Maansi Vatsan, Elmer Zapata Mercado
 - ii. Pranav Mehta: ChemBE Graduate students. Wants to have events with other student bodies. Screenings of films.
 - iii. Maansi Vatsan: 1st year Masters in Applied Mathematics and Statistics. \$90k budget in undergrad. People were excited about the events, as far as future events include: Puppies and pancakes. Bowling Night events. Mocktails at the wine and cheese tastings. Making a pitcher of something. Movie screenings on and off campus. Bus people out to see movies. Student-run comedy club. Students performed their own stand-up and do improv. Engage with the graduate community at JHU.
 - iv. Elmer Zapata Mercado: 5th year as the social chair. Improvement in what we could do. A lot of comments for non-alcoholic events. Would like to sustain this position again. We already have Coffee-hour and Happy Hour contacts. Coffee Hour line speed up.
 - v. Is everyone able to make all the time commitments required of this:
 - vi. Pranav: Yes, available for all the times
 - vii. Elmer: Yes, available for all the times.

viii. Maansi: Yes, except for Coffee Hour for the first 30 minutes. Would make a way to make this work.

ix. Motion to limit discussion to two minutes. Seconded.

x. The above motion was never voted on according to proper parliamentary procedure.

xi. Results: Maansi Vatsan and Pranav Mehta are the new Social Chairs.

6. Motion to use electronic voting for floating chair positions. Seconded. Passes.