

Graduate Representative Organization

Budget Request

John Matsui and Dominik Gothe

2012 – 2013 Academic Year

Due to a strong budget in the 2011-2012 academic year, the GRO was very successful in supporting Homewood graduate student groups and individuals. At the end of the year we will have sponsored 22 unique groups and exhausted our conference grant budget. By far, the GRO Happy Hour is the most popular event, and in planning to meet the ever increasing demand we appropriately ask for an increased budget here. With many departments and programs losing funding we feel that the Travel Grants will be more important to graduate students in 2012-13 than ever before. While improving our services we have also identified budgets to cut, thus, the increase over last year's requested budget is primarily accounted for by the *Sable & Gold* Review.

GRO Main Account**Budget Code: LM00-H85-0120**

2010-2011 Amounts Requested	2011-2012 Amounts Requested	2011-2012 Amounts Received	2012-2013 Amounts Requested	Item
13,000.00	11,000.00	13,000.00	13,000.00	GRO Happy Hour
18,000.00	20,000.00	19,500.00	21,000.00	GRO Coffee Hour
7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	6,000.00	Social Programming
6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	3,500.00	The Grad News
18,000.00	20,000.00	17,000.00	20,000.00	Campus Group Funding
17,000.00	17,500.00	16,000.00	17,000.00	Payroll
4,500.00	5,000.00	5,500.00	5,000.00	Meetings
500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	Office
2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	NAGPS
1,000.00	2,000.00	1,500.00	1,000.00	Promotional items
200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	Mentoring
1,300.00	1,300.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	Summer Sports League
6,000.00	7,000.00	6,000.00	10,000.00	Conference Grants
N/A	N/A	N/A	5,000.00	Sable & Gold Review
\$ 97,000	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 95,700.00	\$ 105,000.00	GRO Main Account

GPSA Week**Budget Code: LM00-H85-0294**

2010-2011 Amounts Requested	2011-2012 Amounts Requested	2012-2013 Amounts Requested	Item
9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	GPSA Week

Graduate Student Orientation**Budget Code: LM00-H85-0293**

2010-2011 Amounts Requested	2011-2012 Amounts Requested	2012-2013 Amounts Requested	Item
7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	Graduate Student Orientation

GRO Guide**Budget Code: LM00-H85-0303**

2010-2011 Amounts Requested	2011-2012 Amounts Requested	2012-2013 Amounts Requested	Item
6,500.00	0.00	0.00	GRO Guide ¹

¹ Still using up surplus.

GRO Main Account**Budget Code: LM00-H85-0120**

GRO Happy Hour	Amount Requested: \$13,000.00
Budgeted for 2011-2012	\$13,000.00
Expenses to date (July 2011-May 2012)	\$8,760.76
Estimated expenses for full year	\$12,000.00

The GRO Happy Hour is a monthly event during the academic year. Every Happy Hour features free food and drink specials. The event is well attended by graduate students; it is a cornerstone of the GRO's efforts to build graduate student community. Attendance at the Happy Hour has increased steadily over the past few years and now routinely exceeds 100 graduate students.

The GRO Happy Hour has consistently been a successful event that brings graduate students together in a relaxing setting in a location proximal to the Homewood campus. Starting in May 2011, we began holding some Happy Hours in the dining hall space in Levering. The new location – on the Homewood campus and in a space to be used exclusively by grad students during these events – has met our expectation to draw out large numbers of Homewood grads.

Because we have significantly cut back on our summer GRO Happy Hours, we are requesting a similar amount of funding for this purpose as previous years despite the increase in frequency during the academic year, although we are ordering an increased amount of food due to increased attendance. We intend to continue to shift our venue every month in the upcoming year. This way the GRO will be able to provide a sufficient amount of food at Happy Hours.

GRO Coffee Hour	Amount Requested: \$21,000.00
Budgeted for 2011-2012	\$19,500.00
Expenses to date (July 2011-May 2012)	\$15,900.00
Estimated expenses for full year	\$20,000.00

The GRO Coffee Hour is a weekly event held in the Levering Lounge (formerly the Hop Stop), featuring free coffee, cookies, and other refreshments for graduate students. Attendance regularly exceeds 200. We use this outreach as a way to contact graduate students, and to inform them of upcoming events and advocacy issues. As this event takes place on campus, many graduate students report that this is an excellent way to meet grad students from other departments.

Based upon the successful model of last year's GRO Coffee Hour and increased food costs, we will spend \$450 per week on this event during the academic year, and will run the event for 30 weeks during the academic year. In addition, and due to high demand, we will provide a reduced-service coffee hour during the intersession and summer months at a cost of \$300 per week. Because of the continuation of our extended offerings and increasing food costs we are requesting an increase of approximately \$1,500 over what we spent last year, which we have shifted over from last year's Happy Hour budget. Working with the owner of Carma's Cafe, Carma, we have been receiving discounted services. Because of this, we have been able to expand Coffee Hour as attendance has increased. We remain extremely happy with the results and the quality of the coffee and cookies.

Detailed Explanation of Budget Items

Social Programming	Amount Requested: \$6,000.00
Budgeted for 2011-2012	\$7,000.00
Expenses to date (July 2011-May 2012)	\$3,259.20
Estimated expenses for full year	\$5,000.00

The GRO is largely responsible for graduate student social programming, and the social events that we plan give grad students a feeling of community, and a basis for interaction across disciplinary boundaries. Activities have included bus trips to New York City, a bus trip to Ocean City, Harper's Ferry (rafting), Atlantic City, and two wine tasting events.

Next year we would like to hold a number of social events to benefit the university community. We will also continue to conduct our bus trips to New York, and maintain the other events in which graduate students are consistently interested. We will also be holding a bus trip to go skiing at a nearby resort during the winter months. The wine tastings that we have held over the past few years have been particularly successful, and we will certainly hold another one in the coming year to the benefit of our graduate student community. The decreased request is due to the ongoing benefits of the Graduate Socialization Initiative fund.

The Grad News	Amount Requested: \$3,500.00
Budgeted for 2011-2012	\$6,500.00
Expenses to date (July 2011-May 2012)	\$1,704.21
Estimated expenses for full year	\$2,000.00

The Grad News is a monthly publication of the GRO. It features articles written by graduate students on academic and social concerns, covering topics including changes in academic policy, administrative decisions and new hires, issues relevant to international students and non-resident student. Our publication also highlights local 'Baltimore Treasures,' restaurant and film reviews, and carries announcements from campus groups. The Grad News can be viewed online by following the link for it from <www.jhu.edu/gro>.

The Grad News was published regularly this past academic year, with the exception of November-January, when we transitioned between editors. We also intend to have an Orientation issue for new grad students.

The shuttering of the University Printing Services in February was detrimental to our publication; the March issue demonstrated an increase in cost and a decrease in quality of service. We are cutting back on the publication costs by reducing the print run.

Over the past year, the GRO decided to make The Grad News available online each month, so that we could reduce the number of printed copies. As a cost-cutting measure, we will not seek to hire an assistant editor for the upcoming year.

Detailed Explanation of Budget Items

Campus Group Funding	Amount Requested: \$20,000.00
Budgeted for 2011-2012	\$17,000.00
Expenses to date (July 2011-May 2012)	\$18,285.00
Estimated expenses for full year	\$20,000.00

The GRO historically allocated about \$15,000 per year for the funding of activities and events on Homewood campus, though in recent years we have been granted a lesser amount for group funding. Over the last couple of years we were approved for \$16,000 for this purpose, with an additional \$6,000 for student travel grants. We are thankful for this amount. This year, we would like to build upon last year's increased budget, so we will have \$20,000 to put towards the support of graduate student campus groups, which benefits the graduate student community *and* the Homewood campus community at large. We have seen an increasing number of requests by campus groups – including requests from graduate student groups which wish to hold interdisciplinary academic conferences on campus. Apparently, it is due to lessening amounts of funding within academic departments that graduate students have been approaching the GRO with increased requests to finance their academic events. This is in addition to the usual requests we receive from groups requesting our sponsorship for cultural, social, athletic and community service programming – most of which are deserving of the funding that we offer, considering the many services that they offer to our community. Additionally, we feel the \$5,000 increase is justifiable in light of the discontinuance of the Dean's Community Grant fund of \$10,000; student groups which received funding from this source over the past two years will now turn to the GRO for support.

Along with events of campus-wide interest traditionally sponsored by the GRO (such as the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA)'s biannual events, Indian Graduate Student Association, and the Johns Hopkins Symposium on Foreign Affairs), we receive requests for research symposiums (such as the Milton S. Eisenhower Symposium and the Near Eastern Studies Anshe Lecture) and for events that are organized by undergraduate groups but may also appeal to the graduate population. These events encourage interaction between graduate and undergraduate students, and enhance the quality of life of the student body on campus.

Additionally, the GRO provides grants of \$750 for interdepartmental graduate student social events (for example, for say the Romance Languages Department to have a Halloween Party with the Philosophy Department). These events are well-received, successful, and directly in line with the GRO mission of fostering graduate student interaction. Though a commonly heard complaint about the current state of the graduate student community had been that students don't know anyone outside of their department, with this program we have begun to effectively address this concern, and will continue to do so.

See Attachment #1 for a detailed list of groups funded during the 2011-2012 academic year

Detailed Explanation of Budget Items

Payroll	Amount Requested: \$17,000.00
Budgeted for 2011-2012	\$16,000.00
Expenses to date (July 2011-May 2012)	\$13,915.00
Estimated expenses for full year	\$16,000.00

We would like to increase our requested amount for payroll to \$17,000. The GRO accomplishes a great many things on behalf of the Hopkins community, including organizing community-building social events, disseminating important information to graduate students, continuing to negotiate the relationship with our insurance provider, maintaining a website that provides an accessible clearinghouse of necessary information for graduate students (both current and prospective), maintaining our endowment to fund our programs, running athletic leagues, arranging graduate student orientation, assisting with TA training, and overseeing the finances of several graduate student organizations. Most importantly, the GRO works closely with administrators in the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences and the Whiting School of Engineering to suggest ways to improve academic policy, grievance procedures, and to field various graduate concerns to ensure that these matters are brought to the attention of the Deans and other university administrators. Through the GRO's working relationship with various university administrators we collaboratively improve graduate student life at Hopkins. The work that the GRO does includes the sorts of administrative tasks that university staff typically gets paid to do.

Moreover, in representing the concerns of graduate students across the Homewood campus, especially insofar as we handle conflicts over shifting academic policies that affect graduate students, the GRO in many ways serves as a substitute for a union; indeed, we feel that having a strong organization to represent graduate student concerns is preferable to having a union, given how responsive JHU's administration has been to the GRO. While we estimate that our expenses for payroll this year will be \$16,000, we estimate—conservatively—that the small numbers of GRO members who hold paid positions are able to bill less than half of the hours they actually worked, due to current limitations of the GRO payroll. This was the case for the past few years. We want to be able to fairly pay GRO members who are doing work that exceeds the reasonable expectations for a volunteer and allow them to report their hours fairly. Certain new initiatives to recruit more department representation, coordinate more closely with undergraduates, and create a new security/safety/housing website will place increased demand on payroll resources. Indeed, a number of new paid positions (Orientation Committee Chair, Community Relations Coordinator, Graduate Housing Coordinator, etc.) have been created on the E-Board. We also wish to allocate additional hours for several of the existing positions, since many of the individuals occupying these positions have been, and will likely continue to be quite active in their roles. Also, conversations with Hopkins deans last year concluded in agreement that the chair and co-chair should be – at minimum – be allocated twice as many hours of remunerable work (from 250 to 500 hours), if not placed on a semester-long stipend by the Krieger and Whiting Schools.

Please also consider that universities of a similar caliber to Johns Hopkins (MIT for instance) have graduate student associations that employ two staff members to do work comparable to that of the GRO. Furthermore, some of our GRO members work with the JHU undergraduate Student Council to

Detailed Explanation of Budget Items

improve student life. All of the work done by the GRO relies entirely on ten full-time graduate students—much of which is fulfilled on a purely voluntary basis.

The GRO is now very central to the graduate experience at Johns Hopkins, providing social and advocacy functions, in contrast to the work done by previous incarnations of the GRO. GPSA week, graduate student orientation, TA training, undergraduate mentoring, Happy Hour, and Coffee Hour are just a few of the initiatives we have started in the past four years. Also, much of the work done by GRO Officers serves to mitigate many of the major conflicts that emerge between individual graduate students and faculty members. We believe that the GRO provides a great benefit the quality of life for graduate students at Hopkins, and to the Hopkins community at large, and we respectfully request that you continue to fund the GRO payroll at the full amount of our request.

Meetings	Amount Requested: \$5,000.00
Budgeted for 2011-2012	\$5,500.00
Expenses to date (July 2011-May 2012)	\$4,863.14
Estimated expenses for full year	\$5,000.00

The GRO E-Board and General Council meets twice a month during the academic year. During these meetings we provide food (generally pizza or sandwiches) and non-alcoholic beverages, which provides great incentive for graduate student involvement. Most departments across the Homewood campus send at least one representative to participate in the work of the GRO.

The Council and E-Board do the important work of granting funds and offering other forms of support to campus groups, enabling individuals and groups to carry out a variety of social activities. Moreover, together we represent graduate students to help give our constituents a voice in terms of academic policies that directly affect them. In the past, we have worked together to get insurance for all graduate students on the Homewood campus.

Since the 2003-04 academic year, the GRO began inviting special guests to attend meetings, which serve as informational sessions about various campus services available to graduate students. In the past, Dr. Alain Joffe (Student Health and Wellness), Doug Fogel (Counseling Center), Deans Susan Boswell and Dorothy Sheppard (Student Affairs), Steve Ossmus (Security), Dr. Burger (Cue Report), Adrienne Alberts (Career Center), and Nick Arridell (International Student and Scholars Office) have attended our meetings. Through this forum we will continue to share information about graduate student needs and the services that are available on campus.

Our goal is to increase the representation of departments in regular attendance at GRO meetings through our on-going recruiting campaign, we anticipate slightly higher attendance at meetings in the next year. We have already been quite successful in recruiting new participants for the 2010-11 academic year, evidenced by the heightened attendance and participation during the past year and compared with 2007-08.

Detailed Explanation of Budget Items

Office	Amount Requested: \$500.00
Budgeted for 2011-2012	\$500.00
Expenses to date (July 2011-May 2012)	\$0.00
Estimated expenses for full year	\$500.00

Office expenses include printing services, phone bills, and IP addresses, beverages for council and Executive Board meetings, in addition to standard office supplies. In 2007 we purchased a new laser printer. This year we acquired a new (if used) mini-refrigerator and were grateful to receive two used computers from JHU's recycling of older models (and now have three fully functioning computers) as well as three plastic chairs.

NAGPS	Amount Requested: \$2,000.00
Budgeted for 2011-2012	\$2,000.00
Expenses to date (July 2011-May 2012)	\$1,551.03
Estimated expenses for full year	\$2,000.00

During the 2010-11 academic year, the GRO sent one representative to the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS) national conference in Boston. These meetings are a valuable opportunity for the GRO to coordinate with other graduate students on issues that affect graduate students on a national level, including taxation, international student visa concerns, child care, health insurance, etc. The budget would have been exhausted if two representatives had to travel to the regional conference, which was hosted by Johns Hopkins this year, resulting in a great deal of GRO participation, particularly on the part of the E-Board.

We estimate that sending two people to the next NAGPS national conference which will cost approximately \$1500, and that sending two people to the regional conference will cost around \$900. The annual membership fee for NAGPS is \$500. Several graduate students typically attend a NAGPS Lobby Day in Washington, DC to lobby for graduate student issues (e.g., international student visas, tax exemption), and we hope to do so again next year. We estimate that travel expenses to Washington for the Lobby Day will be \$100. This gives a total estimate of \$5,400, which is far more than our request for support.

Promotional Items	Amount Requested: \$1,000.00
Budgeted for 2011-2012	\$1,500.00
Expenses to date (July 2011-May 2012)	\$0.00
Estimated expenses for full year	\$0.00

Every year, GRO gives out promotional items such as pens, glasses, coffee mugs, T-shirts and brochures. About twenty departments typically requested giveaways for their prospective graduate students. Many departments mention the many ways in which GRO's efforts improve the quality of student life to their incoming students, and refer them to the GRO website. Our promotional items help with the name recognition of our organization among graduate students, and each item has our web address on them. This is a good way for incoming graduate students to learn more about GRO and its active role in student life.

Detailed Explanation of Budget Items

Mentoring	Amount Requested: \$0.00
Budgeted for 2011-2012	\$200.00
Expenses to date (July 2011-May 2012)	\$0.00
Estimated expenses for full year	\$0.00

This budget item has stood for a number of years, in order for GRO volunteers to offer undergraduate students the opportunity to learn more about the experience of graduate school and about the application process. At such an event, it would be worthwhile to offer snacks and non-alcoholic beverages to our undergraduate and graduate participants. We are discontinuing this budget item as we have not been requested to offer this service.

Summer Sports League	Amount Requested: \$1,000.00
Budgeted for 2011-2012	\$1,000.00
Expenses to date (July 2011-May 2012)	\$100.00
Estimated expenses for full year	\$500.00

The Summer Sports League involves hundreds of graduate students in four different team sports and as such represents the GRO's single largest sustained events commitment during the summer months. For this summer, more than thirty teams are signed up to play. We would like to provide a suitable GRO-designed award (probably t-shirts) for the winning team in each of the four sports, as well as to hold a barbeque for all summer sports participants.

Conference Travel Grants	Amount Requested: \$10,000.00
Budgeted for 2011-2012	\$6,000.00
Expenses to date (July 2011-May 2012)	\$2,700.00
Estimated expenses for full year	\$6,000.00

In years past, the GRO divided a \$22,000 budget for group funding and travel grants for individual graduate students, with \$6,000 allocated to the travel grant competition. During this year, the travel grant committee had the enormous challenge of sifting through an unprecedented number of high-quality applications in each of the two rounds of travel grant competition, with a very limited fund of grant money to award. Travel to conferences for the purposes of presenting one's research is a key aspect of professional development for a graduate student in any discipline. As such, the GRO is requesting \$10,000 for the upcoming academic year. Doing so will help fill the need – currently not being met by many Homewood academic departments – to fund travel to conferences and other forums for academic training and presentation of student work. The major proposed increase is in response to recent cutbacks in summer research funding for Krieger School grads. These experiences are crucial for the professionalization of students, and in the long run, will help to ensure that our graduate students will fare well on the job market – thus improving the overall reputation of graduate education at Johns Hopkins.

GPSA Week**Budget Code: LM00-H85-0294**

Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation (GPSA) Week	Amount Requested: \$9,000.00
Budgeted for 2011-2012	\$9,000.00
Expenses to date (July 2011-May 2012)	\$8,594.14
Estimated expenses for full year	\$8,594.14

GPSA Week was celebrated at JHU for the first time in 2000-2001. It is a nationwide event coordinated by the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) and consists of a weeklong series of activities meant to increase awareness of graduate student issues, and show appreciation to the graduate and professional students for their role in education and research at universities throughout the country.

For the past five years, GPSA Week has been extremely well received by both students and faculty. Each year a number of prospective students visit campus during our celebration, and in response, many have remarked on their favorable impression of Hopkins. Several departments have suggested coordinating visits by their prospective graduate students to coincide with GPSA Week.

This year's GPSA Week was a huge success in that it increased the opportunities for graduate students to socialize amongst one another through fun and relaxing activities. The GRO coordinated several social events for grad students. The Hopkins celebration of GPSA Week featured extra promotional giveaways at our Mega Bonus Coffee Hour and Happy Hour, and a day of decadent desserts featuring sweets from Patisserie Poupon, and coffee from Carmas Café. Grad students also had the opportunity to have dinner at the Ambassador just north of campus. We held a special outdoor community service project at Stoney Run, followed by a happy hour for the volunteers.

One of the highlights of GPSA week was our annual Deans' Luncheon. We feel that this event was particularly productive in developing the Hopkins community, insofar as it enabled graduate students to voice their concerns directly to the Deans. During the luncheon, the Deans formed a panel—giving graduate students the opportunity to ask the Deans important questions about the way the University operates, from logistical matters to important administrative policies that affect graduate student life.

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Graduate Student Orientation**Budget Code: LM00-H85-0293**

Graduate Student Orientation	Amount Requested: \$7,500.00
Budgeted for 2011-2012	\$7,500.00
Expenses to date (July 2011-May 2012)	\$7,500.00
Estimated expenses for full year	\$7,500.00

The process of building a graduate community begins anew each September with the start of the academic year. The extent to which we welcome new students into our community affects the extent to which new students wish to become invested in it.

Each year GRO runs several of the components of graduate student orientation, including an Orientation BBQ and special campus tours for new students. The BBQ has been a successful event for the past several years, generally drawing about 500 graduate students, including both new and established students. Through the forum of the GIC, the GRO provides an opportunity for new graduate students to ask questions of returning graduate students about JHU and Baltimore. In addition, the GRO Orientation Committee will hold campus tours just for incoming graduate students, organize library tours, and coordinate small groups to take historic tours of Baltimore. Also, the social chairs along with a small group of volunteers will introduce incoming grad students to the city of Baltimore by taking them out to see the Orioles, to enjoy a drink at Brewer's Art, to outings in Fells Point, and making runs to IKEA with them to help get them settled. A proper introduction to Baltimore will help change the misperception held by many newcomers to Baltimore that the city is an inhospitable one. The GRO feels that this will help encourage students, who may not otherwise venture much beyond campus, to explore and enjoy the city of Baltimore.

GRO Guide**Budget Code: LM00-H85-0303**

The GRO Guide to Living in Baltimore	Amount Requested: 0.00
Budgeted for 2011-2012	\$27,672.18
Expenses to date (July 2011-May 2012)	\$1,000.00
Estimated expenses for full year	\$12,000.00

The GRO Guide to Living in Baltimore is a biennial publication of the GRO, and one lauded by newcomers to Baltimore and Hopkins each year. It features chapters on moving to Baltimore, getting situated at each of the JHU campuses, finding good restaurants, and more. It is also available online at: www.jhu.edu/gro/GROGuide.

Each year until 2004-05, the GRO allocated \$6,000 per academic year for this publication, totaling the necessary \$12,000. This figure includes payroll, printing, and design. Note that as in years past, we will be selling advertising in the GRO Guide, and that the Guide is a biannual publication. Because we can anticipate that printing costs and payroll will be somewhat higher for the next edition of the GRO Guide than they were in the past, we request that our budget for the GRO Guide at least remain at the current \$6,500 to meet what we estimate will be the minimum cost of \$13,000. Two years ago the GRO held off on its biennial printing of the Guide, saving the organization and the university \$6,500.

Campus Group Funding Expenditures for 2011-2012

Date	GRO Group funding	Amount
08/29/11	JHU AID – Indian Ocean Concert	\$ 750.00
09/12/11	IGSA – Incoming Grad Student Dinner	\$ 750.00
09/12/11	GCF – Veritas Forum	\$ 750.00
09/26/11	Hopkins Imaging Initiative - Conference	\$ 500.00
09/26/11	CSSA – Mid-autumn Festival Gala	\$ 500.00
09/21/11	Medical and Educational Perspectives	\$ 250.00
10/10/11	Practical Self – Defense Club	\$ 720.00
10/10/11	IGSA – Diwali	\$ 750.00
10/10/11	Human Rights Working Group – Brian Wilson	\$ 750.00
10/10/11	Hopkins Biotech Network -	\$ 750.00
10/19/11	JHU AID – Movie	\$ 250.00
10/24/11	Hopkins Karate Club - Classes	\$ 150.00
10/24/11	Human Rights Working Group – Film	\$ 750.00
11/07/11	JHU AID – Sampath Talk	\$ 750.00
11/07/11	Hopkins Biotech Network – Biofuels Seminar	\$ 360.00
11/21/11	Hopkins Dance Club	\$ 750.00
12/05/11	JH Business Consulting Club – Speed event	\$ 250.00
12/05/11	Hopkins Biotech Network – Career Symp.	\$ 250.00
12/05/11	IGSA – Holiday Party	\$ 465.00
01/30/12	Chem BE Liaison Comm – Interdept Happy Hr	\$ 750.00
01/30/12	Practical Self Defense Club – Classes	\$ 720.00
01/30/12	CISS Research Society – RoboChallenge	\$ 750.00
02/13/12	Near Eastern Studies Dept – ANSHE Lecture	\$ 500.00
02/13/12	Homewood Grad Alumni Assoc – Panel	\$ 750.00
02/27/12	Aikido Club – Classes	\$ 750.00
02/27/12	GLBT Grads – GLBT Ball	\$ 750.00
02/27/12	Anthropology Dept – Dept Conference	\$ 500.00
03/12/12	Iranian Cultural Society - Nowruz	\$ 560.00
03/12/12	JH Business Consulting Club – Case Comp	\$ 500.00
04/04/12	Engineers without Inhibition – Beer tasting	\$ 113.00
04/04/12	Graduate Environmental Network – Earth wk	\$ 60.00
04/09/12	JHU Muslim Association – Spring Banquet	\$ 750.00
04/09/12	Human Rights Working Group – Drone Panel	\$ 500.00
04/18/12	JHU AID – Food & Energy Talk	\$ 250.00
05/14/12	Aikido Club	TBD
	Budget for 2011-2012 Group Funding	\$ 17,000.00
	Expenditure	\$ 18,285.00
	Balance	-\$ 1,285.00

Graduate Scholarship Initiative

The GRO's latest initiative (GSI) is the Graduate Scholarship Initiative. We are working with Johns Hopkins University Press to publish a biannual journal, to be titled *The Sable & Gold Review*. The journal's editorial staff and contributors will be graduate students from all of Johns Hopkins' schools and campuses. We intend each issue of the journal to be thematic in nature, with authors from as many different schools as possible. Initial issue themes include: *The State of Higher Education in the U.S.*; *Water: A Global Issue*; and *Religion: An Interdisciplinary Approach to a Non-Obsolete Phenomenon*. The GRO will be applying for a \$50,000 grant from the Johns Hopkins President's Ph.D. Innovation Initiative to cover the majority of the operating expenses for 2013-15.

We are requesting \$5,000 of the GRO's budget to be allocated to the expenses of the journal, but the bulk of the costs for 2013-15 are meant to be covered by a grant from the President's Ph.D. Innovation Initiative. From 2015, the bulk of the journal's budget is – assuming the four initial issues are well-received – to be covered by the JHU President's Office and/or grants from the various campuses and schools of the university.

It is envisioned that this interdisciplinary journal will cement the GRO's reputation as an innovative academic force, an exemplary graduate student government, and an aid to graduate student research on the Homewood Campus for decades to come.

Graduate Socialization Initiative, Year Two

A progressively growing GRO budget surplus of ~\$40,000 was transformed into an annual Graduate Socialization fund of \$20,000 in the summer of 2011, the money to be spent for the holding of events open to graduate students of all of Hopkins' Baltimore campuses. During the 2011-12 academic year, an ad hoc committee of the GRO's chairs and the social chair of the School of Medicine (SOM)'s PhD Graduate Student Association determined to hold four major events, one for each season. Those events are: PhD Comics Movie (Fall); Yule Ball (Winter); Orioles game (Spring); and TBD (Summer). We hope to assemble a student committee with representatives from each of five schools/campuses to plan next year's events.

The Ph.D. Comics film was held at the SOM's Turner Auditorium, which was ideal for its ~750 capacity. About 600 graduate students attended, divided among GRO, SOM, and School of Public Health (SPH) grads. The screening coincided with the national release date of the film. The event cost about The Yule Ball was held at the Inn at the Colonnade near the Homewood Campus in mid-December. The event was limited to 200 grads, including from Carey, School of Nursing (SON), SOM, SPH, and GRO. The bulk of tickets were sold to GRO and SOM grads. It cost over \$10,000 and was seen as the capstone of the four events. 500 tickets were purchased for the May 11, 2012 Baltimore Orioles game, which were handed out for free to SPH, SOM, SON, Carey, and GRO grads (the bulk were reserved for SPH and GRO in an effort to be demographically fair).

As of May 1, ~\$3600 is left of the \$20,000, with about \$1200 soon to be withdrawn for the spring Speed Dating event which was added to the GSI as a fifth event. The remainder will be spent – in conjunction with some GRO funding – to hold a social event in the late summer (either a beer garden or a “Welcome Back to B'more” night featuring a standup comedian).

Initial planning for 2012-13 events includes a Halloween night costume ball at the World Trade Center at the Inner Harbor and reserving a theater for the release of the “Hobbit.”