

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (11/28/2016)

* Minutes approved

REPORTS

E-Board Report

Meetings with Dean Sanchez (01/03 and 01/17)

- Talked about:

- upcoming formal at end of February
- structure of the GRO

Meeting: Graduate Affairs (01/17)

Talked about:

- TAP report on Humanities Center
- Family leave plan still in works
- Survey on graduate life; results forthcoming

ELECTIONS FOR E-BOARD POSITIONS

Admin & Funding Chair

GRO Guide Chair

* No nominations for either position

FUNDING REQUESTS:

Chinese Lantern Festival

- Discussion:

- Are we on track budgetwise? No; we won't spend enough.
- This is your second funding request this academic year -- are you planning a third funding request? No, this is our only request for this semester.

* Motion to fully fund (75% of \$600); passes

Academics United - Resist the Immigration Ban

- Discussion:

- Where will the funds be going? Coffee; plackards; flyers, posters advertising the event
- Where will you get the difference? Self-financing from among the organizers?
- Is this a partisan event or is about this specific issue? No involvement from any partisan groups.
- Given the fact that the ban is already on hold in federal court, what is the message? The hold is temporary; it's unclear what will happen in the long run; administration is appealing the hold.

* Motion to fully fund (75% of \$600); passes

DISCUSSION: JHU, GRO, AND THE EXECUTIVE ORDER ON VISAS AND IMMIGRATION

Conversation with Scott King, Director of OIS (Office of International Services)

- Presentation:

- First concern -- seeing who was inside the United States; weren't able to check in with green card holders, mostly just visa holders; all visa holders who responded were in the US

- Will wait to comment on E0 on work permission until it's officially out

- Have held 5 informational meetings; well-attended

- Future is unclear; advising students to minimize travel

- There is now an E0 FAQ on the OIS website

- Discussion:

- Q: What types of information on foreign students does the administration share with US Gov? A: Certain kinds of information we have to share in order to be allowed to admit students (long list of information; includes name, address, telephone, email). Don't share class schedules, grades, nature of on-campus jobs. Strict protocols on release of information; anything that is requested on an individual basis goes through director of OIS; to get information on a broader population, would need a court order.

- Q: Do you foresee any issues with CVIS extensions? A: Nothing in the E0 suggests this. Are issuing new I-20s.

- Q: Some peoples' visas were revoked. How does that affect people who are in the US? A: Still unclear if this is happening and to what extent. Have heard that visas that did not physically pass through CBP hands are still in effect.

- Q: Have you gotten any impression that there are specific airports that are worth avoiding? A: Have heard Boston Logan is good; nothing too specific about other airports. Land crossings generally tend to be worse than airports.

- Q: What happens if ban is back in effect and someone needs to renew their visas? A: Visas are only necessary to *enter* the US. Time to stay inside US depends on I-20, which is separate.

- Q: What kind of issues would arise if you were a grad student who then wanted to do a post doc? A: Some students can get up to 3 year extensions; can change from J-1 to an H-1 or F-1. Changes to H-1 may be coming soon.

Discussion: What is the role of the GRO? (e.g. Shall the GRO do anything? If so: what? Possible GRO statement)

- These are our colleagues; we should support them, officially take a stance/release a public statement.

* Motion to form a subcommittee to draft this statement; motion withdrawn because co-chair is currently writing this statement

* Motion to have co-chair & E-Board draft and release a statement in support of students; motion passes

- The statement will be non-partisan

- Should we try to support the Academics United event more?

- If Academics United people agree, we can join up with them

- * Motion to make the Academics United event a GRO advocacy event and allocate \$175 to it; motion passes
- Some discussion of the 75% and \$750 caps on funding requests
- * Motion to add this to the agenda for next GC meeting; the motion passes

DISCUSSION: THE FUTURE OF THE GRO

Some administration members would like to be more involved on the GC.

This would involve:

- Four person E-Board
- A stronger advisory role for the (assistant) dean of student life, e.g. regularly sitting in on GC meetings

Discussion:

- The argument for this reorganization isn't entirely clear; should we invite Assistant Dean Sanchez to present it?

- * Straw poll on inviting: majority in favor
- Perhaps we should have an official vote on the suggested changes, leave the option of coming to a GC meeting up to Assistant Dean Sanchez

* Motion to invite Assistant Dean Sanchez to present a concise reorganization plan for the GRO; the motion passes by 21 in favor; 11 against

* Motion to adjourn; passes

UPDATES FROM E-BOARD MEMBERS

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS