

GC Meeting 10/8/18
Taken by Eugenia

Approval of the Minutes of the Last Two Meetings
Move to approve minutes from 9/17, Seconded, Motion Passes
Move to approve minutes from 9/24, Seconded, Motion Passes

Update from the Wellness Chair, Sai
Forwarded Survey from 09/20 to ask the graduate students about their interests in wellness activities. Most of the students voted for outdoor hiking trip and F45 sessions. End of November and start of October are the best times.

Hiking Truo
Contacted DHOC to organize hiking trip
Would be on November 4th, 16 students, \$350 for the whole trip paid to experimental education
Students might not show up as it is a free trip. Can be that we organize more trips in the Spring semester?

Wellness + Social F45 Sessions
Would teach the grads for free, survey to watch the response of what times and days the students would prefer. Administration might expect the graduate students to pay from their tuition fee. Could be a great way to show special focus to the graduate students. F45 is a franchise but the Rec Center pays a monthly fee. Elmer already talked to Jackie and we will only need to pay \$50 for each studio use.

Suggestion for wellness and hiking trip: would it be possible to do a refundable deposit for people who do show up? Since the outdoor experiences people are providing these trips for a \$10-\$15 fee. This would be a grad student-only event.

Thought to use the money from the Happy Hour Fund. Laura said that it was fine as long as it is in the same account. Motion to approve both events.

Move to fully fund.

Question: How many F45 sessions will we have? 1-2. We can revisit this.

What will the \$350 be used for? For the cars and for the instructors.

What do the instructors do? Take care of the students and make sure that nothing bad happens to them.

Can we do this without the instructors? We can rent out a bus without instructors.

Move to amend the current motion so that there are up to but no more than 2 F45 events in the semester.

Amendment passes. Motion passes

Committees:

PATH - Benj will be one of the reps

Sexual Violence Advisory - 1 guaranteed seat, Sai

Library - we are sending one representative, but we do not know the actual logistics of the committee

PhD Advisory - We have two reps, but we did not receive confirmation about this yet.

DLC - 2 reps

Security Advisory (intercampus, 9 different seats offered and we have one of the seats) - 1 rep

Most of the committees have had representatives assigned. We don't know yet who the representatives are for each committee. Some of the committees required us to apply for the seats. We don't have fully guaranteed seats for all of them. We haven't heard back from them. We have 1-2 seats that the university gives us. One of the committees has a 3-year term. How are we determining the representatives for these committees? For the security advisory committee, we are sending the security advisory chair. What about the other Professional chair is going to the library committee. PhD student must be on the PhD advisory committee. For the PATH committee, you must have one representative from KSAS and one from WSE. Is this standard operating procedure or is this just how it was done currently? How was this done in previous years? In the past many of the committees did not get an update. Typically, we hold elections. For PATH it was an E-Board decision, but in other cases we have elections. You can pick someone from the GC or someone who is not from the GC. It would be a good idea to formalize a method by which we elect people to these committees. We could elect members from the general student body. We are advocating for a second seat on the security advisory committee. We need to discuss this during the next meeting. Will this be late for any of these committees? The second PATH representative we need by Wednesday. If we wanted, we could do this at this meeting. For the PATH committee it has to be an E-Board member. There is nothing in our policy documents how we select representation on these committees. Michael would like to be the KSAS representative on PATH and Lauren would fit in for him on Wednesday. Michael is a current member of TRU. Lauren is the current representative. Are the discussions that happen over voting for a position considered within an executive session.

The point of discussion in that meeting had to do with TRU and TRU had representation at that meeting and having multiple TRU members on the committee leverages the power towards TRU agenda. Point of clarification: the qualifications for being a member are open to any single graduate student. You're allowed to have a political affiliation and also be a part of the GRO. There are many people who are supportive of TRU, but that does not mean that the decisions they make are representative of TRU. Just to the point of information, all graduate students on this committee worked together, this was approved by the GC and voted on by the GC. In the past, we had a health concerns chair who had a membership in TRU Teachers and Researchers United.

Lauren is currently out to dinner with a visiting professor. She is in KSAS and in the German and Romances Department, 1st year and + health concerns. Have asked her and she seems willing to do it. It doesn't matter what was done last year and without being able to reference this we can't copy what was done last year. Since Lauren is willing to go to this meeting and is already going to the meeting. Anyone can make a motion to overrule something that the E-Board Does. Lauren will attend the PATH meeting this Wednesday.

Motion to have an election at the next GC meeting for the PATH representative, to have Michael or Lauren run to be the KSAS representative on the PATH committee. Lauren will attend the PATH meeting this week. Motion fails.

Motion to have that vote to be open as an election up to everyone. Motion withdrawn.

Motion to have an election at the next GC meeting for a PATH representative from the EBoard KSAS members. Motion passes.

University Wide Initiative on Well-Being

Information Session from TRU

Joanna (5th year, HST, organizing committee) joint with the nurses at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and other groups. Affiliated with SEIU-Local 500. If you are a graduate student and you believe that the work that you are doing is TRU. TRU is not a replacement for the GRO. We are very interested in working together with the GRO but we have different interests and roles.

Erini (4th year, Physics, organizing committee)

Some of the things we are working on have to do with benefits extending for 5+ years. Many departments have different ways in which they deal with funding and other issues.

Questions:

1) Are you unionized?

What is a union? We are acting as a union. There is a difference between being recognized by the NLRB. National Labor Relations Board. Graduate students are workers. We have decided that we will not be filing a petition with the NLRB at this time. This is very common and that is the model we are following.

2) Can you talk about your organizational structure?

We have a rotating secretary and facilitator. One treasurer. We think it's important to have a wide range of voices in meetings and positions. It's the organizing committee. There are rules that we have that are necessary for something to pass.

3) How does the facilitator work?

No one is able to make a final decision. Anyone is able to be a part of any decision.

If you would like to be a member of TRU, then you can read the minutes.

Just like anyone can be a part of the GRO, anyone can be a part of TRU. There is not restriction or application that needs to be completed in order to join TRU. We weren't public before because we wanted to organize and build a base, and not all employers want their employees to unionize. We did not want to put all our plans up online before so that the university could see them.

4) You mentioned that you have policies about how things are done. Are those document and policies made public?

TRU has an application to be recognized as a student group. That will include a copy of the current bylaws.

5) As a member of both the GRO and TRU, we can say that those interests have never come into conflict. This is the activist branch or wave that students can make the best improvement to their lives as graduate students. It's pretty basic things like dental and vision coverage. Campaign to ensure that a department was not shut down by the administration.

6) Nurses unionization is difficult. Anyone has a right to have a say about their working conditions. This means that you have someone who is your advocat.

7)Are there potential conflicts that can exist between the GRO and TRU? It's a tough line to walk. We can only assume what the university will do. Many have hired a corporate lawyer team

to fight this. long arduous process to unionization. At this point there is no official point from the university. Have heard neutral and negative scenarios from the administration. The administration has been helping them to book rooms.

8) This is not an attack. This comes from a political belief and a meaningful message behind how we feel that change might occur. Let as many graduate students know about us as possible.

9) This is not a new thing. There is no reason that it has to be a combative relationship at all. Many members of the university can help us and do help TRU.

10) How do you ensure that you represent graduate students?

General body meeting, tomorrow 6-7:30PM. Now, we are discussing how many people quorum is. Certain decisions require a certain quorum number to be passed. If you want to be a part of this, you come and you have a vote.

Motion to limit the discussion for 2 more minutes. Seconded. Motion passes.

Do you reach out to the administration when you are working on changes? During the HealthCare Campaign, we worked with the administration.

2018 Thanksgiving Gospel Event

Chinese-Speaking Christian Fellowship

Applied for a similar event last year and were funded.

If we approve this request, we would be using up 12.5% of the group funding for this year. One of the funding sources is member donations. We are not sure as to how much they would receive in member donations. We have about 20 members and they will ask for 50 dollars total from the members. Because it is focused on one faith, it has to go through the Interfaith Center and must be approved by the Interfaith Center. It must be open to everyone. But there are some people who do not speak the language. They will have a translator that will translate Chinese to English. Who is the Speaker? A preacher from a local church will give a message. 45 grads, 60 total.

Motion to fully fund the event. Seconded.

14 in favor. 7 opposing. 6 abstaining. Motion passes.

Motion to fund food and utensils but not to fund the speaker and the booklets. Seconded.

11 in favor. 12 opposing. 3 abstaining. Motion fails.

Motion to fully fund. Seconded. Motion passes.

JHU Ballroom Intermediate Classes

They have classes every Saturday. JHU Ballroom. Offering intermediate classes for anyone who wants to advance their dancing skills. Estimate of the number of classes: 9 classes left. It ends December 8th. Funding requested will first go to the instructors and will then go to staffing for the winter ball. 12 grads per class? Effectively 96 grads. Are there any ballroom dancing competitions? They always have some in the spring.

Motion to fully fund. Seconded. Motion passes.

Request for feedback or concerns for the PATH

First PATH meeting is this Wednesday, and the agenda will be an overview and recap of the last year and the plan for the coming year. It will be an orientation meeting this year. The first two are to that and the last point is to solicit concerns.

What the GRO stance is on the PATH committee? Will we continue to meet
Update on the Health Insurance Plan and what can be pushed for?
Context to the conversations.

PATH is Provost's Advisory Team on Health Care. We are discussing the health insurance plan, what the changes were, and steps moving forward. Many of the changes were positive. Much of this work is due to the work done by the last PATH committee. What has been done, what the goals and mission of the committee are? Collect concerns from the members of the committee moving forward. This E-Board is new and I am still trying to understand what we need to do and what I should do. The healthcare issue has been discussed for some time. They are reviewing their charge and scope. How PATH functions on other things? How do they funnel other concerns. It's not just about health insurance but it's about health care.

Official announcement from the university is that the dental and vision insurance is only secured for the current year. If they come to the conclusion that a plan is under utilized, something might be cut from the program. If you're over your 5th year, you must pay your health insurance premium and the department decides whether they want to pay. And the premium was raised. Going over the minutes for the past year. Official meeting and first. It's very important to be careful about information being presented at the committee. The number of participants in the survey was higher because they counted all surveys that were opened and not those that were completed. That is an interesting way to conduct an analysis of a survey and it is important to carefully look at the information provided by the administration carefully.

They did not de-segregate people who had used and did not use the healthcare plan.
It would be good to secure a long-term picture of benefits.

