

GC Meeting Minutes

Date: 1/28/18

Location: Great Hall, Levering Hall

Minutes taken by: Shane Arlington, Parliamentarian

Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes (Dec 03, 2018)
2. E-board Report
3. Special Vote –Professional Development Chair (Karen Clothier)
4. #JHToo Update and Endorsement Request
5. Payment Approval for previous Welcome Coordinator
6. Modification of hours for Welcome Coordinator
7. Solicitation of 2019 GPSA week coordinator
8. Funding Request – Capoeira Club
9. Group Request – Blockchain Club
10. ICE Update
11. Private Police Update

Approval of Minutes:

A motion is made to approve the minutes. The motion is seconded and passes.

E-Board Report:

- A reminder was made about the GC meeting in December that did not meet Quorum, which had two important topics. 1) The PhD advisory committee gave an update. 2) The issues with the OIE were discussed and a presentation from JHToo was given. The overall consensus was
- The first PATH committee meeting was held earlier this week.
- Planning the graduate formal is almost done, and an update will occur in this meeting.
- Some members of the GRO E-board will have dinner with some upper administrators from JHU in February.
- There was a discussion about cigarette bans on campus in E-board meetings, and this may be discussed later in the meeting.
- Elliot and Karen gave an update from the Ph.D. advisory committee. The committee was formed by Vice Provost Nancy Kass. There are two GRO representatives, as well as other graduate representatives from each school. The two main initiatives of the committee at the moment are
 - 1) A mentorship guidelines document which gives recommendations and guidelines for good Ph.D. student mentorship which would be adopted department-by-department, but hopefully will be widespread. The document will not only outline in general what good mentorship looks like, but also includes a sort of ‘goodwill’ contract signed by both parties at the beginning of a Ph.D. student’s time with a mentor. The second part

- of the document helps to provide guidance for students on how to resolve common issues that arise with advisors. Elliot and Karen will be sending out a Google document form of this document to solicit graduate student input, that input will go directly to Nancy Kass, not just Elliot and Karen.
- 2) A relationship policy that covers the university as a whole, but is impactful to graduates as it can relate to Graduate-Undergraduate, Graduate-Faculty, and Graduate-Staff relationships to avoid issues with power dynamics. The document is in an open comment period. The University is considering multiple versions of the policy with different 'strictness' and thus this comment period is important. For anyone with strong opinions *or* a unique experience in this area, please comment on the document.
- A newsletter like email (similar to the Hub) will begin from this committee, but will be much less frequent and hopefully will be widely read.
 - A question was raised about how to phrase sending out the policy document to a department. Elliot suggested forwarding the GRO's email through the administrative assistant in the department once the GRO's email is sent.
 - Lauren gave an update on the SVAC (Student Violence Advisory Committee). They are drafting a climate survey and are trying to figure out how to improve participation (potentially through the GRO). OIE was not discussed, as it was an orientation meeting for the committee.
 - A question was asked if OIE has a representative on the committee – Lauren responded they were not involved in the last meeting but was not certain if they technically have a seat. She will look at the roster.

Special Vote –Professional Development Chair (Karen Clothier)

- The floor was open to nominations, none were pending and none were made from the floor. Eugenia explained the rules for normal elections.
 - A motion was made to vote by hand and seconded. It passed unanimously.
- Karen introduced herself – she's a 5th year student and has previously been involved in the GRO, including being the Professional Development Chair during the previous year. She was in contact with Gabby who was in this position last semester and is aware of what projects were being pursued. Since she was last in the position, she has continued being involved in many ways relating to professional development.
- Karen was elected as the new Professional Development Chair.

#JHToo Update and Endorsement Request

- Maya (Chem-BE) and Taliya (Anthropology) introduced themselves and JHToo, a collective of JHU students trying to keep the university accountable for the many instances of sexual assault on campus. The group is survivor-centric – for instance, in the Juan Obarrio case, the survivor has been involved in all of the published material while remaining anonymous. JHToo has retained counsel to avoid any legal issues from defamation suits – they are confident there is no risk in endorsing the petition as all claims made are verified by many witnesses and therefore not subject to a defamation

claim (which requires false claims). The incident involving Prof. Obarrio was explained, as well as time timeline of events since the incident. JHToo believes that this case is emblematic of the issues of sexual assault at JHU and how cases are mishandled by OIE (Office of Institutional Equity), including a non-affiliate witness not being contacted or interviewed by the OIE staff, failing to inform others who may be affected by the incident or by future actions of Prof. Obarrio. The demands of the JHToo petition involve revoking Prof. Obarrio's tenure, anonymous complaints being treated more seriously by OIE, enhanced compliance with the policies in place, and a public statement denouncing Prof. Obarrio's actions. The petition has been endorsed by many organizations and has over 2,000 individuals' signatures.

- A question was raised as to whether the OIE investigation is complete. It has been completed but is confidential and now with the Deans office. According to Taliya, OIE decided the incident was harassment, not assault, and that the Deans have found the OIE report lacking – requesting further student input in the form of addenda to the report.
- Lauren asked if anything should be brought up at the next Sexual Violence Advisory Committee meeting.
- Jaime commented that this is an issue which all graduate students at JHU should be concerned about, and that this is an opportunity for us to put pressure on the administration of the University to make it clear that this is a pressing issue.
- **A motion was made to have the GRO endorse the JHToo petition. The motion was seconded.**
 - A question was raised as to the language of the petition. It was pointed out that the petition was circulated in December to the entire GC.
 - **The motion passed unanimously.**

Graduate Formal

- A written announcement about the formal will be sent later this week, tickets are limited to two per graduate student, there will be three drink tickets per student, tickets to the dance are \$19, it is on February 16th at the Engineers Club.

Coordinator Positions

Payment Approval for previous Welcome Coordinator

- Welcome Coordinator – position was approved for 25 hours in 2018
 - Benj Shapiro filled the position in Summer/Fall 2018, who worked 55 hours in total
 - Benj explained his work during the last period – organizing and running 6 events, 3 of which were off campus. He did marketing and advertising for these events and the organization in general. The events included a scavenger hunt and multiple off campus happy hours, and walking tours, all with good attendance (from 80-200).
- **A motion was made to approve the additional 30 hours for Benj Shapiro's work during 2018. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Modification of hours for Welcome Coordinator

- **A motion was made to augment the Welcome Coordinators number of paid hours to 50 for the coming year. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

GPSE Week Coordinator

- The GPSA (Graduate Paid Student Appreciation) week coordinator position – organizing has been done by Elliot and Elmer in previous years. There are 5 events for graduate students during the week, one on each day – including wine and cheese night, lunch with deans, on and off campus happy hours. The position has a maximum of 40 hours.

Funding Request – Capoeira Club

- A representative of the club was present. The club expects six students per class for a total of 12 classes, they will advertise similarly to previous years. The events are open to all departments and have previously been funded by GRO. Non JHU members are now allowed to attend classes, but must pay for the classes. The funding request was for the amount of \$1000. A question was raised as to the total amount requested given that only ~6 graduate students attend (~\$14/person). This is within guidelines.
- **A motion was made to fully fund the request. The motion was seconded. The motion passes.**

Group Request – Blockchain Club

- A representative of the Blockchain Club (Mike) was present. The application was submitted last year and was approved. The group mission is to find a common space and forum for people to discuss blockchain technology, the group has 15 members as well as all the leadership positions filled. The group has several events they would like to hold, including seminars and a hackathon.
- **A motion was made to approve the Blockchain Club as a GRO recognized club. The motion was seconded. The motion passes.**

ICE Update

- There is now a Hopkins Coalition Against ICE, with two planned events so far.
- On Wednesday January 20th at 6 PM there will be an event, a public panel on migrant justice in Bloomer 282. The GRO assisted in booking the room.
- There will be a walkout rally on February 6th, at 11:30 AM, outside of Brody Learning Commons. The idea is for undergraduates to walk out of large lectures. 1-2 professors have already confirmed their support and cancelled their classes. Prof. Drew Daniels will be speaking at the event.
- The coalition is making some signage for the events – a flier with the information, and another is an FAQ for instructors (faculty and TA's) for how they can be involved in the efforts.
- Michael asks the GC what the GRO is comfortable doing with regards to supporting the coalition signage/information sheets, as well as the GRO's support with regards to the

events. He wants to know what kind of leeway he has for action as the GRO's advocacy chair in these matters.

- Karen pointed out that the instructional leaflet is a very good idea and will help significantly in getting faculty involved and making the event larger and more successful. She asked a question with regards to the contracts with ICE.
- One contract is with the School of Education to provide 'training' for the ICE officers as well as other government employees. The contract is inactive, but no assurance has been made that it will not be renewed. The other contract is with the Medical School and provides medical training to ICE employees. There is a desire to know the specifics of the contracts – hearing from the faculty who are involved would be beneficial. A question was raised as to if someone from the administration can give the GRO an update (in person or otherwise) with more detailed information on the contracts. There is general consensus that requesting more information is a valuable idea, though it may be ignored.
- **A motion is made for the advocacy chairs to request an administrator knowledgeable about the ICE contracts come speak to the GRO. The motion is seconded. The motion passes.**
- Elmer points out that we need to either 1) endorse the signage and FAQ before sending them out or 2) indicate that we are *not* endorsing them when distributing them.
- **A motion is made to distribute the signage and informational leaflets with a statement that the GRO is not explicitly endorsing the events. The motion is seconded.**
 - **The motion passes.**
- **A motion is on the table that we endorse the signage and informational leaflets and distribute them. The motion is seconded.**
 - **The motion passes.**
- **A motion is made to table discussion until further information is known. The motion is seconded.**
 - **The motion fails.**
- **A motion is made to distribute the signage and informational leaflets with a statement that the GRO is not explicitly endorsing the events. The motion is seconded.**
 - **The motion passes.**

Private Police Update

- Steph gave an update on the private police force – legislative session for the state has begun and the proposal for the police force is underway. Steph suggests that we wait until the actual bill is in the hands of the legislative assembly before taking significant action. However, there is an organization (Students Against Private Police) which has organized around this issue. A representative of the organization spoke briefly – interested GRO members or graduate students can consider joining the group, information can be found on Facebook.

- A question was made about how likely it is that Baltimore supports the endeavor. Steph says that many of the actual neighborhood associations have not supported the measure, but if Bloomberg and JHU's lobbying are strong enough there is a high likelihood that the constituents (in terms of the neighborhood associations) will not be listened to.
- The security concerns committee has discussed the issue, and the committee members have requested that they not be portrayed as supporting the bill.