1. **Call to Order and Agenda Review [2 min]**

Meeting called to order by Elliot at 6:01PM.

1. **Welcome and Introductions [5 min]**

Eugenia and Elliot introduce themselves to the GRO.

1. **Approval of Minutes [5 min]**

Motion to approve the minutes. Seconded. Motion passes

1. **Administrator Introductions [20 min]**
   1. **Smita Ruzicka - Dean of Student Life**

Smita introduced herself. She has been at JHU for just over a year. She works with both graduate and undergraduate students. She oversees the four diversity and inclusion centers, the crisis/on-call services, health center and mental health centers. She works very closely with Renee and Christine and wants to focus on improving the graduate student experience at JHU.

Namely, how can we improve community building in the graduate student body? What kinds of community building opportunities can be programmed and how can we make existing and new programming more visible. Another key focus is improving and developing more programming for international students. Dean Ruzicka will attend coffee hours this year and looks forward to getting input from graduate students to get input on these goals.

* 1. **Alanna Shanahan - Vice Provost for Student Affairs**

Allana introducer herself. For the last 3 years she was the director of althetics at JHU. She is likely going to be involved in happy hour in October. She is excited to learn more about the GRO and to work the

* 1. **Kevin Shollenberger - Vice Provost for Student Health and Well-being**

Kevin introduced himself. Previous VP for Student Affairs, now the VP for Student Health and Well-being. This position came out of a task force for student health which made a lot of recommendations to the University relating to student access to healthcare. Not all students from all campuses have the same access to primary care or mental health services. A key aim for VP Shollenberger is to ensure that this is addressed and that all graduate students have access to these kinds of services.

* 1. **Christine Kavanaugh - Assistant Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Academic Affairs**

Christine introduced herself and her daughter Bianca. She is one of the primary advisors for the GRO. She works closely with the GRO leadership on many issues such as diversity. Christine also has academic-related responsibilities, such as issues with mentoring and advising. She and Renee will be holding town halls this year to give workshops on ‘advising up’ to improve student-faculty involvement. She seeks active input for all things related to graduate student experiences, for masters and PhD students.

Please inform your colleagues that they have Christine and Renee as resources. There are a lot of different resources available on campus and sometimes it can be hard to recall all of them such that reminders from classmates can be very helpful.

* 1. **Laura Stott - Executive Director of Student Engagement**

One of the three primary advisors to the GRO. Will attend meetings to help from an administrative side.

1. **Rights and Responsibilities of GC Members [15 min]**

Eugenia introduced the JHU GRO website and what it includes.

* 1. **Documents Overview**

The website storehouses our governing documents, IE the constitution, bylaws, and various other policy documents.

There is also a ‘rights and responsibilities for GC members’ document which outlines how GC members ought to behave both in meetings and within their departments.

A discussion was had as to the proper procedure for making motions within meetings. Representatives are responsible for attending more than half of the meetings for a semester to maintain funding eligibility for the department.

* 1. **Website Overview**

We will be updating the website so that it will not only list executive board members, but will also list GC representatives for each department.

The website provides information for the committees within the University and who the GRO has reporting on those committees. If you have questions or concerns related to a specific area, it may be best to check this list to see who may be on a relevant committee.

The Executive Board recently passed an internal communication policy to improve the level of professionalism of external communications being sent by the GRO.

The website also contains all GC meeting minutes once they are approved. Executive board meeting minutes are not publicly posted, but each GC meeting will include an Executive Board report wherein the outcomes of the previous Executive Board meeting will be discussed.

* 1. **Overview of Campus Committees with GRO Representation**

The GRO has representation on a Security Concerns Committee, a healthcare related committee (PATH), a committee related to the new student center, a health concerns committee, and a PhD Advisory committee.

1. **E-Board Report [15 min]**
   1. **New Policies from Provost's Office**

*All relevant policies can be found at:* [*policies.jhu.edu*](file:///C:\Users\shane\Desktop\policies.jhu.edu)

New mentorship document approved by the Doctor of Philosophy Board, the arbiter for passing provisions for the PhD programs at JHU. Part of this change includes a template for annual reviews between PhD students and their advisors. If your department is *not* performing annual reviews between PhD students and their advisors, *please let us know*. The time to completion was reduced from 12 years to 9 years, though that change only relates to new cohorts of students.

A new relationship policy which governs appropriate relationships between two persons with any sort of power dynamic (such as a graduate student and an undergraduate mentee, or a graduate student and a Professor).

* 1. **E-board Communications Policy**

This was previously mentioned

* 1. **Homewood Graduate and Postdoctoral Family Day**

This was announced today and emails were sent out. If you did not receive an email, please let us know.

* 1. **GRO Approved Budget for 2019-2020**

The budget was approved a full month earlier than last year! We had some funding increases, one major win was having money allocated to wellness activities hosted by the GRO Wellness Chair. Another increase came to the budget for events like the GRO formal, end-of-year barbeque, and Graduate Professional Student week (GPSA week).

GPSA week is a week in April wherein we host a series of events to celebrate graduate life at JHU.

Hopefully this means that we will be able to host more events overall this year.

We did not spend out from many accounts in past years, so the increases are not necessarily an increase to the baseline but instead allocate the funds such that we can use them.

* 1. **Travel Grant Policy Updates**

The current policy to provide these grants, which provide funds for students to attend conferences which they may otherwise be unable to do. Jaime, the current Admin and Funding chair, quickly discussed the process for applications for travel grants as well as some proposed changes to the travel grant applications and the selection process.

Selection is based on a formula where eligible applications are granted ‘tickets’ to a lottery based on the age of the student, how many conferences the student has previously attended, whether the conference travel is for an oral presentation, *et c*, and then tickets are selected randomly to win.

The constitution requires that we approve the policy during our first meeting of the year.

**Motion to approve the current version of the travel grant policies. Seconded. The motion passes.**

* 1. **Group Funding Policy Updates**

This item was tabled to the next GC meeting.

1. **Group Funding Requests [5 min]**
   1. **Anthropology Annual Graduate Student Conference**

This request is for the annual anthropology graduate student event. The theme for the year is solidarity and class-based politics. They expect an attendance of 40 graduate students with a total attendance of 70 persons. The request is for $1000, which will cover food, a keynote speaker, travel grants, and poster printing fees.

This event was previously funded two years ago for the full request ($800, lower due to old maximum).

There was a question as to expended funding from other sources has been properly predicted. The provided numbers are tentative.

**Motion to fully fund the event. The motion was seconded. The motion passes.**

1. **E-Board Elections for Vacant Seats (Vote to Delay Until 9/30) [5 min]**

The GRO constitution requires that we hold an election as soon as there is a vacancy in the executive board. There is a current vacancy for an advocacy chair and in December there will be a vacancy for one Social Chair. The position has not been advertised to the full campus yet, and the Executive Board wanted to provide the GC representatives a chance to advertise the position to the campus.

A request was made for information about the two positions. Lauren, a current advocacy chair, outlined the responsibilities for the position. Maansi, a current social chair, outlined the responsibilities for her position.

Elliot requested that GC representatives

**There is a motion to postpone the elections for one meeting, provided at least two nominations are received, or two meetings if one or fewer nominations are received.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes.**

1. **Graduate Group Approval [10 min]**

A few group recognition requests fell through the cracks last year. Socialists at JHU, TRU and FinTech all had submitted applications last year. Group recognition allows for room reservations and van reservations, and allows for the group to be listed on Hopkins Groups through the SLI

* 1. **Socialists at JHU**

This groups request has been tabled for a later meeting.

* 1. **Johns Hopkins Quantitative Finance Club**

Johnny, a representative from FinTech, introduced the organization. There was a FinTech group that attempted to form a few years ago. In this current form, the group have support from multiple faculty members from Applied Math and Statistics. The organization currently has about 10 graduate students involved, and around 50 undergraduate students. One purpose of the group may be to eventually manage an investment fund, but will mostly focus on holding guest lectures and informational kinds of events.

The group is likely to implement an application process, with a goal of maintaining a 50/50 ratio of graduate and undergraduate students.

There is a question as to other funding sources. Their faculty advisors believe that they can get a lot of funding from non-GRO sources.

**Motion to approve the group, provided that its policies follow SLI guidelines.**

**Motion seconded.**

**The motion passes.**

1. **GRO Intercampus Events [10 min]**
   1. **Power Plant Live**

Vittorio, the intercampus coordinator, spoke to the GRO. He introduced an event at Power Plant Live, a bar crawl from 9PM-1PM. The event will be an intercampus social involving students from all campuses. Each student will receive a single drink ticket, with a rate of $4/ticket and a limit of 400 tickets. In order to receive tickets, the students have to prove (by approaching as a group with representatives from multiple schools).

The request is to fund the event at the level of **$1350**, with other support coming from other campuses in totals of $450.

There is a question as to how this is different from the happy hours. This is an intercampus event, where happy hours are only for the Homewood campus.

There was a question as to why the Homewood campus is funding more than the other campuses. The response was that we have a much larger budget and have historically funded these events to a much larger extent.

**A motion is made to fully fund the event.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes.**

* 1. **Other Events**

November: roller skating, swing dancing, or other events inside Baltimore

January: Speed dating

February: Monte Carlo night with Med School

March: Annual Formal

May: End of year barbeque/picnic

Vittorio asked that anyone send comments or questions about these events if they have them. His email is vittorio@jhu.edu - emails can also be sent to the GRO chairs ([gro@jhu.edu](mailto:gro@jhu.edu)) who will forward the information.

1. **GRO Wellness Events [10 min]**

Parijat, the new wellness coordinator for the GRO introduced herself. She spoke to her belief that an outdoor trip involving hiking, canoeing, and swimming to improve outdoors activity on campus is beneficial to graduate student life on campus. Previously the GRO has planned collaborative events with JHOC for outdoor trips, but these have been problematic as that group focuses on undergraduates.

* 1. **Assateague Island Camping Event**

David, from the ECE department, came to introduce this event. Sai, the previous wellness chair had mostly events that were coordinated by JHOC and they were less enjoyable because the undergraduates were running the events. David and some others organized an event for hiking at Harpers Ferry that was solely planned by graduate students which he deemed very successful.

The planned event is a hiking/camping trip to Assateague state park, which will focus on integrating incoming graduate students, promote an advertise the GRO, and identify a group of volunteers for future outdoor trips. The purpose of this trip is to help prepare these coordinators (approximately 10 people) to help them be points of contact for future events.

The trip is proposed to be Sept 27-28th, with an estimated budget from the GRO of $2000, with ¾ of the budget going back to the school through the van rentals to travel to the park. Another large part of the cost is renting equipment from the University as well. The external costs relate to campsite rentals, food, and firewood.

Parijat only has a total budget of $2000 for the entire year. The chairs put forward a proposal to have group funding provide for $1000, $500 coming from the wellness account, and potentially some money from the orientation account.

Swetha raised a concern that the rental vans (Hop Vans) are limited to a total of 300 miles, and this trip (286 miles) is dangerously close to that limit.

The number of attendees is ~24-30 in total, with 10 or so being those members who are trying to become the so-called points of contact for future outdoors events. All of the attendees *will* be graduate students.

There was a question as to how this would focus on incoming students. The answer was that there is no specific plan to include new graduate students. There was another question as to determine who will be able to go. The answer is that a Google sheet will be sent out to all graduate students and the first N to sign up (where N is the total available seats) will attend. A suggestion was made that advertising could be scheduled for departmental first-year seminars.

There was a question about liability. There will be a liability release waiver.

There is a question as to how the fees will be raised. The fee is only from “non-volunteers” at a price of $10/head. This reduces the cash income for the event to $200.

Parijat does not want the event to be funded beyond $500 from the wellness chair budget.

There is a motion to fund the event to the amount of $1000 from the group funding budget, contingent on all attendees paying an access fee of at least $10. The motion is seconded.

**7 for. 9 against. 19 abstentions. The motion fails.**

There is a motion to fully fund the event, with an amount of $1000 from the group funding budget and the remaining $1000 from the wellness budget, with a fee of at least $10 from all attendees except the organizers. The organizers are defined as 10 persons who have previously volunteered for various activities related to the event. The motion is seconded.

**18 for. 7 against.** **10 abstentions.** **The motion passes.**

* 1. **Painting Night Event**

This item was tabled for a future GC meeting.

1. **Invitation to Co-Host Community and Workers Barbecue and Potluck**

Sebastian, a member of the sit in at Garland hall demanding against a private police force and an end of ICE contracts at JHU, came to speak to the GRO. The purpose was to request GRO sponsor and event with many other co-sponsors on campus. The event will be this Saturday at 5PM. It will be on the lawn of President Daniel’s house. This kind of activity will need some institutional protection due to members of the Garland Hall protest being charged with violations of the student code of conduct.

**Motion 1: A motion is made to co-sponsor the event.**

**The motion is seconded.**

A question is made as to whether a protest event of this kind needs to be registered in advance. The answer is that it does not need to be registered, but that the University has been in contact due to the event being published.

A question is made as to what co-sponsorship will mean. The answer is that support of food, a name/symbol on the flyer and Facebook event, and to spread information about the event.

A point is made that we receive administrative funding and that the flyer for the event is very politically charged and will then associate the GRO with this kind of event. A clarification is that the event is not explicitly a protest but is a dinner that happens to have this political slant.

A question was made as to how the GRO sponsorship will protect students involved in the event. The GRO may make a statement that we expect the University will not retaliate, but ultimately the GRO cannot prevent such action.

**Motion 2: A motion is made that we do not sponsor the event, but that we disseminate information about the event via email to the graduate student population and forward relevant social media posts.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**A vote is taken on Motion 1: Vote: 15 for, 11 against, 7 abstentions. The motion passes.**

**A vote is taken on Motion 2: Vote: 12 for, 17 against, 5 abstentions. The motion fails.**

1. **Open Discussion & Questions**

There was no time for this item.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57.