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

Eugenia called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM and presented the agenda. The GC had no questions about the agenda.

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

There is a motion to approve the minutes. The motion is seconded. The motion carries with one abstention.

1. **E-Board Report [10 min]**
   1. **A note on contentious agenda items (speaking order enforcement)**

Some of the items on todays agenda will take longer to discuss than others. In order to facilitate effective governance and meeting progression, we will put those items later in the agenda and will allocate them extra time. All GC members are requested to be mindful of this, be respectful of one another, and act within the time limits enforced during these items.

There is a question to speaking order during discussion. There are no current policies in place, but it will be managed by the Secretary/Co-Chairs.

* 1. **Graduate Resource Fair Delayed (Jan?)**

This fair, designed to provide graduate students with information for professional development and other on-campus resources was delayed to January. The chairs will update the GC as new information becomes available.

* 1. **Update on Travel Grant Policy**

Though we presented an update on this last week, we will not be voting on the new policy documents until next semester.

1. **Group Funding Requests [10 min]**

The funding chair introduces the process of funding requests and voting to refresh the GC.

* 1. **IGSA Diwali**

The Indian Graduate Student Association is requesting funding for the Diwali event. The group representative was not present initially.

Later (6:19) this agenda item was revisited. The event last occurred in 2017. There will be board games and food, the event is not focused only o Indian students and will be a low-key festive event.

The request is for $250 for food, and JHUnions will be requested for an additional $100.

There is a question as to if the event can purchase fixed capital, such as Board Games, using the GRO funding. Elliot states that this can be managed by having the games housed in SLI.

**There is a motion to fund the $250 requested. The motion is seconded. The vote was taken. The motion passes with six abstentions.**

* 1. **Facebook Libra Move Developer Workshop**

The event was from the Blockchain group which was approved last year. The event is an introduction and developer workshop with Facebook’s cryptocurrency lead developer. The money will be for food and promotional materials, including flyers, advertisements and give-aways. The expected attendance is ~50. The event will be co-sponsored by Fast-Forward, the tech accelerator on campus.

There is a question as to membership and graduate/undergraduate involvement. The group is primarily graduate students, but some of the membership is undergraduate. Most of the attendees are expected to be graduate.

There is a question as to giveaways relating to using cryptocurrency. Since there are no receipts for crypto purchases, this may be problematic. Generally speaking this would not be feasible as it would count as cash giveaways.

The current request is now for $215, removing the cost of the bitcoin used for the event.

**There is a motion to fund the event to the level of $215. The motion is seconded. The vote passes with two opposed and three abstentions.**

* 1. **4th Annual JHU Philosophy Graduate Student Conference**

This is the fourth annual graduate student philosophy conference. It involves a call for papers from many universities which are then blind reviewed and certain people are invited to give 30 minute talks with Q+A sessions. There is a keynote address, in this case from a Professor from Illinois. The topic this year is “What is Philosophy” and focuses on metaphilosophy. Much of the costs are associated with the keynote speaker. The keynote will also relate philosophy and science. Other funding will primarily come from the philosophy department.

**There is a motion to fully fund the request. The motion is seconded.**

There is a question about the honorarium. There is a question as to whether we can fund the honorarium, and clarification is given that this follows precedent as an associated cost for the event.

**The vote on the prior motion is taken. The vote passes with five abstentions.**

1. **Graduate Group Approval Update [5 min]**
   1. **Socialists at JHU**

A representative from the Socialists at JHU was present and spoke about the group.

The group’s goal is to advance socialist politics on campus by promoting anti-hierarchical politics. Their main desire in seeking group approval is to have access to reserve rooms such that they are more able to meet on campus than they can currently, where they have historically only met in the Sociology student lounge. They may, in the future, want to host events and seek group funding from the GRO as well.

There is a question as to what the events the group may hold in the future might be. Last year there was a collaboration with the Coalition Against ICE last year to organize several speakers about the hierarchy produced by politics relating to immigration.

**There is a motion to recognize the Socialists at JHU. The motion is seconded. The motion passes with two abstentions.**

1. **Changes in Summer and Intersession Course Selection Policies [10 min]**

There was a request from Matt, a Dept. of Philosophy representative, to discuss this issue. Matt then presented to the GC.

Previously, individual departments would solicit instructors to submit course descriptions which were then reviewed and approved within the departments. The approved courses were then sent to the Intersession Programs office, which accepted them provided sufficient registration. This left the decision about worthwhile course content in the hands of those knowledgeable in the specific fields (IE within the departments). The process was ultimately democratic as it dependent on students registering for the courses.

Last intersession was the first intersession under Dean Recroft, and the process was dramatically different. Even after the department vetted the intersession classes, they were required to give additional justification as to the course content or purpose of the course. Several students were frustrated with this change to the process. In the summer cycle, there was an egregious case where a class that had been fully enrolled twice previously was not approved for registration and was not offered at all.

This newer process is not democratic and instead is centrally controlled. The selection criteria are obscure, even to date nothing has been communicated to the course instructors with regards to what those criteria are. There is little consistency with how policies have been applied. For instance, one person received a partial payment for beginning development of a course that was ultimately cancelled when others did not.

Matt encouraged GC members to speak to their departments about how these changes have affected their departmental members. Further, Matt requested the GRO act as a go-between about this topic.

A comment was made that last year there were also potential issues with courses being pulled due to the isntructors being involved in political activity on campus.

The co-chairs noted that the GRO did make an official statement last year that the GRO supported payments being made when a course is cancelled with late notice after course development had progressed.

The co-chairs requested the GC provide feedback on how the chairs can act on this item. Matt asked if Dean Recroft could be brought into a meeting. The co-chairs said that they can invite him, but we have no power to force anyone to attend.

There was discussion of a letter being prepared to be sent to the deans.

**(1) There is a motion that data about intersession courses and related concerns be gathered by a survey to be used in preparing a letter to be sent to Assistant Dean Recroft. The motion is seconded.**

**(2) There is a motion that we invite Assistant Dean Recroft to a GRO meeting/town hall. The motion is seconded.**  **A friendly amendment was proposed that the Executive Board inquire if there is a substantive change to the policy relating to intersession courses that has not been referred to the campus. The amendment was accepted.**

There is a clarification question as to who is Assistant Dean Recroft’s boss. We do not know.

**Voting occurred for the first motion. The motion passes.**

**Voting occurred for the second motion. The motion passes.**

1. **E-Board Elections [40 min]**
   1. **Advocacy Chair**

Many nominations were made in advance of the meeting. The nominees in attendance verbally accepted their nominations. These nominees were: Natalia Talmina, Cynthia Steinhardt, Timothy Nickels, and Yuri Chia.

Shane Arlington (Secretary) acted as elections official. Each nominee was given two minutes to speak to the GC and was then permitted a short Q&A session, all while the other nominees were excused from the room. Final discussion was moderated by the elections official and voting performed by secret ballot. A vote was taken to change the method of voting to show of hands, but failed unanimous consent.

**Timothy Nickels is elected as the second advocacy chair.**

* 1. **Social Chair**

The same procedures as above were followed for the Social Chair election.

Nominees were Jack Magann and Yuri Chia.

**Jack Magann will be the new social chair from Dec 2019 – Spring 2020.**

1. **Johns Hopkins Suicide Prevention Awareness, Response and Coordination (JH-SPARC) Student Advisory Board [5 min]**

This committee is a student advisory committee and is seeking more involvement. All GC representatives are asked to contact the Executive Board to get involved in this process.

1. **Ad Hoc Committee on Constitutional/Bylaws Changes [10 min]**

If you are interested in reviewing the GRO’s revised consistution and bylaws, please reach out to the main GRO email account and secretary.gro@gmail.com

1. **Volunteers for Power Plant Live Event [5 min]**

Please let the executive board know if you are interested in volunteering for the event.

1. **Open Discussion & Questions**
2. **Adjournment**

**The meeting wass adjourned at 7:40 PM.**