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

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM.

Agenda briefly discussed before commencing meeting – there are many funding requests and a busy agenda overall. There are no questions about the agenda.

1. **Approval of Minutes [2 min]**

There is no discussion of the minutes.

**Motion to approve the minutes from last meeting.**

**Motion seconded.**

**The motion carries, the minutes are approved.**

1. **E-Board Report [25 min]**
   1. **A Reminder on Speaking Order**

Address comments to the chairs, avoid cross-talk between departmental reps.

* 1. **Meetings with Administration (Dean Ruzicka)**

The co-chairs discussed co-sponsoring vs co-hosting with the administration. They have said that if our logo appears on material, we will be considered as co-hosts of the events. This clarifies the university’s position, as this was an issue previously when we co-sponsored the sit-in barbeque.

There is discussion from the floor as to if the University clarified why they are taking this stance. The chairs respond that there was no such clarification given, and that it appears that the administration always had this view which is only now clear to us.

The co-chairs state that we should be cognisant of this view in the aministration and be very specific and detailed in motions to be involved in events going forward.

* 1. **Friends of Wyman Park Dell**

This group frequently works with on-campus groups and students, their mission is to preserve the wyman park dell. They will present at a future meeting.

* 1. **Update on Wellness Coordinator Events**

There is a current E-board vote on funding F45 courses that will be free to Graduate students during the course of November on three Sunday mornings. It will likely be passed, but is still pending.

Parijat (the wellness chair) is also planning a low-cost ‘acoustic’ night where there will be musical performances and a quasi-‘open mic’ where students can be added to a list in advance to perform, but cancellations or extra time will be open to any attendee.

* 1. **Update on November Happy Hour Schedule**

Off-campus happy hour at Max’s Taphouse, $6 tickets November 8th.

ON campus board game night on November 21st.

* 1. **Update on Spring Fair 2020**

It is our goal to be more involved in certain large-scale on campus events to promote certain graduate only avtivities. A key one to target for this year is the Spring Fair. This is a new move for us, and we welcome any GRO involvement (GC representatives, et c). If anyone is interested in being involved in this, contact the GRO executive board.

* 1. **Update on Graduate Students Basic Needs Survey**

This survey, which regards safe housing, food, appropriate clothing, and mental health services, has been developed with input from the GRO. It is currently being administered to a pilot group of students but will later be shared with the graduate student body as a whole.

* 1. **Update on Constitution/Bylaws**

There will be at least one more meeting of the ad-hoc committee discussing the constitution and bylaws. If any GC members want to be involved, please reach out to the secretary or GRO executive board.

* 1. **Changes in Summer and Intersession Course Selection Policies** 
     1. **Survey Results & Letter Correspondence**

The GRO sent a survey to graduate students to solicit information about summer and intersession course selection policies, after it was brought to the GC’s attention that there had been changes which appeared adverse to students with regards to selecting summer and intersession courses.

We had 160 responses over the course of 4-5 days. Almost entirely from KSAS and WSE, 4 from medical school. 16.25% had submitted proposals. Many people did not know that they could submit proposals; those that did had no idea what the selection process or criteria were. Many responders were one-time applicants, most had their courses accepted, but many did not or had multiple courses rejected. 30% had a course cancelled due to minimum enrolment requirements. Not many responses, but one respondent stated that they were not informed why their course was not accepted.

The largest reason people did not submit proposals was a lack of knowledge of the possibility and structure of these courses.

A letter was sent to Assistant Dean Recroft, he responded that he would look into these matters and respond more fully in the future. He has been invited to a GC meeting, but has not fully committed to attending. The full text of the email to Recroft was included as an attachment to this meeting’s agenda. The E-Board will follow up again to request his attendance again. Our advisors and the Dean of Student Life are aware of this discussion

There is a comment that in future similar surveys it may be useful to ask people “Would you have applied if you were aware of these programs” as that may be enlightening as well.

There is a question if we have received confirmation that policies were changed with regards to course acceptance. The chairs state that we have *not* received confirmation that any policies were changed.

* 1. **Committee Updates\***
     1. **Sexual Violence Advisory Committee (SVAC)**
        1. **Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Misconduct**

A summary written by Lauren Mushro was circulated to the GC – Elliot proposed that we discuss this further at the next GC meeting, as Lauren was not present. The Executive Board believes this is a very important topic to keep the GC and the larger graduate student body apprised of this information.

* + 1. **Student Advisory Security Committee (SAAC)**

Steph gave an update on what was learned at the last committee meeting. There is still a search ongoing for the VP of security; an offer was made to a candidate who declined. They are going back to stage one of the search. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Baltimore City Police Department cannot be reached until this VP is hired and finalized. There are many steps to the process of forming the JHU private police, all of which are contingent on this final hire.

The Police Accountability Board has 15 members, with 13 appointed by JHU administration, one by the mayor, and one by the city council.

There is a question: how are the appointees determined? Answer: the nominating committee is being formed by two students, two faculty, two staff, and some community members. However, there is no public information or known transparency for how the final decision will be made. The nominating committee does not have final decision-making power, but only recommends people for the administration to finally select. Applications are currently open for the accountability board positions.

There is a question as to what JHU divisions this will affect, whether Homewood already has a police force. The answer is no: there is no currently sworn JHU police force at any division.

1. **Group Funding Requests [20 min]**

Jaime presented a chart of how much funding has already been allocated or used. If we fund all events, we will have allocated close to 50% of the total funding.

* 1. **JHGCC Fall Case Competition**

Caroline – from the SoM presented on the event. The Consulting Club is mostly made of Graduate Students, with some U-Grad involvement. There are three co-presidents, with two from Homewood. There are two case competitions annually – one in the Fall which is aimed at beginners, and a second in the Spring. The fall event has a total cost of $5,480 and they are requesting $1,000 from GRO. They expect approximately 20 teams; about 30% of the teams are from Homewood. There is significant alumni involvement. Other group funding comes from JHSBH and the SoM as well as the Federal Credit Union, they have applied to many other sources as well.

There is a question about the prize money. That comes from another funding source, and are prizes for the teams. There is a question about how many meals are included – there are three meals during the course of the day.

There is a question about why the group is still underfunded with so many sponsors – this is coming from the SoM slashing their support for student events.

**There is a motion to fully fund the event provided that the funding is not used for alcohol or prizes.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes with four abstentions.**

* 1. **“Creating Art in the Context of Oppression” Workshop – Anthropology**

This event is hosted by the department of Anthropology along with the Smokler center. The event is for making and interpreting art. The request is for $300, with a total cost of $850. The event will discuss how art is made and interpreted. Other sources of funding come from the Chaplain’s office, AGHI and the Anthropology department. The event is open to all graduate students.

**There is a motion to fully fund the event.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes with four abstentions.**

* 1. **KGSA Academic Networking Night**

This is a recurring event. The Korean Graduate Student Association is a cross-campus group. They are hosting an academic-related event, which includes graduate students, faculty and post-doctoral researchers. They expect high graduate student involvement. They have requested $237.95 for food and drinks; there are other event costs but we are unsure of the total event costs.

There is a question as to whether the GRO has funded this event in the past.

**There is a motion to fully fund the event.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes with four abstentions.**

* 1. **CEGA/MEGA Thanksgiving Get Together**

This is from the Civil Engineering Graduate Student Association along with the Mechanical Engineering Graduate Student association – they will be inviting other departments to participate in the event. Both departments have done this in the past, but they are joining forces and expect a total involvement of ~125 graduate students. They are requesting $1000.

There is a comment – we had an argument a few years ago about whether we should fund events that are for specific departments. Elliot commented that many years back we used to fund these kinds of events very commonly. Shane noted that this is perfectly within the scope of our funding, provided it is open to all students.

There is a question as to advertising strategy: they will distribute emails to many other departments through list-servs. They will be sending emails to all departments.

**There is a motion to fully fund the event.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes with eight abstentions.**

* 1. **Joint Atlantic Seminar in the History of Biology – HOS**

This event is hosted by the History of Science and Technology Department. The event is an on-campus conference focused on the History of Biology. The conference is annual, and was last hosted at JHU in 2004. The transportation costs are covered by individuals, the venue is free, and therefore the high costs are in food. The total cost of the event is $2860 with a request to the GRO of $760. There will be alcohol at one of the dinners, but that will not be funded by the GRO.

There will be four full meals included in the conference.

**There is a motion to fully fund the event.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes with four abstentions.**

* 1. **CSCFJH Thanksgiving Gospel Event**

The Chinese Speaking Christian Fellowship is hosting a Gospel event at Johns Hopkins on Thanksgiving, to spread the word of Jesus Christ to the campus. The event has been held and funded in prior years. The group expects 45 graduates in attendance. The total cost of the event is expected to be $800, and the request is for $750.

There is a question as to if the event has been approved by the interfaith center. The answer is that the event has been approved by the interfaith center.

**There is a motion to fully fund the event.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes with ten abstentions.**

1. **Graduate Group Approval [15 min]**

Elliot gave some background that GQSA and BGSA previously existsed but have not been re-registered in over a year, thus requiring us to re-approve for SLI.

* 1. **Graduate Queer-Straight Alliance (GQSA)**

The group focuses on Homewood, and has already been having socials and events for over a semester. Other universities have also been in contact with them to co-host events. They made some revisions to their governing documents, including that they have removed any membership fees. They would like to be formally re-recognized.

There is a question for the floor: when the group was formed a few years ago, we had to submit a roster of 10 members with names and emails. Is that rule still in place? The answer is yes – that rule still exists and is a firm requirement. However, the presenter is confident that they can arrange 10 members to sign up. There is consensus that the requirement is unfair for identity-based groups. There is a comment that the roster may be publicly available in some capacity, but perhaps allies can be used to help protect anonymity of any queer persons who do not want to be identified.

**There is a motion to approve the organization.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes with one abstention.**

* 1. **Black Graduate Students Association (BGSA)**

No representative was present, so Eugenia (Co-Chair) read the statement from the organization out loud to the GC. The group is a professional and social organization for graduate students of African heritage.

Elliot commented that this is again an organization that is being re-activated after a period of inactivity.

**There is a motion to approve the organization.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes with one abstention.**

* 1. **Organization for Science, Technology, and International Affairs at JHU (OSTIA JHU)**

The group mission is to offer a platform to connect different schools across the JHU community, to collectively address complex international issues and current challenges in science an technology. They have extensive involvement from faculty members, students, and external participants. Many US policies have large impacts on graduate students, including those at JHU – and addressing these issues requires multidisciplinary approaches. They have involvement from School of Advanced International Studies (DC), Homewood, and School of Medicine. They have bi-weekly student salons for discussion, along with bi-monthly panel discussions including faculty members, industry leaders, alumni. They have already hosted panel events with very big-name attendees.

Elliot commented that the group has worked thoroughly with Christine on their governing documents and that they have been viewed positively by Christine.

There is a question as to the groups affiliation with a think-tank that was mentioned during the presentation and how that think-tank and their politics might affect the group. The response is that the group focuses on research and discussion, with input and discussions from people from many fields. This think-tank CEO was a specific example of a JHU alumni who was involved in a past panel and was used as a resource. The group is open to people from all backgrounds and ideas provided that discussion is civil.

There is a question as to whether this group will coordinate with the other Science Policy events across the other campuses. Linxin commented that she has participated to some extent with these groups previously, but that they are much more locally (and domestically) focused where OSTIA has a much larger international focus due to the SAIS and DC campus connection.

**There is a motion to approve the group.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes with 2 abstentions.**

1. **NLRB Petition [25 min]**

The final discussion is a petition to the National Labor Relations Board, initially brought to the Executive Board by Karen Clothier. A member of TRU (Teachers and Researchers United) spoke on the petition and the NLRB in general.

The National Labor Relations Board is the Federal arbiter for which groups of persons are considered under the National Labor Relations Act as ‘employees.’ This designation is important both for rights for discussion with co-workers related to pay, heath insurance, unionization, work-related issues. IE with NLRB recognized status, you cannot be fired for discussing those issues.

Since 2016, the NLRB has viewed Graduate Students as employees, thus granting this protection. However, the NLRB has, since the last Presidential Election, changed course. There is currently a policy change that would exclude students – including graduate students paid for research work or teaching – will not be considered as employees. There is a mandated open commenting period on this policy change, which will end in later November. It is the stance of TRU that graduate students should count as employees, regardless of whether they want to unionize. The NLRB is required to read all of comments they receive, and therefore the more comments graduate students and other submit, the more likely we are to have an impact on the policy.

TRU is therefore making specific requests relating to the NLRB – they can be considered independently, but TRU feels that approving both would be the of the most help to JHUs graduate students. The first is that the GRO GC sign a petition being sent to the NLRB.

The second request is distribution of the petition to the larger graduate student body, as it may be important and of interest to all graduate students.

A draft of the petition text was shown to the GC and was previously attached to the GRO agenda distributed before the meeting. A TL;DR: the NLRB should maintain graduate student status as workers; a list is presented of how graduate students are workers on campus; a discussion of how unions can help graduate student life and how TRU has succeeded in improving graduate student life on campus.

**There is a motion to approve both requests, IE to have the GRO sign the TRU petition to the NLRB as well as to distribute that petition to all graduate students at JHU.**

**The motion is seconded.**

There was a question as to why this change is being proposed. There has been some information in the media that it may be due to a personal grudge as one NLRB chairperson is married to someone related to administration at Columbia which has had some issues with graduate student Unions.

There is a question as to if this is an issue at state schools. The answer is that is varies – many public universities have had unions for a very long time and have other state protection. This does vary state to state. The change to the ruling is specific to private universities.

There is a comment that whether other Universities are protected is not important to us, as this would affect the whole JHU population and that is enough for us to be very active on this material.

There was a comment to the chairs that it would have been useful to have this information distributed in advance. The biophysics representative distributed the information to the department and received some information back stating that they wanted to support this petition, more advanced warning could have allowed for further feedback.

There is a question that if the NLRB changes their status how it does affect State Universities. This will depend on each State and how those states view the graduate students.

There is a comment that the NLRB is not an elected body, and therefore cannot overstep state authority – this gives each State the authority to adjudicate how they view graduate students.

**A vote on the motion is taken.**

**The motion passes with three abstentions.**

1. **Open Discussion & Questions**

There is a call for open discussion or questions.

The Biophysics representative asked if there has been a report of the welcome coordinator to the GRO on welcome events.

The next meeting will be Nov. 4th instead of the 11th to allow for us to have sufficient meetings during the semester.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting is adjourned

**\***The Following Committees have no scheduled update:

* + - 1. PhD Advisory Committee to Dr. Nancy Kass (PAC)
      2. Provost’s Advisory Team on Healthcare (PATH)
      3. Well-Being Committee
      4. Parental Concerns Working Group
      5. Tobacco Cessation Committee
      6. Student Center Planning Committee