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

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM by Eugenia.

There were no questions about the agenda.

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

**Motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded. Motion passes with one abstention.**

1. **Friends of Wyman Park Dell [10 min]**

Travers Nelson (JHU) and Matt Fischer (Charles Village resident), both Wyman Park Dell Board Members. Wyman Park Dell is just below the BMA. The land was donated by one of the two donors for the Homewood Campus’ land. It is a very pretty and historic park, and was landscaped by a major firm. Near the end of the 1900s it was somewhat run down. The Friends of Wyman Park Dell was formed in the 1980s as a volunteer group to raise funds and draw a new master plan for the park, resulting in a closure of one lane of Charles St to add a pedestrian area. They also funded the installation of a playground in the Dell. It is a great park for families and members of the nearby neighborhoods.

What does the organization do? They clean the park, the water and plant the plants, trim vegetation, paint fences, host evening movie screenings, participate in the Charles Village Festival, host an annual campout, and celebrate Holi Festival of Color, a winter solstice event (with a fire spinner), and much more. All of this work is accomplished by volunteers – many from JHU. Beta Theta Pi, the JHU baseball team, and many other organization have been highly involved in helping with the Dell.

They are visiting tonight to seek for new Board members as well as new volunteers. You get a large return from being involved in the Board – meetings are only on a bi-monthly basis for two hours. There are many different kinds of people on the Board and this means that you will meet and experience people from all different walks of life. The Instagram page is WymanParkDell, and they can be messaged from there. Contact can also be made to [travers.nelson@jhu.edu](mailto:travers.nelson@jhu.edu). You can also search Friends of Wyman Park Dell to find contact information.

**Question from the GRO**: How many Board members are you looking for? How many students have been on the Board in the past?

**Answer**; The board is continually rotating. There are generally 2-3 new members per year. We do not know statistics on past student involvement, but the organization is very interested in having more students involved.

**Question from the GRO:** You spoke about what volunteers do – what are the responsibilities of Board members?

**Answer:** Discussions of larger scale decisions about changes to the park. For instance, removing a confederate statute to place a statue of Harriet Tubman Grove was a large discussion last year. Budget discussions are another key aspect.

**Question from the GRO:** With regards to organizing volunteers – if a department wants to volunteer, how can we get in contact? Can we host events there?

**Answer**: Email Travers or contact the organization and we can find convenient times and volunteer work. Yes, we host events – reach out and we can discuss if there is interest.

**Question from the GRO:** Do you want us to circulate this information to the entire Graduate Body

**Answer:** Yes, that would be great if you are willing to.

**Motion to distribute an email to all graduate students regarding information about the Friends of the Wyman Park Dell. Motion Seconded. Motion passes.**

1. **E-Board Report [20 min]**
   1. **A Reminder on Speaking Order**
   2. **F45 Classes for Grads in November**

The first class was this Sunday, there is one on the 9th and there will be another scheduled in the future. The E-board approved funding for this. The third should be on a weekday to spread out the events such that those who cannot attend on Sundays can participate.

* 1. **Off-Campus Happy Hour Nov. 8th**

There will be an off-campus happy hour at Max’s Taphouse this Friday from 8PM-10PM. We have 280 tickets, the contracts were signed today. The information will be distributed via normal channels.

* 1. **Welcome & Intercampus Chair Update**

Last week we realized that the Welcome chair had only updated the E-board and not the GC.

At the beginning of the semester there was a walking tour, including Peabody and many other sites in Mt. Vernon. It had attendance ~25 people, ending at Brewers Art.

There was a free happy hour at De Kleine Duivel –over 200 tickets were dispersed, and was very successful. However, some students became a little aggressive and accosted Daniel for free tickets. We have remedies for this going forward.

There was a trivia night which was well attended, the winners have not yet been given their prizes due to issues with Barnes and Noble. This is being remedied by purchasing

Sept 13th there was a game night with billiards, card games, video games and board games.

The next planned event is for Nov 17th – a group of people will meet in the lounge to have some snacks and then travel to see the Concert Orchestra at the interfaith center just off campus.

**Question:** How much budget has been used? What remains?

**Answer**: We have used about $3000 out of $7000. We will have another large event in the Spring along with some other smaller side events.

**Question:** Do we think the budget is sufficient?

**Answer:** Yes, I think the budget is sufficient and we will spend it out fully and fruitfully.

* 1. **Intercampus Coordinator Update**

We are renting out a skating rink/bowling alley with a total cost of $2000, the event is on Nov. 15th. It will be first-come first serve.

**Question**: Has anyone from the E-board been to the Shake-n-Bake Family Fun Center?

**Answer:** Yes – Steph (Secuity Chair) has been. She stated that it is run by the state, and is therefore cheap to rent because it is public.

Vittorio is still planning a speed-dating event along with progressing plans for the Formal – tentatively in March.

The Medical school does plan to partner with us for the Monte Carlo event.

* 1. **Electric Scooter Parking Survey**

There was a survey sent to the GRO today about scooter parking lots and scooter free zones on campus. The survey came from Laura Stott, but we do not know where it originated.

The survey will be distributed to the GC later – please respond and send on to your departments.

**Question:** I believe last year that I heard that the University banned electric scooters on campus? Do we know if that is true?

**Answer from GC member:** So far as I know, JHU contacted some of the electric scooter companies and said they wanted to excluded. The companies may fine people for parking on campus, but if people pay those fines it does not stop them from parking on campus.

* 1. **Applications for Johns Hopkins University Police Accountability Board**

Applications are still open, as is the comment box for this accountability board.

* 1. **Applications for Spring Fair 2020**

Technically applications for this are already closed, but we believe we can still get a GRO member involved – we are hoping to have someone sign up to be involved in this. We would like to have someone involved, as graduate students have not historically been represented involved in planning for the Spring Fair.

**Question:** What is the level of involvement required?

**Answer:** We are not certain, as graduate students have not historically been involved. The overall group meets Wednesdays from 4PM – 6:30 PM.

**Question**: Why do we need graduate student involvement if there is already similar planning done by the Social chairs and if the event already has a graduate student-only happy hour?

**Answer:** We (GRO) want to have a larger involvement in big on-campus events, as historically they are highly controlled and influenced by undergraduates and have little to no graduate-student specific programming. We would like to, over time, change that balance to encourage more graduate student involvement in the events. The only reason we had a graduate-student happy hour at Spring Fair last year was because the GRO Chair at the time had been involved in Spring Fair planning as an undergraduate. We hope that this does not have to *de facto* fall to the Social Chairs.

**Question:** Should we send an email to all graduate students to see if anyone would be interested in working on this?

**Motion to send an email to the entire graduate student body outlining the current existing opportunities to be involved in on- and off-campus groups and committees.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**Motion passes with two abstentions.**

**Question:** It may be problematic if we send a representative and do not have particular ideas for how to expand graduate student involvement at Spring Fair. We should perhaps suggest ideas to help whoever becomes the representative on the committee.

**Comment:** When we gave out free things at the happy hour last year, it was very popular – we should perhaps include GRO giveaways in that this year. A second happy hour would also be very welcome, as many people could not attend due to the time constraints.

**Comment:** We can discuss this further within the GC or via email and provide the suggestions to whoever ends up in this position. One idea may be an open-mic event with a graduate student focus, as much of the programming is centered on the musical performance.

**Comment:** A tent with trivia could be really fun, it could be open to both undergraduates and graduates, but may appeal more to the graduate students.

We will add further discussion of this to the E-board agenda for next week. If GC members have specific suggestions or ideas, you can direct them to the E-board to be included in that discussion.

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

The E-board sent another email to Asst. Dean Recroft to invite him to tonight’s GC meeting. We received a note from Asst. Dean Recroft 15 minutes before this meeting stating that he would not attend but that he was taking our concerns very seriously.

1. **Sexual Violence Advisory Committee (SVAC) [15 min]**
   1. **Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Misconduct**

Tim presented on Lauren’s behalf.

Lauren made a report which very thoroughly assessed the school’s much larger reports and the highlights therein. This is currently being modified to include a few more informational links but will be distributed to the GC when that is complete. That will be a much more comprehensive document than the summary presented in these minutes.

All statistics were self-reported. For the most part, graduate students and undergraduates have very similar statistics. Women, however reported much more frequently than males, and the trans/non-binary community also reported at a much higher rate. These trends seem to hold for pretty much all forms of sexual assault and misconduct tracked.

Reports are up, which the school suggests may be due to enhanced promotion of reporting mechanisms. However, the University says that they will not treat this uptick in reports as only a phenomenon of enhanced reporting and will take steps to mitigate instances as though this was an actual rate increase. Tim was concerned that the numbers of people stating that they were very familiar with the definitions and meaning of sexual misconduct were low. A minority of students believed that a fair investigation would result from a report. A large percentage of students believe that sexual misconduct/violence is a severe problem at JHU. Relatively few students report that they are aware of where to get help. People have a misperception of how likely sexual assault/violence is.

**Key takeaways**: the University recognizes that there are many problem areas to address and has listed many initiatives they are currently undertaking or plan to undertake. TGQN students have much higher rates of sexual assault and violence and have a more negative view of the situation on campus. Students have many knowledge gaps about rates of sexual misconduct/violence, help available, et c.

**Comment from Elliot:** The GRO can help with providing educational resources, but overall we would like to help in as many ways as possible. The GRO is well situated to provide better pathways to information and education.

**Comment:** You stated that there are knowledge gaps on what students know about what help is available or what. Is there data on what students perceive as sexual misconduct or violence?

**Answer:** There were comments on the bystander effect in the reports and statistics of instances being observed and either reported or not-reported.

**Comment:** Is there going to be any restructuring to the Title IX training on campus? It does not seem like it is working as is.

**Answer from Chair:** We are not aware of anything at this point. Students on SVAC have pushed for a re-vamp of those trainings, but it appears that it has not progressed very far.

**Comment:** Title IX training is very specific to workplace related items, and we are lacking any form of training on broader sexual harassment/misconduct/violence.

**Comment:** I agree that Title IX training is not sufficient on its own, but it also occurs during a period where students are receiving a whirlwind of information during orientation. We need much clearer, easy to find and easy to follow suggestions for these kinds of issues.

**Comment:** As a GC we should try to force more action on this as we believe that the status quo is really not functioning properly.

**Comment:** At the SoM, we have an online training. Is that different at Homewood?

**Answer:** During orientation there may be an in-person Title IX training (some years may not have had this). There are also some online follow-up trainings that are required for degree completion. Additionally people may have departmental requirements or requirements for mentoring minors or other students.

**Comment:** There is no Women’s centre on campus, so there are limitations on what resources are available. More resources as well as better information are necessary. It may be much easier or more comfortable for people to just know that they can go to a specific location and meet with people.

**Comment:** It may be possible that people ‘sneak’ through without ever doing these trainings, which is problematic.

**Comment from Elliot:** We should consider what concrete steps the GC can take in this matter. Should we provide more resources? Should we push the administration for more frequent/repeated training?

**Response:** It has been mentioned twice that we could/should create a flowsheet for resources and how to report issues – this could be distributed at events as well as by email and hosted on our website.

**Comment from Daniel:** I will bring this up directly to Nancy Kass at the next PhD Advisory Committee.

**Comment:** We should explore pathways to in person training. It is so challenging to enforce engagement on online training. Maybe making this a standalone event separate from orientation would be much more effective. It may be expensive and the University may resist.

**Response:** Undergraduates have had a mandatory in person training for a long while, and since several fraternities have been dispanded there has been an additional online training required. There is a transcript hold until students complete this.

**Response from chairs:** There is a required in-person research ethics course in Engineering which students need to take or risk their degree progress – perhaps something similar could be integrated.

**Question:** Is it possible to have the GRO host training sessions?

**Response from Chairs:** The GRO can interace with people able to do those trainings, but it would likely not be good to have that responsibility on any student as we do not have the appropriate background or training.

**Response:** What about simpler ideas like see-something-say-something?

**Comments from Chairs:** We cannot make any motions – if there are tasks

**Motion to have the GRO create a informational document to provide for victims of sexual assault and sexual harassment and to interface with University leadership to brainstorm how we can most effectively disseminate that information to graduate students.**

**Motion is seconded.**

**Comment:** The motion does not provide specificity in terms of who would be responsible for this action.

**Comment from Wangui:** I can post this information to the website and am willing to help in making the document, but would want help from at least one person.

**Comment:** Lauren is sitting in the Sexual Assault Committee – perhaps she can help with this. As a timeline, we should not have a concrete deadline but it should be ASAP.

Amendments were proposed and accepted.

***Amended Motion*:** **Motion to have the Communications Chair along with one of the Advocacy chairs create an informational document for victims of sexual assault and sexual harassment and to interface with University leadership to brainstorm how we can most effectively disseminate that information to graduate students, including posting the information page to the website.**

**The vote is taken: the motion passes with two abstentions.**

**Motion that Daniel promotes at the PhD Advisory Committee that training on sexual harassment needs to be done in a more thorough and consistent way at a departmental level.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes.**

1. **Thinking Ahead to Next Semester [10 min]**

To be forward thinking, we should start appointing a GPSA coordinator and summer sports coordinator for next year early on so that there is more knowledge transfer and that planning can begin much earlier. IN particular there was an issue last year for the summer sports coordinator and the E-Board had to appoint one rather than having a GC election

* 1. **GPSA Coordinator**
  2. **Summer Sports Coordinator?**
  3. **Budget Priorities for Next Academic Year**
     1. **Diversity/Professional Networking Conferences**

The budget for the next year has to be proposed relatively far in advance and strategic goals need to be set early on. For instance, the Travel Grants currently cannot help in attendance to professional development conferences – there could be a niche budget for funding to events of that kind.

If GC members have ideas that they would like to see pushed forward as initiatives or events in future years, they should reach out to the Chairs and or E-board.

**Comment from Swetha**: Previously there was more allocation in the budget to fund the GPSA week coordinator or E-board members to go to certain professional development events, but we have shifted that in recent years. We could consider re-instituting this with a modified policy.

**Comment from Elliot:** Perhaps we start with only a very small number of these grants per year, and there would need to be a structured policy to govern these distributions.

**Comment from Eugenia:** We would need to either expand the travel grant categories, or have this as a separate policies. Since the travel grants are very well utilized, so taking funding away from those (which are already over-subscribed) is not desirable. Hopefully we could instead make this work by requesting more money.

**Comment from Swetha:** The prior funding has NAGPS (National Association of Graduate-Professional Students) was from another account and it could be moved this way.

**Comment:** Some departments have specific funding (potentially from Office of Diversity and Inclusion) to fund travel of this kind. Perhaps we could look there.

**Comment:** This kind of event does not really exist for graduate students in the Humanities – taking that into account is valuable.

In general, if there are events, grants, or other items you would like to see the GRO fund or host in future years, please start thinking about them and proposing them to the E-board now so that we can discuss and plan long term.

1. **Update from the Women’s Faculty Forum [10 min]**

This has been moved to the next meeting agenda. Tara to present.

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

Meeting is adjourned at 7:21.

**\***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
      7. Student Advisory Security Committee (SASC)
      8. Johns Hopkins Suicide Prevention Awareness, Response and Coordination (JH-SPARC)