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

The meeting is called to order at 6:03PM by Eugenia.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

**There is a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes.**

1. **Roshni Rao (Director of Phutures) Introduction [10 min]**

Eugenia introduces Roshni Rao, who is new to JHU and is the director of Phutures. It is a new career services office for the Homewood campus. The East Baltimore campus has a similar office with 5 staff members, Roshni is – currently – the entirety of the office on this campus. She will be relying on input and information from graduate students and will therefore interface with the GRO E-Board a lot.

The main foci of Phutures is professional development, career placement, and life design. They will give advice on things ranging from resumes/CVs & job interviews to alumni panels and building soft skills. They are working on a new experiential learning program that will establish relationships with companies who will provide graduate student internship opportunities.

One challenge Roshni has faced so far is being able to reach graduate students directly. So far, she must rely on department administrators to relate material through their listservs. For instance, last week she sent emails with two conferences – one to STEM which had a 30-40% open rate (people reading it) and one to Humanities students which had an 88% open rate.

There is a question as to whether this office caters to Masters students – the answer is that no, Phutures focuses on PhD students and Postdocs. There is already a similar office for Masters students.

Roshni mentioned that she will be participating in 3-Minute Thesis, and is aiming to get more Humanities students involved.

She has a PhD in Immunology and a Post-Doc in Immunology from the NIH. She understands the challenges of being a graduate student, and even more so she has the perspective of an international graduate student. She is very open to anyone reaching out to her with requests as well as with ideas.

One student noted that many students ignore emails from their departmental administrators forwarded emails because they receive a lot of them. Another student noted that sometimes the issue is seeing a byline with names that are not meaningful (IE from “Roshni Rao” not knowing who that is) is disincentive to read the email.

The Professional Development chair suggested the development of a specific list-serv for those students interested in job hunting. Roshni responded that she does not love the idea of another list serv, and moreover that professional development is an ongoing activity that students should participate in early and continuously throughout their careers at JHU.

There is a comment that Hopkins’ job preparations are generally not for humanities students, partially because the job search is very different in the humanities fields, and that the humanities students feel ostracized due to this. It was suggested by Roshni working with the department heads in the humanities to help re-build ‘trust’ with those groups.

The Co-Chairs encourage everyone to inform their departments and colleagues about Phutures and to continue thinking about what the office can do for graduate students.

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

To allow for the groups in question to participate earlier in the meeting, this item was moved earlier in the agenda.

* 1. **East Asian Studies Graduate seminar**

Requested budget is $195 for refreshments for three seminars, the event occurred in the past. The idea is that it will be similar to a graduate seminar in many other departments. It happened for the first time last semester and was well received in the program, allowing for students to practice and explain their works to colleagues before presenting at conferences. During their first event, they had ~6 attendees, but they expect average attendance to be on the order of 10.

There is a note that we cannot fund 100% of the event as requested, we can only fund up to 95% of the event. It was encouraged that students reach out to their departments to find additional funding sources.

**There is a motion to approve the full amount.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion passes and the event(s) are fully funded.**

* 1. **Lantern Festival Gospel Event, Chinese-Speaking Christian Fellowship**

The requested budget is $750, with an expected attendance of 45 graduate students. The total expected cost of the event is $800. They event is used to spread the gospel of Jesus to JHU students across all campuses. They have held similar events.

A representative was unable to attend the event. The funding will be used for non-alcoholic drinks, food, and speaker fees.

There is a question as to whether the event is approved by the Inter Faith Council. We do not know, but the funding would not be dispersed without that approval.

There is a question whether this request is appropriate with our funding policies given the highly religious nature. Elliot explains that this has been a sticky issue in the past, and that we almost always have this conversation about events from this group and have funded events.

There is a comment that this event is somewhat exclusionary because it involves either only people of a certain faith *or* those willing to be preached at. Another note is given that the event occurs in Chinese and is therefore exclusionary to others, although they do state that they can provide translation services “as needed.”

There is a question as to how their prior events have gone from a funding perspective. For the last few years, they have had many events funded – last year it was only their Thanksgiving event.

It is noted that the event is not worded to “convert” people, but is instead to “spread the gospel.” Another comment is made that there is a difference between an event in which the goal is to speak internally about faith rather than an event that is to “spread” faith, though since it is a closed event and therefore is only reaching those persons who choose to attend, as opposed to an event which actively goes outside of its select attendance to spread gospel or information.

A comment was made that the location of the event, in Charles Commons, is problematic as it is more limited in access and is an undergraduate focused event. We suggest that in the future such events should be within the main Homewood campus to allow for better attendance and access to students.

**There is a motion to fund the amount requested.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The vote is: 14 for. 7 against. 10 abstain. The motion passes.**

1. **E-board Report [30 min] (Eugenia and Elliot)**

Shane presented this section of the E-board report and Elliot took minutes.

* 1. **Constitution Overhaul (sent out)**
     1. **Group Funding Changes**

Some changes to this section are simply corrections to the original constitution which have been in effect through external GRO Group Funding Policies.

Question: How do funding events for other GRO events interplay with the group funding budget.

Question: What is the general distribution for what the GRO funds for a given event? Generally, 80% percent. Generally, events that the GRO is a low contributor (<33%) are large events (>5K) that are co-sponsored by various groups.

Question: How many events do we fund that we fall between 33% and 50% of the group funding request? Answer: unclear.

Questions: What about something like a cultural group? What about groups that want to interact with the Baltimore community and have an event at a bar, restaurant, museum, etc.? Answer: We had a group request to host an event at a private residence. This event was used as the example for why we added this.

Questions: How would this effect events like the hiking trip from last semester? It would have had to been funded (and it was) by an internal GRO budget.

Question: How easy is it to change the by-laws? Answer: We have made changing it easier and more straightforward.

Comment: Limiting where the event must happen could hinder groups. Reserving space on campus is difficult as it is. Comment: The treasurer has to submit form and list the event location, it’s an uncomfortable situation for them to have to list locations off campus as they are not default options through the SLI submission form.

Comment: Two points event off campus – fire insurance is required by Hopkins for an event. This protects smaller groups from unnecessary risk and liability. Also, we can trust a reasonable GC to approve an event that follows SLI guidelines.

Questions: Should we be considering religious or language barrier events? Is there is an issue with adding this to the by-laws? We have assumed that in the spirit of inclusivity that as long as anyone can attend and that it’s open and accessible (language, for example) that it’s not limiting.

Question: What does limited transportation mean? Answer: Renting a hop van or a number of hop vans OR going to a venue that can only accommodate a certain amount of individuals.

* + 1. **Meeting Procedure Changes**

Impeachment – executive board member can be cited by E-board for acute or persistent failure of duties. GC can also start the process through what is basically a vote of no confidence. Built in mechanisms and far more explanation of how the process goes.

Meeting rules of order – explains how we should (a) comport ourselves and (b) how regular meeting should be conducted. Helps provides guidance to future GRO compositions. Quorum is assumed maintained if no call for quorum is made. Meeting agenda materials is basically the same. There’s a somewhat required structure of how the agenda is comprised. Also enhances the descriptions of the ability the agenda items to be added or excluded to the agenda. Enhances speaking order, comments made directly to chairs to keep flow of discussion.

Changes way motions are handled – Currently resolved in the order that they are seconded. This is absurd. Now, any motion on the table is the *only* motion that is discussed (and amendments to the motion). Eliminates ability to make amendments to motions after it has been seconded (substantive amendments). Friendly (grammatical amendments) are okay. We also added the ability to move into executive session.

* 1. **Advocacy Items with no major status updates:**
     1. **Changes in Summer and Intersession Course Selection Policies**

We have sent more communications to Dean Recroft, but there has been little movement.

* + 1. **WGS Fellowships**

No movement at this point.

* + 1. **GRE Status**

We expect this to get a lot of attention of the next year – this issue was discussed with the Provost at a meeting last week. We epect that movement on this will require collaborative effort of many universities, but that is actively being considered through the Graduate Academic Council.

* 1. **Meetings with Administration**
     1. **Provost Meeting on 02/06/20**

We discussed concerns about the OIE and sexual harassment training. We were asked if we wanted more training for graduate students regarding sexual harassment and violence – we stated that unequivocally the GRO had voted in favour of such.

There was a request from the Provost that we pursue a survey about why certain departments have specifically high attrition rates late in their programs.

* + - 1. **Public Safety at Hopkins: A Dialogue Between Students**

The Provost will also be collaborating with us on some issues relating to campus security and the Police department.

* + 1. **Administrative Dinner Scheduled for 04/27**

Sadly, the dinner the GRO E-board will be having with administrators is going to be scheduled at the end of the semester.

* 1. **Homewood Grad Resource Day Planning Committee**

The event is on February 20th, will be similar to the PDCO’s professional development day and the GRO has been actively involved in planning the event. It will be in the Great Hall and across campus. There will be a resource fair at the end of the day. Some E-board members, some BGSA members, some WoW students and some GQSA students will participate in a panel during the event.

We will also be supporting a happy hour concurrent with the resource fair. This is an important event to share with all graduate departments, as it can help to refamiliarize students with the services available to them on campus, as people often forget this information shortly after leaving campus.

The event, sadly, has not yet been promoted highly but we hope that departmental representatives will spread the information.

* 1. **Hopkins Votes (GRO/SGA Collaboration)**

This came out of a vote from last semester when the GC proposed that the GRO work together with the SGA when possible. We will work together on some wellness events as well as on voter registration and census support this year.

* + 1. **HB 245 Representation in Annapolis**

We sent an email asking if anyone was interested in speaking in favour of the house bill 245 in Annapolis. Sadly, neither GRO or SGA had any attendance, but we will continue to work together on things like this going forward.

* + 1. **Hopkins Votes: Absentee Party (Volunteers & Engagement)**
       1. [**https://jhu.campuslabs.com/engage/event/5391585**](https://jhu.campuslabs.com/engage/event/5391585)

Both SGA and GRO are helping to support this event. It will be in the Great Hall on February 14th from 11 AM – 4:30 PM. The event is focused on getting students registered to vote, request absentee ballots.

We ask that all GC representatives spread the word about this event to all students.

* 1. **OIE Collaboration and Document Review**

We are working together with Joy and Linda from OIE to review informational flowcharts from OIE about what happens during the investigation process. We will share updates and the revised graphics when we can.

* 1. **Registrar Feedback Meeting**

The Registrar has requested a meeting with the co-chairs, we believe it is to discuss the changes to registration/course dates and the impacts on graduate students.

* 1. **International Students @ Hopkins Ambassador Program**

We were contacted for this program, sadly all informational sessions had passed. They are looking for ~25 students to fill these ambassador seats to inform the University on how resources can be improved for international students (both Undergraduate and Graduate) on campus. The applications are open for ~ 2 more weeks.

* 1. **Future Graduate Group Approvals**

We will be voting on these in an upcoming meeting.

* + 1. **The Johns Hopkins University Karate Club**

Has been inactive for several years.

* + 1. **Johns Hopkins Iranian Graduate Association (JHIGA)**

Has only been inactive for one year.

1. **Intercampus Coordinator Update [10 min]**

Speed dating has been challenging due to finding a location that is suitably large. It was supposed to occur this week, but will now be in April.

The formal is planned for March 28th, a Saturday, at the Engineers Club in Mount Vernon. The total cost of the event will be $24,700 – a little bit more than last year (~$21,000) due partially to increases in the costs from the venue as well as increases to the quality of the drinks. There will be 500 guests. We have no control over the DJ. We are asking the other schools to volunteer for the front-of-house staff, since they do not contribute financially. The tickets are estimated to be **$15+surcharge** and **$20+surcharge** for non-students. This is to slightly alleviate problems where there were complaints that too many non-students were attending and we were not providing enough for the

**There is motion to approve the event as planned.**

**The motion is seconded.**

**The motion carries.**

The Monte Carlo night was supposed to be this month – the Med School suddenly decided that we cannot participate. Vittorio is considering that we have our own Monte Carlo night at the end of the semester instead of the GRO barbeque. The largest venue is going to be the Glass Pavilion which is not too large, so he is considering having it last four hours with a turnover in the attendance after two hours – IE double the attendance.

**There is a motion to allow Vittorio full rights to do what he likes.**

**There is a motion to approve planning of the Monte Carlo night.**

**The motion is seconded.**

There is a question if people will know what the event is (given some confusion within the GC). Vittorio believes it will be very popular, both on attendance at the Med Schools event as well as personal experience holding a similar event.

There is a question as to whether this event will be open to other campuses and who the med schools

**The motion to have Vittorio plan the Monte Carlo night passes.**

1. **GPSA Coordinator Update [5 min]**
2. **Committee Updates [2 min each]**
   1. **PhD Advisory Committee to Dr. Nancy Kass (PAC) (Daniel/Elliot)**
   2. **Student Security Advisory Committee (Steph/Sebastian)**
   3. **Wellbeing Working Group (Benj)**
3. **Open Discussion & Questions**
4. **Adjournment**

The meeting was moved to adjournment at 7:40 PM without completing the remainder of the agenda (items VII-X).

**The following committees are without an update:**

1. **Provost’s Advisory Team on Healthcare (PATH) (Benj)**
2. **Suicide Prevention Awareness, Response and Coordination (JH-SPARC) (Ashwini)**
3. **Provost's Sexual Violence Advisory Committee (SVAC) (Tim)**
4. **Parental Concerns Working Group (Benj)**
5. **Tobacco Cessation Committee (Benj)**
6. **Student Center Planning Committee (Swetha)**