1. Call to Order and Agenda Review
   1. Shane Arlington (Co-Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:03PM
2. Approval of Minutes from 2-15-2021
   1. Ben Taylor (Political Science)\*in the text chat: Motion to approve
   2. Tatsat Banerjee (Intercampus Chair): Second
   3. **Motion: To approve the GC meeting minutes from 02/15/2021**
      1. Yea: 23 Nay: 0 Abstain: 1
      2. **Motion passes**
3. E-board Report (Shane & Conor)
   1. Updates from the GRO-GSA-BSPHSA-TRU Coalition Meeting and proposed town hall
      1. Conor Bean (Co-Chair): Coalition of representative groups continues to meet every other Friday. Following up on a discussion we had 2 weeks ago with the GC, we will be requesting a student-moderated public forum with members of the Provost’s office that is co-signed by the coalition. We want the GRO and other official groups to solicit questions. The ideal date-range is during the last two weeks of March.
      2. If the meeting is agree-to, we will help to solicit questions and to facilitate the event.
   2. Updates/Clarification on DTF policy for Spring 2022 (KSAS GC rep action requested)
      1. Conor (Co-Chair): Thanked Jo for bringing this to our attention. Dean’s Teaching Fellowships (DTF) policy has changed in KSAS. Big change is that people who were formerly DTF instructors are no longer capped at only having 1 DTF. For this application cycle and for future application cycles. Allowed to apply for a second one provided that the course is substantially different from previously taught. Not well communicated. Clarification today from Renee Eastwood that former DTF fellows can teach again provided the course is different.
      2. Application period extended to March 22nd, unclear how many departments have been notified of the extension of application period and if new policy was accurately described.
      3. Department reps: Please search through your email and let us know if you have anything about the DTF application and if it includes the most recent information about the extension and the broader pool of applicants. Please email Conor if communication is confusing in any way.
      4. Jo Giardini (English)\*in the text chat: Nothing updated since what I forwarded you two weeks ago.
      5. Tom McCoy (Cog Sci)\*in the text chat: I have received the update from the CogSci dept administrator
      6. Grant Kitchen (Mat Sci)\*in the text chat: yes
      7. Ryan Warwick (Classics)\*in the text chat; neither for Classics except that I was CC’d on an email about the DTF despite currently teaching one. I assumed it was a mistake!
      8. Stephanie Cooper (Near Eastern Studies)\*in the text chat: Our department did receive this clarification today via email
      9. Ben Dees (Mathematics)\*in the text chat: Most recent communication seems to be old; listed deadline is 15 March
      10. Cyril Cook (Biophysics) \*in the text chat: Our department was updated on the new deadline
      11. Matthew Morgado (Philosophy) \*in the text chat: I can't find an update for Philosophy, but I might be missing an email.
      12. Conor (Co-Chair): We want to contact grads directly with this info through the department reps
      13. Jo (English): Thank you for checking in on this. My question is: In light of the possibility of people holding multiple DTF’s, are there plans to arrange for new caps (either new maximum of DTF’s) or a year cap (no one past year 7 can teach 1)?
          1. Conor (Co-Chair): So far, no official decision on that. Focus from KSAS at this point is just on this application cycle but it is worth noting that this is planned to be a significant extension of how KSAS deals with funding and time to degree extensions.
          2. Also, suggest everyone attend town hall on Friday with Rene (Eastwood) and Mary (Favret)– updates on longer term planning for funding extensions and time to degree extensions.
      14. Maya Monroe (COVID-19 Concerns Chair): Since there seems to be inequitable distribution of the updates, will 3 weeks be sufficient time to submit their applications? If we can update people in the next few days, would these students be at a disadvantage because of the delay? Would this warrant a further extension?
          1. Conor (Co-Chair): I think this is a fair question. This is a week extension from the last update, so it may just be a recognition that the update did not go as planned. Do others have a comment about whether the application is still too short?
      15. Ryan (Classics) \*in the text chat: I will note that I’m the only person who is not defending this semester in my department who has taught one...so maybe they just didn’t think it was relevant?
      16. Matthew (Philosophy): Motion to discuss whether the GRO should send out an email on this update to all KSAS grad students.
          1. Matthew (Philosophy): I was just wondering, it seems like a lot of departments haven’t gotten this update. Maybe we could just have the GRO send out an email to all graduate students noting this update.
          2. Shane (Co-Chair): Certainly, we can have a motion about whether we discuss something. Friendly amendment that the motion be “to send out the email” not to discuss.
          3. Matthew (Philosophy)\*in the text chat: Yeah that sounds good!
          4. Ben (Pol Sci)\*in the text chat: Second the motion
          5. Matthew (Philosophy): If it’s not too much trouble, I think the GRO should send out the email just in case one of the department reps would forget to do this on their own.
      17. **Motion: to have the GRO send out an email on this update to DTF eligibility to all graduate students**
          1. Yea: 24 Nay: 0 Abstain: 2
          2. **Motion passes**
          3. Conor (Co-Chair): Please disregard my earlier request about you emailing me about whether you have received this email, I will consult with the E-Board and we should send out the email quickly.
      18. Jo (English): Just like to say, I think that’s a great thing that’s going to be happening. But I think it’s a good idea for folks here to email their administrators to issue a clarification as well. Some people may not open emails from the GRO or may filter our emails out.
          1. Conor (Co-Chair): Fair point.
      19. Conor (Co-Chair): This is time-sensitive: please reach out to your departments.
   3. Request for additional feedback for Mattin Center Farewell
      1. Shane (Co-Chair): Laura Stott reached out to inquire if grads had additional feedback for the Mattin Center Farewell. Specifically, we wanted to ask if any GC members knew of individuals/organizations with whom we could speak about graduate student involvement in the Mattin Center
      2. Shane (Co-Chair): Do we have any further input about what grads want to see at the Mattin Center Farewell. Alex Helms, our Social Chair, was appointed to this committee.
      3. Specifically, we wanted to ask if any GC members knew of individuals/organizations with whom we could speak about graduate student involvement in the Mattin Center.
      4. Our email is always open.
      5. Vittorio Loprinzo (E-Sports Coordinator) \*in the text chat: There are a number of grad students on undergrad dance groups who make heavy use of the Mattin Center
      6. Shane (Co-Chair) \*in the text chat: Do you think it would be effective to email those groups to ask them to put us in contact with the grads in the groups?
      7. Alex Helms (Social Chair) \*in the text chat: Thanks Vittorio
      8. Vittorio (E-Sports Coordinator) \*in the text chat: Yes, I'm sure they'd be happy to connect us with their graduate students. I can provide the names of relevant dance groups, I will email the Social Chairs
      9. Yuri Chia (Advocacy Chair) \*in the text chat: the Mattin Center was a great place to destress as there’s an Xbox and gaming stations.
   4. Update on GRO submission of statement in favor of revoking private police powers to the MD General Assembly (HB336)
      1. Conor (Co-Chair): Just an update. Pursuant to a motion at the last GC meeting, the GRO statement on JHPD from this summer was provided for the MD House Judiciary Committee regarding HB336.We will continue to track legislative activity on this issue and keep grads informed if it progresses
   5. Appointment of E-Sports League Assistant Coordinator and Health & Wellness Coordinator
      1. Shane (Co-Chair) We received one valid application for each position, and each was confirmed by the E-Board. Rashi Sultania was confirmed as the Health & Wellness Coordinator. Fangchen Zhu was appointed as the E-Sports League Assitant Coordinator. We also got two applications from students who are not eligible for the positions, one from AAP and one from EP.This has raised another point in a longer discussion and EP and AAP and how they relate or do not relate with the GRO. Essentially, as it currently stands, the GRO does not represent or count within its constituents EP and AAP. But there may be movement of bringing EP into the GRO family. Save discussion of this for later.
   6. Summary of 02/25 event hosting Kondwani Fidel with HW-PDA, JH-PDA and BGSA
      1. Shane (Co-Chair): Last Thursday we held the joint event with HW-PDA, JH-PDA, and BGSA. Event went very well – attended by just over 50 students (about 60 individuals) reviews of the attendees were very positive. Very powerful and moving event. It was recorded and the GRO and the other organizations plan on distributing the recording to their networks. Will also include some additional readings and information that HW-PDA put together with suggestions from Kondwani. Material will be sent out in the next couple of days.
      2. Isaiah Chen (Treasurer): This is more of a logistical thing: we obviously have to put in a funding transfer request to the HW-PDA for helping pay for this, who was in charge of organizing this?
         1. Shane (Co-Chair): Ashley Cureton was the main Post doc in charge. This is being handled by Mark from Christine Kavanagh’s office, I don’t know what we need to do, probably tag it in Hopkins Groups.
         2. Isaiah (Treasurer): I will reach out to Erika or Crystal and see what is appropriate
         3. Shane (Co-Chair): May be a question for Laura instead. I think we just need to create something that has that amount tagged with the name. If you need me to give you the attendee list, please let us know. I actually ran the Zoom room for this.
   7. Note regarding potential inclusion of Engineering for Professionals into scope of GRO
      1. Shane (Co-Chair): EP and Advanced Academic Programs have historically been separate from the traditional graduate programs in WSE and KSAS with regards to funding, administration, etc. Over the past few years, EP has been incorporated more closely into WSE - many of the old differences are being (or have been) erased. We are discussing with WSE leadership whether they feel/believe that EP should be part of the GRO (which may require additional or restructured funding) - still waiting for some of the information requested (org charts etc). May result in a bylaws proposal later this semester
      2. Shane (Co-Chair): Historically, we get emails about every few months from EP and APP (advocacy, tuition, to be involved). But the historical response has been that they are not actually part of the GRO because their organizational structure is outside of the WSE and KSAS schools. Increasingly, in WSE there is a larger and larger overlap and many admins who were in charge of EP have been incorporated into WSE. For example, Christine is now responsible for EP students. With that tighter incorporation, we started discussing what that meant for the future of the GRO and whether that meant that they would be indistinguishable from other WSE grad students. It’s unclear as of yet what the outcome of this will be. Renee has said that AAP is very distinct from KSAS grad programs and they don’t see them merging in the near term, but main KSAS leadership is potentially interested in. EP has been incorporated more closely into WSE and this is something that could happen. We are requesting an official organizational chart so that we can understand the differences in structures of the departments (some departments are the same and faculty are different). It was already in the works that we may be amending our bylaws this semester (within the GRO’s right to not amend the bylaws) if the School sees grad students indistinguishavle
      3. This may change how the GRO is funded. At the very least, this means that Whiting would pay more for the cost of bringing in all of those students.
      4. Eugenia Volkova (Secretary): There are other programs that we should consider (Robotics) if we are going to move forward with this. There are other programs that are degree-granting who do not currently have GRO representation.
      5. Shane (Co-Chair): We want to figure out what this would mean for the GRO, many have different names and administrators than the WSE departments. We don’t want to create additional 25-30 seats in the general council but this would also dramatically shift the balance to not be representative of the Homewood campus
      6. Vittorio (Intercampus Coordinator)\*in the text chat: Do EP and AAP have any existing student government structure? If EP was represented in the GRO, what would happen with those?
         1. Shane (Co-Chair): That is a great question and that is something we have asked but have not gotten a clear answer on. My understanding is that they do not have any existing student gov structures. We are reaching out. Majority are online and part-time. We don’t want to bring them in if they already have their own organizations and would prefer to be represented by their own organizations.
         2. Shane (Co-Chair): I hope that this is something we can incorporate into our bylaws this semester and bylaws need to be provided well in advance. It is very likely that this will not be finalized this semester so this may be something that carries into the fall.
   8. Graduate specific SafeZone training planned for May
      1. Conor (Co-Chair): Vishal is organizing a set of Spring Safezone trainings reserved for graduate students
      2. Demere’s availability was in early May, so the trainings will be scheduled/run in May.
      3. Matthew (Philosophy)\*in the text tchat: What’s Safezone?
         1. Conor (Co-Chair): Safezone is an initiative by the university in training students in having safe spaces and recognizing and moderating situations with violations of trust/communicating with students. One way of getting more involved as a student leader preparing gender, sexuality, race. It is online right now because of COVID.
   9. Visualizations of GRO COVID-19 Survey data are complete, to be posted/shared soon
      1. Conor (Co-Chair): Thanks to Wangui and Maya, visualizations from survey data will soon be available on the GRO site. Wangui and Maya did this. We’re getting ready to put this on the GRO site. There will be more public-facing information available.
      2. Maya (COVID-19 Concerns Chair): This is for the first joint survey for May and we are currently working on the visualizations for the October (teaching) and July (research) surveys. The code Wangui wrote should be applicable to all the analyses.
      3. Wangui Mbuguiro (Communications Chair): I wanted to applaud Maya for working with the SPH and the SOM and Maya went through all the free responses to anonymize those. So we will have both ready.
   10. In discussion for a central or KSAS/WSE email with expanded information regarding vaccinations
       1. Shane (Co-Chair): The GSA at the School of Medicine has already alerted grads that they should look elsewhere than JHU for COVID-19 vaccination. Christine Kavanagh recommends we work with her on developing messaging to alert grads about their options for joining the waiting list for the vaccine. Maya is working on an informational document for grads to help them understand their vaccine classification and how the vaccination queue system is working in Maryland.
       2. Vaccination is on the forefront of many of our minds. Some of you may be aware that the GSA and the dean for graduate academics sent an email to grad students that said that they should look elsewhere besides JHU to get their COVID vaccination. That email included some additional information but it didn’t fully address the reason why we shouldn’t rely on JHU. JHU is getting a very limited number of vaccines that are going to all folks in the entire enterprise. Very limited capacity to provide vaccines even counting that many are eligible. We have been discussing sending something similar. Liability: we don’t want to send information that can be construed as medical or legal advice. We understand that it’s frustrating that the school is moving very slowly and we want to provide as much information to grads as possible about how to seek vaccination elsewhere. Christine has agreed to work with us to provide resources about locations, eligibility in a way that is purely information relay and cannot be construed as providing medical or legal advice. Maya is already working on an informal doc for grads with this information.
       3. Christine wanted to push the Provosts to send this out. It would be good for all the schools to get some central messaging. I believe that it is my desire that this come from WSE and KSAS rather than make it go to the entire university.
       4. Eugenia (Secretary): I would strongly encourage the GRO to send this out independently and not wait for Provosts’ approval. I fear that may take too much time and this is important information for us to get out to grads.
       5. Conor (Co-Chair): Thirding that and I know Maya has a few questions about the document that she is working on for GC reps, maya do you want to ask now?
       6. Maya (COVID-19 Concerns Chair): One of the concerns I have is making it very clear that, basically, concerns have been raised that there could be unethical use of these guides by grad students who would use these guides to jump the line. There are huge issues: White MD residents are twice as likely to get the vaccine and only 4% of doses going to Hispanic residents. Baltimore City vaccinations have only had 38% going to Baltimore City residents and we have lower rates of vaccination of our residents than any of the surrounding counties. I think it would be good to provide this information because figuring out where you can sign up based on whether you are a resident or not, as well as additional eligibility are important but I also think it’s important to provide information about the need to follow the public health guidelines for the rollout. Do people have thoughts of the benefits of this guide vs. the potential use of it in unethical ways?
       7. Shane (Co-Chair): As an additional point of information, with regards to how grad students are currently being put into the JHU vaccine lottery, we received clarification that the central university requested divisions identify everyone doing in-person instruction or mentorship and provide this back to Provost office. They create and oversee this lottery process. The divisional leadership was informed on Thursday and asked to have the information by COB on Monday. The division heads put the onus on faculty in departments. Some of that could be beyond the faculty level (Teaching assistants) it was known at the divisional level that this would not be a complete sweep the first time around. If your department didn’t do a good job responding on a short time frame, there is still hope that they will respond to this and be included. Or if someone has their status change, you can also change whether or not your are eligible.
       8. Stephan Kemper (Administration and Funding Chair): Adults, since we are giving public information it’s not something they couldn’t do anyway.
       9. Yuri (Advocacy Chair)\*in the text chat: we can probably provide a disclaimer or something like that as it essentially is a public service announcement
4. Discussion: GRO Letter to Admin regarding bonuses and funding extensions: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ifTnR-wvXeFb0fq-9GsZ3MJTw0vE9U6a-Nx6zZLuTLo/edit?usp=sharing>
   1. Josh Popp (BME): I heard through the grapevine that the SOM GSA had also reached out about this issue and they had received an individualized response related to this and it boiled down to the claim that grad students had received benefits in different forms from these bonuses. It may be worth reaching out to the administration to the GSA, this could be relevant to this conversation.
      1. Shane (Co-Chair): I don’t recall, Conor or Maya, did this occur at Friday’s meeting?
      2. Conor (Co-Chair): That definitely wasn’t raised at either of the past few meetings. I know that SOM GSA voted to send out TRU’s original petition for including grads in the $500 bonus. That may be what spurred the response. We on the GRO side did not get similar response.
      3. Maya (COVID-19 Concerns Chair): I also had to step our early and they did not refer to that response. I’m wondering if the aid they’re talking about are the emergency funds, it’s about $17/student. I think we have a good leg that this is not the same thing.
   2. Ben (Pol Science): Motion to approve letter
   3. Yuri (Advocacy Chair): Seconded
   4. Conor (Co-Chair): I would hope that there would be a bit more of a time frame for revising if any GC member has comments on the document itself.
   5. Conor (Co-Chair): I would like to make a friendly amendment to Ben’s motion that we make any suggestions to the document for 72 hours and them incorporate them pending E-Board approval. I would prefer that we explicitly proposition this as a way of marking the 1-year anniversary of campus closing and a reminder of demands that have been raised during that time. I just hope that we don’t send it before everyone gets a chance to look at it.
   6. Ben (Pol Sci): Accept the friendly amendment from Conor
   7. Shane (Co-Chair): Motion to approve the letter after a 72 hour review period for review after which comments from the GC are incorporated.
   8. Ben (Pol Sci): Yes
   9. Jo (English): Related to the $500 bonuses and their applicability to grad students, I just realized that I’m not clear about whether grad students who, separately from being grad students, received this bonus. Example: employee at the library, did they receive this?
      1. Shane (Co-Chair): Does anyone know if APL folks received this? I feel comfortable reaching out to this.
      2. Shane (Co-Chair): If other employees of WGS did get paid but you did not because you are a grad student, that would be concerning.
   10. Motion to approve the letter after a 72 hour review period for after which comments from the GC are incorporated.
       1. Yea: 19 Nay: 0Abstain: 6
       2. Motion Passes
5. Open Discussion
   1. Pending electronic solicitation (and eventual vote?) for floating chair positions
      1. Shane (Co-Chair). The E-Board is comprised of 3 different categories:
         1. Permanent (Secretary, Co-Chairs, Treasurers)
         2. Fixed Chairs
         3. Floating Chairs
         4. Scope of the floating chairs can be fully re-defined every year. There are some that have been routinely approved. Ex: Maya COVID-19 Concerns Chair. The route by which we normally decide these is by providing the GC with a list of all the previously-existent positions. Some of the positions will be struck (Health & Wellness Chair) along with a form with everyone from the GC to submit ideas for chairs that would be relevant to have for the coming year Once that is done, we will vote on that full list. That can happen at a GC meeting or electronically. Electronically may be somewhat easier. I want to see whether people want electronically (google form) or in person.
         5. Last year there were very close votes and I am curious that we prefer a ranked choice vote as an alternate means of determining thses as this would be better for closer ties.
      2. Motion: that we hold the votes electronically using ranked choice voting.
         1. Ben (Pol Sci)\*in the text chat: Second the motion
         2. Yea: 22 Nay: 0 Abstain: 2
         3. Motion Passes
      3. Matthew (Philosophy): Are there any downsides to a ranked choice vote?
         1. Shane (Co-Chair): Generally seen a more equitable system and it helps with run-offs. In the past, we have had everyone cast 4 votes and each one is a yea/nay vote. With ranked choice, you would vote between 1 and 12. Right now, no way to tell how strongly people feel about a position. Will help in a run-off. In the old system, we wouldn’t know how strongly people about this feel.
         2. Ben (Pol Sci)\*in the text chat: There are downsides to all voting systems; relative to first-past-the-post, not sure
         3. Ben (Pol Sci): Ranked choice are more vulnerable to strategic voting. If you feel you have a good notion of what will be second, you can strongly down-rank it to try to hurt it.
   2. Shane (Co-Chair): At some point in the coming weeks, we will have a discussion of how we appoint and elect people as coordinators and what can be done to have these positions be more enjoyable and less difficult for people who are serving as them. E-Board will be discussing with Vittorio in our next meeting. Vittorio will be proposing changes to our bylaws and how these positions function in the GRO. Please give us comments/suggestions now and via email.
   3. Wangui (Communications Chair): Briefly I wanted to mention a lot of things regarding the website. We’ve added a newsletter and resources. Some things that come on Hopkins Groups but also new advocacy chair office hours and information about the E-Sports League.
      1. Updates here: <https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/gro/events/>
   4. Josh (BME): So I know that some students in the BME are unable to get onto Hopkins groups, do you know of any updates?
      1. Wangui (Communications Chair): Hopkins Groups has shifted to being Homewood only and I don’t have any updates about what we can do for BME students, I am emailing someone from SLI about it.
      2. Shane (Co-Chair): I wanted to share a brief comment on that. We may have some insight about why that happened. License that was purchased from Hopkins Groups is not large enough to make this happen. They’re trying to find more money to increase the seats for Hopkins Groups. When they were working out how to track compliance with COVID testing and compliance they wanted to make sure that BME was the primary as SOM and this caused some changes in SIS and this kicked BME off of a bunch of different things. Unsubscribed from WSE things and listservs and this would explain numerous issues (unsubscribed from GRO communication list serv as well). For now, the best way to get re-added is for individual students to request being re-added.
6. Adjournment