1. Call to Order and Agenda Review
   1. Shane Arlington (Co-Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:04PM
2. Approval of Minutes from 4-5-21
   1. Stephan Kemper (Admin & Funding Chair) \*in the text chat: **I move to approve last meeting’s minutes**
      1. Tatsat Banerjee (Intercampus Chair) \*in the text chat: Second
      2. Yea: 29 Nay: 0 Abstain:3
      3. **The motion passes.**
3. E-board Report (Shane & Conor)
   1. Shane (Co-Chair): Results of Rachel S. Core Award and GRO Appreciation Awards Vote
      1. Final Tally of the votes
         1. Kathy Loehmer (in memoriam) - 82
         2. Ezgo Ince - 61
         3. Sarah Neshat - 53
         4. Benjamin Peak – 31
      2. Money from the GRO Endowment can be used to fund the appreciation awards.
      3. Isaiah (Treasurer): The amount made available (by SLI) from the endowment is only the amount for the year that we are in. This amount typically does not include the balance in the endowment. Based on the response I received from Laura, typically we are expected to spend out what we are given each year. However, I feel that this budget should be different in theory. I’d like to follow-up with Laura about this. Regardless, with the $1,000 we are given, we can fund the appreciation awards from this fund.
   2. Conor Bean (Co-Chair): Update regarding COVID related travel and dissertation completion fellowships
      1. Around 2/3 of the $5 million announced April 2nd email from President Daniels will go to dissertation completion fellowships, about ½ to travel and research grants
      2. For completion fellowships, one semester of non-resident tuition and health care along with a stiped around $15,000 will be provided
      3. The completion fellowships aim to be the absolute last semester for a grad at Hopkins, with no future support from the department or school forthcoming
      4. First round of dissertation completion fellowship application is May for Fall 2021, second is October for Spring 2022, and this is March for Fall 2022. Travel grant application period TBD
      5. Unclear how these are supposed to be used in tandem with school-wide aid or KSAS aid. It seems Mary’s impression and home that these, with the exception of Fall 2021, the students would have the option of whether they would prefer a teaching or a completion fellowship. Or to stack them in order.
      6. Grusha Prasad (Cognitive Science): Is the idea that once you get a completion fellowship, you cannot apply for a teaching fellowship?
         1. Conor (Co-Chair): Yes, that’s the goal. This would be noted if you would apply for a DTF. They encourage you to do a DTF first if you need two semesters.
         2. Grusha (Cog Sci): If an advisor has personal funds, or it comes up that a semester after you got an additional grant, would you also not be able to fund them? Would that be possible?
         3. Conor (Co-Chair): Not entirely sure, it would almost certainly move the student to paying their own non-resident tuition ($5,000) but I don’t think the school can control external grants like that.
      7. Jo Giardini (English): Coming off of that, I’m just curious, what happens if a student can’t complete, either because they’ve had requests for substantial revisions or some other emergency?
         1. Shane (Co-Chair): We tried to ask that question and didn’t get a clear answer. It seems that there is a nod and a wink that they are saying this to make sure that people aren’t using this as a pass for extension. No clear answer. The other thing I wanted to mention is about the selection committee for these completion grants. Asking me and a few other students from PAC about whether there should be students on that and gauging interest from PAC students about interest of sitting on that committee. I responded that students should be involved and they are hoping to have the first round of applications assessed in the first week-two weeks of May. Hopefully the actual applications open soon.
      8. Jo (English): In light of Shane’s comment, I have two comments and a question:
         1. About timelines: I remain concerned based on the timeline provided to us at this point that the issue of Fall courses being on SIS won’t also rebound every other semester they have provided this for. The small lead time, we would have a similar problem with people’s teaching needs being determined. It’s especially concerning that students without teaching nominations would be prioritized.
         2. Do we have a sense, other than students, who would be involved in this board who would be allocating these fellowships? Different schools and departments?
            1. Shane (Co-Chair): We don’t know. I asked.
         3. It’s hugely important and worth having students in such a role. But I have a concern about it being yet another case about these students being handpicked and not elected to these roles. Not expressing openness of the human body.
         4. Conor (Co-Chair): One promising thing is this is money directly from central for grads. Good to see that this has happened. It doesn’t seem like $5 million will be enough to account for the total sum of damages of the pandemic. The university does have the funds to pay for more than this and to do a wider support of grads across campuses.
            1. Jo (English): On that point, my understanding is that this sort of move was something the GRO was ready to advocate for even before the pandemic. I think this is heartening but should not be interpreted by our body as something that should be settled as a temporary measure or total salve for the past year.
   3. Shane (Co-Chair): Budget submission
      1. Budget submitted to SLI before April 9 the deadline, hoping for approval this summer.
      2. Isaiah (Treasurer): Looking at the timeline specified, it says that the deadline for them reviewing it is July 31st. But Laura mentioned that this might not be relevant to us directly (we might receive our budget much later than this).
   4. End of term social event planning
      1. Ece and Alex have planned an end-of semester giveaway for grads
      2. Will include a book (Ikigai: The Japanese Secret to a Long and Happy Life), a tote bag, and a beach towel.
      3. Alex (Social Chair): We will be doing a summer “send-off”. For the second book club and the running t-shirt and mug, we will be distributing those during the first two weeks of May as they have not yet arrived.
   5. Conor (Co-Chair): Fall return to campus plans
      1. JHU Broadcast from April 9th summarizes current planning for fall term
      2. JHU is looking into making a COVID vaccine a requirement for returning to campus
      3. Return to in-person classes is expected for most courses with fewer than 50 students
      4. Exemptions for involvement in in-person classes (both to students and TA/instructors) are to be accommodated through OIE and Student Disability Services
      5. Continued expectation of face covering and availability of asymptomatic testing through fall (testing requirements for those frequently on campus TBD).
      6. Alex (Co-Chair): I submitted my religious exemption for the flu vaccine but this year, it sounds like they will hold off approving any religious exemptions until the school has more information. So your religious exceptions won’t be approved right away.
      7. Tatsat (Intercampus Chair): I heard that initially it (the COVID-19 vaccine) is mandatory for students but not for faculty members.
         1. Shane (Co-Chair): What I understand from Nancy Kass is that the school can legally require it from students but can’t of faculty and staff until vaccine goes beyond EUA. As soon as vaccine is fully approved, the school will move to require it of faculty and staff. Not sure if it will come to pass, but this is what the school indicated.
      8. Maya Monroe (COVID-19 Concerns Chair): Just an update from the town hall, they will have a reporting mechanism similar to flu vaccination (if you didn’t receive it through the Walgreens program). Make sure you save your vaccination card and any relevant records. Not sure what you will need to submit to prove your vaccination. Make sure you have all of your documentation saved. Currently planning on accepting vaccines approved internationally from international students.
   6. Conor (Co-Chair) Update regarding Dean of Student Life coalition
      1. This afternoon Briana and Conor spoke with faculty ‘diversity champions’ from various departments as part of the DoSL coalition focused on academic integration
      2. There was interest in some of the ideas raised in the document (circulated at the end of last year to GC regarding ‘diversity-tagged’ course requirements)
      3. It is clear that some follow-up will be necessary in smaller groups, especially to focus on how efforts like this would affect grad students.
      4. Briana Whitehead (Advocacy Chair): Probably having these conversations with a smaller number of faculty and just Dean Ruzicka would be better. It seemed like a lot of the faculty didn’t seem to understand why they were. Something we are trying to get everyone to think about. This is a whole JHU problem. Would be good to scale down the conversations to those who can actually help us, since they focused on just undergrads.
      5. Jo (English): Can I ask what qualifications folks had as “diversity champions”? (concerned to hear that the English department thinks they’re taking steps, given that grad students do a substantial amount of teaching and haven’t been looped into things)
         1. Conor (Co-Chair): They are determined on a department-by-department basis. You don’t actually have to have one as a department and it’s not entirely clear to us how the system works.
      6. Conor (Co-Chair): We would like to confirm that there is general support from the GRO GC to be a part of these organizations and efforts and that there is interest in some E-Board members, likely those who are advocacy-focused, to be involved in this.
4. Elections
   1. Elections Procedure Description
      1. Elections Officer: David Howard Ganey
      2. Procedure:
         1. Description for each position will be read
         2. Nominees will be read
         3. Additional nominations from the floor will be accepted
         4. Each nominee will present and be asked questions in turn, in the order listed on the slides.
         5. Nominees for the same position will not hear one another’s question-and-answer session and be placed in the waiting room.
         6. After all nominees have presented, the GC will discuss until a vote is called by a departmental representative.
         7. Blind voting will be conducted electronically.
      3. Only current GC departmental representative are eligible to vote.
      4. A candidate must receive a majority of votes to be elected. Abstaining counts as a vote for “NO CANDIDATE”, so if the GC does not wish to fill a position with one of the current candidates, they may select to keep a position empty by Abstaining.
      5. Shane (Co-Chair) \*in the text chat: The voting link is: http://etc.ch/MApr -- please message me if you need your token
   2. Jo (English): Question regarding plurality, this only applies when there are more abstention votes than votes for a candidate?
      1. David (Elections Officer): To win, a candidate must have the majority of the votes. There is a situation where we would do a run off.
      2. Shane (Co-Chair) \*in the text chat: It goes to a runoff unless >50% of votes are abstentions
   3. Co-Chairs
      1. Position Description
         1. Chair all General Council and Executive Board meetings of the GRO.
         2. Serve as the primary liaisons between the GRO and University administration and all other University and non-University bodies or representatives.
         3. Appoint representatives to those University committees and councils on which the GRO is entitled to a seat. The Chair and Co-Chair must keep abreast of all University committees and councils on which the GRO is entitled to a seat and assure that the seat is filled and that the GRO member filling that seat reports to the Executive Board.
         4. Be responsible for seeing that the duties of all committees are carried out.
         5. Prepare the second item of the agenda for General Council meetings. This shall be titled "The Executive Board Report.“
         6. Be responsible for sending out the agenda of each General Council meeting at least three days prior to the meeting.
         7. Maintain GRO documentation, such as the constitution and varying policy documents.
         8. Prepare the annual budget with the assistance of the Treasure.
         9. Be paid for no more than 500 hours each per academic year.
      2. Nominees
         1. Ona Ambrozaite (Graduate Involvement Chair)
         2. Esther Xu
      3. Nominees that declined the nomination (in meeting):
         1. Benjamin Taylor (Political Science)
         2. Tatsat Banerjee (Intercampus Chair)
         3. Wangui Mbuguiro (Communications Chair)
         4. Maya Monroe (COVID-19 Concerns Chair)
         5. Alexander Helms (Social Chair)
         6. Jo Giardini (English)
         7. Theron Palmer (BME)
         8. Conor Bean (Co-Chair)
      4. Results of the election
         1. **Ona Ambrozaite was elected as one of the co-chairs, the other seat is vacant.**
   4. **Treasurer**
      1. Position Description
         1. Facilitate all financial transactions of the GRO and maintain records of GRO financial accounts.
         2. Submit to the Chair a listing of all Executive Board expenditures to be included in the Executive Board Report.
         3. Facilitate all reimbursements and transfers of GRO funds to all individuals and groups per General Council or Executive Board approval.
         4. Shall assist in the preparation of the annual budget with Chair and Co-Chair.
         5. Be paid for no more than 150 hours per academic year.
      2. Nominees:
         1. Isaiah Chen (Treasurer)
         2. Esther Xu
      3. Nominees that declined the nomination (in meeting):
         1. None
      4. Results of the election
         1. **Isaiah Chen was elected as Treasurer.**
   5. **Secretary**
      1. Position Description:
         1. Be responsible for maintaining the records of GRO affairs, including but not limited to the minutes of all GRO meetings (General Council meetings, Executive Board meetings, and meetings between GRO members and University administrators).
         2. Organize and facilitate the logistics of GRO meetings.
         3. Take attendance at all GRO meetings.
         4. Count the votes at all GRO meetings, except for regular elections.
         5. Distribute announcements and information to members of the GRO.
         6. Maintain and distribute to the General Council lists of all current Program or Department Representatives and Alternates as well as all committee chairs and members.
         7. Be paid for no more than 100 hours per academic
      2. Nominees:
         1. Esther Xu
      3. Nominees that declined the nomination (in meeting):
         1. None
      4. Results of the election
         1. **Esther Xu was elected as Secretary.**
   6. **Administration & Funding Chair**
      1. Position Description:
         1. Be responsible for chairing the funding committee.
         2. Be responsible for keeping track of group funding and correspondence.
         3. Be responsible for coordinating with the chairs, secretary and treasurer in administration of the GRO and e-mails.
         4. -Be paid no more than 70 hours per year.
      2. Nominees:
         1. Tatsat Banerjee (Intercampus Chair)
      3. Nominees that declined the nomination (in meeting):
         1. Stephan Kemper (Admin & Funding Chair)
      4. Results of the election
         1. **Tatsat Banerjee was elected as Admin & Funding Chair.**
   7. **Social Chairs**
      1. Position Description
         1. Be responsible for the encouragement of interdepartmental community through coordination of all aspects of the GRO’s social programming. This includes, but is not restricted to, the Orientation BBQ, Coffee Hours, Happy Hours, bus trips, and wine tastings.
         2. Have a budget within which to work.
         3. Be paid for no more than 250 hours each per academic year.
      2. Nominees:
         1. Ona Ambrozaite (Graduate Involvement Chair) – No longer eligible due to winning prior election for Co-Chair
         2. Thomas Glover
         3. Rashi Sultania (Health & Wellness Coordinator)
      3. Nominees that declined the nomination (in meeting):
         1. Ece Ozdemir
         2. Alexander Helms
      4. Results of the election
         1. **Thomas Glover and Rashi Sultania were elected as the Social Co-Chairs.**
   8. **Advocacy Chairs**
      1. Position Description:
         1. Handle student concerns and work to enrich student life in areas that include, but are not limited to housing, security, financial, family life, environmental, diversity, civic, and community concerns.
         2. Sit on university committees regarding the aforementioned concerns.
         3. Liaise with other graduate student advocacy groups, as required.
         4. Work with the Executive Board Members at Large to direct graduate student advocacy programs.
         5. Meet with the deans along with the chairs at least once per semester to discuss graduate student concerns.
         6. Be paid no more than 100 hours each per year.
      2. Nominees:
         1. Danielle Bautista (Chemistry)
         2. Briana Whitehead (Advocacy Chair)
         3. Yuri Chia (Advocacy Chair)
      3. Nominees that declined the nomination (in meeting):
         1. None
      4. Results of the election
         1. **Briana Whitehead and Danielle Bautista were elected as the Advocacy Co-Chairs.**
   9. **Communications Chair**
      1. Position Description:
         1. Be responsible for the compilation and dissemination of General Council minutes to the graduate student body.
         2. Be responsible for the upkeep of information regarding the GRO through facilitating the maintenance of the GRO website and other online sources of information.
         3. Oversee the JHU Portal website.
         4. Be paid for no more than 50 hours per academic year.
      2. Nominees
         1. Nick Zhang
      3. Nominees that declined the nomination (in meeting):
         1. None
      4. Results of the election
         1. **Nick Zhang was elected as the Communications Chair.**
   10. At this point, there was a move to amend the agenda
       1. Eugenia Volkova (Secretary) \*in the text chat: Move to amend the agenda
       2. Shane (Co-Chair): **Move to amend the agenda and proceed to the Diversity Chair election**
          1. Eugenia (Secretary) \*in the text chat: Same. Second.
          2. Yea: 25 Nay: Abstain: 1
          3. **The motion passes.**
       3. Jo (English) \*in the text chat: Sorry is it our final position for sure? Did the motion include not taking nominations from the floor for other positions?
          1. Shane (Co-Chair): We currently don’t have any nominees for any of the other positions and we have 2 nominees for the Diversity Chair position who are not GC members. Since they have sat through the entire meeting, and it is currently 8:54PM, we would like to vote on that position first so as to resolve the question of that position and those nominees so that they do not need to attend next week’s GC meeting as well. We will return to the other positions, and accept nominations from the floor for the other positions, in the next elections meeting next Monday, April 26th.
   11. **Diversity Chair**
       1. Position Description
          1. Improve diversity (defined as broadly as the candidate would like) among graduate students, within departments/faculty as well as in the General Council.
          2. Apart from developing projects in the realm of the GRO, willingness to serve on various committees across the university is required.
          3. Be paid for no more than 25 hours per academic year.
       2. Nominees
          1. Yanzong (Fischer) Yu
          2. Louise Chen
          3. Vishal Yadav (Health & Wellness Chair)
          4. Yuri Chia (Advocacy Chair)
       3. Nominees that declined the nomination (in meeting):
          1. None
       4. Results of the election
          1. **Vishal Yadav was elected as the Diversity Chair.**
   12. Elections for the following positions were postponed until the next (04/26) meeting due to running out of time and a lack of nominees:
       1. Health & Wellness Chair
       2. COVID-19 Concerns Chair
       3. Intercampus Chair
       4. Graduate Involvement Chair
5. Open Discussion
6. Adjournment