



## Graduate Representative Organization

### GC Meeting Agenda

Date/Time: 18:00 PM ET June 13th, 2022

[Online, Zoom](#)

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#### I. Call to Order and Agenda Review

A. The meeting is called to order at 6:09PM.

#### II. E-Board Reports (Vinay & Michael):

##### A. [Committee participation](#) selected

a. *Michael*: The reps for committee participation have been selected. All the new members will be updated on the website soon.

b. The reps for each committee:

i. **PhD Education Advisory Committee** - Caleb Andrews & Louise Chen

ii. **Provost's Advisory Team on Healthcare (PATH)** - Ales Varabyou

iii. **Parental Concerns Committee** - Nicole Chen & Caroline Maria John

iv. **MSEL Library Renovation Committee** - Heramb &, if they allow a second person, Ke Fan Zhuo

v. **Dean of Student Life Coalition** - Nicole Chen

vi. **Doctor of philosophy Board** - Michael Wilkinson

vii. **Homewood Graduate Board** - Michael Wilkinson & Soumya Prakash Behera

viii. **Homewood Council on Inclusive Excellence (HCIE)** - Caroline Maria John

##### B. OIS Visa meeting update

a. *Michael*: This will be more applicable to the E-Board members. The LEED office is having difficulty with the "hourly" model because of OIS visa issues, and therefore we will be moving to a fixed amount "fellowship" model. In the future, when we are voting on the hours of the position, we're not voting on the hour, but rather the dollar amount associated with the position.

b. *Vittorio*: I'm a little concerned that this will be an easy way for them to pay us below the minimal wage.

- c. *Michael*: Potentially yes, but they can do that with the hourly model anyway. With the hourly model, we are actually below the minimal wage. One thing we talked to the advisors about is that if we move to the fellowship model, we can't do overtime hours anymore. The advisors suggested us to identify exactly how much hours we actually do, and change the by-laws to reflect that. We can see that the amount of hours have increased a lot for most if not all the positions after adjusting to the fellowship model. We will run the proposed hours by the advisors to see what they think.
  - d. *Vittorio*: I'm a bit concerned that in the future, when the minimal wage goes up, we won't have a way to increase the pay.
  - e. *Michael*: The mechanism will be to keep updating the by-laws for any wage changes. However, we do have limited funds, so we'll have to talk to the advisors about how to allocate the funds so that we ensure that the members are paid fairly.
- C. JHU Blue Jay shuttle route to Hampden
- a. *Michael*: The JHU Blue Jay shuttle doesn't go to the deeper parts of Hampden currently. We are working with the transportation office and they mentioned that they will need the specific streets, stops, interactions that people hope the shuttle goes through that it currently does not. Heramb is currently gathering information about the potential stops to be added, so please provide any suggestions to him.
- D. Updates on student email alias'
- a. *Michael*: This is a bit of a fight with the IT office. I guess what happened was that in trying to create a new system that allows name changes, they are basically redoing the entire my JH-system and getting rid of the new my-JH system, which is ongoing and will be a multi-year thing. They are pausing letting people to use email aliasing while they are updating the platform in the background. We hope they can still allow us to do email aliasing while they work on their own thing. I don't know why they are doing this, but we're trying to convince them. Hopefully this will be resolved in the fall semester.
- E. Base pay rates for stipends for PhD students
- a. *Michael*: Both KSAS and WSE recently increased their minimums. However, the minimums are still less than the cost of living (\$38k-40k/yr). Moving forward, we want advices from the GC to make this issue a more publicly facing thing, as in we hope to hold more student gatherings, events, activities for this topic. We think the GRO has a lot of sway, and can help show that this is something that the students care a lot about.
- F. Feedback solicitation for confusion/issues with mental health services
- a. *Michael*: There has been confusions and issues with mental health services (ex. counseling center referring students to services without insurance coverage). If you know people who have issues with mental health services (for sure this will be anonymized), please let us know, so that these instances can be compiled.

G. GRO E-board/GC meeting dates for Fall

- a. *Vinay*: The planned dates for both the E-Board and GC meetings for the fall semester are as follows (worked around holidays; the 5th of September is Labor Day);

i. **GC meetings dates**

1. 6th Sept - Tuesday
2. 19th Sept - Monday
3. 3rd Oct - Monday
4. 17th Oct- Monday
5. 31st Oct- Monday
6. 14th Nov- Monday
7. 28th Nov- Monday (Last GC meeting)

ii. **GRO E-board meeting dates** (All Mondays)

1. 29th Aug
2. 12th Sept
3. 26th Sept
4. 10th Oct
5. 24th Oct
6. 7th Nov
7. 21st Nov
8. 5th Dec

III. Intercampus Chair Update (Louise)

A. Coordinator position and vote

- a. *Louise*: I would like to ask for GC approval on creating the intercampus coordinator position. I have some good ideas for events for the coming fall semester, and therefore, I hope to hire someone to help me out. I am calling for a vote for the creation of this position.
- b. *Vittorio*: How are we proposing to elect this? Is this going to be elected by the GC or E-Board?
- c. *Louise*: We will need the GC's approval to create this position and thereafter, the E-Board will appoint a person to this position.
- d. *Vittorio*: \*IN TEXT\* I motion to create the Intercampus Coordinator position as specified on the slides
- i. *Louise*: \*IN TEXT\* second
  - ii. Yea: 21, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
  - iii. The motion is passed

IV. Social Chair Update (Alakarhika)

A. Orientation Coordinator and vote

- a. *Alakarhika*: They will be in charge of organizing activities during the week of August 22nd-29th. Some examples include college tours, treasure hunts, and other activities. They should coordinate with the chairs if they have other ideas. They should not be paid for more than 30 hours per semester.
- b. Coordinator Hours

- i. *Vittorio*: The hours seem too low... Depending on how much pressure that is put on us by the administration. I believe between 60 to 75 hours?
  - ii. *Michael*: I image this year, the administraion is pushing to make it a bigger thing since it hasn't been as big for the past two years due to covid. Esther, it would be great if you can update the budget to reflect this (updated to 60 hours).
- c. Event Mode
  - i. *Matthew (Philosophy)*: \*IN TEXT\* Will this Fall see more emphasis on inperson events than last Fall?
  - ii. *Alakarthika*: Yes, we will have more in-person events this fall than last fall. But this is indeed contingent on any potential covid restrictions.
- d. Orientation for Spring
  - i. *(Unknown)*: Are we expecting this position to also work during the spring semester? Are we thinking to have orientation also during the spring semester, since some students join in the spring (perhaps due to the pandemic).
  - ii. *Alakarthika*: Usually the GRO has orientation events during the fall semester, as it's the time most students come in.
  - iii. *Vinay*: The majority (85%) of students join during the fall semester. If there is a higher percentage of students joining, we might consider doing that.
  - iv. *Michael*: I can foresee having a smaller spring onboarding event.
- e. Timeline for Nomination
  - i. *(Unknown)*: When are we soliciting nominations for this position?
  - ii. *Alakarthika*: Once this role is approved by the GC, I will send out an email around next week or the end of June. Depending on the number of people that apply, I will have a conversation with them to see what kind of roles they would like to play, and I will make the decision.
- f. *Ali (EPS)*: \*IN TEXT\* Motion to appoint an orientation coordinator role in the fall as specified after updating hours to 75
  - i. *Matthew (Philosophy)*: \*IN TEXT\* second
  - ii. Yea: 22, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
  - iii. The motion is passed

#### V. Making Graduate Involvement Chair a set E-board position

- A. *Michael*: We would like to make the Graduate Involvement Chair a set E-Borad position. I think that it's been very important to have the GC in the E-Board and having that liaison between the GC and the E-Board is extremely important. We should make this a more permanent position.
- B. *Vittorio*: \*IN TEXT\* Does this reduce the number of floating chairs we get to choose each year?

- C. *Michael*: No it does not. We will end up having one more E-Board member.
- D. *Ali (EPS)*: \*IN TEXT\* Motion to make the graduate involvement chair a permanent e-board position
  - a. *Louise*: \*IN TEXT\* seconded
  - b. Yea: 22, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
  - c. The motion is passed

## VI. Diversity Chair (Soumya)

- A. Hours update and vote
  - a. *Michael*: Diversity chair is requesting for an increase of hours per academic term. They are proposing increasing the hours from 12.5 to 30 hours per term.
  - b. *Soumya*: As I mention during the election, I would like to add events happening in small groups all around the campus. This would require a lot of coordination among the groups, which will take a significant amount of time and effort, and that's why I am proposing the increase in hours.
  - c. *Ali (EPS)*: \*IN TEXT\* Motion to increase the compensation for diversity chair to \$420
    - i. *Heramb*: \*IN TEXT\* Second
    - ii. Yea: 21, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
    - iii. The motion is passed

## VII. [Bylaws](#) final review and vote

- A. *Michael*: There is quite a lot of by-law changes proposed. Most that are pertaining to the E-Board have been extensively discussed during the E-Board meeting; most of them have been updated and reviewed by the E-Board. The ones that are more pertinent to the GC, we hope to review those with the GC. Rather than reviewing the changes section by section, let's discuss the ones that anyone has questions with, since it would take a lot of time if we review all changes point by point. I'll highlight a couple of big changes: we clarified some of the voting rules - if you are present in the GC meeting, you have to vote, whether yea, nay, or abstain. If you abstain, you should still vote rather than not voting. Another thing is that, we would like to codify the publicly available voting form for transparency purposes. There is also some changes in punitive actions with regards to the previous co-chiar. We have reviewed this pretty extensively, but just never get the chance to vote on it.
- B. *Vittorio*: Question regarding wording of the voting. We have something that said "abstinence must be made explicit". What happens now if someone just doesn't vote?
- C. *Michael*: If we have a record of people not voting, not paying attention, and not performing their responsibility, we might reach out to them to have a discussion on how to improve/change this. We can proceed the moment the yeas exceed the nays to allow the meeting to proceed. If people are not voting, we will consider that they vote for abstinence and move on.
- D. *Trevor*: \*IN TEXT\* Does it say anywhere in the by laws that each department only

gets one vote? For example robotics has two representatives. We only get one vote correct?

E. *Michael*: Yes, each department should only have one vote.

F. *Caleb*: \*IN TEXT\* I motion to approve these by laws

a. Trevor (Robotics): \*IN TEXT\* Second

b. Yea: 21, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0

c. The motion is passed

VIII. Date selection for next GC summer meeting to do Social Chair vote

A. *Michael*: We want to give new PhD and Masters students the chance to run for the social chair position, and by July 25th, all new students should have access to emails sent out by the GRO. We propose having a GC meeting on July 25th to vote for the social chair. It will probably be virtual as well given a lot of us are in different locations and time zones.

B. *Fernando*: I just want to raise a concern. We representatives of Anthropology are required to conduct field works during the summer. I will be in the rural parts of Colombia, while the other rep will be in Egypt. So I would like to let you know that it would be impossible for us to join this summer meeting.

C. *Michael*: You can always talk to your department to see if there are any students that won't be overseas, who can serve on the department on your behalf.

D. *Ali (EPS)*: \*IN TEXT\* Motion to conduct a meeting for the social chair vote on July 25th

a. Alakarthika: \*IN TEXT\* Second

b. Yea: 17, Nay: 2, Abstain: 0

c. The motion is passed

IX. Discussion on hosting GC meetings in person for Fall 2022

A. *Michael*: We would like to start hosting the GC meetings in person. There are two potential locations we can use, including the Levering Great Hall, and the the Shriver Board Room. We will discuss with LEED to see whether the Shriver Board Room is under their purview.

B. *Matthew*: Is the university really pushing for a lot more in-person stuff in the coming semester?

C. *Michael*: From our discussion with the advisors, the university is generally shifting to having more in-person activities. However, we will always ensure that there is the option to join virtually. We have a projector and can get a mic, so that those joining online can hear clearly. We will also go back to having food during the GC meeting!

X. Open Discussion & Questions

A. Potential committee regarding security concerns

a. *Caleb*: I just hope to bring this onto the agenda of the next GC meeting. What i hope to do in the fall is to bring together a committe of graduate students for JH public safety. I hope to get people's advice on that in the next meeting.

- b. *Michael*: Do you want GC members on the committee or just want to seek their advices?
- c. *Caleb*: It can be either composed of GC members or other PhD students. It would just be a voluntary position (unpaid), as it wouldn't be that labor-intensive.

XI. Adjournment

A. The meeting adjourns at 7:08 pm.

XII. Voting Details

Rep	6/13 GC meeting					
	Approve the creation of the intercampus chair coordinator position	Approve the creation of the social chair orientation coordinator position	Approval of graduate involvement chair as a set e-board position	Approval of payment amount increase for diversity chair	Approval of by-law changes	Approval of second GC meeting in the summer
Anthropology	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Nay
Applied Mathematics & Statistics (AMS)						
History of Art						
Biology			Yea	Yea		
Biomedical Engineering (BME)						
Biophysics	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea
Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering						
Chemistry						
Civil Engineering	Yea		Yea	Yea	Yea	
Classics						
Cognitive Science						
Computer Science	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea
Economics						
Electrical & Computer Engineering (ECE)						
Engineering Management						
English						
Environmental Health and Engineering (formerly DOGEE)						
EPS (Earth and Planetary Sciences)	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Modern Languages and Literatures (Formerly GRLL)						
History						
History of Science and Technology	Yea	Yea	Yea	yes	Yea	Nay
Comp Thought and Literature						
Information Security Inst						
Materials Science & Engineering						
Mathematics						
Mechanical Engineering						
Near Eastern Studies (NES)						
Philosophy	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea
Physics and Astronomy	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea
Political Science						
Psychological and Brain Sciences						
Sociology						
Writing Seminars						
Robotics	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea

Co-Chair (Michael Wilkinson)	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Co-Chair (Vinay Mahajan)	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Secretary (Karen Yang)	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Treasurer (Esther Xu)	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Admin & Funding (KeFan Zhuo)	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea		
Social (Alakarhika)						Yea	
Social (To be elected)							
Advocacy (Nicole Chen)		Yea			Yea	Yea	
Advocacy (Caroline Maria John)	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea		
Communications (Nick Zhang)		Yea				Yea	
Diversity (Soumya Behera)	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Graduate Involvement Chair (Heramb Gupta)	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Intercampus Chair (Louise Chen)	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
E-sports coordinator (Vittorio)	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea			
Health & Wellness (Ales Varabyou)	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Security Concerns Chair (Caleb Andrews)	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
<b>Yea</b>		21	22	22	21	21	17
<b>Nay</b>		0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Abstain</b>		0	0	0	0	0	0