



Graduate Representative Organization

GC Meeting Agenda

Date/Time: 18:00 PM ET Feb 21st, 2023

Virtual: [Zoom](#)

Meeting Agenda:

I. Call to Order and Agenda Review

- a. The meeting is called to order at 6:05 PM.

II. Approval of GC Minutes 02.06.2023

- a. *Unknown*: Motion to approve 1/23 meeting minutes
 - i. *Unknown*: Second
 - ii. Yea: 26, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
 - iii. The motion has been approved

III. EBoard Reports (Ali & Michael):

Note: If there's a change in the GC reps, do let us know so that we can update the mailing list

A. Updates from 2/13/23 EBoard Meeting

- Aiming to have some form of non-coffee hour programming 1/week
 - Creating an 'Event Calendar' for this, still in progress!
 - Grad Involvement Chair: We will be hosting a set of welcome events for new Spring grad students. Events happening on 22nd and 23rd.
 - Advocacy Chair: Pride event in the works
 - Health and Wellness: Setting up knitting event before leaving
 - Security Concerns: CPR Training classes
 - Diversity Chair: International Trivia Event in progress
 - Draft of 'Monthly Meeting Recap' document is in progress. This will be used by GC Reps to give their departments updates and a venue to ask questions/provide feedback
1. Updates from Meeting with GRO Advisors
 - Need to conduct regular meetings with upper-level admin.
 - Setting up regular meetings with upper level admin (Vice Provosts, President Daniels, etc.)
 - Working with Public Safety, Transportation, etc. for better lighting, funding more shuttle routes, etc.
 - Brought up safety issues around Stieff-Silver building

- Set up Feb 20th @ 6pm meeting with Dean Ed for WSE GC and EBoard members
2. Updates on meeting with Student Health and Wellness
- ADA Issues: Previously focused on building exteriors and classroom issues, slowly moving to building interiors and lab issues
 - Creating pipeline for reporting ADA issues: Can always direct report to: oiedisability@jhu.edu
 - **Request for GC: Survey your departments for ADA issues within the buildings that they work in. Bring back all the compiled feedback to the GRO. We will send all the feedback to Cathie and others**
 - Leadership will be sending us a synopsis of the various programs they are working on/have put in place to forward to students
 - Need to better publish mental health resources to students, GRO can help in this as well
- B. Monthly Transportation Office Meeting Scheduled 2/22/23**
- Transportation Office meeting discussion points include some issues discussed in meeting with Dean Ed (WSE): issues with JHMI shuttle and its irregularity and long waiting periods, keeping track of Hampden shuttle.
 - If there are any other issues you would like us to bring up, please do let us know.
 - *Mihir*: Sometimes on the app it shows that the shuttle is arriving in 10 or 20 minutes but it doesn't arrive.
 - *Ali*: There have been issues with the app and this was brought up. One thing that they mentioned was if people could give them specific examples with screenshots when the app is malfunctioning, it would help us build a case around it and address it.
 - *Tram*: The schedule is bogus and I need to leave 45 minutes early to just catch a shuttle since it isn't that regular. I feel like I need to buy a car now, it's that bad.
 - *Ali*: We'll make sure to bring it up tomorrow and be persistent about it.
 - *Tram*: The issue is not about waiting but about safety since the stops aren't really located in secure places.
 - Michael: If the app could be accurate about when the shuttle is arriving then one could wait in a safe place and come to the stop only when it's arriving and not wait there.
- C. Meeting with Rec Center updates 2/8/23**
- Discussed safety issues and reducing equipment congestion.
 - The Health and Wellness chair will have more regular meetings with the Rec center
 - The Rec center wants to collaborate and conduct more events
 - We will continue to follow up with them regarding progress towards these goals and things we could do to help.
 - If there are any specific concerns, do let us know
- D. Reminder about Health and Wellness Chair Election**
- Health & Wellness Chair Elections: planned for Feb 27th to avoid waiting for two more weeks in having the position filled. First 20 minutes of the E-Board meeting on Feb 27th will be set aside for elections and reps are expected to attend and vote.
 - It'll be conducted through Zoom as well-hybrid mode.

IV. Update on current Conference and Travel Funding Budget (Mihir)

- Highlighted remaining funding available for graduate level groups and GC to note and keep that in mind while approving future requests
- \$4000 allotted for travel grants- two conference grants are there -one in April and the other in

June

- Roughly \$3500 left for group funding requests
- It's okay to do partial funding at times.
- The methodology for how to go about group funding is being discussed and currently it's first come and first serve. If we would like to do it 4 times a year or the way we do it for conference grants then it's not an issue and we could discuss it.
- *Connor Sedlacek (Classics)* : *IN TEXT* I think first come first serve works well because of the tighter time frame you mention Michael

V. GRO Student Suggestion and Idea (GSSI) Form (Heramb)

- Every GRO email now has this form at the end for students to provide anonymous feedback.
- E-board and GC members can also use this form to provide anonymous feedback.

VI. Follow-up from Dean Ed Meeting 2/21/23

- PhD student discussion:
 - Having a threshold for when your exam should be given and when your thesis committee should be formed across WSE.
 - To discuss fellowships and stipend related issues, the Dean cannot direct all WSE departments but can only recommend policies, up to the department admin to implement.
 - Setting up a framework for reporting PhD advisors, as many PhD students supposedly have left the program due to a strained relationship and disagreement with their respective advisors.
- Masters' student discussion: To have them involve more in university related activities due to the fast-paced nature of the program compared to PhD and make them feel at home.
- Dean Ed was candid about what he can and cannot do, stating that he cannot go from department to department telling them what to do.
- The attendees discussed safety concerns and the need for more patrols around certain buildings, but also acknowledged that Baltimore City issues need to be addressed by talking to the relevant parties.
- It was noted that certain conflicts and actions taken within the program may go unreported due to legal restrictions on transparency.
- Attendees were encouraged to continue reporting to their divisional Dean, as well as Rene and Christine.
- The Dean expressed his willingness to have more meetings and follow up with the GC and Co-chairs to address the issues discussed during the meeting.

VII. TRU Union Bargaining committee selection : Nominations begin

- To begin this week, nominations can be filed by all PhD students.
- GC to discuss the clear jurisdiction of TRU and GRO with respect to grievances of PhD students. Most likely pay-related issues will be under TRU, whereas mental health, safety etc. will still come under GRO.
- If GRO members were to apply for TRU-UE bargaining committee nomination then they need to withdraw from GRO due to conflict of interest.
- Now that union is in place we gotta be careful about what kind of issues we bring up to the admin folks
- Specific PHD workplace issues will be part of the TRU-UE union considerations

- Master student concerns and other concerns will still be addressed by GRO

VIII. Open Discussion & Questions

- Actively working on packaging the responses for the extra questions that couldn't be answered by Dean Ed due to time restrictions.
- *Connor Sedlacek (Classics)* : *IN TEXT* Which issues in particular would you say fall under the purview of TRU vs. the GRO? Pay-related issues?
- *Michael*:Phd workplace related issues fall under TRU. Pay definitely under TRU-UE and PhD health benefits. However, safety and mental health and general concerns will be under the purview of GRO especially when it's a university-wide issue.
- *Ariel Lubonja (Computer Science)* : *IN TEXT* Do you guys know how TRU will train the people representing the union in negotiations with the admin?
- *Ali*: The whole idea behind this is that there's going to be an election for the bargaining committee and by the second week of March the members would be selected and for the next half of the month, the UE staff would train them on how to negotiate with the admin and it should be starting as soon as April.
- *Michael*: There are two layers to it- the bargaining committee (25 people) who go through the month-long training and contract action team which would be the larger group of people that's supportive and the BC would take input from this group and get feedback as well. If you want to be a part of the larger group then there's no conflict with respect to the GRO.

IX. Adjournment

- a. *Unknown*: Motion to adjourn the meeting
 - i *Unknown*: Second
 - ii. Yea: 26, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
 - iii. The motion passesThe meeting adjourns at 7:05 pm

X. Voting Details

