Graduate Representative Organization
GC Meeting Agenda
Date/Time: 18:00 PM ET April 3rd, 2023
Hybrid: Mergenthaller 111/ Zoom

Meeting Agenda:

I. Call to Order and Agenda Review
The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm.

II. Approval of 📄 **Copy of GC Minutes 03.06.2023**
a. Unknown: Motion to approve 03/06 meeting minutes
  i *Unknown*: Second
  ii. Yea: 36, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
  iii. The motion has been approved

III. EBoard Reports (Ali & Michael):
  A. Final two meetings!!
    1. GRO EBoard Election 04/17/2023
    ● All the Eboard positions are up for elections
    ● The elections will take place during the next meeting i.e. 17/4/23 in a hybrid manner.
    ● GC members are encouraged to nominate and contest for the elections
    ● The form will be open till Sunday midnight and on the floor nominations are also permitted on the day of elections.
    ● It might go on for 2 hours.

      ● Co-Chairs
      ● Treasurer
      ● Secretary
      ● Social Chairs
      ● Intercampus Chair
      ● Administration and Funding Chair
      ● Communications Chair
      ● Advocacy Chair

- Health and Wellness Chair
- Floating Chairs

B. Recap of GRO 2022-2023
- **Community facing items:**
  - Start of the new Hampden Shuttle Route
  - JHPD Student Survey and Statement
  - Freedom of Speech Guidance Email
  - Support of TRU Unionization Campaign
  - Group Funding and Conference Grants
  - GSSI Form- got a lot of responses
- **Interfacing with Admin:**
  - Meeting with President Daniels, Dean Ed (WSE) and Dean Celenza (WSE)
  - Presentation from Demere Woolay from Office of Diversity and Inclusion
  - Meeting with Student Health and Wellness
  - Meetings with Rec center admin for gym safety and space
  - Meetings with Transportation Office on problems with JHMI and Transloc
  - Working with ISAH to get the international student guide translated into different languages

  - *Ali*: The Transloc app will be redesigned completely during the summer and it is expected to function more smoothly during the Fall term.
- **Events:**
  - Summer: Orientation Events and GRO Summer Sports
  - Social: Weekly Coffee Hours, Picnic, LoTQ (Lighting of the Quad), Trivia Night, Wine and Cheese, Happy Hours, GPSA, etc.
  - Intercampus: Bar Crawl, Speed Dating, Intercampus Gala, Spring Formal
  - Advocacy: LGBTQ+ Inclusion/Speaker Event, Pride painting event
  - Diversity: International Trivia
  - Security Concerns: CPR Certification and Training Class
  - Health and Wellness: Mental Health Awareness, Knitting Event

  - *Michael*:Events again kind of bring the community together through that a little bit. So we feel a little bit more on that. But you know we always try to focus on not just event based stuff and I think that's a direction that both Ali and I agree on. We'd like to see the GRO go in future, and I know there's been a lot of feedback from reps as well. That's the direction they like to see the GRO go in future.

C. Updates from Meeting with GRO Advisors

- Setting up Tax prep session for international students- we had around 60 attendees which is great
- 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- still working with it and it's a slow process
- General EBoard/budget logistical issues

- *Ali*: I think, moving forward as well as there's a lot of student feedback that we get, which aligns a lot with the new TRU UE priority as well. But at the same time there's a lot of things that the GRO can do on its own as well. So something like the tax prep session right? It's not something that takes a huge amount of time to set up, but even then it's something that the students really need at some point. So, if there's any, you know, similar kind of need that needs to be met for any student group. Do let us know, because I think this is something that the GRO can already do, and moving forward, I mean, we'd be, you know, collaborating a lot with TRU UE as well.

IV. GRO Department-level Orientations
- *Heramb*: One more thing I'm hoping to work towards this is something which we have already discussed in the beginning of this semester, that when new students come in the fall with department orientations like the library introduces themselves even the GRO should get at least a minute or 2 in every department orientation, so that students get to know about the GRO in the beginning from an official standpoint.
- *Michael*: Do you just want us to present, give you materials to present, you know, when we'd be doing that. Of course, you know, we're happy to come during any sort of seminars. Anything like that. We think it's important that you know, incoming folks know who the GRO is.Know who you guys are. As their reps there's no need to do things like that. I don't think it's a good idea to strictly mandate it.
- *Michael*:This is the way we do it across the board, because every department has a very different modality of how they interface with all students during orientation, and I think it's better left determined to the department representatives themselves.But I also welcome feedback from folks on thoughts on that, and kind of ways that we can help make that process smoother.
I can give one example if you guys are ever discontinuing next year then in that situation we can try and prepare one document like one presentation covering all the points, and then you can make a decision if you want to use that again. We're also happy to come and do the presentation on behalf of the Department.

V. Making Intercampus and Graduate Involvement Chair fixed positions
- *Gabriel*: So what happens? So what substantially changes for the chairs if we make them fixed positions?

- *Michael*:They wouldn't have to be voted on every year and instead just be kind of a fixed position, because right now they have to be voted on every single year.
- *Unknown*: How many people contest for Intercampus Chair position?
- *Michael*:Last time was also like 3 to 4 folks applied to that so pretty consistent. It's not like we're usually struggling to find folks for those positions, for sure.
- *Louise*:I just wanna add that I feel like both chair positions are pretty important. For inter-campus events, It really brings people from different campuses together, and, you know, like, have social events for students, you know, especially schools who cannot even afford to have inter-campus events so I think it's a really important position to bring everyone together. And for our homewood students get to know students from other campuses and plan the spring formal. It's like a really massive amount of work. So we definitely need someone to be in charge for next year's Spring Formal.For graduate involvement chair. It's like a bridge between the GC Members as well as the E-board members and our students, as well.

    a. *Unknown*: Motion to make them fixed positions
      i *Unknown*: Second
      ii. Yea: 32, Nay: 1, Abstain: 0
      iii. The motion has been approved

VI.   Vote to increase Graduate Involvement Chair fellowship for Spring 2023 term
- Original Stipend 490$
- Requesting additional 500$
- Total 990$

Contributions this semester:
- GC Meeting Setup
- GC Focus Group Meetings
- New Chair Onboarding - Helping chairs with creating events and navigating through HG
- GSSI Form
- Assisting with social events
- Meeting with admin: Transportation Office, Health and Wellness
- Department Orientations for Next Year

- *Unknown*: Is this a permanent thing?
- *Heramb*: No, it'll be applicable only for this semester and according to the bylaws it is 490 dollars per semester so that'll continue next semester.
- *Unknown*: Is there enough money for it?
- *Heramb*: I talked to the Treasurer and we have money left in the office budget so we could move it from there.

  a. *Unknown*: To increase the stipend for Graduate Involvement Chair
    i *Unknown*: Second
    ii. Yea: 24, Nay: 0, Abstain: 8
    iii. The motion has been approved

VII.   Vote to increase Treasurer Fellowship for 2023-2024 year

- *Esther*: Again, this wouldn't be for this fiscal year but for the next fiscal year. Part of it was also, when we were submitting our budget proposal. We kind of factored this into our budget proposal in case this passed. So basically , as opposed to the Treasurer work, I have to spend a lot of time back and forth trying to communicate between teams. This becomes particularly difficult, especially for this academic year, because finance groups are delaying a lot of the payments and things.So it's just generally being a little bit difficult to kind of keep things on track.
- *Michael*: Yeah and as someone who is the former treasurer, I can definitely attest to the fact that one of the hardest parts of this role is just getting the admin to pay us our own money, basically, we have a pot of money, and we have to give it to our events. And like just the process of actually hunting them down to approve our stuff, like getting all the receipts and making sure that, like it's all squared away, is an enormous amount of effort.
- *Gabriel*: What is the kind of system of accountability for folks in these various roles?
- *Michael*: Part of the reason why is because what it used to be is people just submit the hours they worked but we went away from this hourly model mainly because of international student issues and the idea of like, you can't work in a job and also work for the organization so we went to this fellowship model. It's been a little bit rocky in terms of how best to assure accountability, because it's now a little bit more arbitrary of you have this expected workload, and you're getting this kind of lump sum amount the way we've been trying to do it. But like I'm also happy to work with folks, kind of creating a more rigid system is just having a lot of followup meetings with people, roping in the advisors. Part of also the way we're tracking accountability is like productivity to a degree. Right? So are you actually like doing events throughout the year, you know, are you basically performing the duties of your job at the moment? It is kind of up to the discretion of the co-chairs, just because that's kind of how it was written in but I'm always happy from better systems of accountability, with more wanting to be created. It's just that we kind of have this weird transition away from the hours. And even with the hours, the system of accountability wasn't great, because you could just, you know, say you worked X number of hours.

  a. *Unknown*: To increase the stipend for Treasurer
    i *Unknown*: Second
    ii. Yea: 28, Nay: 0, Abstain: 2
    iii. The motion has been approved

VIII. **Deciding on [new floating chairs](#) (rank your top 2)**
- Secret ballot voting was done in person and the ones online sent their votes to the Secretary on personal chat.
- *Michael*:We can have a little bit of a discussion, and then we'll move on to voting. But we want to give you all the chance to read through this, and you know if there are any other chairs not listed here that you would like to see.
Please let us know, and we can add those as well.
- *Michael*:So Gabriel said that he believes that we should vote for the security

concerns chair and the Diversity chair. Security concerns mainly because you know, it was very clear it was one of the more polarizing topics, and you know the GRO made a commitment in our statement to safety, and other, you know, non, JHPD alternatives to safety and then you know though he doesn't know necessarily the specifics of you know what is lacking with diversity that obviously diversity is very important on campus, and that clearly based on just student report of like admin and administration, faculty that it's a direction that is lacking at the upper levels that they need to be held more accountable.And then he gave feedback that you know a lot of the other chairs might be kind of situationally specific.

- *Michael*: Another chair Heramb thinks is important is professional development mainly because you know, all of us are here to get professional degrees, and that is something that's somewhat professional development, somewhat lacking at the university. And even though there are offices, we could be collaborating with them more and setting up more stuff with them and whatnot. But again also open to what other people think.
- **The 2 positions that got elected for the floating chairs are the Professional development chair, and the Security concerns chair.**

IX. [GRO Student Suggestion and Idea (GSSI) Form](#) (Heramb)
- The form has been going great and we haven't been able to indicate that the anonymous requests have been answered as well since there's no point of contact but we've been getting great responses so keep advertising!

X. Open Discussion & Questions
- The monthly summary will be sent out soon and it has been completed.

XI. Adjournment
a. *Unknown*: To adjourn the meeting
i *Unknown*: Second
ii. Yea: 29, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
iii. The meeting adjourns at 7:20 pm.

XII. Voting Details

Voting Motion ID	52	53	54	55	56	57
Motion	To approve the 3/6 meeting minutes	Making Intercampus and Graduate Involvement Chair as fixed positions	To increase the stipend for Graduate Involvement Chair	To increase the stipend for Treasurer Fellowship for 2023-2024	Adjournment at 7:30 pm	
Anthropology	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Applied Mathematics & Statistics (AMS)	Yea	Nay	Yea	Yea	Yea	
History of Art	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Biology	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Biomedical Engineering (BME)	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Biophysics	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Chemistry	Yea	Yea	Abstain	Yea	Yea	
Civil Engineering						
Classics						
Cognitive Science	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Computer Science	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Economics	Yea	Yea	Yea	Abstain	Yea	
Electrical & Computer Engineering (ECE)	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Engineering Management						
English	Yea	Yea	Abstain	Yea	Yea	
Environmental Health and Engineering (formerly DOGEE)	Yea	Yea	Yea	Abstain	Yea	

Modern Languages and Literatures (Formerly GRLL)						
History						
History of Science and Technology						
Comp Thought and Literature	Yea	Yea	Abstain	Yea	Yea	
Information Security Inst						
Materials Science & Engineering	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Mathematics						
Mechanical Engineering	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Near Eastern Studies (NES)	Yea	Yea	Abstain	Yea	Yea	
Philosophy	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Physics and Astronomy	Yea	Yea	Abstain	Yea	Yea	
Political Science	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Psychological and Brain Sciences	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Sociology	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Writing Seminars						
Robotics	Yea	Yea	Abstain	Yea	Yea	
Co-Chair 1	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea		
Co-Chair 2						
Secretary	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Treasurer	Yea	Yea	Abstain		Yea	
Admin & Funding	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea		
Social 1						
Social 2	Yea	Yea	Abstain	Yea	Yea	
Advocacy 1						
Advocacy 2						
Communications						
Diversity	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Graduate Involvement Chair	Yea	Yea				
Intercampus Chair		Yea	Yea			
E-sports coordinator						
Health & Wellness	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	
Security Concerns Chair						
Yea	32	32	24	28	29	0
Nay	0	1	0	0	0	0
Abstain	0	0	8	2	0	0