**Graduate Representative Organization**
**GC Meeting Minutes**
**Date/Time: 18:00 PM ET October 7th, 2024**
**Hodson 110, Zoom**

**Meeting Agenda:**

I. Call to Order and Agenda Review

- Meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm

II. Approval of September 9th Meeting Minutes: 🔲 GC Minutes 09.23.24

- Motion to approve minutes (ID 136)
- Motion passes

III. Caroline: Quick reminder to importance of voting using the voting form and specific motion ID towards attendance for conference grant lottery

IV. Change suggestions to conference grant eligibility and metrics

- Caroline: Reiterated the approach to reform the eligibility and metrics to awarding conference from the last GC meeting discussion majorly around

  1. Graduate disclosing if they are legible or have applied to any other grant/award including federal awards such as NIH, NF, etc or from their PI's

  2. Weighting by degree progress and expected time of program completion to bridge the inequality that may occur between the Masters and PhD students who have different length and time of program completion.

- Caroline: Presented the proposed policy statement revision for an open discussion before final voting

- Arman: If anyone have questions about the conference grant structure or wants to understand how the calculations are made should put in the chat.
- Michael: Suggested that in order to avoid undue stress on the graduate student applying for this grant, the below should be considered
    1. Student source of funding should be a dichotomous answer of either they are eligible or awarded any other funds rather than having to select specific one's provided as they may not be aware of all their sources of funds
- Caroline (response): The goal of listing the various sources of funding is to give students free information about the different funding sources available to them which they may not know about. Giving possible chances of pursuing other type of grants they may be eligible for. Further, an FAQ document is being created by the GRo board on this to guide graduate students regarding funding sources.
- Armna (response): Thinks the worst case scenario of not being eligible for any other funding should be zero. Re-emphazing Michaels point.
- Michael: Reinstated that he is trying to avoid unnecessary questions from thousands of students who may be confused with regards to funding sources.
- Caroline: What should the proposed solution be? Yes or no form a specific list of sources?
- Michael (response): Agreed that having just a yes or no to being "eligible" to any sources of fund should be the question and the part asking if they "have applied" or "awarded" should be cut out for easy understanding.
- Chris: Concern about tickets awarded to PhD student based on individual and how many times they have applied to avoid inequality to those just applying.
- Arman: if you have 10 tickets in the first semester and the same person in your 6th semester you will have a 2-times multiplier. This might lead to inequity and can be discussed.
- Diego: Is there a clause or phrase that enforces some language in the policy especially with multipliers for tickets and so on.

- Arman (response): One of the most important thing is knowing the department or labs with no source of funding at all to cover their conference and related activities.
- Caroline (response): We don't enforce any rule but believe student are transparent enough to say what exactly their condition is in order to be fair to all.
- Leone: On the proposed revision, is there a rule or condition as to how tickets are divided up if you are presented a poster and giving a talk based on her experience last year and questions from colleagues.
- Caroline (response): Explained that most conferences allow for one presentation or postal under the same author so it may not matter.
- Michael (response): It exists before but not anymore.
- Arman: Was there a reason for taking away (to michael).
- Michael: Emphasized on Carolines point of difference, conferences have different rules and students have more opportunities than others based on the amount of product they put out. Therefore, it is equitable by normalizing to one presentation or poster at most. Again, the essence of the GRo grant is to get them to experience the conference; the activity they do there is not a major concern especially for students who haven't been to one.
- Arman to Leone: Is the multiple conference activity particular to your department?
- Leone: This is related to EPS department where one person can have multiple outputs for a conference.
V. Caroline: Dsicussion - Finalize on revisions
  - The first revision of having student to tick if eligible or not OR awarded or not for a specified list of sources to keep it simple, providing them with information they might not know before on other funding sources.
    1. Arman: Gave a minute or two for the GC to deliberate on the first revision and if they have concerns.
  - The second revisions on the wording for the policy
    1. Question on if grant covers conference within US or it include international conferences

2. Michaal: It applies to all so they spending is within the $500 awarded
3. Arman: You get money as far as you provide receipt
4. Samie: To present skewness based on the tickets awarded based on eligibility (reducing +1 to +6 gap )
5. Michael: +3 might be more efficient for if a students is not eligible for nay other type of funding. Ayo, Samie, caroline supports

VI. Vote to accept conference grant policy revisions as is and communicate new policy with graduate student mailing list.
   ○ Voting ID: 137
   ○ Motion passes

VII. Arman: Remind GC about the Master conference grant presented by Megna Barrett at last GC only goes towards conference or any professional development registration thereby making it different from the GRO conference grant

VIII. E-board Updates:
   ○ KSAS Vice-Dean meeting:  Vice-Dean Chen was receptive to GRO ideas of having a communication sheet to foster the communication between the GRO and KSAS admin. Also, Dean Chen supports optional course evaluation for KSAS. Although emphasized it might take a while due to series of approval by committees.
      1. Caroline: Emphasized the positivity of the meeting and that everyone in the GC could join to contribute during this meetings with Deans.
      2. Shubham: Advisor-Advisee focus group on hold due to ongoing discussion with TRU.
      3. Arman: Explain the advisor-advisee survey and why GRO is doing it to capture their relationships
      4. Discussed why GRO is not involved in selecting representatives for the doctoral philosophy board (DPB) - University wide community that deliberate on student concerns through soliciting graduate student insight (Receiving departments through exit surveys and others). There has been no insight for GRO to monitor this which they were receptive of.

5. Arman: We agreed they let GRO know when selecting and not necessarily to choose for them due to their reception attitude.
6. Michael: Explained the importance of this committee as some abnormalities have been revealed in the past where 20 - 25% of students are being abused by their advisor. However, there is no insight into the specific type of abuse.
7. Sammie What does abuse mean here in response to Michael
8. Arman & Caroline: The survey does not capture the exact abuse and frequency
9. Satvik: Does it give examples of abuse for them to select ot it generic
10. Michael: Responded its mostly generic question on abuse

○ WSE meeting: Wasn't as receptive as the KSAS. Communications sheet were formed just like for KSAS to strengthen and foster more engagement with WSE admin. Some of the issues deliberate include
1. Only two persons in LDL managing professional development for all departments in WSE where there is one is attached to all departments except AMS (Due to funding for Imagine center) which is insufficient and asking for them to increase this funding during the meeting proved abortive.
2. Space Issues: Dean revealed that with the graduate population doubling in next 10 years almost and if not the population of MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), they are establishing a campus in the Mt. Washington area to accommodate the space needed. And some spaces in Homewood would be closed to make student use this new facilities
    a) Caroline: This was revealed after a presentation on the difficulty graduate students are facing getting study space. The space in Mt.Washington will have difference resources to support especially Masters student who don't have Lab or specific workspace on campus
    b) Shubham: WSE space issues survey response double that of KSAS in the last collection process.

- WSE Advocacy Team Formation
    1. Caroline: WSE advocacy team to support the upcoming change and impact on graduate students.
        a) Current members are Shubham, Caroline, Ayo and Donovan with encouragement for other WSE reps to participate
        b) First meeting is on October 10th at 6pm and plan to occur every other week. This is to strengthen the communication with admin just as it is done for KSAS.
        c) Also, reps are welcomed to join the existing KSAS advocacy team
        d) A little funding has being allocated for mini-coffee advocacy hour by the GRO co-chairs and advocacy chair to support the Teams.
- Upcoming meetings: Arman and Caroline
    1. Vice-Dean Chen (KSAS) - Oct. 23rd, 12 - 1 pm
    2. Dean Celenza and Vice-Dean Chen (KSAS) - Nov. 19th, 12 - 1 pm
    3. All Reps are encouraged to submit topis or concerns to discuss at this meetings through an open concern sheet.
- Intercampus Graduate Programming (Sponsored by President's office): Deigo
    1. Explained the Fall and Spring events below are different from the GRO intercampus planned events by the intercampus graduate advisory committee created by the school that solicits GRO input on events to organize school wide.
        a) Fall: Graduate Intercampus event
            (1) Graduate intercampus Tailgate at Women's Soccer Game. Possibly happening in October but not sure!
            (2) Lighting of the Quad's giveaway for graduate students (apart from GRO)
        b) Fall: Graduate School Group Socials
            (1) Movie night at warehouse cinema for KSAS, WSE, Peabody, and Education
            (2) Social at Eager Park for SOM, SON, and SOPH
            (3) DC Bloomberg Social for SAIS and Carey Business School

   c) Spring 2025: Intercampus Events

     (1) Cherry Blossom Tour in March using MARC train transportation

     (2) Spring Graduate Engagement in late April

  2. Arman: There is still room for input on the activities as suggested by admin and GC member should reach out to Diego for ideas

  3. Caroline: Ask Reps if they would like to have more intercampus event and get to meet and mix with student from other schools across hopkins

   a) Some Reps agree it would be nice to have to collaborate and make friends from school with overlapping research ideas or field. Example is the BioTech and School of Medicine

   b) Reference to the last powerplant event as a good model for an event involving other schools with meaningful engagement.

   c) Diego: Will give back update sometime in october

  4. Satvik: Request for volunteers for coffee hours

  5. Ayo: Reps should volunteer more in events apart from the e-boards

  6. Satvik: Beer and Pizza coming up for GC happy hour

IX. Open Discussion

X. Adjournment

  ○ Motion ID: 138

  ○ Motion passes

| Voting Motion ID | 136 | 137 | 138 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Motion** | Motion for minutes approval of 09/23/24 | Vote to accept conference grant policy revisions as is and communicate the new policy with graduate student mailing list | Motion to adjorn |
| Anthropology | | | |
| Applied Mathematics & Statistics (AMS) | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| History of Art | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| Biology | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| Biomedical Engineering (BME) | | | |
| Biophysics | Abstain | Abstain | Yea |
| Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| Chemistry | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| Civil Engineering | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| Classics | | | |
| Cognitive Science | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| Computer Science | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| Economics | Yea | Abstain | Yea |
| Electrical & Computer Engineering (ECE) | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| Engineering Management | | | |
| English | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| Environmental Health and Engineering (formerly DOGEE) | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| EPS (Earth and Planetary Sciences) | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| Modern Languages and Literatures (Formerly GRLL) | Yea | Yea | |
| History | Yea | Abstain | Yea |
| History of Science and Technology | | | |
| Comp Thought and Literature | | | |
| Information Security Inst | | | |
| Materials Science & Engineering | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| Mathematics | | | |
| Mechanical Engineering | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| Near Eastern Studies (NES) | | | |
| Philosophy | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| Physics and Astronomy | | Abstain | Yea |
| Political Science | Yea | Yea | |
| Psychological and Brain Sciences | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| Sociology | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| Writing Seminars | | | |
| Robotics | | | |
| Co-Chair 1 | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| Co-Chair 2 | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| Secretary | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| Treasurer | Yea | Yea | |
| Admin & Funding | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| Social 1 | | | |
| Social 2 | Yea | | Yea |
| Advocacy 1 | | Yea | Yea |
| Advocacy 2 | | | |
| Communications | | | |
| Diversity | | | |
| Graduate Involvement Chair | | Yea | Yea |
| Professional Development | | Yea | |
| Intercampus Co-ordinator | | | |
| Intercampus Chair | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| Summer sports coordinator | | | |
| Health & Wellness | Yea | Yea | Yea |
| Security Concerns Chair | | | |
| **Yea** | 29 | 29 | 30 |
| **Nay** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Abstain** | 1 | 4 | 0 |