Agenda for February 4, 2009

Officers
President—Heather Lee (American Civilization)
VP, Administration—Nitin Jadhav (Engineering)
Treasurer—Anthony Evans (Psychology)
Technology Officer—Stefanie Sevcik (Comparative Literature)
VP, Social—Ratnesh Gupta (Engineering)
Secretary—Michael Antosh (Physics)

Attendance: 35 of 57 representatives, 10 spots vacant.

I. Approval of the Minutes from the December Meeting
Approved unanimously

II. Invited Speakers
i. Michelle Nuey, Stalking Awareness Month
Michelle wants to better reach graduate students on behalf of the office of public safety. She asked for the grad students’ opinion on how to do this, specifically related to safety-related programs, feel free to contact her with any suggestions you have at campus_safety@brown.edu. Further approaching grad students at orientation was suggested. Workshops including self defense and home burglary prevention are available. Campus notification methods in case of emergencies are in place.

ii. Miranda Summers, Brown Daily Herald Grad Column
BDH wants to start a column about the graduate community. BDH wants at least 1-2 writers for the column. Time commitment is one article/every 2 weeks – 500 to 800 words. One meeting (30 min) with editors about article. Only limitation is can’t write news and opinions in the same article. If interested, email opinion@browndailyherald.com

III. Group Recognition
None scheduled

IV. Funding Requests: Amount—Event—Group
i. $400 – New Urban Arts Public Program (Elena Gonzales)
Exhibition at John Brown center – art history relating to John Brown house. An after school program is creating a piece of art for this exhibition. Open to public and graduate students. Total budget is $3100. Interested graduate students are invited to help with the project. Vote: pass with one no.

ii. $400 – Chinese New Year Celebration (Pengyu Liu)
400-450 members in this group (largest GSC group). Sunday Feb. 8. This event is open to all graduate students – last year 50% of attendance was non-Chinese. The event is advertised around campus. Authentic Chinese groups in Providence and Rhode Island will also attend, doing Kung Fu, Beijing Opera,
and other activities. Tickets will be $10 for dinner and performance, $6 for performance only. Concern expressed that event is hard for non-Chinese to understand. Vote: Pass unanimously.

iii. $400 – French Studies Conference: Equinoxes (Maria Moreno)
17th annual conference. Theme: Interdisciplinarity. Open to whole Brown community. Participants from US and France. Budget around $1500. Graduate school has cut funding by $400 or so in past 2 years. Vote: pass unanimously.

iv. Special topic: $400 – Yoga (Lizzy Gore)
Both yoga proposals presented at once. Sophie and teacher Hollis want to organize a course that costs less than the OMAC yoga class. Hollis already teaches on campus. 2 classes per week – one before work, one after work, one 60 minutes and one 90 minutes. Hollis and Lizzy teach differently. Hollis’ current class has filled up at 65. Hollis’ style is flowing – moves done in a fluid sequence; she has been certified for 3 years. Hollis would take $20 per class ($1500 per semester), 1/3 of her usual fee. Lizzy would teach a 90 minute once/week class; she has been teaching for 3 years. Lizzy’s style is about alignment and therapeutic exercises. Lizzy is open to funding that gives her the same rate as Hollis. Lizzy is a graduate student in the education department.
Lizzy was offering class free to graduate students, but accepts donations to her cause in Nicaragua; Hollis would like to ask for $5 donations per class. Lizzy’s class would go 1 semester, Hollis’ would go for a year.
Classes are mixed level – beginners are welcome. Mats would be available. Opinions varied among the representatives – some were happy with $5 yoga classes, others were unsure if two yoga requests should be approved.
The GSC decided to vote on the proposals, with the option of offering more money (roughly equal to the salsa courses) in a special contract to Hollis in the future as long as classes are free.
Vote: Lizzy: Pass unanimously
Vote: Sophie: Pass with 3 no.

v. Special topic: $400—Yoga (Sophie Lebrecht)
See above.

V. Executive Reports and Announcements
No reductions in anything, including stipends! But no increases in conference funding, summer salaries, or growth in number of students. A survey is coming out for grad students about their experience at Brown. There will definitely be an effort to reach Master’s students as well as PhD students. Some representatives were upset about summer funding, and that notification of budget changes was done in only one email. Graduate students were also very upset by 12 percent of grad students not being paid on Jan. 31 – some of this was caused by departments.
ii. Departmental Rebate
Treasurer gave instructions to representatives on how to get a rebate. There will be a form at the next meeting.

iii. GSC Budget Spring 2009
Must be approved line-by-line
Socials – pass unanimously
Salsa Classes – pass unanimously
National Association for Graduate and Professional Students – pass, 3 no
GSC Meetings – pass unanimously
Department Rebates – pass u
Group Funding – pass u
Lounge Maintenance – pass u
Supplies/Operating Costs – pass u

iv. Nominations for Wilson-DeBlois Award – someone on staff who has greatly contributed to graduate student life at Brown. Recognized at commencement. Voting will take place next month, nominations accepted until then.

v. OFFICER ELECTION: SOCIAL CHAIR
Elected Sumit Kumar Soni unanimously

VI. External Committee Reports and Announcements
i. Socrates Dimitriadis—Computer Advisory Board Representative
Email service survey has been sent to reps, please reply.
Prerequisite system in banner is being worked on for the end of the semester.

ii. Election to Public Safety and Oversight Committee
Matthew Gillette elected unanimously

iii. Election to Parking Violation Appeal Board
Elected Xiaojiao Yu unanimously

V. Other News
i. Open floor
There will be a resolution (probably) next time, stating graduate student funding frustration. But someone needs to write it, or make a plan…

ii. Next GSC General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4, at 7 p.m. in the Graduate Student Lounge.

***BUDGET LINES***

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Income

Projected and actual expenses for spring 2007, 2008, 2009

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Total: 28,100 14,286 30,400 19,847 31,200