GSG Assembly Meeting
October 14th, 2020, 6:00p
Remote meeting: Zoom code sent in email

I. Call to order (5 min)
   A. Quorum count
   B. Discretionary spending report
      1. None to report

II. Restorative Practices and Title IX Updates - Regan Crotty, Director of Gender Equity and Title IX Administration (30 min)
   A. Slides will be distributed

III. Ivy+ Summit Update (5 min)
   A. GSG exec is attending multiple meeting sessions with the grad student governments at the other Ivies plus MIT and UChicago to share and brainstorm ideas around community building, international student barriers, mental health & wellness, diversity equity and inclusion

IV. Introduction of By-Law Updates (10 min)
   A. Removing gendered language from document
      1. Proposed Change: instances of “he or she” to “they”
   B. Amount suggested to be allocated to the endowment by the treasurer
      1. [By-Law 4.2] Investment of Surpluses. The Treasurer shall announce the amount of the budget that remains unspent to the GSG Assembly two months prior to the end of the fiscal year. The Treasurer shall suggest to the Assembly an investment of one-half of the amount of the continuing
surplus from the close of the previous fiscal year in the GSG endowment, and do so upon a majority vote in agreement by the Assembly. The Assembly can change the contribution amount as it sees fit by majority vote.

2. Proposed Change: “one-half of the amount” to “any amount”
   a) Q from assembly: how can the treasurer know about precedent or what a typical amount has been in the past?
      (1) We can make sure precedents are in the transition docs for each new treasurer

V. Update on Finance & Treasury
   A. Policy that individuals cannot be reimbursed for food while working from home has always existed -- only became an issue during COVID
   B. GSG is advocating for a workaround -- we’ve made the following arguments in a meeting with the Grad School and Finance and Treasury, and have also submitted a document of these arguments for further Grad School/F&T review.
      1. Argument 1: “Working lunches” aren’t being reimbursed per se; instead, food can be central to programming or an event’s theme/goal, and should be treated as a supply for that end.
      2. Argument 2: GSG’s operating budget is the grad students’ money that you all paid for! You should be receiving the services promised from when you paid your fee.

VI. Open Forum
   A. Frustration that you had to book library study space 24 hours in advance because one student had construction suddenly outside her window and wanted to work at the library. Can we advocate to have at least 1 space that’s available first come first served?
      1. Frist could be a space for more study areas.
   B. Questions about whether spring will be virtual or not. Can we put pressure on admin to let grad students know with as much notice as possible so they can plan accordingly (travel, housing, plane tickets, etc.)?
   C. Issue w/ grants pressuring researchers to return to in-person research. Since grant money is funding some grad students, and those grad students’ research may only be able to be done in person in lab, there’s pressure to be in lab. We’ll advocate for this.
   D. Re: food insecurity, reminder that the hardship fund is for you! Anyone who has financial need is encouraged to apply
E. A lot of single-used plastic is used in COVID tests. Might GSG be able to make purchases for a sustainable cause to offset this? E.g. carbon offset?

1. Yes -- we can collaborate with sustainability UAF (university administrative fellow) around this. One obstacle is getting past F&T’s policy that prohibits donations (we can’t make a donation in the same way we can’t give out gift cards). But we may be able to couple it with an event.

Next meeting: November 11th, 2020