1. Call to Order and Agenda Review [1 min]
   1. Shane (Co-Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:06PM.
   2. Detailed review of the agenda followed
2. Approval of [Minutes from May 11th](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZeKIBEF7rrDlkRJ1nBuQGXyS7n8SK5w1/view?usp=sharing)
   1. **Motion to approve the minutes. Seconded. The motion passes at 6:54PM. Yea: 35 Abstain:2**
3. E-board Report (Shane & Conor) [20 min]
   1. GRO-GSA-TRU COVID-19 advocacy for graduate students: summary of summer activities & return to research survey
      1. Partnered with the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) and TRU to advocate for grad student rights and concerns regarding COVID-19. Statement of Principles was released at the end of last semester, circulated with the administration. Continued to meet through the summer and the current semester.
      2. Have been able to share discussion about things that have gone on.
         1. Example: How offer letters were changed for students for students who were abroad but unable to matriculate into the country. The coalition was able to share these insights between different divisions. Conor and Shane are still following up on this with the Provosts’ office.
         2. Survey questions regarding restart and also international student issues
         3. Centralize concerns that multiple people in the organization are having. (BME Joined)
      3. Distribute a survey for return to research
         1. Frequent safety concerns raised: return of undergraduates, poor ventilation, Baltimore COVID-19 cases, non-compliance with mask requirements (students, faculty, and staff included), poor communication from JHU, inability to socially distance
         2. Productivity during pandemic: 83% of respondents report being less productive in their research during the pandemic
            1. Frequent concerns: lack of access to facilities/resources, general anxiety and depression, lack of separation between work and home life, postponed research travel.
         3. Concerning Survey results: at least 20 respondents say they’d feel pressure to research on campus even when showing COVID 19 symptoms, general confusion about how the university is communicating changes to restrictions, there is very limited student awareness of the SPEAK2US (anonymous hotline meant for reporting violations) hotline that is supposed to be available for anonymous reporting (less than 5% of respondents indicated that they were comfortable with this option)
         4. Feeling of safety: Many students feel moderately unsafe and slightly unsafe. Also many students feel moderately less productive or slightly less productive.
      4. Provost’s Office Survey
         1. Similar trends but their numbers tend to show a more optimistic view of safety. Provost’s office is aware that there is a lot of noncompliance with masking.
   2. Food & Transportation for essential grads & volunteers: final report
      1. Funds attempted to reallocate for graduate students for food and transportation
      2. Funds were approved to be re-allocated for food & transportation for essential grads last semester
      3. It took substantial time to determine a method of distribution SLI would approve
         1. Grubhub and other meal delivery options were explored but rejected due to strange SLI requirements
         2. Ultimately Amazon gift-cards were provided instead
      4. Lyft codes were provided after significant back-and-forth about limitations on the codes.
         1. Final utilization of those codes has not yet been reported back to the Co-Chairs.
         2. Codes were originally very limited by the number of drop off/pick up locations. We got an extension, but this took a long time.
   3. Parking for grads during COVID: final outcomes
      1. Recap: many students were still being charged for parking, were not able to cancel their passes (or had attempted to and were still being charged)
      2. After significant delays, the administration decided to reimburse all parking charges from March through July/August and is now allowing for pass cancellation.
      3. If you know anyone who is still facing challenges with this – please let the Co-Chairs know.
   4. Dean of Student Life Coalition Building group
      1. Office of Dean of Student Life called on student organizations in early June to participate in “coalition building” for supporting students of colour
      2. Meetings have occurred once a month, the focus is largely undergraduate focused, GRO being the only grad org represented (BGSA was reached out but decided against joining)
      3. Limited progress over the course of the meetings, now moving to split into two projects, GRO represented in both.
         1. Diversity and Inclusion Training expanded to be a refresher course for upper level undergraduate students
         2. How to rework different curriculums on this campus to refocus academic research.
         3. Concerns: have not told us any resources that they have for this. We are a part of this conversation but we aren’t sure where it is ultimately going to lead.
         4. Student opposition/views against a Police Force was discussed. DSL office has moved this discussion away from this topic as the two-year moratorium was put in place.
   5. Work with OIS and International Student Advocacy
      1. Multiple troubling developments for international students over the summer, culminating in ICE’s threat to deport international students attending universities that were primarily online for the fall semester
      2. This was rolled back in the wake of multiple lawsuits in mid-July, allowing returning international grad students to remain in the US even if their instruction was online-only.
      3. There was persistent confusion on the status of incoming international grads, however leading to GRO E-Board members lobbying for greater support in the visa application/I-20 process for incoming international grads
      4. In light of the confusion, GRO and representatives from BSPH SA and GSA designed a survey for international students on OIS communications that is to be distributed soon.
         1. Where is the communication most lacking? What is the best way for OIS to communicate to grads if this kind of situation happens again?
   6. Student Code of Conduct ‘reinforcements’ and related E-Board concerns
      1. Last month JHU introduced new COVID-19 prevention guidelines that included serious restrictions on student activities on- and off- campus.
      2. The guidelines appeared as mandatory acknowledgements for students to sign before accessing my JHU, yet the guidelines themselves were revised without announcement to limit their geographic scope
         1. Later changed to be “surrounding JHU campuses in Baltimore and D.C.”
      3. GRO E-Board wrote a public statement to VP Alana Shanahan asking for specific exemptions to political expression and religious gatherings to allow for their regulation by Baltimore City standards rather than JHU’s as well as clearer communication when any guidelines or code of conduct changes will occur
      4. The response from VP Shanahan was largely a non-response, attempting to assuage concerns by arguing that the University would not be looking to enforce these new rules to the full effect and allowing wide discretion in how/when/who to punish
      5. There is interest on the E-Board for a long-term advocacy effort to provide greater student control of the code of conduct as it changes, as well as clearer communication around its scope and changes.
      6. Thanked the GRO Executive Board for being active this summer.
   7. Coalition for a Humane Hopkins
      1. A group called “Coalition for a Humane Hopkins” reached out to the GRO, they have a petition relating to requesting JHU cease its lawsuits on medical debt. The average debt is very small and these lawsuits target low-income households, these lawsuits are not financially advantageous to the university. An email went out earlier today that was signed by the GRO E-Board. We voted to sign it as the GRO E-Board and to distribute it to the graduate student listserv.
   8. Summer social events
      1. Very active summer with a number of summer social events.
      2. Social Chairs (Alex and Jessica)
         1. Alex hosted weekly trivia nights.
         2. Planning stages of some in-person events
         3. 2-Part webinar on wine
            1. The art of wine and wine pairings
            2. Webinar about the life of FDR
      3. Interim Welcome and Guide Chair (Vittorio)
         1. Incoming graduate student mixer
         2. Matched social hour
      4. Co-Chairs participated in pre-recorded orientation to replace usual annual speech
      5. Upcoming events: Scotch Night and Herbalism Webinar
   9. Social events being planned
      1. Flat Blue Jays
         1. (Jess) - Flat Stanley Cut-Out “Like”. This would be a flat BlueJay. We can send this to graduate students, they can decorate it and send back a selfie. Then we will make a collage to make everyone feel connected.
      2. Webinar on Herbalism
      3. Chocolate Webinar/Tasting in October
      4. Series of instructional hands-on (remote) cooking classes
      5. Alternating weekly trivia nights/board game nights
      6. New Discord server to allow for enhanced communication and community building within the graduate student body
   10. Requesting volunteers for help with GRO Dungeons and Dragons event (Vittorio)
       1. Welcome events planned by Vittorio – custom D&D short campaign
       2. Need additional Dungeon Masters (DMs), ideally from GRO GC/E-Board
          1. “If you’ve never played D&D, it’s like playing video games with dice…and your voice.”
          2. You set the scene for the group to play/explore.
          3. Experience welcomed but not required. Vittorio will train all of you to do this and then you can use these skills in your life if you find it fun.
          4. Saturday, September 26th 4PM
          5. Either direct message Vittorio or send him an email [vittorio@jhu.edu](mailto:vittorio@jhu.edu) if you’re interested
          6. The event is being restricted to first-year students.
          7. Multiple first-year students commented that they are first-year students and cannot find the D&D email yet.
          8. There was an email that went out in the middle of last week that advertised both the matched social hour and the D&D event together, and that one was sent out.
          9. Encourage your first-year students in your department to sign up for the first-year mailing list that was advertised to all first-year students.
       3. New E-sports league for graduate students – please advertise within your departments
          1. “Intramural league for video games”
          2. Streamed on Twitch and will have commentary
          3. Sign-ups have been scant, asking the GC to go back to your department and facilitate team formation.
          4. Ona suggested having the Co-Chairs and the graduate involvement chairs to have draft emails/templates to make it easier to advertise things to your departments. Just so that you are aware, this is something we will be trying to use to help with information flow.
             1. Comment: Templates are welcome
          5. An email did go out, we will have a reminder email.
4. Discussion: temporary quorum reduction has elapsed. Should we renew it for the Fall semester given that meetings will be virtual?
   1. We reduced quorum last semester for all virtual meetings.
   2. We never strictly needed reduced quorum but we did get close to needing it (1-2 members) so it may be necessary to consider it this semester.
   3. Benjamin Taylor (Pol Sci): As opposed to last semester, when the switch to online was not anticipated, we know that this semester will be remote. So maintaining the same checks and balances we would have in a standard semester would be advantageous to maintain representation.
5. [Revision to by-laws](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AWczQ1UYM64zFMpJzkc6gH6dwZ9-Wvkd/view?usp=sharing) to replace Welcome & Guide Chair with Health & Wellness Chair as a fixed position. [10 min]
   1. The revision to the bylaws was made several weeks ago and referred to multiple times since then.
   2. This change would remove the Welcome and Guide chair as a fixed position on the executive board and would elevate the Health and Wellness Chair to a permanent position.
   3. We have a number of fixed positions, permanent positions, and floating positions on the E-Board for a total E-Board capacity of 15 at maximum. The floating positions are determined in a more flexible capacity.
   4. Health and Wellness Chair has been selected as floating chair position annually for the past 4 years (with the exemption of 1 year when we
   5. Welcome went unfilled for 2-3 years in a row and most of the duties revolve around the summer and the beginning of the fall term and dissipate over the course of the year. So this was suggested by our previous Welcome and Guide Chair, Daniel McClurkin. Our current Welcome and Guide Chair feels similarly. We would be in favour of having this position changed to being that of a coordinator.
   6. Is 25 hours a standard number of hours where the terms of service would extend to both semesters? The number of hours ranges from 25 to 500. The Health and Wellness has been a floating chair for multiple years, and floating chairs were capped at 25. Welcome and Guide had double duties and had 50 hours. If we expect to pay more for a coordinator we want to be planning less for this position.
   7. Maya: I thought that this year’s Health and Wellness Chair was approved for 50 hours since it was originally two positions. Floating positions are usually set at 25 hours.
   8. Benjamin Taylor: Do we have any records regarding whether people who have had the Health and Wellness Chair have requested more than 25 hours often? Eugenia: It happened 3 years ago, no recollection of whether this happened in the last two years.
   9. Conor confirmed that the latest call for Health and Wellness was 25 hours.
   10. **Motion to approve the proposed amendment to the bylaws. Motion was seconded. The Motion Passed at 7:08PM. Yea: 37 Abstain: 1**
   11. Maya confirmed that the position description voted on electronically listed 25 hours. Vishal confirmed that the nomination was for 25 hours.
   12. Alex: So does the nomination take precedence over our vote? Shane: No. The vote Maya refers to was to determine which floating chair positions we would have - the description including 50 hours did not give the position 50 hours, the GC would have needed to have a second vote to approve that. This was not the intention of the prior E-Board, as the nominations were always for 25 hours. We can discuss later, if people think the position should be revised up to 50 hours.
6. Vote on the elevation of interim summer E-Board appointees to full terms. [10 min]

NOTE: The election link is: <http://etc.ch/jHQD> - departmental representatives should have received their access codes in emails prior to the meeting. Message the secretary before or during the meeting if you are missing that code.

* 1. *Motion to elect Stephan Kemper to the full 2020-2021 term of the position of Administration and Funding Chair for which he was duly selected and appointed in an interim capacity by the Executive Board.*
     1. ***We received all the votes for eligible departments. Stephan Kemper was elected to the full 2020-2021 term as the Administration and Funding Chair.***
  2. *Motion to elect Jessica Flores to the full 2020-2021 term of the position of Social Chair for which she was duly selected and appointed in an interim capacity by the Executive Board.*
     1. ***We received all the votes for eligible departments. Jessica Flores was elected to the full 2020-2021 term as the Social Chair.***
  3. *Motion to elect Vishal Yadav to the full 2020-2021 term of the position of Health and Wellness Chair for which he was duly selected and appointed in an interim capacity by the Executive Board.*
     1. ***We received all the votes for eligible departments. Vishal Yadav was elected to the full 2020-2021 term as the Health & Wellness Chair.***
  4. Clarification about our voting procedure: Per our bylaws, election votes have to be done by secret ballot unless there is a vote to the contrary. That is why we are using the special software to vote.

1. GRO E-Board Elections [30 min]
   1. Permanent Positions
      1. Treasurer
         1. Our prior treasurer had to step down, so the position is unexpectedly open.
         2. Clarifications: During “emergency” or “special” elections, a GRO E-Board member can act as an election official.
         3. Election procedure was discussed:
            1. Position description will be read.

Facilitate all financial transactions of the GRO and maintain records of GRO financial accounts.

Submit to the Chair a listing of all Executive Board expenditures to be included in the Executive Board Report.

Facilitate all reimbursements and transfers of GRO funds to all individuals and groups per General Council or Executive Board approval.

Assist in the preparation of the annual budget with Chair and Co-Chair, as laid out in Article V.1.

Be paid for no more than 150 hours per academic year.

The names of the nominees will be read

The floor will be open for nominations from the floor

The nomination from the floor must be accepted by the nominee

* + - * 1. Presentation/Discussion/Voting

Each nominee will be given 2 minutes to speak to GC, all others will be in the waiting room

Brief Q&A

Process will be repeated with all other candidates on the list

You must be recognized to speak if you have a comment or question

All comments need to be limited to “qualifications, fit, and goals” and anything that is a personal attack or outside the scope will not be permitted (3.1.1.2.5.e)

You will see a list of all the candidates names and “Abstain” as the last option. There needs to be a majority victor. We maintain the right to not fill a position during an election (if there are too many abstentions).

* + - 1. Nominees
         1. Isaiah Chen

ChemBE GSLC – graduate organization inside the ChemBE department. ChemBE GC representative.

Comments:

Isaiah has had a long-time experience as a treasurer, and has SLI experience, very reliable, very organized, and really came through in his first year when the department really needed help putting together a visit weekend when it was really necessary.

* + - * 1. Beatrix Wen

Not present

* + - * 1. Yeutong Liu

1st year Data Science student. Major in statistics. Was a data scientist. During this work experience, got experience in finance and accounting. A good fit for this position.

Have you been treasurer for a prior student organization before? No

* + - * 1. John D’Uva

Not present

* 1. **We received all the votes for eligible departments. Isaiah Chen was elected to the full 2020-2021 term as the Treasurer.**

1. Discussion: Should we open event funding applications given that our budget is currently unknown.
   1. We needed to resubmit our budget due to changes in SLI due to COVID-19.
   2. Large number of virtual events
   3. We are still operating blind with respect to our budget. We think our budget will not be what it was in prior years, but we don’t know what those cuts will be or when we will get our budget. Our advisor, Laura Stott, does want us to do things for graduate students. We have a decent change of coming out of this with a decent operating budget.
   4. One of the main things we do is provide funding for other organizations or unofficial groups of students to host those events for graduate students.
   5. We do not know our budget AND the restrictions on events are still stringent.
   6. We are only discussing event budget at this time.
   7. We have already clarified with SLI that we want to continue students attending conferences in a virtual conference. SLI supports this endeavour but we don’t have funding for this either.
   8. Gabriel (MSEM): Is it possible to open applications at a later date? Yes, this is done at our discretion. We’ve moved to a new HopkinsGroups platform and that has complicated things. As we migrate to this platform, we need to create new forms there.
      1. Historically speaking, SLI has been quite slow in approving budgets. So it may be advantageous for us to do this earlier rather than later.
   9. Elmer (Biophysics): JHU is super slow for this. I don’t think that we should spend money that we don’t have. Because if we don’t get the money then we have already made a promise to the students. If we agree to, we need to put some rules about what kinds of events we will have. And this will also limit what you can spend the money on. But you cannot buy things like food because you are not supposed to gather.
   10. Stephan (Admin and Funding): In the absence of having a treasurer, I attended the finance training from SLI a few hours ago. I could not get a clarification I wanted on this question but during the meeting this was said by the SLI administrator: “There will be no direct funding allocation this year, everything will need to be approved on a case-by-case basis.” In terms of timelines, this would cause a problem with everything.
   11. Shane (Co-Chair): We will follow up with Laura immediately.
   12. Wangui (Communications Chair): How long does it typically take for a group to hear back to know whether they have received the money?
   13. Stephan (Admin and Funding Chair): The process is straightforward and I add it to the agenda for the next GC meeting I can get it on. So at most a 2-week delay. It is voted on and approved or rejected at that meeting. Barring extenuating circumstances, it would be within 2 weeks. But the actual process itself is longer.
   14. Shane (Co-Chair): Yes, it will be at the next GC meeting unless the request is less than $250 because then the E-Board can approve it by an internal vote. But it can be a small budget request or a time-sensitive matter, it is possible to approve faster by the
   15. Gabriel (MSEM): Do we have any reserves that have not been mentioned up until now?
   16. Shane (Co-Chair): No, any extra from prior years is wiped out. Often we will still have pending expenditures because they were not paid properly that will be taken out of the following year.
   17. How much is the negative budget supposed to be? Around $1200-$1500 in the red. It’s obviously not where we’d like to be.
   18. Matthew (Philosophy): It'd be bad to create strong funding expectations that aren't met. Does opening funding applications with a disclosure ("Apply below, but we're not exactly sure what our budget will be.") still create strong funding expectations?
   19. Shane (Co-Chair): There is a difference between us hosting an event, in which case we can process those invoices, and having a student organization spend out of their own pocket and then potentially not be able to get reimbursed. We may not be able to follow through with funding a student organization if a budget item is not met. We will likely not have flexibility in getting things approved by SL&I.
   20. Wangui (Communications): Is there anything that is a positive? It seems quite dangerous at this point.
   21. Shane (Co-Chair): If an organization sees that we are potentially able to fund events, maybe we can work with them to push something through SL&I to use us as a medium.
   22. Stephan (Admin and Funding): Part of our decision here is what kind of politics we want to play with the school. When it comes to the kind of funding they give out, they are very slow with it, changing processes all the time. If we decided that we want to make this a bone to pick, we could force that as something for the administration to deal with.
   23. Isaiah Chen (Treasurer): We can accept applications and have an idea of how much money is being asked of us and then we can go to SLI and ask for that money. Having something more concrete might help us get this funding.
   24. Matthew (Philosophy): Another potential (but probably small) benefit: Acquiring a sense of how many and what kind of needs-funds events are happening during this COVID season.
   25. Gabriel (MSEM): SLI and SGA have been reorganizing the entire funding structure of student organizations. They are trying to integrate the athletics department into the system. I question how much leverage we can put on them by opening these applications.
   26. Benjamin (Political Science): if possible I’d like to move that we vote as to whether to open applications
   27. Shane: Two options: Either open a form and say that we work with SLI, leave the applications closed for the time being
   28. Eugenia: **Motion to table the discussion of whether we open event funding applications until next Monday's GRO GC meeting, by which point the Co-Chairs will have more information regarding whether the comments that Stephan heard in today's meeting apply to the GRO or do not apply to the GRO. The motion was seconded and motion passed. Yea: 24 Abstain:2**
   29. Poll the GRO GC: Would you support opening applications in general?
       1. Yes: 15 votes
       2. No: 17 votes
   30. Conor (Co-Chair): with the vote to table passing, the decision on providing a caveat would have to wait until next week I believe
       1. We will discuss it next week
   31. Gabriel (MSEM): Is there an issue with people joining the meeting late? What are policies for that.
       1. Shane (Co-Chair): We have never penalized people for joining the meeting late. It’s best if you can attend the discussion portion as well but you can attend the meeting late if you have any conflicts.
2. Open Discussion & Questions
3. Adjournment