

MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting - Graduate Student Council
Thursday, May 5th, 2005, 12:00 – 1:10 pm
Avery Conference Room

**** DRAFT MINUTES – NOT APPROVED BY BOD ****

ATTENDANCE

20 voting directors:

Jenelle Bray (Ch)
Alex Brown (SS, GSC Treasurer)
Dan Cleasy (Bio)
Will Ford (CNS)
Sidharth Jaggi, (EE, Outgoing GRB Secretary)
Rassul Karabalin (Ph)
Bob Kopp (At large, new GSC Secretary)
Nir Krakauer (GeCh)
Marco Latini (ACM)
Xin Liu (at large)
Andrea Martin (ApPh)
Scott Miserendino (At large, new GSC Chair)
Noah Myung (at large)
Tosin Otitoju (CDS)
Emily Schaller (PS, outgoing GSC Secretary, new GSC Executive Director)
Graeme Smith (Ph)
Stephen Smith (Bio)
Eve Stenson (MS, new GRB Secretary)
Catherine Ward (BMB, GRB chair)
Laurence Yeung (Ch)

Non-voting attendees:

Dmitiriy Kernasovskiy (ASCIT social director)
Amir Sadjadpour (outgoing GSC chair)
Steve Pracko

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

No modifications to agenda. April minutes approved.

ELECTIONS

Directors at large: Scott Miserendino and Bob Kopp elected by affirmation as directors at large.

GRB Chair

Catherine Ward (incumbent GRB chair): Over the past year, 12 matters have been referred to the committee, of which 6 were dealt with and 6 were handed to the dean. GRB also has responsibility for NSO. In the upcoming year, she will attempt to increase faculty awareness of GRB by instituting faculty honor representatives in each option. GRB membership has doubled due to Sid's work. *Elected by affirmation.*

GRB Secretary

Eve Stenson: Eve has served on GRB since January. *Elected by affirmation.*

GSC Chair

Scott Mideredino: Scott has had a long standing interest in NSO. He worked on the pub crawl two years ago, two NSO events last year, and would like to chair NSO this year. He has also served on the GRB for three years and worked on their bylaws. His main advocacy issue for the upcoming year is student pay and academic stipends. *Elected by affirmation.*

GSC Vice Chair

Arthur Fitzmaurice *elected by affirmation in absentia.*

GSC Executive Director

Emily Schaller (GSC Sec. since Oct.): Emily serves on the quality of life committee and is interested in taking on a leadership role. *Elected by affirmation.*

GSC Secretary

Bob Kopp *elected by affirmation.*

GSC Treasurer

Alex Brown (incumbent GSC Treasurer): Alex would like to continue in this position. He has streamlined the budget process, and would like to wear down surplus this year. Andrea endorsed his efficiency. *Elected by affirmation.*

OTHER BUSINESS

ASCIT Formal: Dmitriy (ASCIT social director) advertised the ASCIT Formal, which will take place May 28 at the Natural History Museum near USC. The museum has given ASCIT the first floor. The formal will have two dinosaur exhibits, three bars, a rotunda lounge, and two rooms of music including live jazz, hip-hop, and top 40s. About 400 people are expected.

Amir (outgoing GSC chair) is going to Iran for the first time in four years and hopes that the GSC will do a wonderful job under Scott's leadership. We wish him luck to return on time without visa issue. The BoD unanimously thanked Amir for his work.

The Technique: The Publications Committee's funding request was moved up in the agenda so that Andrea could leave on time. Andrea reported that this year, the Technique is doing a collage of twenty photos on its cover to capture the broad range of contents. The Grad Office pays for Technique to be published, and in previous year, it has paid out of a slush fund from leftover TA funds, but as TA funding has passed to the divisions, the Grad Office can no longer pay for the cover. The Publications Committee has requested GSC funding of \$20/photo (\$400 total) for the cover of Technique. No further money will be requested from GSC for the Technique. The Technique is freely available to all grad students (not just first years). The committee does not want to use photo from the GSC photo contest without reimbursement, because bad PR is hard to fix after the fact. Amir noted, however, that under photo content rules, photos becomes GSC property.

Alex noted that the Budget Committee was fine with \$400. Scott noted that such reimbursements may also improve responses to contents in the future.

Requested funding approved by unanimous consent..

GSC Lunch with VP Student Affairs Margo Marshak May 23rd at Noon in Parson-Gate 112.

Unified funding request form. Scott would like the Budget Committee to look into a unified form for student funding groups (GSC, ASCIT, Caltech Y, IHC, etc.). Alex agreed that this was a great idea, though the form might be costly to implement and will take some time to investigate. Graeme wanted to clarify that this was merely an unified form, and did not involve having to interact with ASCIT. Sid noted that the Y has been investigating the issue. *Budget Committee chairman agreed that the committee would investigate.*

Committee sign up sheets passed around. Specific needs include NSO as well as standing committee. At the next meeting, Scott would like all committee chairs to provide a man power target.

Quality of Life. Emily noted that the Quality of Life committee deals with health insurance issues, dental coverage, and cost of living. Currently, Emily is only member, as the rest are graduating. The committee needs volunteers, including a chair.

Staff psychologist search. Graeme announced that three candidates for staff psychologist at the student health center were coming to campus, and the health center wanted graduate students to meet with the candidates for an hour. The visits are occurring on the next three Wednesdays (May 11, 18, 25) from 2:20-3pm. Volunteers do not need to go to each one.

Lab Review Survey Editor. Scott, reading Andrea's notes for the Academics Committee, announced that Julie Fry, the lab review survey editor, is graduating next fall. The position pays \$400/year. Email Andrea if interested.

Web Master. Marco Latini, speaking for the Publications Committee, noted that the editors of the newsletter and the Technique are ex officio members of the committee, and that the committee wishes for the web master to be included in the group. The committee also wishes to pay the web master \$15/hour for up to 4 hour/week. The duties of the web master include updating web pages, adding weekly updates with committee meetings and GSC events, and organize archives. Currently, newsletter editor receives \$100/month. The proposed pay rate would allow for a maximum payment of \$2880/year the web master.

Alex noted that the GSC paid \$1000 for a complete web site overhaul two years ago. Amir noted that two years ago, the BoD decided not to make the webmaster a paid position because the work was insufficient.

Bounced to budget committee for next month's meeting.

Budget Items. Alex reported for the Budget Committee.

- Jorge Cham (PhD Comics author, www.phdcomics.com; currently a visiting instructor) is a popular speaker. It will cost \$1700 to get him to speak, with most of the money taken up in honorarium. 60-120 graduate students are expected to attend. The GSC has been asked to fund \$1000, but additional sources of funding may be forthcoming. The budget committee recommended authority to fund up to \$1000. Sid noted that volunteers were needed for setup and cleanup. *\$1000 funding approved unanimously.*

- Caltech Chamber Singers are requesting \$800 to cover reservation costs for Ramo Auditorium. A change of concert date led to a \$1600 charge for both dates, of which ASCIT will cover \$800. The Budget Committee recommended allocating \$800, but first exhausting our negotiating resources, starting with the GSC lunch with Margo Marshak. *Approved with 14 yeas, 2 nays.*

- Coffeehouse Party: This is the undergraduate party with the most graduate student attendees, and will take place Saturday, May 7. \$350 requested from GSC, out of a \$700 total budget. Budget committee recommended funding \$350. *Approved by unanimous consent.*

- *Totem* funding: *Totem* is an undergrad-run literary magazine. GSC has already funded *Totem* at \$350, and typically does each year at this amount. *Totem* has requested funding at \$400 this year. Sid notes distribution last year was poor. Alex notes did not cash check last year. *Approved with 10 yeas, 4 nays, 2 abstentions.*