

# 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)  
17<sup>th</sup> 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

- i. *Graduate School Report: Economic Climate, Office of Research Survey, Commencement, International Ethics Focus Session, Dissertation Workshop/ Writing Coaches  
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\*\*\*

Spring 2007	
Income	30,000
Spring 2008	
Income	32,000
Spring 2009	30,000

Income

Projected and actual  
expenses for spring 2007,  
2008, 2009

	2007 Projected	2007 Actual	2008 Projected	2008 Actual	2009 Projected
Socials	16,000	6188	16000	13532	<b>15500</b>
Dance Classes	2,000		1800	1350	<b>600</b>
NAGPS			500	500	<b>500</b>
Business Meals	600		600		<b>0</b>
		638.2			
GSC Meetings	2500	8	1000	945	<b>1000</b>
Dept Rebates	3000	1910	2000	1755	<b>5000</b>
Funding	2000	3350	7000	1765	<b>7000</b>
Lounge					
Maintanence	2000	99.99	1500		<b>1000</b>
Supplies / Operating Costs		2100			<b>600</b>
	28,100	14,286	30,400	19,847	<b>31,200</b>