BGSO Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2016

**Officers in Attendance**

Elvin Morales, Sage, Davis, Victoria Makuru, Mauna Dasari, Bethany Blakely, Mark Hawk, Rachel Oidtman, Janice Love, Benjamin Gombash

**Members in Attendance**

Chissa Rivaldi

**Constitution Update**

Dr. Rebecca Wingert, DGS, and Elvin have looked at the constitution, and they will finalize the language and get it out to all of us. For now, we are going to approve changes, pending language.

We are adding a Life Sciences Symposium Chair and a Professional Development Chair

* Elvin moves to install Benjamin Gombash as the interim secretary
  + The motion was seconded by Mauna/Bethany
  + There was no opposition
  + The motion passes
* Elvin moves to add a Professional Development Chair and a Life Sciences Symposium Chair
  + The motion was seconded by Janice
  + There was no opposition
  + The motion passes

**Discussion of the addition of two officer positions**

Amanda Marra is interested in the Life Sciences Symposium Chair

Are we going to elect these new positions at the next election, or are we going to establish interim position holders?

We need interim officers to hold these positions for now due to the timing of the Life Sciences Symposium and professional development events

We need to hold an emergency meeting later in the month to elect these two interim officers

There is an alumni coming back for the Miami game, and this alumni has shown interest in a talk, the professional development chair would be able to handle this

**Additional Constitution Changes**

The constitution uses the term “cluster” which is no longer used by the department. We would like to update the constitution to reflect the change in the department structure by replacing uses of the term “cluster” with something along the lines of “disciplines”

* Elvin moves to replace the term “cluster” with the term “discipline” or something similar
  + The motion was seconded by Victoria
  + There was no opposition
  + The motion passes

The process for holding votes and making changes is not outlined in the constitution other than elections, and it has been recommended that this be changed.

Why is this necessary?

It will assist with transitions.

Can we set up a system where we can vote when we are absent (assuming that we still have quorum at the physical meeting)?

Absent officers would like to be able to vote up to 48 hours after the meeting minutes are sent out.

There is a desire to have a procedure for anonymous votes, at least by request, we currently only have a system in place for elections.

There is a desire to have a basic structure of a BGSO meeting set out in the constitution. This structure would involve officer reports taking place as a specific portion of the meeting towards the beginning of the meeting. The second portion of the meeting would be business with motions and etc..

* Elvin moves to all of the following: set up a voting system, set up an optional anonymous voting system, set up a basic meeting structure
  + The motion was seconded by Janice
  + There was no opposition
  + The motion passes

**Should BGSO become a fund granting organization?**

It has recently been suggested that BGSO support outreach by taking a portion of their funds to provide students with small grants to be used for travel or professional development.

Where will the funding come from?

If we establish more income sources, then BGSO could fund it.

In the past we approved funds for Paradigm Shift, but we may want to establish some sort of grant.

We would like this to be the focus of a meeting

We need to establish funding sources and create a system for reviewing applications

We are going to table that for next month

**Victoria’s request for funds**

Victoria requested funds to travel to Tanzania to do a science workshop for a STEM boot camp, associated with Project Inspire in Tanzania. They held a bootcamp for 13 to 20 year olds, there were projects, and it served as an introduction to hands on science. Victoria did DNA extraction, but solar panels, recycling, and other activities took place as well. It was a huge success, and the hosting university’s president has requested that they return, the president is willing to accommodate them for up to two weeks. They are going to do one week this year, and Victoria would like to do a DNA workshop (extraction, etc.). For all of this to happen, Victoria needs funds to travel to Tanzania, the cost of which would be approximately $1,600.00 USD.

BGSO is able to subsidize the funds, but not fund the entire trip. Victoria would leave in December. Victoria has requested funds from GSU ($500.00), and Dr. Wingert may get her an additional $500.00 from the chair of the Biology department, which can match GSU funds. We are not sure how much funding Victoria currently has at the moment, she has not yet heard back from GSU.

So, discussion of the funding request…

It is not like Paradigm Shift because only one student can participate

It seems unfair

Elvin was thinking $100 to $200

This is more of an outreach thing than a professional development

We have put out money for outreach before

We want to make sure this does not happen again, the process needs to be well defined and fleshed out.

If we consider it now, we should open up an application to everyone

What about the mechanics for applications

What about an emergency grant? Is this an emergency?

In the past we gave $300.00 to someone for an event that was two weeks out.

That event was local and easier for other BGSO members to participate in.

We are discussing a potential dollar amount.

This may be an opportunity for an anonymous vote.

* Bethany moves to offer Victoria $100.00.
  + Several seconds pass
  + Bethany retracts her motion
* Elvin moves to offer Victoria up to $300.00
  + No one seconded the motion
* Elvin moves to offer Victoria up to $200.00
  + No one seconded the motion
* Elvin moves to table this until we have a proposal from Victoria that outlines expenses and other funding sources, a summary of the event, and a specific dollar amount
  + The motion was seconded by Bethany
  + There was no opposition
  + The motion passes

**Officer Reports**

Bethany, Activities, updates

* Should we plan a trip to Sky Zone for October 15?
  + We may possibly move to next semester because it is low effort and not seasonal.
  + We do not have a full calendar of events for this semester yet.
* A “Weekend of Terror” at a scream park and an aerial park (ropes course) on the weekend of the 22-23
  + The scream park and the aerial park would be separate events on the same weekend
  + The ropes course is fun, if we have at least 10 people the price is $30.00 per person, it is normally $50.00 per person, Bethany wants to apply for a Go Grant, but she needs a list of attendees to apply for the grant, we may reach out to Chemistry Graduate Student Organization because Go Grant requires multiple departments be involved.
  + We are thinking October 22, which is soon
  + Go Grants are up to $300.00, we could fully fund a group of 10
  + The scream park is $30.00 per person, BGSO usually covers $15.00 per person
* Thistleberry farm trip, late October early November
  + We usually carpool from Galvin, BGSO does not usually pay the admission, it tends to be a relaxed event.
  + This is a good time to point out that we no longer have access to department vans for social events.
  + What do we want the farm visit to be like? They have pumpkin patches, hay rides, a corn maze, typical Midwestern fall activities.
  + We could rent a campfire for $25.00, which we did last year, none of us attended last year, was it well attended?
  + We do like campfires, there is interest in purchasing/renting a campfire.

Mark hawk, Recruitment, updates

* There has been talk of changing the speed dating Friday night of recruitment to be a one slide teaser, or a mixture of speed dating and a teaser.
* The Saturday night party will likely be in the Morris Inn or possibly Legends.
* The Life Sciences Symposium will be Wed. Oct. 11, 2017 in the Morris Inn in the banquet room, the poster session will likely be in the reception hallway, and there are three speakers out of six thus far.

Halloween Party

* The event will be held in Galvin 115B, it will be an official BGSO event and BGSO will purchase pizzas and soft drinks, there will be a collection for a local homeless shelter
* Let’s try to coordinate with a happy hour event to increase the success

Grad Student Database

* Mauna, Elvin, and Amanda are meeting with Dr. Wingert
* They are compiling information
* The alumni office has some of this information

Victoria, GSU, update

* GSU had their first meeting 09/15/2016
* We want more money from them
* There is a Committee for Sexual Assault Prevention
* We want more Professional Development funds
* GSU provides grants for almost anything, we just need to develop the grant and apply for it, these are underutilized
* Do we have concerns about Grad Student health insurance, so far, there are no major changes

The –OH tour this Saturday

* Folks have dropped out a bit
* We have 3 drivers