

Quality of Life Survey

A survey on the quality of life is to be conducted by the University Senate. There are topics and concerns specific to graduate students that may not be touched upon by that survey. GSAC survey will be focused more on such concerns. The incentives for the survey participants have to be discussed. Smaller rewards that are more in number may be a better attraction for getting more respondents-\$50 Amazon cards or Kindle. GSAC has to decide the number of prizes and there might be a proposal up for vote next time.

Student Initiative Grants (SIG) Budget

There are currently nine applications for SIG while \$10,190 is available. The total amount requested is ~\$6300. There is an amount remaining will remain in the pool. Consideration for earlier semester not possible as it is a new process. Favor-17. Abstentions-1. Funding has been approved for the following organizations with the whole amount that has been requested- MESAAS, Biotech Association, Statistics Dept., GSAS Parents Group, Society of Biomaterials, CURES, Religion GSO, Amateur Radio Club and the French Dept.

GSAC Sticker System

Tags for GSAS students who pay facilities fee. Students need to get a sticker from the Low Library. New ID's should have the sticker.

Reminder about the Spring 2013 Travel Grants

The deadline for Spring travel grants is approaching so please convey the opportunity to your department. There are 7 awards available with about 15 applications till date.

Student Governing Board (SGB) discourages the use of Faculty House

The reasons provided include little or no pay increase, catering services not provided with the gratuity 22% fee. Flatly paid to faculty house and not paid to the employees. There is consensus amongst the plenary that more information is required. Does a boycott hurt the faculty house workers? There could be a statement as a symbolic gesture. However, GSAC may only have ability to suggest not using the Faculty House but may not be able to actively prevent the use. Motion to table till further information is provided. Yes-14. Against-4. Abstain-1.

LUMEN Research conference

The proposal for the research conference for the Travel Grant awardees is tabled. The details of the proposal are provided in the corresponding handout. Questions from the plenary about the use of spending a large amount (\$3500) for the

conference to recover costs from \$7000 spent in travel grants. Voted approved-11, Deny-4, Abstain-4. The conference budget is approved.

GSAC updates

- Plenary voted for an early closure of Philosophy 301 in early April.
- A&E update: Movie night and 'The Wild Bride'
- Alumni & PR update: Alumni networking event more details in March. 3 fireside chats. Exact time and details will be provided later. Intimate chats more than a panel. Variety of topics and is getting started this semester.
- Social update: Ice Skating event in collaboration with EGSC. First TEASE. Feedback from the plenary suggesting providing food not chips. Social Chair responds that if food is provided, students usually grab food and leave, which GSAC wants to avoid. GSAC ski trip sold out. Wine tasting-wine and cheese, tentatively priced at \$20 with cheese at a later time.