

GSO Funding Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday March, 15, 2021 at 5pm (Zoom)

Chair: Scott Dufreche (GSO Treasurer, Architecture)

Present: Juita Martinez (Biology), Sarah Smith (GSO President)

Discussions:

Applications needing further review by Funding Committee before presentation of spreadsheet to council at General Meeting:

- > How should GSO Funding Committee handle applications for expenses that are not specifically excluded by GSO, but will likely prove difficult to reimburse because of University policies (students buying gift cards, for example)?
 - > Let students know that they have been approved (after General Meeting) but that approval from GSO does not constitute a guarantee of reimbursement.

- > How to make students better understand the category names? We are receiving a lot of "Other" funding requests that are actually just for conference registration.
 - > Edit the webform to read in plainer language (not GSO lingo). Instead of "Travel without Academic Duties (up to \$100)" instead have the option read "Attending a conference or workshop (Travel without Academic Duties - up to \$100)"

- > How to reformulate a Bylaw proposal for professional certification or licensure exams, which seemed to have support at Meeting 1, if it can be simplified?
 - > Instead of setting a different dollar amount, place it with "Research & Supplies" category for up to \$160?
 - > Instead of requiring proof of a passing result, state a student may receive funding for a given exam only once in their graduate program?
 - > Restrict the timeline for consideration?
 - > Suggestion: Consider these applications beginning at Meeting 2 after other "Research & Supplies" applications?

- > Whether to fund an application for organization membership dues?
 - > Student's application says that membership in the organization is vital to their research and to publication. Membership benefits include access to journal articles necessary for the student's research.
 - > Should GSO create or modify a Bylaw specifically for membership dues?
 - > Only if framed as part of a student's research or professional development (supported by student and faculty letter to GSO) and limit to one membership per semester or year?
 - > Demand for covering memberships could become too great for GSO's funding.
 - > It is difficult to consider joining an organization (passive) and conducting research (active) within the same funding category.
 - > GSO Funding Committee will recommend an individual discussion of this student's application during Meeting 2, supported by current Bylaw V-3 [Research & Supplies - \$160] "a. Expenses directly related to thesis or dissertation research. We will recategorize the student's application as "Research Equipment & Supplies" (not "Other" as originally submitted).
 - > GSO Funding Committee will not proceed with recommendation to add a Bylaw addressing membership dues at Meeting 2.

How to encourage GSO Department Representatives' activity in committees?

- > Poll reps for their availability.
- > Tell reps they must attend at least one meeting of one of the committees.
- > Establish regular committee meeting times and publish them (and send Outlook invites).

Actions to take based on this meeting:

- Create a revised Bylaw proposal to discuss for General Meeting 2 on certification exams (simpler than Bylaw proposal at Meeting 1).
- Inform the students (via email) whose applications are in good standing that their applications will be heard at the meeting on Friday.
- Prepare finalized Budget spreadsheet for Meeting 2 to present to all reps.
- Revise webform application to clarify category meanings to avoid receiving so many "other" applications that have to be interpreted.