Questions or Suggestions? Contact your GSC reps, August Guang & Alexandria Volkening

- **Two-step verification:** The deadline to enroll in two-step verification is next Wednesday, Feb. 10. If you do not enroll before the deadline, you will be prompted to enroll the next time you log into Banner, Workday, etc. The GSC will forward directions, and a sheet with directions is posted on the bulletin board on the first floor of 170 Hope.

- **New executive board:** January marks the start of term for newly elected board members.

- **Spring 2016 Budget:** The breakdown of the spring GSC budget is: socials - $24,000; small socials - $4,000; GSC meetings - $1,500; class funding - $1,000; departmental rebates - $4,000; conference travel funding - $8,000; event and grant funding - $3,000; executive budget - $500; contingency - $1,000; savings - $2,000; and Grad Student Lounge - $1,000. This budget (a total of $50,000) was approved.

- **Types of GSC Funding:** There are several types of funding available for grad students to apply for from the GSC: conference funding (up to $300; applicants must be presenting and have exhausted all other sources of funding); event funding (half the total event cost or $400, whichever is less; events must be open to all Brown grad students and the department sponsoring the event must be in good standing with the GSC); and grant funding (“for projects or equipment that will have a lasting impact on Brown”).

- **Article XXVII – Project Funding:** We approved a new source of funding: project funding. This would be up to $300 ($200 if you receive other funding) and could be for field work, travelling to visit collaborators, or for a project that does not fit into other categories. This application requires a letter of recommendation and MS students are particularly encouraged to apply.

- **GSC Conference Funding:** The GSC treasurer encourages students to apply for conference travel funding from the grad school.

- **International Committee:** There has been a 50% increase in the number of international grad students since 2007. There are 6 vacant positions on this new committee. The committee meets once a month, and you do not have to be an international student to join, but preference will be given to international students or American students who have had experience internationally.

- **Vacancies:** There are vacancies on several university committees: (1) Campus Life Advisory Board; (2) Grad Student Observers to the Faculty Meetings; (3) Mental Health Community Council; and (4) NEH Next Generation Humanities Grant Planning Committee. Questions? Contact Alastair Tulloch, the GSC Nominations Officer.

- **Wilson DeBlois Award:** The GSC is accepting nominations for staff members for this award.

- **Commencement:** For the first time, Brown will now be separating the PhD and Masters graduation ceremonies into two distinct events. The GSC is now accepting commencement speaker applications (one MS and one PhD graduate will be selected).

- **Dean of Grad School:** Peter Weber is stepping down; several members of the GSC executive board are representing grad students on the search committee for the next Dean of the Grad School.

- **Pathways for Diversity & Inclusion Plan:** A summary of DIAP’s relationship to grad students and description of how we can get involved is posted on the bulletin board on the first floor of 170 Hope. Grad students are encouraged to talk to their department and get involved in the DIAP there.

- **Slack:** This is a new system for communication amongst grad students. Email Kevin Cannon, the GSC Technology Officer, if you are interested and would like to join the community (it is by invite-only, and for Brown grad students only).

- **Upcoming Event:** The next event is the “Singles Valentine’s Mixer” on Feb. 12 in the Grad Student Lounge (it is not just for single students - anyone can come, and there will be wine & cheese).

- **Next GSC Meeting:** The next GSC meeting is Wednesday, March 2, at 7 PM in the Grad Lounge.