• **Sexual Assault Task Force:** grad student input requested. They want to be more proactive in education about assault and available resources, particularly at orientation.
  o Email satf@brown.edu if you have concerns or suggestions.

• **1098-T forms:** The timing of how Brown reports bill charges has changed – in particular, Brown reported semesters of tuition billed and semesters of tuition scholarship received according to two different schedules. This will impact first years and later years differently:
  o For first year grad students, the 1098-T forms will show a semester of bill charges with no tuition scholarship reported, meaning it will look like a tax credit. This tax credit is due to a scheduling change, and you'll have to pay it back next year in 2015, when they will instead report two semesters of tuition and three semesters of scholarship received.
  o For other students, the 1098-T forms for this year will show two terms of tuition bill charges and two terms of tuition support. Last year the timing issue meant they reported two semesters of bill charges and only one term of tuition support, so that the tax credits received were higher than they should be. To rectify this, next year our 1098-T forms will have two terms of bill charges and three semesters of support. This means that in 2015 we will probably have to pay back the tax credit we received last year. According to Dean Walton, the tax liability may be particularly rough in 2015 for students graduating in 2015.
  o Questions? Contact Dean Walton.

• **Dental insurance:** The current plan in place costs approximately $265 for 12 months and is adequate to cover two cleansings per year in a dental-savings partner institute. Last fall it was indicated that we would get dental provided just like our medical insurance. Unfortunately, this was not funded. Instead, they will improve the dental insurance plan that is available for us to purchase – they are looking at a plan that covers 80% of wisdom teeth removal. The new insurance plan that they are developing is $410. Dean Walton recommends that those of us who need only the two cleanings per year use the dental savings plan. If you need your wisdom teeth out or have cavities, he recommends opting into a year of the new plan that they plan to introduce on Sept 1, 2015.
  o Questions? Contact Dean Walton.
  o The GSC president will continue to campaign for dental insurance.

• **January-Term Task Force:** This task force is exploring whether or not Brown should offer a January semester. It was brought up that grad students might appreciate a January term because it would give us another opportunity to teach a class. Also, it could be a way for students to receive funding for the next semester if they teach/TA in the January term.

• **Positions available:** There are a lot of grad student representative positions available. To apply, contact the Nominations Officer, Torrey Truczkowski.

• **Other notes:** Applications for commencement speaker and nominations for the Wilson DeBlois award are now being accepted.

• **Upcoming event:** a Welcome Back Social will be held later in February with details TBA