Graduate Student Council Meeting Notes – March 4, 2015
Questions/Concerns/Suggestions: Contact your GSC reps, August Guang & Alexandria Volkening

- **Dental Insurance**: Dental insurance starts in September for doctoral students. It seems like dental could only be a one year thing unless we actively keep campaigning for it. One way to show Brown that dental is important to us is to have high enrollment in the program. Unlike with health insurance there is no buy-out for opting out.

- **Attachments on Listservs**: It is now permitted to attach files on emails to the grad listservs (GSBB, etc).

- **GradCon 2015**: GradCon (“Graduate Career Options Conference”) is an opportunity to hear from Brown alumni (masters & doctoral) who have careers outside of academia. What the GSC needs from us: comments/suggestions on what we would like to see at GradCon.

- **University Resources Council Report**: The University Resources Council (URC) makes suggestions for budgetary shifts between different university projects. The URC grad reps came to report that we are in a very pro-graduate student moment at Brown right now, but this means that next year we may not fare as well in budget meetings. In order to make dental insurance more than a one year commitment, it is important that we remain active and vocal about our needs next year. The URC grad reps are interested in knowing which issues we think are most important so that they can argue about these issues and work with the URC. Contact: sam_franklin@brown.edu and marc_mayes@brown.edu.

- **Dean of Students Search Committee Report**: Interested in what qualities grad students want in a new Dean of Students. Contact: willis_monroe@brown.edu.

- **Mental Health Community Council**: Looking for students who have experiences or opinions on taking medical leave. Talk to Michael Murphy at mwm@brown.edu.

- **Spring Budget**: Changes include shifting money from a final internal committee officer party to pizza/beer more regularly at internal committee/office meetings. Group conference funding (mostly un-used) was removed and money was added to individual conference funding.

- **Changes in GSC Bylaws**: There are 5 proposed changes to the bylaws. These changes clarify the responsibilities of different officers, make it possible for the GSC to temporarily assign grad reps to internal committees if the place is vacant, and make it possible for graduate students to apply for grants from the GSC for a more diverse set of needs. Changes in bylaws have to be voted on twice, so they will be voted on again at the next GSC meeting.

- **Elections/Positions**: All 3 vacancies on the Finance Committee. The GSC has 3 new board members – a treasurer, Co-VP of social events & student live, and a VP of advocacy. The Communications Committee needs more people – they meet once a month (free food) and send out emails, work on the blog, etc. There are 4 vacancies for Student Observers of Faculty Meetings.

- **Upcoming Event**: St. Patrick’s Day Trivia Night will take place Monday, March 16. There will be beer, pizza, and prizes. You need to register to participate; you can either register a team (which can include friends not from Brown) or register as an individual and join a team. To register go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1cNmYwn9yl4a-MpW2ZY1mGQTuyljD8rLSwGTYh-K3Mp0/viewform?usp=send_form.