Graduate Student Council Meeting Notes – May 6, 2015

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

- **Title IX:** Amanda Walsh, the Brown Title IX Program Officer, came to talk about resources for victims of sexual assault, harassment, and related issues, and to ask for grad student feedback. She is not a confidential resource, but is happy to meet with grad students. She is also open to meet with people who do not want to share their name.

- **Dental:** Brown will provide dental insurance for doctoral students starting in September. It was asked whether or not dental insurance will be provided in future years or be a one-year commitment. The Provost is very interested in making dental insurance standard, but we need to continue showing the administration that it is important to us.

- **Future Priorities:** In the fall the GSC will focus on supporting international grad students, implementing recommendations of the Sexual Assault Task Force, and improving grad spaces.

- **GradCon 2015:** This event will bring alumni with jobs outside of academia back to campus to share their experiences on Saturday, November 14, 2015. If you have suggestions for potential speakers, contact the GSC VP of Advocacy.

- **Grad Space:** Getting space is a challenge, but we have a unique opportunity to get space now because some rooms are being freed up on campus. To be successful, we need to be concrete about what we want (i.e. community space, study space, large rooms, quiet rooms, game rooms...) - if you have suggestions, talk to August or I. Also, the GSC Lounge is underused - the space is available to book for parties, study events, etc. In order to show Brown we will use new space, we need to book events in the GSC Lounge.

- **Grad Student Group Recognition:** The GSC Nominations Officer is working on improving the way grad student groups are recognized by the GSC and on helping these groups get funded. To submit a grad group proposal, email gsc_nominations@brown.edu.

- **International Student Orientation:** Ben Fancy, the International Student Advocate, is looking for volunteers to help with International Student Orientation as peer mentors. He needs people to meet international students and eat meals with them. Orientation will take place from August 26-28. If you volunteer, meals will be provided. You do not have to be an international student to volunteer, nor do you have to be available all three days. There is also a paid job opening for a grad student to assist with orientation. Interested? Email GSC_IntlAdvocate@brown.edu.

- **Grad Parenthood:** The GSC rep for Portuguese & Brazilian studies can be contacted if you are a grad student parent and are interested in connecting with other families and creating play groups.

- **Departmental Rebates:** As a reminder, each department in good standing is eligible to receive $5 per graduate student from the GSC to fund events.

- **Updated Grad Lounge:** The Finance Committee would like to update the grad lounge with pool tables, sofas, air hockey, foosball, and table tennis, but this proposal cannot be pursued until a new room is found for GSC meetings. To suggest ways to improve the lounge, email gsc_treasurer@brown.edu.

- **Conference Funding:** Grad students who present at conferences can apply for funding from the GSC - $300 if you have no outside funding, $200 otherwise.

- **Upcoming Event:** Champagne Toast on May 22, 2015 for graduating students and their families/friends at the Grad Lounge. There will be several administrators in attendance.

- **Summer Happy Hours:** There is an extra $4000 in the social budget, so the GSC will host a few summer events - game nights, bar nights, pizza... Suggestions? Email gsc_vpsocial@brown.edu.

- **Date of Next GSC Meeting:** Wednesday, September 2, 2015.