

DARTMOUTH

Graduate Student Council

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November GBM Minutes

7th November 2023

Topic 1. GOLD Union update.

The November GBM welcomed GOLD Union representative, Logan Mann, who provided a comprehensive overview of the union's establishment in 2021 and its achievements, including securing OSHA standards for campus labs, implementing workers' compensation, and reinstating a formal grievance process. Logan reminded members that the bargaining sessions are open to all union members, and that attending GOLD general body meetings gives members a direct say in the crafting of the bargaining platform. Additionally, a bargaining tracker is available for members to stay updated. Whilst pressure from members is helping, there are still points of contention. Dartmouth council has been using the "student" argument, claiming that the day-to-day life of graduate students is more akin to that of undergraduates than workers. Issues like discipline and discharge policies, as well as the lack of discrimination and anti-sexual harassment protections in the contract, are major concerns, with Dartmouth council resisting their inclusion. Graduate students are encouraged to actively engage in union activities through attendance at GOLD GBMs and participating in collective actions

Topic 2. Finance Report

The finance report, presented at the GBM, underscored that only \$12k remained in the standard fund after the first month. Clubs were recommended to prioritize the utilization of block funds before requesting standard funding. Additionally, projected expenses for November exceeded \$5k and had the potential to escalate to over \$8k. The rapid pace of expenditure posed a risk of depleting the GSC budget, prompting a caution for clubs to exercise greater care in submitting standard funding requests. Subsequently, there were discussions about the possibility of raising student activity fees

Topic 3. Clamantis Funding

The focal point of the meeting revolved around the discussion on Clamantis funding. The issue stemmed from a communication breakdown between the club and the GSC, resulting in Clamantis not receiving the expected block funding. The question of whether to provide the club with block funding after the expired deadline was brought to a vote among the general body. To facilitate the discussion, both the GSC and Clamantis presented their timelines of events.

The timeline of events shows that Clamantis submitted their application on August 14, followed by a series of communications and attempts to secure funding. These included a funding request from Clamantis's faculty advisor on September 25 for the plenary meeting, an apology from the Clamantis president for communication gaps due to illness on September 26, and confusion over a request to reapply and a spreadsheet mentioned by the GSC on September 29. On October 4, Clamantis submitted a new application. On October 13, there was a meeting with the GSC President, and by November 7, Clamantis approached a GSC member expressing concerns over inadequate communication from the GSC, confusion about the new funding form, and lack of notification about the budget approval vote.

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During discussions within the GSC, the feasibility of funding Clamantis was affirmed, although only \$12,000 remained in standard funding. The question arose why Clamantis was allocated \$800 instead of the full \$1,000, to which the response was that the budget was tight this year, and some clubs received only \$800 in total. Some clubs had proactively confirmed the receipt of their forms with Vedang (Finance Chair). It was noted that there is only one finance chair and three people on the temporary budget committee. Additionally, Clamantis stated that being funded only through standard funding requests was not feasible for them due to the short turnaround times required for their events, such as authors visiting town at the last minute.

The discussion concluded with the suggestion that all clubs should have a finance point of contact or officer, and the GSC should release clear dates for funding processes. This was seen as a standard constitutional requirement for clubs, which Clamantis might have been grandfathered in. Ultimately, the GSC passed the decision to provide \$800 in block funding to Clamantis. This sum was allocated from the standard funds available to the GSC.

Topic 4. Statement of Support

The general body voted to approve publishing a statement of support for the graduate student body in light of recent global events.

Topic 5. Ivy+ Takeaway

In October, several members of the GSC attended an Ivy+ summit and returned with key insights to enhance the Dartmouth graduate community. First, there is a proposal to establish an overarching graduate school council that would encompass Guarini, Geisel, Thayer, and Tuck. Additionally, recognizing that many campus buildings lack accessibility, the suggestion is to conduct an independent accessibility evaluation to prompt the administration to implement necessary changes. Other suggested improvements include hosting more child-friendly events, increasing resource awareness among students, and creating common gathering spaces. Furthermore, preparations are needed for the upcoming Ivy+ summit at Dartmouth next year.

Topic 6. Budget Reminders

The primary concern was the limited amount of standard funding remaining for the rest of the year, which amounts to only \$12,000 until next September. Therefore members should be cautious in approving standard funding requests to ensure that the available funds are utilized effectively and efficiently. There was a suggestion to inquire if Guarini could contribute to the funding. However, it was noted that Guarini had always responded negatively to such requests in past meetings. This led to a discussion about the budget allocated for fellows by Guarini. It was clarified that there is no specific budget set aside for fellows. Instead of covering housing and meal plans, Guarini now provides stipends directly to fellows. This shift in funding allocation raises questions about the availability of additional funds that could have been used for fellow support. Additionally, Guarini organizes several social events such as ice cream and pizza socials.

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Topic 7. Club Incubator

CARE has initiated the Club Incubator Program, designed to enhance accessibility to club creation for a broader audience. This is achieved by enabling the establishment of short-term clubs for hosting events which collaborate with a GSC committee who assists with logistics. The initial round of applications was scheduled to conclude on November 27th.

Topic 8. CARE Co-Chair

CARE announced that it has one open position to be a co-chair for this committee. Interested applicants should contact current chairs or fill our application form on the GSC website.

Topic 9. Open forum

During the open forum, there was a discussion about introducing a new co-chair position for Finance. The creation of this new role will undergo a vote in April, and a new candidate will be appointed in May for the upcoming executive year. Towards the end of the meeting the general body was notified of Dartmouth IT wanting to add a new Green Print station. It was suggested that the new Green Print be a color printer located in Anonymous Hall. GSC President Madeline also solicited suggestions for decorations for the Grad Student Lounge. Darnya Gladun was the member of the month!