

GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL **UIC** UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

GENERAL BODY MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 14, 2010

Welcome – Deana Lewis (President of the GSC)

Campus Housing Information - Nick Ardinger – Asst. Director of Marketing for Campus Housing

Email: ardinger@uic.edu

Website: www.housing.uic.edu

- Camus Housing has grad housing – utilities incl., laundry is free, opportunity to network with other students, social support group, discount tickets to events throughout city (living in Chicago + UIC).
- Happy to answer any questions, give tour, etc.

Graduate Employees Organization (GEO) - Stephen Davis (GSC Anthropology rep + a GEO Steward), Jason Leto (GEO staff member), Jason Anton (GEO Chief Steward)

Email: geo@uic-geo.net

Website: <http://uic-geo.net/>

Deana: GEO began in early 90s in the English dept. after watching UIUC. Formed in Fall 2003; recognized by UIC in Fall 2004. It is the basic bargaining entity for TAs and GAs.

Steve: GEO stewards last semester mainly had to get students to rallies; employment contract was signed last year

- Tuition differentials (wanted to get rid of them) but mostly we want transparency - some depts. charge them for extra costs; mostly not waived with tuition waivers. We are hosting a Tuition Differential Forum on October 19, at 5:00 PM in Student Center West (828 S Wolcott), Chicago Room C. Light refreshments will be served.
- On behalf of GEO – thank GSC for supporting GEO last year in time of need. Passed a resolution about getting administrators to engage in discussion towards speedy resolution of contract negotiations.
- TAs/GAs should officially register with GEO as you pay for it anyway – gives you chance to vote.
- Stewardship duties - put into it as much as you want - sharing info. + networking – you are not forced to come to the GEO alternate week meetings

Jason A: Steward's main responsibility = communication – forward info. from GEO leadership to students and student concerns in depts. to GEO.

Jon Poore (English): What did the administration agree to about tuition differentials?

Steve: We can have as many meetings with them about tuition differentials as needed to learn about how it is spent, why, etc.

Ivan Alfaro (Business): How many students suffer from tuition differential, how many depts.?

Steve: Don't know exactly – it is widespread (raising of hands of GSC reps).

Holden Brown (GSC VP): Where are the collected fees going?

Jason A.: Fair share dues are collected from everyone in the bargaining unit (TAs + GAs); 2.25% of your stipend – goes to great staff that support us and for our office,

Steve: The GEO works for students – recently the Chemistry dept. sent a letter to students promising a raise and then the dept. wanted to take it back but GEO stepped in and made sure that that didn't happen.

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Kristin Scally (Public Administration): Share a personal example of how the GEO helped me and 4 other students – our dept. tried to take away our tuition waivers but GEO helped us get in touch with the appropriate administrators to get it back.

Graduate College (GC) – Interim Dean Henri Gillet

Website: <http://grad.uic.edu/cms/>

Deana: GC offers resources, guidance and advocacy for grad. students; GSC thanks them for really including and welcoming GSC initiatives.

- All students not in professional programs are students in GC
- We set standards for applications, and how grad programs treat students academically
- Related to the GEO and contract negotiations - strictly speaking GC has no responsibility in HR – that is unfortunate when trying to advocate for students
- We are an advocate for graduate education – with the state + university budget crisis we see increased faculty workloads and a focus on undergrad. education – our job = promote quality of grad education @ faculty level
- Set up workshops + seminars useful for you
- Survey of new UIC grads – impressions of UIC, experience so far - new students often have unrealistic expectations so we can help through workshops on how to do research, etc.
- Meeting with DGS – 25% of GC are involved with diversity – recruiting + mentoring students from underrepresented groups.
- Soon you will get a survey about the mentoring process in your programs – whether your progress is evaluated annually.
- A GC contact you should look up is Lisa Knepshield, the external fellowships coordinator. # external fellowships has steadily increased since she has come in.

Gibran Rezavi (Economics): What is the best route to raise concerns with GC?

HG: It depends on the type of concerns – there is a list of contact people on the GC website – if the concern is specific, contact the appropriate person directly or email others or me and we'll forward it along.

Stephen Davis (Anthropology): Explain more about this 25% for diversity mentoring - time or budget?

HG: 25% GC staff – the diversity group works mostly with West campus colleges, urban health programs – helps with recruiting.

Tiffany Funk (Art History): What are effective ways of evaluating grad. students? – I'm involved in 2 depts with very different methods.

HG: I was at the meeting of the Midwest Association of Grad Schools where they discussed having a formal evaluation method. UIUC conducted a survey - some conclusions came from that as to what works and does not. First, I'm interested in how many depts. at UIC don't have a program before judging them.

The National Research Council just came out with an evaluation about grad. schools – we worry about the national reputation of grad programs at UIC. A survey conducted in 1993 of Math. grad. students found that 33 came for faculty quality, 36 for program quality.

We need to analyze data - Average time to degree, % students supported in 1st year, % students who complete degree, etc.

Ina Han (Neuroscience): How does GC provide oversight in depts. administratively?

HG: In depts. the DGS + staff are in regular communication with GC. If students are taking longer for degree – we have to sign off on that and we hear about problems.

University of Illinois at Chicago • 750 S Halsted St., m/c 330 • Chicago, IL 60607 • Student Center East, Rm. 380K
ph:(312) 355-5102 • fax: (312) 355-5101 • gsc-officers@uic.edu • www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/gsc

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With problematic depts., we work to persuade depts. they should be doing better – talk to the Dean; in the extreme case we can, in principle, say dept X can no longer support grad students but we have never had to.

Stephen Davis (Anthropology): I want to officially thank you encouraging transparency from your office. You sent me a page and half reply to a question I emailed you last year.

GSC Project Awards - Holden Brown (GSC VP)

Website: http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/gsc/awardInfo.html

Email: hbrow5@uic.edu

- We give 4/semester at \$400 a piece. Have to be accessible to all grad. students; we encourage interdisciplinary projects that might interest more than 1 dept.; money can pay for food and other stuff; the event has to be announced to all grad students. Information is on the website. Questions – email me.

Project Award Presentation: Conference on German Russian relations– Ekaterina Pirozhenko (PhD student, Germanic Studies)

1st interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference on German-Russian relations.

When: Nov 12-13.

Sponsored by the School of Literature, Cultural Studies, Linguistics, History dept., Slavic and Baltic Studies – funding for supplies, folders, lunches, dinner – but we are lacking money for the last dinner on Sat.

The conference is open to any grad. student at UIC – no registration fees.

Steve Davis (Anthropology): Are the papers presented in English?

EP: All papers are in English. All quotations will be translated if in German.

Trevor Gates (Social Work): How many students or others have already registered?

EP: 25 presenters

Harish (GSC Treasurer): How many students are you expecting?

EP: About 50

Harish: Where is event?

EP: In 3 locations - Stevenson Hall – Institution of Humanities in Lower Level, UH 15th floor and the film screening will be in Grant Hall.

Deana Lewis: Are the dinners/lunches open to all participants?

EP: Yes

Jordan Gunn (Pharmacognosy): Is this German food?

EP: No we went with food from Greek town.

Project Award Presentation: Indian Graduate Student Association (IGSA) Diwali night - Shasi Sridharan (MS student, Computer Science)

IGSA is the student org. for graduate students of Indian origin.

Diwali is the most important festival in India. We usually have it closed to members and their guests. But this year we are making it big - open to anyone. IGSA is hosting the event together with the Indian Student Association + Hindu Student Council – they are helping with the publicity. So far, over 300 people have RSVPed.

When: Nov 2nd

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Where: Illinois room in SCE.

What: Indian food dinner + performances by dance groups @ UIC.

Asking for GSC support for the food.

Trevor Gates (Social Work): What time?

SS: 6pm on Tue 2nd Nov.

Juan Martinez (Sociology)– How have you publicized this?

SS: Initially facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=145707265473478>), now through UIC Announce + flyers on campus

Harish (GSC Treasurer): We only sponsor \$400 but your food quote is \$700.

SS: \$400 would be a big help.

Harish: Do you have permission to get food from outside?

SS: We are almost done with paperwork for it

VOTING:

Conference on German Russian relations

Nays = 0

Abstentions = 1

Approved by majority

Indian Graduate Student Association (IGSA) Diwali night

Nays = 0

Abstentions = 2

Approved by majority.

Committees and Announcements – Deana

Student Activities Fee Committee (SAFC) – Harish Kanchi (GSC Treasurer)

- Can give \$14,000 for a multi-day event, \$7,000 for a single day event; can get money for speaker-honorariums other than those who work for UIC, have to be open to all students on campus, have to be on campus; cannot fund food.

Search Committee for the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs – Harish Kanchi (GSC Treasurer)

- The search firm hosted an open forum for students, faculty, Deans to collect ideas about the vision for the profile of the ideal candidate and where we would like to see UIC at 3-5 years from now (what works/is good at UIC and what isn't). Email me with suggestions/ideas.

Deana: The Board of Trustees and new President are instituting changes in university administration and reporting structures. This could have significant impact.

GSC Travel awards –Harish Kanchi (GSC Treasurer)

- We approved all awards within the quota for the first quarter. The Dean of Students office has been very helpful. We will start approving second quarter next week.

April Jackson (Urban Planning): What are the deadlines?

Harish: Apply within quarter that your conference end date is in and it must be within 30 days after conference travel. Do not apply in the quarter before the conference.

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Holden Brown (GSC VP) – Awards are given on a First Come First Served basis per quarter so bear in mind that your application is not automatically approved.

Jordan Gunn (Pharmacognosy): When is the earliest one can apply?
Harish – The start of quarter the conference end date falls in.

Deana (GSC President): We officers meet every week to discuss what's going on, updates, etc. We have office hours on our website but it may be easier to set an appointment by email. We have a little backlog on travel awards. Reassure your constituents that the money will come.

Campus Centers Board – Holden Brown (GSC VP)

- This committee discusses the various student centers, recreation facilities and such. There is a push for sustainable agendas – recycling.

Faculty Senate – Holden Brown (GSC VP)

- I sit on the Research Committee + Executive Committee. We are working on ways to become more efficient. Recently voted on creating the Cardiovascular Center on the Medical campus.
- President Hogan instituted new name changes for university administrators – that changes structure and responsibilities. The position of Vice President for Health Affairs was created - huge impact on UIC. We are looking at that.
- Bill Ayers Emeritus status situation – the Senate is looking into that.

Dean Linda Deanna – The new President's administrative restructuring could have impact on all campuses in terms of how we do business. So they are conducting two town hall meetings so faculty, staff, students can hear about the restructuring and to get your feedback about ideas.

General Town Hall meeting

When: Thursday, October 21, 2010 from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Where: Student Services Building Conference Room C, 1200 W. Harrison Street.

Second Town Hall meeting

When: Wednesday, October 27, 2010 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. on

Where: Moss Auditorium, Room 1020 in the College of Medicine Research Building (909 S. Wolcott Street).

Deana (GSC President): Changes in administration affects your quality of life so we want to see students show up and voice opinions.

Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) – Deana Lewis (GSC President)

- Dr. Ginsburg presents the proposed fee for all students for 2011-12 to higher administrators – Board of Trustees - and we should hear back at the end of the year.

Looking for graduate representation – Deana Lewis

Campus Care Committee – if you are interested in serving, contact us. There are 2 meetings a year.

Volunteers: Ina Han (Neuroscience), Jesse Ackles (Linguistics)

Search Committee for the Dean of Liberal Arts and Science College - as he is leaving. If you are in LAS and interested in serving, contact me.

Proposal to unify student governments at UIC – Deana Lewis

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The Undergrad Student Government passed a resolution to explore a unified student govt. – USG + GSC + Health Professional Student Council (HPSC) – to govern all students on campus. We will just be starting conversations. Let us know if you have ideas/input; if this is something that will be good or awful. Email me your thoughts. This was motivated by the fact that UIUC has a unified student govt.

Patrick Kania (Biomedical Visualization): The 2010 Frank Armitage Lecture is on Oct 28-29. It discusses how we impact the field of science.

Thursday, October 28, 2010

Morning Session, 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon UIC Student Center West, Chicago Room (second floor)

10:00-11:00, Christine Young, Principal, Young & McKenna

11:00-12:00, Vanessa Ruiz, Art Director, Abelson-Taylor; Creator, Street Anatomy

12:00-2:00, Lunch Break

Gerald Moss Auditorium, UIC College of Medicine

2:00-3:30, The 2010 Frank Armitage Lecture, Jane Hurd, Founder & President, Hurd Studios

3:30-5:00, Reception for Jane Hurd, UIC Alumni Center, College of Medicine

Friday, October 29, 2010

UIC Engineering Research Facility, East Campus, 842 W. Taylor Street (second floor)

9:30-11:30, Dr. Luc Renambot, Assistant Professor, EVL & BVis

Juan Martinez (Sociology): The Sociology dept. hosts colloquiums on Wednesdays about inter-group relations. These are open to everyone interested in such discussions. We are interested in hosting a qualitative data management workshop – how to organize our data on computers to make our research endeavors easier – in Spring 2010. I'm organizing it so if you have ideas on who to invite to present on the panels, contact me. Email: jmarti3@uic.edu

GSC General Body Upcoming Meeting Dates

THU, November 11th

THU, January 13, 2011

THU, February 10, 2011

THU, March 10, 2011

THU, April 14, 2011