

GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL
UIC UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO

Student Services Building, Conference Rooms BC
Thursday, October 4, 2012
5:00 – 7:00 pm

Minutes

Welcome / open call for urgent matters

- No calls received from GSC reps

GSC Officer Reports

• **President**

- GSC has filled all 10 graduate student seats for the **UIC Senate** (<http://www.uic.edu/depts/senate/index.html>). Students were elected via written ballot during the first Senate meeting on Sept 27, 2012. The appointed graduate student senate representatives for this year are as follows:
 - Sigcho, Byron '13
 - Hahn, Joshua '13
 - Peiravi, Farid '13
 - Blake, Garcia '13
 - Pham, Thao '13
 - Jalundhwal, Yash '13
 - Korn, Jenny '13
 - Bhat, Meghna '13
 - Singhal, Puneet '13
 - Diallo, Moriba '13
- Expansion of **Spanish program** was approved
- **UIC Student Fees Advisory Committee:** Grad students pay fees for various services on campus. The SFAC makes recommendations about how much student fees should be and how fee money should be sent. These recommendations are subject to the final approval of the UIC Board of Trustees. The committee represents all UIC students through the other UIC student governments and organizations, such as the GSC. Grad students pay fees for various services on campus. Updates will be given at the November GSC meeting.
- ***If anyone has specific feedback or suggestions for GSC, please let us know.***

• **Vice President**

- Several workshops and events are being planned through the end of the semester. Any suggestions for events, contact Engin.
 - Comment from the floor to provide more stress management events with the Wellness Center where students can “kick/punch things”
- TBA: The Chancellor is planning to host approx. 50 graduate students at UIC basketball games in the spring. Sponsorship will include the tickets to attend the game, t-shirts, and food. GSC reps will be offered tickets first, then the offer will be extended to the general grad student population. More information to come.

• **Secretary**

- Working to improve communications with grad student body through use of the GSC blog (<http://uicgsc.wordpress.com/>), Facebook

GSC MEETING SCHEDULE FOR AY2012-13

Oct 4, Nov 1, Feb 7, Mar 7, Apr 4
SSB - Rms B&C, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

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(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/30064211826/?fref=ts>), and the UIC grad listserv.

- Seeking volunteers to assist with communication efforts, creating weekly digest. Please contact gwoodson@uic.edu if interested in helping.
- **GSC 101: Intro in being a GSC Rep**
 - This 2-page blurb (http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/gsc/links.html) reviews the role of a GSC rep and the attendance policy (make-up hours, travel awards, etc.).
- **GSC Committee Sign-Up**
 - Have a special project in mind? Join one of the GSC committees! http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/gsc/committees.html. All graduate students are encouraged to join and get involved – this is YOUR student council!
- **GSC Facebook Page!**
 - Please join us on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/30064211826/>
- **Treasurer**
 - **Gift card trivia:** How are travel awards given? Answer: travel awards are given throughout the year over four (4) quarters on a first come, first served basis. Students apply for travel awards only within the quarter in which the conference/event takes place.
 - **Gift card trivia:** How do I claim my travel award? Answer: once approved, students can bring receipts to Dean of Students office to complete other paperwork for reimbursement. If conference is still pending at the time of approval, please let GSC executive board know. Students have up to two (2) weeks to submit receipts to the Dean's office.
 - **Gift card trivia:** How many awards will be given in the third and fourth quarters? 71 awards will be given in the third quarter (Nov 2012 – Jan 2013); 77 awards in the fourth quarter (Feb 2013 – Apr 2013)

GSC Committee Reports

- **Academic Committee**
 - 10/18 career workshop, tentative; planning for speaker from industry to guide students on resume writing.
 - Soliciting 2nd yr grad student (masters level) to give advice to 1st yr students about how to go about preparing and writing thesis
 - GSC is partnering with the Graduate College to plan other academic, social events (see handout)
- **Service Committee**
 - Stress mgt workshop on 10/4/12 went well. It was a GSC collaboration with the UIC Wellness Center. Students received real-life, practical advice and exercises to combat symptoms of stress. GSC plans to host another session, possibly on west campus
 - There is a health and nutrition workshop in the works; another collaboration with the wellness center
- **Social Committee** (Presented by Mehgna, Criminology)

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- Salsa night continues on Oct 24 from 8-10pm; Great opportunity to relax, socialize. different instructors coming, 1st hour includes free lessons.
- GSC Bowling Event in planning stages. Will take place at student center east in Nov (prob nov 16). Free food, bowling, all lanes reserved for event!
- Upcoming graduate college events
 - GC coffee hour 10/4 @ 9-10:30am went well. Event will be repeated in future, possibly on West campus
 - Trip to art institute on Wed Nov 7; free food, transportation; second trip to be planned later date – possibly a Saturday?
 - Rep comment: need to bring more GC events to west campus
- Diversity Committee
 - Works closely with the UIC Chancellor Diversity Committees with planning and attending events and programs
- Sustainability Committee
 - Clothes collection drive ongoing for past 2 weeks at student centers east and west. Boxes of clothes will be picked up on Monday morning, so students can continue to donate through Sun night - going to salvation army. Other possible charities to consider - AM vets? Other ideas?
 - GSC is starting battery/electronics recycling program. We need suggestions on where to place boxes (5 boxes initially with expectation of increasing number available on campus). A list of acceptable equipment to be provided at later time. Disposal of university property should be handled according to university policies.
- Communications Committee
 - GSC is looking to create a mascot / icon to put on promotional items. Juan Martinez to present on the topic (below)
 - Still seeking volunteers to assist with communications committee.
 - Rep Question (Jose Melendez) GSC needs to better enforce guidelines of the project award process, specifically in regards to applicants advertising funded events. Suggestion: GSC should re-write application form to state that funding would be denied or withheld if event is not properly advertised
 - Treasurer (Yash) reply: currently GSC does not follow up to ensure that funded events are advertised, but has made changes to assign individuals to follow up with the project award process to ensure all steps are followed
 - GSC should amend the application process to state that students cannot present project proposals to GSC reps without having a flyer available
- Finance Committee
 - Member of the finance committee will be assigned to follow up with each project award that has been funded through GSC
 - Committee is also reviewing which departments have received travel awards and the number of approved awards per department for previous years to ensure travel awards are more equally distributed across campus
 - Committee is looking to create more transparency for travel award process. Working on process to help individuals know where they are on wait-list: status info will be organized by ID number on the GSC website. Information will state “pending,” “approved,” or “waitlisted.” Applications are never closed once submitted, as monies may become available later in the year

Project Award Presentation

Meghna / Joanna (criminology)

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- The commencement ceremony for LAS (24+ departments within college, largest number of undergrad and grad students) is problematic for grad students. Grad students don't receive the recognition that other colleges are able to give. We need solutions to time and space constraints during LAS commencement ceremonies. For example, only 4 tickets are available for LAS students, but other departments not limited in the number of family and friends students can invite.
- Suggestions:
 - Do we need a separate ceremony for graduate students?? MS and PhD students are not recognized in the same way as other departments.
 - It would be nice to have speakers that are specific for grad students (current process is geared towards undergrads. very little attention granted for grad students)
 - We need to determine if logistics make this feasible - do we have the space, time, etc. to implement a new process for grad students? This is a particularly important issue for out-of-town students because coming back to Chicago in the following year to participate in commencement may present as a hardship
- We're soliciting volunteers to distribute a survey to gauge interest from other students about how to reform the graduate student commencement process
 - A motion was put forth to move discussion to a committee that can continue to investigate options to recognize the LAS grad commencement in different way. Survey for LAS students will be sent out at later date.

IRB Issues

Juan Martinez (Sociology) (powerpoint presentation)

- "Un-green" practice of submitting several hard copies to IRB --> need to move toward electronic submission process; burden on researchers, particularly if out-of-state; difficulty in obtaining necessary signatures; printing costs
- Suggestion: exploratory committee to work with IRB towards making app process more efficient and "green"
- Volunteer committee members - neuroscience (antonia) & physics (ronnie?)

GSC Mascot??

Juan Martinez (Sociology) (powerpoint presentation)

- WE need a GSC mascot! Maybe sparky the dragon, "the flames"?
- promotes grad solidarity and cool to do in free time
- doesnt have to be related to the flames or sparky; Frazzled / Frazzy the dragon??
- proposing exploratory committee to consider options; can look at suggestions from last year's survey

Project Award Presentation

Michal Wilczewski, Windy City Graduate Student History conference

- 50 panelists nationally, showcases research, acknowledges UIC and History department
- Requesting \$450 to cover costs of breakfast, lunch; \$50 to offset costs of transportation, etc for speaker from U of Chicago

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- Event has received funding from GSC in previous years
- Motion to vote: approved for funding by majority GSC reps

Graduate Student Bill of Rights

- Seeking volunteers to form committee to review / revise UIC grad student bill of rights

Meeting adjourned

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