

GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

UIC UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

General Body Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 17, 2011

Welcome, Juan R. Martinez

GSC Officer Reports

Office of the President, Juan R. Martinez

The GSC Web site updated. All reps should register themselves. Please provide a personal photo if you wish to upload.

Welcome by Dean Linda Deanna, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs / Dean of Students and GSC Advisor

Meeting with Vice Chancellor Student Leaders with Vice Chancellor Barbara Henley

Points of discussion:

- Option to make UIC a smoke free campus. We will construct a student survey have a smoke free campus, perhaps we will have a survey. Payment plans for students who can't pay bills. Students getting taxed on their stipends. Invite GEO reps to speak on it.
- Creation of a UIC graduate students mascot.

Meeting with the UIC Graduate College

- The GSC Academic committee attended and discussed working jointly with the GC on initiatives, seminars, workshops, and programs.

Meeting with Campus Care Representatives

- Discussion on how to maintain the cost without cutting benefits. Next meeting Nov. 30th.

Appointments

- 5 graduate students to the UIC Faculty Senate: Thank you for your service
- Chancellor Committee Graduate Student Representatives: Thank you for your service

Office of the Vice-President (Byron Sigcho)

Announcements

- Student Fee Advisory Committee update. The SFAC announced a \$10 reduction on student fees for the next school year 2012-2013. Also, there will be an optional green fee of approximately \$4 to promote the green campus initiative which will fund student initiatives to make the UIC campus more eco-friendly.
- Invitation for our next social event on December 1st 2011 from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm at Three Aces (1321 W Taylor St). There will be FREE pizza and appetizers for everyone, great deals on drinks, and of course the chance to meet other graduate students.

Introduction of GEO Representatives, Liz Sauer and Greg Sutliff

- Working together will provide good results. 2% stipend increase, 1,000 fee waivers. Tuition waivers are for everyone Gas and TAs. GA taxation issue for out of state students needs to be addressed. Tuition differentials issue (up to \$4,000) as well. Out of network coverage is also an issue among grad student since we still have to call campus to get a referral for hospitalization. GEO mandatory fee explanation.

Office of the Treasurer

- *Travel awards*: Explanation for delay on applications approval.
 - Question: International students get taxed? Yash: Yes, they do.
- Project awards update.

GSC Committee Updates

Academic Committee, Vanessa Guridy, Political Science

- Coming up with ideas for the following workshops/programs:
 - Teaching certification programs/workshops.
 - Monthly Support Meetings with graduate students from other disciplines
 - Financial planning
- Graduate Students' Mascot selection: Encourage student participation. Survey to follow by facebook/survey monkey

Service committee, Yu-hui Huang, Biomedical Visualization

- Collection drive for adults in need. Gift event, Student Center East Suite 245. We need volunteers to put together hygiene kits and Marine Corps bin.

Social Committee

- Please join us for our social event on December 1st 2011 from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm at Three Aces (1321 W Taylor St).

Sustainability Committee

- No update

Faculty Senate Graduate Representative, Joceyln Shadforth, Educational Psychology

Update on UIC Faculty Senate Meeting

- Economic situation with the university and state. The state owes \$349 million to the university. The Provost is concerned since the legislation backed down on funding, but there is some cushion. However, there is uncertainty, so the provost calls for saving funds.
- Associate for Government affairs – Urban planning director, gave an overview of the economic situation. The state is overoptimistic in its projections of the budget with a 8 – 10% growth rate. However, the Midwest seems to be leading the rest of the nation out of this recession.

UIC Student Trustee, Ken Thomas

Overview and explanation of university national ranking.

- The Long term goal is to cement the university's placement as far as reputation. The number one Public University and make UI more visible in the rankings. UIC is 167th worldwide. UIUC 18th....but 26th only counting public universities. The Executive Committee met with the President, not very clear what is the vision for the university; concern, what is happening to the furlough pay. Faculty senate only 30% attendance rate.
- *Call for reps for the UIC Faculty Senate.*
 - Dean Deanna: There are 50 spots for graduate students and there is poor attendance by the faculty. If students show up they will have the majority. Your voices matter

Diversity committee

- *No update*

Call for nominations for GSC Secretary

- *No nominations*

Project Awards

- Report by Jenny Boone (History Dept) on Contested Spaces Conference, sponsored by the UIC History department History Conference.
 - Had an outside key note speaker from Michigan State University. We doubled participation, so we had to turn down applications due to space. There was a total 51 participants from 30 schools, nationally. We had one from Sydney [Australia]

New Business

Call for Project Award Submissions

Project Award Submission, Yu-hui Huang, Biomedical Visualization

- Reimbursement for materials for UIC Collection drive. Costs include \$250 for mass email and \$100 for printing and advertising. Total comes to 350.
- Call for vote to approve \$350 for materials for UIC collection drive
 - 46 ayes; the motion passes. Congratulations Yui-Hui.

Announcements

Ken Thomas, Student Trustee

- Next University Board meeting in Springfield
- Please complete the UIC University Climate Survey

Vanessa Guridy, Political Science

- Regarding Academic committee activities she proposes that we do a survey to gather graduate student interests for workshops/programs/seminars. Also, to get ideas for the Graduate college mascot.

Yash Jalundwala, GSC Treasure

- Please volunteer to send an online survey to him by next Monday, November 21st 2011..

Juan Martinez, GSC President

- The next GSC meeting is February 2, 2012

Adjournment