

President Byron Sigcho welcomes the attendees.
Motion to start the meeting.

Project awards:

1) Danielle from Sociology Dept.

- Started in 2011, this year UIC is hosting it; GSC will help them to get rooms from SCE.
- 45 submissions so far; about 50% of them are UIC grad students.
- 12 different panels.
- March 15 will be the conference.
- Lunch will be provided.
- Intersectionality in gender and sexuality studies will be this year's theme.
- Their website link can be found in GSC blog.

Q: How many people attend?

A: Around 75 people in past years, this year more than that. In previous years it was two days, this year will be only one day.

Reminder: This will not be a standard \$500 contribution but reserving the room in SCE.

Vote for the project award: Passed!

2) Dept. of Anthropology and Geography, Rebecca Seifried.

- This is the second year of the conference.
- This is a grad student conference but undergrads can also present posters.
- 50 paper and 20 posters has been submitted.
- Registration is available on their website; link can be found in Dept.'s website.
- There will be participants from other states.
- March 9th, 1 day event.
- Breakfast, coffee break, lunch will be provided for free for the registrants.
- Total operating budget is \$5000; \$1000 from Anth. Dept. Food is donated by private donor.

Vote for the project award: Passed!

Rebecca will send the flyers to GSC.

3) Alexis Munoz from School of Public Health.

- \$500 for the food budget.
- 34 years of history this conference has.
- 350 people attended last year
- Feb 22nd, 2013. All day event.
- Title: Translational Research from...

Vote: Passed!

Zipcar Presentation:

- Cars can be rent by the hour, by the day. There are 20 cars in the campus; available 24/7.
- People save \$500/month with compared to buying a car.
- Normal yearly fee is \$80 but for students it is \$15 for first year and \$25 after that.
- Gas, insurance included in the price.
- You return the car to the same location.
- International driver's license is accepted too.
- You reserve it online; you don't need to go to an office.
- Your zipcard is unlocking and locking the doors; keys are already inside the car.

Q: Is it possible to change the regular membership to student membership:

A: Yes.

Q: Do you have partnership with CTA.

A: No, Igo (which is a competitor of Zipcar) is collaborating with CTA.

Student Trustee; Ken Thomas' Report:

Updates from Board of Trustees:

- Tuition rates; they met about 3 weeks ago; he has a list of changes (including differentials) (this list should be added to the minutes later).
- Last 3-4 years they didn't change much.
- Student elections are coming up, Danielle is a candidate.
- Elections start at March 12th, all students are eligible to vote.
- Every six months board has retreats about education...
- University is engaging in a project to figure out how to make students more successful. There are many different committees on these; students can serve in these committees.
- Trustee office would like to have some kind of conversation with graduate students. Sometime in the next few months he will plan something; there may be free lunch. He will get back to us sometime soon.
- He has FB and Twitter pages if people would like to follow

Q: Fee and Tuition increases; are they available somewhere online?

A: Residential rates only are available in board website. Dean Deanna; it may be found in registration and records or financial aid websites.

Senate and GSC Committee Chairs elections:

- Last day is Feb 10, interested people can see Qiana Woodson.
- Correction from Ken; due date is actually tomorrow.

- It would be great to have a grad student to run in trustee position. Farid will be running for the position.
- Farid: "I had many different experiences outside the school too, in union positions, student organizations, committees, etc. I am asking for your support; I will hand out some nomination papers and I need you signatures as support."

CampusCare Updates:

- Qiana: Feb 10th is the deadline for the CampusCare benefit changes; e.g. if you got married, etc.
- Qiana and Yash are in the task force; some of the points from meeting: Contraceptives, lifetime benefits (?), gender change operation.
- Having these extra things will cause around \$100 increase in premiums per semester. Gender reassignment procedure benefit will cause \$5 increase per semester.

Q: Is it \$100 increase for contraceptives?

A: Assuming 85% of the women in campus will use it yes it will be around that much. We believe \$100 in the high end, there may be a more reasonable number later.

- Alexis Munoz: Currently CampusCare don't cover contraceptives.
- Another Rep: There are many things that is not covered by CampusCare; they don't cover blood transfusion products, birth control.
- Qiana Woodson: They are covering 9 hospitals in Chicagoland area, outside that it is 30% co-payment.
- The total premium increase may be up to \$150 per semester.
- Yash: These meetings are open to all grad students and you can join and contribute. We fight for the benefit of students but we may not know much; you may have a lot of crucial information, you can bring these up in these meetings.
- Note from Ken: Assumption of 85% of the women will use the contraceptives may be wrong; if you have a better utilization percentage you can contribute, we just want to consider the number high not to run short later.

Q: It sounds like a cosmetic operation will be covered by CampusCare (he meant the gender reassignment).

A: There is less than one person per year who goes under these operations in other universities and the cost will be \$5 per semester to all students. There are 10s of operations in gender reassignment process. There are a lot of psychological treatments too.

- Cap on lifetime benefits: Assuming most people between 18-30 years don't use that much; current cap is \$2 million and do you think we should keep it at that or decrease.
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- Q: Does that increase premiums?
- A: Yes.
- Going from \$2 million to \$500 k saves \$10 per semester.
- Historically no student has reached the cap.

GEO Updates:

- Becky; she is in the bargaining committee.
- Contract campaign started on May 26th, 2012 and still going on.
- University cancelled two sessions due to family emergencies.
- In terms of wages university wants to make no changes.
- GEO proposal is %80 of the CampusCare should be covered.
- Prescription benefit should be no less than \$10,000.
- GEO proposes no fees for students; school wants to keep them same.
- Faculty members in campus are unionized now.
- Non-discrimination; school changed his/her mind after 4 months (previously they agreed on some terms)
- School offers a sexual harassment class to meet the state requirements.
- School doesn't give sick leave for partners.
- Next bargaining session: UH 605, 9-5 pm, Feb 11th, 2013.
- 2/14/13 Delivery of Valentines.

Q: Has there been a strike?

A: Yes, in last bargaining period back in 2009.

Q: GA Waiver Taxation; is it only in UIC or in other universities too?

A: Ken: Federal tax code provides a waiver if you are teaching or doing research; otherwise there is a limit on waiver with no tax (?). It is a nationwide issue.

Basketball on Feb 26th, 2013 with Chancellor:

- Free food and T-shirt; chance to meet with chancellor.
- We need to get t-shirts done with graduate college. If anybody has any ideas for design they can contact us.

Chancellor's Diversity Committee:

Update from Laura Ramirez.

- Vice provost for diversity.
- If you have any issues about diversity or know someone with issues you can reach Laura.

- Candidates' presentations: Feb 25th, Monday 1:30, March 4th, 1:30-2:45 pm.
- If anybody is interested in preparing a survey to figure out graduate student's problems they can contact Laura. lramir11@uic.edu: Laura's e-mail.

Student Leader Awards:

- Anybody who wants to nominate themselves and send their CV's with their leadership details to Dean Deanna.

Nominations for GSC Officer Positions:

- Elections will be held in next meeting. Due date will be a few dates before the next GSC monthly meeting.

Update from Yash, GSC Treasurer:

- There are two more project awards left.
- For travel awards last quarter has begun.
- Yash gave some information about the payment process. Info can be found in GSC website (gsc.uic.edu).

Q: If the payment has not been received after 2-3 months who to contact?

A: Send an e-mail to GSC officers e-mail address or any of the officers.

- Qiana showed the GSC blog a little.
- Late night parking. Having U-Pass during summer and semester breaks.

Update from GSC Academic Committee from Puneet Singhal:

- Last semester we had two workshops.
- We will have a visit from a company person and he will give insights about how they process the applications. There will be also another resume workshop.

Update from Library and IT committee from Nilesh Sumb:

- \$2.3 million library's budget.
- They are trying to increase the floor area.
- They are planning to plan spaces around the campus in addition to library space.
- Increasing the wireless access points around the campus.
- Fee will stay unchanged.
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- Ken Thomas: You can download Microsoft Office 2010, Windows 7, Matlab, and many other software for free.

Update from Joanna about Separate Graduation Ceremony for LAS Grad Students:

- If you are interested in helping out the proposal you can contact Joanna.
- Danielle; running for student trustee position.
- She went to Washington, DC to lobby with Congressman to discuss higher budget for higher education.

Adjourned.