

**General Body Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2011**

Welcome

Deana Lewis, GSC President

CCSLGBTI – Chancellor Committee on the Status of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Issues

Jae Truesdell (jtrues2@uic.edu), Student member

Education Subcommittee – discusses making elements of education inclusive of LGBT issues.

Benefits Subcommittee - Worked with administrators to gain same-sex partners' insurance privileges for faculty, students and staff.

I'm on the Transgender Subcommittee – received formal support from GSC, HPSC, USG for changes in coverage of Campus Care and met with heads of Campus Care + Family Medicine. Changes will be made in the coming Fall.

Deana Lewis: How can students get involved?

JT: It is a volunteer opportunity. They want more student input – Chair of Committee: R. S.

Boots(rsboots@uic.edu) – email me or him for more info to get involved

DL: What resources do you provide for TAs to be inclusive in their classrooms?

JT: Our initiative is to make standard resources to be prepared for LGBT students/patients. The closest thing is Safe Zone – a training program (http://www.uic.edu/depts/quic/gsc/safe_zone.html) - once a semester offered by Gender and Sexuality Center. Safe Zone trainings are also offered for other underrepresented groups.

CCSW - Chancellor Committee on the Status of Women

Jacquelyn Jancius (jancius@uic.edu), Co-chair

We work on professional, educational, career development opportunities for women as students, faculty, and staff and promote diversity in recruiting and retention.

Student Subcommittee – not as active – we are looking for more student participation.

Great opportunity for leadership + networking + service to community + voice to discuss issues with the Chancellor.

Women's heritage month going on – events can be found here:

<http://www.uic.edu/depts/owa/whm2011/event.html>

DL: What is the time commitment?

JJ: 10 min to 10 hours – depends on how involved you want to get. We try to meet once a month as the whole subcommittee and then subcommittees are encouraged to meet once a month as well.

DL: Can anyone – student, staff, and faculty - be involved in these Chancellor committees?

Jae Truesdell: The meetings are open – there's a way to be a formal member (need to have a UIN)

Jacquelyn Jancius: Anyone can get involved.

Roxanna Stupp: Yes.

CCSPD- Chancellor Committee on the Status of Persons with Disabilities

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Roxanna Stupp (rstupp@uic.edu), *Director of the Disability Resources Center*

There is a student subcommittee open to all students at UIC. Patrick Juris, pjuris2@uic.edu

Disability resources at UIC: <http://www.uic.edu/index.html/disability.shtml>

The online reporting of UIC accessibility issues on that site is something this committee brought about - you can report places that aren't accessible on campus.

We hire grad students as GAs and TAs who liaison with faculty. There are 5 positions open with the Disability Resource Center. Please contact Roxanna.

We provide services – accommodations for students with visible and invisible disabilities, proctoring services, captioning, American Sign Language in classrooms – for students and the community.

This committee organizes a Disability Parade. Info here: <http://www.uic.edu/orgs/ccspd/>

DL: Regarding the Chancellor approving funding to make buildings more accessible – are these for all buildings on campus, all at one time or just classroom buildings?

RS: Quoting a letter from Chancellor Paula Allen-Meares: will allocate \$1.5 million the next academic year to address problems related to accessibility – make a plan in April. So that construction can be done in the summer so it will be ready for the Fall.

This shows the Chancellor's commitment to disability issues.

Jon Poore (English): I came to the Disability Resource Center to find a proctor for an exam but was told they couldn't provide that.

RS: We encourage professors to proctor exams in their own depts. not in DRC whenever possible. I don't know why you were refused the service.

JP: It was my understanding that the student should have been taking the exam at the DRC so that might have been the issue.

Deana Lewis: We, the GSC, apologize that we didn't have language on our fliers for the last few events that we could accommodate persons with disabilities and make whatever resources available. We made changes after it was brought to our attention by one of our grad students. We want you all to know and inform those who make fliers and host events in all your depts. that they need to advertize in advance and put the appropriate language on their fliers and be knowledgeable on following through with accommodating everyone.

Randall Owens (Disability Studies): They have to be out at least a week in advance so accommodations can be made through the Disability Resource Center.

DL: We were told that it has to be 10 days in advance.

GSC Project Awards

Holden Brown

Q: How are many left?

HB: 2 left.

Proposal #1

Jake Gay: We are asking for money to help publishing costs on a student journal put out by the architecture students group. We had 60-70 print issues before. Now we do some online distribution too: <http://www.freshmeatjournal.org/>

Mission of the journal is to start discussions related to built environment and ways we inhabit space.

Juan Martinez (Sociology): Where is this online journal based?

JG: 12 grad students at UIC run it.

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Ivan Alfaro (College of Business): Why make an online version? Where do we have access to the print version?

JG: At a launch party we give away print versions. We post it online after 6 months from printing date.

Eduardo Bustamante (Kinesiology): Where would you distribute it?

JG: We would print about 50 of them, have an event and give them out.

Eduardo Bustamante: Is this your only budget?

JG: We do bake sales and events to raise events

Eduardo Bustamante: Would it be distributed only in the Architecture building?

JG: That's what we've done in past.

Jae Truesdell: Have you thought of putting them in the library on our campus to help it be available to all grad students?

JG: No we haven't done that but that's a good suggestion.

Harish Kanchi (GSC Treasurer): Can anyone submit to this journal?

JG: We have a call for submissions and its inclusive to anyone.

HK: What other options will you have for funding if we don't fund this?

JG: It won't circulate outside grad students in Architecture, as we'll only print a small amount.

HK: Check out SAFC for funding such things.

JG: We missed the deadline.

Proposal #2

Jae Truesdell: Asking for funding an event in the 9th annual LGBT health awareness week - Mar 28th-Apr 1st. I will use the money for two "Dinner and a movie" evenings on Mar. 29th and 30th. I've reached out to a number of depts. and the faculty in the College of Medicine but not received any confirmed help. I would use the budget to provide dinner.

DL: Where will it be held?

JT: VCAA will find space in SSB at no cost SPHPI. I expect the audience to be mostly from the Public Health program and medical students. But it's open to any student.

Juan Martinez (Sociology): How many people are you expecting to turn up?

JT: About 25.

Juan Martinez: Is bottled water really that expensive?

JT: We can get water from cheaper location instead of just Jimmy Johns.

Q: Is this open to undergrads. How will you let them know?

JT: Yes. USG listserv, Gender and Sexuality Center listserv and UIC Massmail.

Juan Martinez: I recommend ChicagoFlame or UIC Announcements online to both applicants for advertising.

Jake Gay: Fresh Meat Journal

Yes: 25

No: 13

Abstain: 5

PASSED (majority)

Elizabeth Cambray (Special Ed): Pass the award conditional to a copy being sent to each UIC library and kept there.

Majority agree.

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Jae Truesdell: LBGQT Movie Event

Yes: 32

No: 5

Abstain: 6

PASSED (majority)

Announcements

Harish Kanchi (GSC Treasurer)-- Travel awards:

If people ask about waitlisted travel awards in quarter 1,2,3 let them know that they will be rejected. We cannot give any more travel awards as we have lots of applications for the 4th quarter (Feb, Mar, Apr). Tell folks to apply as soon as possible as we've allocated ½ the awards already.

Q: Is it first come first serve?

HK: Yes

Harish Kanchi – Student Activities Funding Committee (SAFC):

– You can apply for funding for Fall 2011 events now.

Harish Kanchi – Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (Provost) Search Committee:

We are at the interview stage.

Harish Kanchi – GSC Academic workshops:

We had three so far and had a good turnout – please continue to advertise the upcoming ones in your departments.

Anushka Anand (GSC Secretary) – Library IT Fee Advisory Committee

The Library IT fee is applied to all students who enrolled after Fall 2008 and can range from \$33-\$200 depending on the number of credit hours you register for. The fee money is being used for a lot of the renovations and improvements you see in the library with the comfortable spaces, new bathrooms and more equipment. The Library commons on the first floor of the Daley Library will have some quiet space and will be open 24 hours once furnished and open in Fall 2011. The IT fee has gone towards increasing the wireless accessibility across campus with the installation of many new wireless access points and lots of new computing equipment at labs and such.

Fall 2011-12 will be the 4th year of this fee and it has been a constant fee for the 4 years but in UIUC it's an escalating fee and the advisory committee will be evaluating the possibility of doing something similar here at UIC. So first thing next semester, whoever will be on this committee will be able to voice in on the discussion regarding this fee – so if you are interested in this, let us know.

Jenny Boone (History) – GSC Campus Care Committee:

I was out of town but they have been trying to meet and exchanging emails. I know they have met with GEO and are working on communications.

Jae Truesdell: The ER changes and transgender health option changes are going to not be feasible for 2011-2012.

DL: The Campus Care Advisory Committee said that no financial changes or changes to the Certificate of Coverage regarding the ER plans will take place in Fall 2011. Changes to the language in the Certificate of Coverage to be less discriminatory will take effect in Fall 2011.

GSC Officer Elections

DL: We have been asking for nominations for officer positions since January but have no nominations for President or Secretary.

Jae Truesdell: What happens if no one runs for a position?

DL: We will ask for nominations again and do another set of elections in April.

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Juan Martinez (Sociology): I nominate Deana Lewis for President.

Gibran Rezavi (Economics): I second that.

Deana Lewis: Thank you but I decline.

Jae Truesdell: Can I be nominated?

DL: One has to have been a GSC rep. for a year to be eligible to run as officer.

Jae Truesdell: Can I nominate a person?

DL: Yes.

Jae Truesdell: I nominate Juan Martinez.

Juan Martinez (Sociology): Thank you but I decline.

DL: How would you all prefer to vote – paper ballot or raising of hands?

Majority agree on raising hands.

DL: We have two nominees for Vice President: Shuang Zhou from the Physics dept. and Maksym Plakhotnyuk from the Electrical and Computer Engineering dept. Maksym is also interested in the Treasurer position.

Q: Would either of you be willing to run for President?

Maksym Plakhotnyuk: Thank you but I'm new to UIC and would like some experience here and as an officer before taking that role.

Shuang Zhou: No, I'm also new to UIC and will get some experience first. Maybe next year.

Shuang Zhou (Physics): You can call me Chelsea. Things needed to be a good Vice President:

- Time. I'm a first year student + good academic standing so enough time.
- Experience. I'm in charge of graduate seminars in Physics dept. Ability to negotiate + organize.
- Teamwork. I would find out what social events you want. More communication.

Harish Kanchi: How many seminars in the year have you done?

SZ: We usually have one a week – 2 or 3 a month.

HK: Are they from your dept or from outside?

SZ: The professors invite others from different universities. I invite students to present research work.

Juan Martinez (Sociology): What are some things you think might be interested in putting together as a social event?

SZ: Something about careers + stress management so far has been done. I would have you vote on which is popular and which is not so we can get rid of the one that isn't.

HK: We had 5-6 social events. Did you attend them what do think of them? And at today's stress management workshop we had about 15 attendees – what would you think of that attendance?

SZ: I attended the last one at Stanley's. There are not a lot of students who attend those. Better to gather around a theme than just like the Stanley's event where there wasn't a specific purpose. We should vote on what we create so we can avoid this 15 situation.

Maksym Plakhotnyuk (ECE): I used to be Vice President of the student union at my undergrad university and organize such meetings. I was a travel organizer – organized trips around country: organize people, money, advertizing. I used to be President of the Student Council in my dept. and received the Fullbright Award for Leadership and Knowledge in my field.

Gibran Rezavi (Economics): What's your reason for choosing the Treasurer position?

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MP: I could do good deeds and bring a new view for everyone.

Gibran Rezavi: What year are you in?

MP: 1st year PhD.

Jae Truesdell: You served as President of 2 organizations in the past so you could do it again?

MP: It's better to start smaller to get higher.

Aditya Vaidya (Medicinal Chemistry): As the new treasurer – how you can allocate maybe more travel awards?

MP: I believe the changes to the existing process should be arranged through the next meeting as the existing officers have the system in place and experience with it.

HK: At the end of the year I will present budget allocation for next year and we will vote on it. The new treasurer will have to mostly follow that plan.

Juan Martinez (Sociology): Vice President and Treasurer are important duties. Why do you want to run for these positions?

MP: I believe I can bring personal views and changes, bring something new/extra.

HK: Did you work with budgets in your previous experience?

MP: Travel organization required knowledge of budgeting – advertising, buses, food, and living expenses.

HK: Did you attend events GSC had this year and what did you think?

MP: I haven't attended all but they were good. Task to make them more interesting, increase attendance, spread advertising to attract more students.

Jae Truesdell: How much latitude do you have to change the structure of the GSC in terms of requirements and calendars?

DL: As the executive board we are guiding the GSC. We cannot change constitution and force it on you. We will recommend changes and have the GSC body vote on it. This is true for all GSC Committees – cannot just create a document and run with it – it has to go through the GSC general body.

Juan Martinez: I motion to table this to next month.

Gibran: Second.

DL: Discussion?

Juan Martinez: Whoever gets these positions has big shoes to fill. These meetings have been organized so well so we need to feel comfortable at them next year not not want to come to these meetings.

Eduardo Bustamante (Kinesiology): We should advertise positions in departments.

DL: We have sent out information about these positions since January to you and to forward to your constituents. We even contacted previous reps.

Christopher Pelzmann (Mechanical and Industrial Engineering): How do we get more people interested in running? So we give it a month - how are we going to get more people?

Gibran Rezavi: As a group we dropped the ball – you all did a great job trying to advertise. There are definitely brilliant people in this room. Why are we not stepping up? We will think a lot more seriously on this issue now.

Betul Demirkaya (Political Science): We do forward emails but sometimes these announcements get lost. We can contact them directly.

Anushka Anand (GSC Secretary): I put in the announcements to you all to contact previous reps in your depts. I also contacted previous reps including personal emails to a number of you and previous reps. Personal nudging is best. That's how I got in – I was a GSC rep 2 years before I started on as Secretary and was approached personally by the then Treasurer to consider getting back involved. You/they can email us with questions any time.

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Jae Truesdell: Is there an option to change the requirement to have been a GSC rep a year. What about students who are good leaders in other leadership roles?

DL: We will take these into account with the GSC constitution committee – we can't rush constitutional changes for this.

Eduardo Bustamante (Kinesiology): This is only worth tabling if there is anyone in the room who is thinking about it because then we can wait till next month otherwise it is not worth it.

Dean Deanna: I've been adviser to the GSC for 10 years. There was a period of time the same officers were re-elected. I think there are some talented people in the room. If you are concerned about time commitment – remember you are not doing it alone. My office is support for this organization, especially if it's all new board. I'll spend more time training you so you are not stepping in without any support. I agree you need to put real thought on whom you want to lead this group next year. These are important leadership positions - advocates with administration. You might know some individuals, former reps, who are willing to do it and need some nudging so think about that.

DL: Vote on tabling this election to April – our last meeting.

No: 1

Abstain 2

Yes: Rest

PASSED (majority) – elections to be held in April.

Upcoming Spring Dates

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday, April 14 th	5-7p	GSC Meeting	SSB Conf B/C
Thursday, April 28 th	5-8p	GSC End of Semester Shindig	TBA