

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

MEETING MINUTES (MARCH 16TH, 2010)

5:30- 5:35 PM: Introduction - Zoe Hoepfner

President

5:35 PM: Announcement - Robert Malnik

President of Veterans Student Association at UIC, Illinois Director for the Student Veterans of America

<http://www.studentveterans.org/>

- *Illinois Warrior Summit*, April 24th, the largest veteran event in Chicago (<http://illinoiswarriorssummit.com>) – combining benefits, educational seminars, employment opportunities and entertainment (music + fun for kids) – at the UIC Forum
- 100 veteran organizations – opportunities/services they provide
- 50 employers (with open positions to hire) – possible on-site interviews
- Resume/Interview workshops, VA home loan workshops, Health and wellness workshops (PTSD)
- Can you as representatives forward it to your dept.? You may be working or studying with one and not know it.
- Veterans have only 1 year to apply for benefits after they get back or else they are ineligible for the rest of their lives.
- UIC was founded for World War II veterans in 1946 in Navy Pier so they could get an education.

Juan Martinez (Sociology): What are the current resources for veterans @ UIC?

RM: There's a Veterans Affairs office in Financial Aid office – its being moved to the 3rd floor SSB in the Dean of Student's office. We are currently interviewing for Assistant Dean for Veteran's Affairs.

We have a Veteran rep. at financial aid - Sam Bagina.

5:35-5:50 PM: Roger Carlson

Director, CampusCare Student Health Benefit

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- Originator of CampusCare (CC) for students @ UIC. Prior to 2001, UIC had HMO called "UIC HMO" that covered students. It was for Medicaid population, both students and alumni. UIC couldn't grow HMO population so decided to exit HMO and turn it into something else. <<For details of his presentation, check out his presentation here:
http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/gsc/documents/CampusCare.pdf >>

- Goals of starting CC:
 - o Control premium costs
 - o Give students better benefits
 - o Drive business to the university
- Health service fee: All students pay this. None of this goes to CC! This pays for stuff that CC does not cover.
- To give you an idea of what health insurance would cost – there are people in the Fellows Program ineligible for CC (as they are not students) would have to pay for health insurance plans. About \$350/month. We pay less than \$100/month for CC. Also, these non-CC plans have very high deductibles, while CC has no deductible.
- Anyone can opt out of CC and go get your own insurance if you want; it's just that CC really is economical option for students. Another benefit: mental health is covered, whereas in most insurance policies do not. Mental health was factored into CC because we considered that mental health was something very important for students.

Q: With Family Medicine (FM), it's hard to get an appointment to be seen on the same day. Can this change.

RC: I think FM is taking walk-ins now.

Steve Davis (Anthropology): There's just confusion about what services are covered and where and how soon. We would like a centralized website for all the information – phone numbers for dental care, wellness, etc. Can we do something about that?

RC: We can have link on CC website with phone numbers. We have clarified any issues students have pointed out but if you find things confusing on the website, let me know.

Julie Fountain (History): There have been issues for graduate students who are away from the area – even out of town – and have healthcare issues. They aren't sure if they go to another hospital whether CampusCare would cover them.

RC: If you have situation and you're not in the area, call Family Medicine. They have doctors on call 24/7. They can help you determine if it's a true emergency and you need to go to emergency room. If the doctor tells you to go to emergency room, they are supposed to document this and it should be in your chart. If it's for a prescription they'll ask for a local pharmacy phone number and help that way.

Juan Martinez (Sociology): Are vision/dental routine exams covered by CC?

RC: No, covered by health fee.

Q: I saw on the CC website info. for vision and dental. Is this coverage?

RC: It's a discounted fee program.

Deana Lewis (GSC VP): Graduate Assistant Dental Plan (GADP) is for GAs, TAs and RAs – not through CC.

5:50-6:05 PM: Fernando Howell,
Assistant Director, Facility and Space Planning
fhowell@uic.edu

Website link: http://tigger.uic.edu/master_plan/

Blog: <http://blog.masterplanning.uic.edu/>

Email: planning@uic.edu

Campus Inputs to Master Planning Process:

http://www.uic.edu/master_plan/campus_inputs.htm

Town Hall Meetings: http://www.uic.edu/master_plan/community_forums.htm

Phase I Report (Developing the issues):

http://www.uic.edu/master_plan/planning_documents.htm

Phase II (Developing various approaches to the master plan):

http://www.uic.edu/master_plan/Documents/Phase2/Phase_2_Report.pdf

Phase III (Developing the final plan):

http://www.uic.edu/master_plan/Documents/Phase3/2010.02.17_Booth-Hargreaves_Worksession.pdf

Summary: We started with a vision -> objectives -> strategy -> campus involvement (got feedback) -> Plan development (coordinated with consultants – architects, traffic engineers)

1. Objectives:

- a. Guide campus development to support academic mission.
- b. Provide flexible framework for evaluate development opportunities.
- c. Enhance vitality and physical appearance/image of campus.
- d. ID short-term, low cost improvement as well as sites for future.
- e. Master Plan – looks 50 years in the future to see where student housing could be built or a new research laboratory could be placed. It also looks on short-term – what can we do to make the campus better without spending too much.

2. Engagement Strategy: conduct open and participatory plan to involve entire campus in survey and feedback.

3. Campus and Community outreach

- a. Met with 24 campus groups including GSC, had 9 town hall meetings open to the public, dozens of planning committees and consultants. There were also 2 CUPPA courses where they created 2 projects after open houses listening to student opinions:
 - i. UIC Campus Master Plan, ENGAGE! - for student involvement.
 - ii. UIC evening Campus plan, "Streets of UIC" to address issues outside of the 9am-5pm business day. Create a 24/7 campus. Evening classes, pedestrian pathways, adequate lighting, etc.

4. Feedback highlights:

- a. Create vibrant "campus centers" for student activities
- b. Improve green spaces: wireless internet, beautification, programming in them, etc.
- c. Create distinct gateways: to demarcate/signify university versus neighborhood community
- d. Correct the absence of "wow" spaces – awesome structures
- e. Safety and security

5. Issues:

- a. Disjointed architecture and fragmented spaces (ex: East and West campus)
- b. Disconnections – isolated zones and lack of connecting transportation

- c. Sense of Place
 - i. Lack of strong institutional identity
 - ii. 24/7 services
- 6. Goals:
 - a. Cohesion and clarity: improve connections around campus – shuttle buses, pathways.
 - b. Sense of place: remove barriers, define boundaries, create meaningful open spaces, define visual identity, detailed lighting plans, encourage 24/7 activities
- 7. Preferred Plan (East Side)
 - a. Examples: short-term projects include removing barriers like fences and establish nice green spaces, renovating lobbies, improve gateways.
 - b. Better bus routes/pedestrian conflicts.
 - c. Gateway at Peoria St. CTA station: integrate bldgs and spaces. Define entry points. Reinforce pedestrian circulation. Create meaningful open spaces. Put in some shops/cafes.
 - d. Ashland and Taylor Gateway: define edges between campuses, define entry points, define visual identity, encourage 24/7 activities.
 - e. Add retail vendors between campuses – especially on West campus which apparently dies at night – need to add things so students feel safer at night.

Ivan Rodden (English): I have a question about the equity of resources. I teach in Stevenson Hall and we have broken desks. It's nice that money is being spent on improving green space, etc. but what about necessary things like broken desks?

FH: The Office of Campus Learning Environments task is to look at learning environments on campus and see if the buildings need renovating. Portions of the AMFA fee goes to renovating classrooms. For example, Stevenson Hall is often discussed (all students go through here because they all take English) and will be addressed through other resources.

Kim Stallings (Earth and Environmental Sciences): Great plan, but it's tough to appreciate when we're striking because of lack of funds for more necessary things. So when are funds actually going to be spent on this?

FH: This is essentially an unfunded plan right now. Hoping to be funded by donors, etc. Also hoping that the state (one day) will be able to put in money towards a regional depository to contribute towards these goals. But to emphasize, this is just a plan right now. We need to address the most important issues that are part of the plan as the funds come in.

Kim Stallings: What is the deciding body that decides whether spend money to improve a green space vs. improving a classroom?

FH: It's the Provost's Office and the leadership of the campus.

6:25-6:30 PM:

Graduate College Orientation: Samantha Gagni

Graduate Assistant, Graduate College

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- A temporary Orientation schedule is provided here << http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/gsc/documents/Orientation-Handout.doc >>.

- Sam is in charge of the Graduate Student Orientation that occurs right before Fall semester starts. Do you want to volunteer to help any of the events or want to serve on the graduate student panel to answer questions new grads might have?
- Student services panel and a graduate student panel – new plans for this year.

Julie Fountain (History): I think the grad. panel might need to be broken down – students might have questions relevant to their college or program and those on the panel might not be able to answer. It might not be useful to everyone.

Ellen Kang (Anthropology): Maybe you could have tours - for east and west campus?

Sam: It's still early, so please email me suggestions!

Sid Angle (Bioengineering): The new students can be given email addresses of GSC Reps., so that they can be contacted for department information

Zoe: The reps. for the next year may not be registered for next year. The info. of continuing reps. can be passed on.

Graduation Regalia: Scott Morgan (Psychology)

- He heard from Rob Rowser from Campus Auxiliary Services. History – fuchsia colors chosen in 1980s. Need a formal request from GSC (through a vote) to the Chairman of University Commencement Ceremony - Rowser. Then the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs hears the request and they propose options based on prices and then GSC and graduate students could vote.

Motion: We submit a request to review/change commencement regalia and send it to Rob Rowser. This would be for next year -- sorry for those graduating this year. Motion PASSED.

6:05-6:25 PM: Project award application review and voting - Deana

Bethany White, Biopharmaceutical Sciences

- Getting into industry: Trip to Abbott Labs. 3rd year in a row. Trips limited to 30 students, so first come first serve. It's a very popular trip. It's an inside look at a pharmaceutical company – HR talks about internships, job applications.

Zoe: Can we get past attendance lists? Just want to see that there's a good spread of grad students that are benefitting from these trips.

Results of Vote: Passed!

Kevin Krock, Medicinal Chemistry/Pharmacognosy

- Wants to show movie: Making of a Scientist. The movie shows what scientists do, what they go through in real life in a Biochem. lab. Proposed date: April 23.

Place: Room 134 in pharmacy building (holds 200 people and we usually have had 100 people at other movie showings). This is not a commercially available movie.

Must rent directly from moviemaker. Proceeds go to charity. Non-negotiable rental fee of \$150, and must Fedex back for \$38.

- This will be a one night only showing.

Results of Vote: Passed!

Ivan Rodden, English

Packingtown Review – The English dept. puts out a journal with different works from many genres. We want to get other departments involved. We want a release party for Issue #2, would like to invite alumni and students from other departments to participate. Journal is funded completely by external funds, not by departments. No date set yet for the party. Also, if you're interested in contributing, email Matt Corey (editors@packingtown.org) or go to our website (<http://www.packingtownreview.com/>).

Results of Vote: Passed!

Scott Morgan (Psychology): Motion to fund them equally.

Motion (Ivan Rodden): to we fund the English Journal "Packingtown Review" for \$250.

Motion PASSED.

Motion (Kevin Krock): to fund the movie showing for \$250.

Motion PASSED (1 abstention)

Motion: to fund the Abbott trip for \$500.

Motion PASSED (1 abstention)

Zoe: In the interest of time, next meeting will be voting and discussing general plans for next year.

GSC Resolutions – Anushka

All 3 resolutions were passed with large majority.

- The resolution to Dean McBride – was sent to his office, cc-ed to UIC administrators.

- The resolution regarding the GEO negotiations – was sent to the bargaining team, cc-ed to UIC administrators.

- The resolution regarding state funding – was sent to Aldermen Robert Fioretti, Illinois State Senators/Reps Rickey Hendon, Danny Davis and Arthur Turner (they are responsible for the Ward UIC is in), cc-ed to UIC administrators.

New: Alderman Fioretti is presenting an appeal to the Governor about state funding its obligations to public universities and has contacted us to testify at that meeting.

Budget Panel Review – Deana Lewis

On Monday there was a panel about Illinois/UIC budget crisis. We will discuss this next time.

GSC Nominations – Zoe Hoepfner

You can still nominate people you feel would be good candidates – must have been a GSC rep at some point while in grad school. Nominated individuals have the opportunity to give speeches and we vote next meeting.

So far we've received for GSC officers the following nominations:

President: Deana Lewis (current GSC Vice President)

Vice-President : Stephen Davis (Anthropology rep)

Secretary: Anushka Anand (current Secretary)

Treasurer: Harish Kanchi (current Treasurer)

Self nomination: Robert Farley (Philosophy) for President. One policy – 20 minute meetings.

*Upcoming Meeting Date for Spring 2010
April 20th*