

GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL
UIC UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO

**General Body Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2011**

Welcome - Deana Lewis, GSC President

GSC Officer Elections - Deana Lewis, GSC President, presiding.

Call for nominations:

Juan Martinez (Sociology) nominates

Gibran Rezavi (Economics) for President – nomination accepted.

Sacheeta Bathija (Pharmacy Administration) nominates

Yash Jalundwala (Pharmacy Administration) for Treasurer (was a primary rep in 2009-10)– nomination accepted.

Maksym Plakhotnyuk (Electrical and Computer Engineering) nominates

Juan Martinez (Sociology) for Vice President – nomination accepted.

Gibran Rezavi (Economics) nominates

Byron Sigcho (Education Policy) for Secretary (was a primary rep in 2008-2009) – nomination accepted.

Teresa Moy (Urban Planning and Policy) for Treasurer (ineligible to run because of requirement to have served as a primary GSC rep for a year).

Speeches from the Nominees:

Yash Jalundwala (Pharmacy Administration) for Treasurer:

- PhD in Pharmacy Administration

- Here since Fall 2007.

- Secretary for national pharmacy administration organization's local chapter 2008-09, VP 09-10 and President currently.

- In graduate student committee in Pharmacy Administration dept. organizing events.

- Outside UIC, I'm Chair person for international organization related to public health.

- Have had a lot of leadership experience. Had experience dealing with money though not directly but with marketing, fund-raising and distribution.

- Have a passion for academic events.

- Will do best and fulfill responsibilities.

Jae Truesdell (Public Health): Would you want to make GSC more international in membership?

YJ: My primary role is to serve grad students at UIC. Grad students are pretty diverse here. I can encourage grad students to present work internationally to understand global impact.

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Slobodan Milasinovic (Chemistry): Any ideas on how GSC can make its own money?

YJ: With member support we can organize fundraising events.

Deana Lewis: The GSC is funded through student fee money and we cannot use that money to fund raise – we would have to have COF account and figure out ways to have such fundraising events.

Ina Han (Neuroscience): You have a ton of leadership experience – you plan to remain active in those I assume. Where would treasurer rank on your priorities?

YJ: I would hand over responsibilities in other positions - all student activities time would be for GSC.

Byron Sigcho (Education Policy) for Secretary:

- MS student since 2007 and was the Economics dept. GSC rep. – now in Education Policy Ph.D. program.

- Was founder of an international student org. in undergrad university?

- At UIC: work for Center for Literacy – work in mainly Hispanic and African-American communities – passion to link community + grad students/academic work.

- On the Board of the Hispanic Literacy Council.

- Concerned about GA tax issues.

Harish Kanchi (GSC Treasurer): What international org. did you start?

BS: Did undergrad in Tennessee in a small college – international students had no resources or community to help them transition to new place so we created an organization for that.

Jae Truesdell (Public Health): How would you rate your organizational and communication skills?

BS: I'm an instructor, which prepares you for both really well.

Rigel Gjomemo (Computer Science): Do you know what your duties would be here?

BS: Order the food. I read it in a glance but will familiarize myself with the duties.

Slobodan Milasinovic (Chemistry): Why do you want this role?

BS: Someone has to do it.

Harish Kanchi: What organizations are you part of? What extracurricular work do you do? I'm concerned about your time.

BS: Am on 2 boards for organizations – both meet once a month. Will schedule my time around my responsibilities.

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Shuang Zhou (Physics) for Secretary:

- My advantage is I have time: First year PhD student in Physics in good academic standing
- Experience: member in CSSA (Chinese Students and Scholars Association) and in charge of graduate students seminar for my dept.
- Enthusiasm - yes.
- I've not been here as long-just last year. I would bring new thoughts, ideas.

Jae Truesdell (Public Health): How are your note-taking skills?

SZ: Back in China that is important so no doubt about that, it is really good.

Harish Kanchi: As an Indian graduate student I found it is difficult to get Indian students to come to GSC events. Do you think this is the case for Chinese students too? How would you address that?

SZ: If I'm successfully elected I will bring news to Chinese students from CSSA.

Juan Martinez (Sociology) for Vice President:

- Lots of extracurricular experience as an undergraduate.
 - At UIC on Graduate student committee in my dept. – reorganized our prelim exam – based on measured knowledge. Was on Diversity and Strategic Thinking and Planning committee.
- Visions as VP:
- increase involvement of GSC reps + graduate students on graduate and university committees.
 - increase involvement of graduate students in GSC sponsored academic workshops + social events.
 - have GSC be seen as more than a funding organization but one that represents graduate students and their concerns.

Slobodan Milasinovic (Chemistry): Can you be more specific about GSC involvement on committees?

JM: We have had subcommittees in GSC as well as university committees. Can get more involved and do more.

Rigel Gjomemo (Computer Science): You work with GEO too?

JM: No.

Harish Kanchi: You are a supporter of GSC social events. Can you think of something else apart from the ones we already have had to get more graduate students?

JM: We've had relatively good turn out. We could do more things on campus and at different times. I care about listening – what do people want socially?

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Maksym Plakhotnyuk (ECE): What about asking speakers from graduate student councils from U Chicago, Northwestern and other universities to present on best practices, projects, and initiatives?

JM: Chicago is great as there are 5 top universities here. There can be lots of collaborative dialog – if you have a particular idea let's talk and we can do it.

Gibran Rezavi (Economics) for President:

- Free riders problem – everyone hoping someone else would do it and no one does anything about a problem. I have a family, finishing up PhD, am an instructor for ECO 300 level course, have a mortgage, am on various UIC administrative committees and now am stepping up to do this role.

- There's been talk in the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and from other administrators that UIC gets short changed in the UI system from state budget issues. What about students? We are reps from our depts. and have a responsibility and a voice to give input on these issues.

- At UIC I was an undergrad, and grad in the College of Engineering and now am doing a PhD in Economics.

Slobodan Milasinovic (Chemistry): You mentioned budget cuts, it's a hot topic, do you really think the GSC can change anything?

GR: The old saying "the squeaky wheel gets the oil" is how things work. I don't know if we can change things but just because we don't know outcome, that's no excuse not to do anything.

Slobodan: You are going to make GSC louder then?

GR: We all will make it louder – if you all don't participate it's all useless.

Maksym Plakhotnyuk (ECE): How will you motivate everyone to participate?

GR: Are you familiar with the Socratic method? Got to express concerns, ask questions, discuss and do stuff together.

Heather Drummond (Public Health): Do you have ideas to collaborate with HPSC and students on west campus to get a collective voice?

GR: I am involved in CUPPA and School of Public Health so Yes!

Slobodan Milasinovic (Chemistry): May I suggest that if you want GSC to defend some rights of UIC students, the first thing to do is scan students, see what students are actually experiencing, which depts. are worse off and which students are affected.

GR: All these are on GSC constitution about students giving back to the university and community. I want you to talk, to participate to make your time meaningful. Got to do something to make the UIC brand known.

Maksym Plakhotnyuk (ECE): What would GSC meetings look like? Round tables? Discussion?

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GR: We could have a big circle to foster discussion. What do you all want? If I make decisions for you, it will be a monarchy.

Harish Kanchi: As president of GSC you would have to deal with conflicts with students. Give us an instance where you dealt with a student conflict.

GR: In a graduate student setting in UIC regarding to the preliminary exam process in my dept. The issue was due to misunderstanding and bad communication and once that was deciphered it was resolved.

Deana Lewis: Thank you all for presenting to us.

One vote per department.

Vote for one person per position.

You don't HAVE to vote for all positions.

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We are now going to vote on the GSC budget – we will present this to the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) who will vote on the budget over this summer. This is the budget allocation for 2012-13. This is also how we propose to spend the budget in 2011-12.

GSC Budget Presentation – Harish Kanchi (GSC Treasurer)

Let's start with some GSC pride: what we've achieved this year:

- We helped 240 students travel to present original research work.
- Social events: 8 activities. 2nd GSC BBQ in Sept. had 250+ students
- Academic workshops: 4 workshops
- Project awards: 8 different student activities.
- Food for meetings
- Officer honoraria

This year – we had quotas per quarters, all were filled and had to put people on a waitlist.

Q: what is the waitlist? Were they eventually approved?

HK: Not guaranteed. Some were approved later if others in the quarter didn't claim awards.

Proposal 1: \$300/award, 260 travel awards

Proposal 2: \$310/award, 250 travel awards

Ina Han (Neuroscience): The quotas/quarter were determined from the spread of awards across the year (2008-2009). That seems to have changed this past year. Maybe it would be helpful if reps could send officers information on big conferences and estimate of the number of students going from their depts.

Slobodan Milasinovic (Chemistry): These numbers are based on only one year? One thing to add is sometimes there are big meetings held every 3 years. Do you have statistics for 3 years?

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HK: We cannot do that analysis. We will pass all this data to the new officers.

Ina Han: The travel award system has only been computerized recently.

Holden Brown (GSC VP): This has only become an issue this last year because we have received more travel awards than we have allocation for so we determined a more equitable division of funds using the quarter system.

Jae Truesdell: Have you considered giving \$290 or \$295 and give 10 more students money?

HK: This is best tradeoff for money and numbers. In 2009-10 – GSC reps asked for an increase (\$310 from \$300) so we took that proposal to SFAC and got more \$ for 2010-11 at \$310 a piece. We can keep the same arrangement or go with Proposal 1.

Heather Drummond (Public Health): Motion to approve Proposal 1.

Christopher Pelzmann (Mechanical and Industrial Engineering) seconds.

Motion PASSES (unanimous).

Slobodan Milasinovic (Chemistry): One point about Thursday socials – April last year there was so much food and drinks but the last Thursday social was the other extreme with not enough food. Can there be any balance?

Deana Lewis: This doesn't deal with the budget but with whom we deal with to host events and how much food people take at the outset. For our next event we will have the food come out in stages.

Slobodan: I understand you cannot know how many will attend.

Deana: Again this depends on the places we use to host our events. We estimate the number of people to expect from previous events.

Ina Han (Neuroscience): Motion to table this discussion (where we have events and how much we spend) till it's pertinent.

Jesse Ackles (Linguistics) seconds.

Abstentions: 3

Nays: 0

Yes: rest → Motion PASSES.

Gibran Rezavi (Economics): Motions for asking for 2.5% increase to adjust for inflation for 2012-13.

Motion seconded

Abstentions: 3

Nays: 0

Yes: rest → Motion PASSES.

Deana Lewis: Just to clarify - we can ask, doesn't mean we will receive.

Jae Truesdell: Do you spend all the \$500 for each travel award? How does it get adjusted?

Deana: This will be up to the next board on how those funds are reallocated. We use the leftover money towards food for our academic and social events.

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GSC Campus Care Committee update – Deana Lewis

The GSC voted to form this committee in Feb. to work on ways to get information together to give students at the graduate student orientation in August. This is still pending.

Also, there was a vote on a letter being sent to Dr. Ginsberg, Roger Carlson (Director of Campus Care), Dr. Tranmer (Head of Family Medicine) and cc-ed to the President, Chancellor and Dean of Students. You all had access to read the document and vote. The letter asked administrators to convene a meeting to discuss emergency health care and other issues. We have not seen proposals from Campus Care yet as there have been lots of changes from the federal government regarding health care. The state has to approve guidelines to health insurance providers. Campus Care is not an insurance company and is waiting to see how other agencies are going to work after these changes. There is a meeting set for April 19th – send me (dlewis25@uic.edu) information or concerns I can take to the meeting next week and let your constituents know.

GSC Constitution Revision Committee update – Deana Lewis

We have not met yet. Are there other reps interested in serving in this committee? Over the summer, the committee can look for revisions and make suggestions. If you are interested to participate in this – let me know.

Ivan Alfaro (College of Business): What if we have suggestions?

DL: Send them to me. (dlewis25@uic.edu)

Jae Truesdell: Are you looking for more people to be on the Campus Care committee?

DL: We can talk about these committees after the meeting.

Announcements – Dean Linda Deanna (GSC Faculty Adviser)

It has been a pleasure to work with you all and serve you as adviser. I commend you for being involved in this apart from all your studies and other responsibilities and wish you best of luck for all your endeavors.

And we should thank the existing GSC officers for their great job.

Last year we started a tradition of recognizing outstanding reps that have served above and beyond expectations. This year's list is:

Jesse Ackles (Linguistics)

Jennifer Boone (History)

Eduardo Bustamante (Kinesiology)

Stephen Davis (Anthropology)

Heather Drummond (Public Health)

Jordan Gunn (Pharmacognosy)

Ina Han (Neuroscience)

Nicole Koonce (Special Education)

Gibran Rezavi (Economics)

Kelysey Rydland (Public Administration)

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Dean Linda Deanna
Deana Lewis
Holden Brown
Harish Kanchi
Anushka Anand

Closing remarks – Deana Lewis (GSC President)

In closing I was looking back at our calendar and attendance. We had over 200 people at the Sept. BBQ, 70+ people at our Thursday social events – the largest showing at GSC events. We had good attendance at academic workshops that were on diverse topics related to graduate student life.

What else has the GSC done?

Apart from fostering stronger relationships with the Graduate College, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Student Affairs, Dean of Students, Chancellor and Chancellor Committees, Undergraduate Student Government, Health Professional Students Council, the Student Trustee and the Graduate Employees Organization, we have collectively been in at least 100 meetings and 15 committees.

For the first time in GSC history we awarded all 240 travel awards, and unfortunately had waitlists.

A number of people received important awards for service on behalf of grad students, your departments, the GSC, and other organizations. Because students like you put in the effort to do more than asked for – thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

To the other GSC officers, Dean Deanna and other GSC reps - Thank you for dedication and service to us.

Upcoming Spring Dates

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday, April 21 st	3-5p	Conflict Management	Fort Dearborn
Thursday, May 5 th	5-7p	End of the Year Celebration	Vintage (to be confirmed)