

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

MINUTES April 20th, 2010

5:30- 5:40 PM: Welcome and Thank You
President, Zoe Hoepfner

5:50-6:10 PM: Old Business

Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC), Deana Lewis

- < 1% increase – only \$7. The UPass may go up from 80c a day to \$1 a day – still under review by Board of Trustees

UIC Senate, Holden Brown

- Financial crisis – website: www.illinoissibroke.com
- Changes in academic programs – changes in Public Health, Masters in Fine Arts, elimination of BS in Economics.

Diversity Strategic Thinking and Planning Committee (DSTP), Deana Lewis

- Apr 21st @ 2pm in SSB Conf. Rooms – Town Hall meeting to talk about next steps in DSTP plan they put together. – William Walden
- http://www.uic.edu/depts/oa/diversity_planning/news.html

Year End Summary, Deana Lewis

- Done a lot more this year: 10 social events, 6 academic events – 2 in Rockford
- Advocacy - 3 resolutions sent out. Exec. Officers asked to testify @ the City Council. Lobby day in Springfield Apr 21st.
- GSC Reps got awards – Chancellor's Student Service and Leadership Award and Student Leadership Award
- More applications for project awards this year – our info. is going out so good job reps!

6:10-6:20 PM: AY 2011 Budget Review and Voting

Harish Kanchi

- GSC asked for \$7000 for 2010-2011 and got it.
- Travel awards are the biggest chunk of the budget – should we increase the amount and keep the # same or increase the # and reduce the amount?
- Kept more money for social events - \$3000 to \$5000
- Kept some money for academic events – but Graduate College tends to pay for most of the food for those events.

Nick Ardinger (Policy Studies in Urban Education): What are administrative costs?

Dean Deanna: Every org. gets that taken out by UIC administration – 3% of the budget.

Harish: Should we increase the travel award to \$350?

Consensus: – No!

Nick Ardinger: Motion to pass the budget.
Holden Brown (Neuroscience) & Dayna Chatman (Communication) second
Motion unanimously passes

5:40-5:50 PM: Graduate Employees Organization

Stephen Davis (Anthropology)

- Read out the thank you letter from the GEO for the GSC's support for contract negotiations.

Christine Robinson (Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science): is the new GEO contract available online?

Steve: I don't know.

< The new contract can be found on the GEO website here:

http://www.uic-geo.net/sites/all/files/GEO_2009-2012_CBA_1.pdf >

Harish Kanchi: The new contract goes from August 2009 so do we get paid the difference in wages?

Steve: The 2% increase starts from next year. The part that is retroactive is the payment for students who got cut out of Dec. pay.

Graduate College Request

Harish Kanchi

Samantha from the Graduate College (GC) was asking for sign up for volunteers for the new Graduate Student Orientation in August. Get a GC mug + t-shirt.

6:20-6:40 PM: Executive Board Elections

Ina Han

NOMINEES:

President:

- Deana Lewis, Vice-President 09-10, Linguistics Rep 08-09

We've made positive moves toward stronger cohesive grad student body. Zoe, we and you reps worked to make all this happen. We've had more social events + academic events. I want us to continue to build more of a community + interdisciplinary actions.

Roshina Khan (Student Trustee): How can u work with student trustee?

Deana: We can be more visible on campus – work with undergrads to have stronger student body – work with trustee to bring information to constituency and colleagues in the Undergrad Student Govt. and Board of Trustee – to reduce some of the bureaucracy.

Ex: diversity – if USG and GSC has a committee, maybe it would be beneficial to combine resources.

- Robert Farley, Philosophy Rep 09-10

These meetings are insufferable. We sit here from 2 hours - seems like a waste of time. I'd advocate 20 minute meetings - eat, vote, leave. No reason to be here if we can finish voting on issues. What should we be doing other than that is bureaucratic overhead – use some of money spent on these meetings to fund more academic stuff or travel awards. Since I'd do almost no work, I'd sacrifice my honorarium for travel awards and take you all for drinks.

Vice-President:

- Stephen Davis, Anthropology Rep 09-10
I'm one of two stewards for GEO – active through campus through that. Thank you for your support on the GEO and Dean McBride resolutions (I wrote up) – I'd still like to turn up pressure in LAS as we haven't received a response from Dean McBride, politely and using the proper channels. Been at the GEO rallies. Elect me and I'll do you proud.

- Holden Brown, Neuroscience Rep 08-10
I serve on the Faculty Senate and Research Committee as part of the Honesty Committee. An idea I want to see realized is created a graduate student survival guide with info. on things we've discussed – Campus Care, tuition waivers, GEO, etc. – and give that out at the graduate student orientation. I want to continue social events. I'd advocate generally for grad students.

Q: How will role of VP help u achieve your goals?

Steve: The VP serves Pres. Try to take President's leads - meetings across campus. Usually I ask questions - that needs to be done. I think there are not enough people who stand up for grad students – I want us to make sure the administrators know we are there and that they have to consider our voice on issues affecting us.

Holden: I serve on committees and am vocal on students issues; have perspective at these faculty meetings. I'd use my position to create and launch the survival handbook. I'd advocate for grad students across committees.

Farida Fatima (Biological Sciences): How do you manage time between meetings?

Deana: I would have more responsibility as President – the VP would take on some of the committee responsibility. I'd work with my team so I'm managing time and not over extending.

Scott Morgan (Psychology): Can both Presidential candidates articulate the mission statement for the GSC?

Deana: I agree with the current GSC mission statement – advocate + serve grad student population and continue to push us forward to community. Through events and discussions and networking we are creating an interdisciplinary atmosphere and becoming more of a cohesive group. When issues like the GEO contract come around, the GSC can be asked to represent. To get the student body involved in advocacy we cannot have 20 minute meetings. Reps are doing a great job so let's not disrespect their time and effort. There's info we need to share with constituents.

Robert: No comment.

Sid Angle (Bioengineering): Are we allowed to get sponsorship from outside to fund more travel awards like from companies?

Harish: For travel awards, there's not just the GSC for funding – the GC.

Dean Deanna: The money from the GSC is finite and taken from student fees - you paid fees to the university for student activities. The GSC cannot use money for charitable events – there are rules on how student fee money can be used to that. You cannot use any money to raise money even for yourselves. There are different restrictions and rules for different funding depending on the sources.

Robert Farley: This is stuff we should advocate for and work towards – more travel money. I cannot say what I cannot and can do as I don't know but I would learn. I think we should be able to send people to far places – be more efficient in spending.

Holden: Are you going to committed to serving on committees all over the university.

Robert: I can sit there and ignore what they are saying and write my dissertation.

Steve: In response to Sid - I support Deana and respect Robert – we should investigate avenues that could increase our travel funds. Also we should have information on our website along with travel award application about other sources of funding on campus. We definitely should look into getting money from outside sources without using university to get more travel award funds.

Deana: Sid, could you clarify what you mean about getting money from companies?

Sid: For instance, Abbott sells tickets for \$100 - 50% goes towards organizing the event and 50% goes to travel awards. That way no one spends on the event – someone has to front the money to organize the event but then it pays for itself. This was the case for another graduate student govt. hosting a ball that Abbott sponsored.

Deana: That's possible, as long as GSC pays no money to host the event. That sounds great! We should definitely look into that opportunity next year.

Treasurer:

- Harish Kanchi, Treasurer 09-10, MIE Rep 08-09

I've received a lot of help from the Dean of Students Office regarding the rules of our financial responsibilities – I enjoy handling the finances. As the lead on the Academic Affairs committee – I've seen us do a lot of workshops and want to continue.

Secretary:

- Anushka Anand, Secretary 09-10, CS Rep 07-08

I've done this before and know the responsibilities and processes – organizing the logistics of these meetings and officer meetings. It's about the team – I've enjoyed working with the old team and hope to continue working with most of the same team.

Voting Results:

Secretary: Anushka (unanimous)

Treasurer: Harish (unanimous)

Vice President: Holden (28 votes) [[Stephen – 18 votes]]

President: Deana (2 abstentions)

6:40-6:50 PM: Student Trustee

Roshina Khan

I respect what GSC does on campus and want to unify goals with the USG. I will attend meetings as many as I can.

I represent all students in the Board of Trustees - a lot of times grad students are ignored cos it's assumed that they can take. I supported the contract negotiations of the GEO along with USG.

I hope you get to know the student trustee position. I'm just as dedicated as your new officers to making a difference and advocating for students.

6:50-close: Awards for Exemplary Service

Deana Lewis

For the first time, we want to recognize reps for exemplary service to the GSC with the presentation of certificates:

Nick Ardinger (Policy Studies in Urban Education)
Holden Brown (Neuroscience)
Lisa Foti (Medical Biotechnology)
Anne Fink (Nursing Science)
Steve Davis (Anthropology)
Scott Morgan (Psychology)
Juan Martinez (Sociology)
Ina Han (Neuroscience)
Harish Kanchi (GSC Treasurer)

Dean Linda Deanna (GSC Adviser)
Dean of Students

Congrats on surviving another year!

This year I've seen exemplary GSC reps and I've been GSC adviser for 9 years. You've appreciated different points of view - that's what university is about. You've listened to each other and respected each other regardless of disagreement. You've all done great service as reps to the university and to grad students. In 9 years this has been the best body of reps and executive board – a very dedicated group who took their roles seriously and is modest. They were busy behind the scenes fulfilling the responsibilities and service they provide. The GSC had a very successful year due to their efforts and yours.