

## **GSC 101: INTRO TO BEING A GSC REPRESENTATIVE OR ALTERNATE**

[http://www2.uic.edu/stud\\_orgs/gsc/](http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/gsc/)

### **What is the GSC?**

There are three forms of student governance at UIC: the Undergraduate Student Government, the Health Professional Student Council, and the Graduate Student Council (GSC). These enable students to affect decision-making policies through their own participation as elected representatives. Students sit on UIC's Board of Trustees as well as other major University committees. GSC members are the liaisons and advocates for graduate students here at UIC. The Graduate Student Council also has funds for Travel and Project Awards that grad students can qualify for by having departmental representation at the general GSC meetings.

### **What is my role as a GSC Rep/Alt?**

As GSC representatives, you serve as liaisons between the graduate students in your departments and the GSC. You are highly encouraged to bring up issues and concerns of the grad students you represent, vote on issues/policies presented at meetings, serve on committees, and help implement anything that would improve the lives of UIC grad students.

The three main roles of a GSC Rep/Alt are 1) To represent the grad students of your department at GSC meetings, 2) To convey information gained from GSC meetings to your department's grad students and provide feedback to the GSC and its officers, and 3) To actively participate in making UIC a great place for grad students to live and learn by serving on GSC committees, encouraging and helping students apply for Travel and Project Awards, and a lot more!

### **Can we have more than two grad students be Reps/Alts for the GSC?**

The GSC currently recognizes a maximum of one Primary Representative ("Rep") and one Alternate Representative ("Alt") from each department.

### **What if our department has classes during GSC general meeting times? Can we have more than two grad students be Reps/Alts for the GSC?**

While we encourage the same Rep/Alt to attend the meetings each time as much as possible for the sake of continuity, face recognition, and coherence, we understand that our meeting times will not be optimal for each department. In the previous two years, the GSC held general meetings on Thursdays, and that didn't work for everyone, so they have been moved to Tuesdays to at least give some reprieve to the departments most affected previously. We apologize that we aren't able to accommodate everyone, and appreciate your department for being responsible in ensuring attendance by wanting more than two students represent the department. So yes, we are glad to have any graduate student from your department attend the meeting. But the GSC currently recognizes a maximum of one official Primary Representative and one official Alternate Representative from each de-

partment. If neither the Rep nor Alt can attend a meeting, an "unofficial" alternate may attend in their place - just make sure they sign in and let the officers know they're there!

### **What is the attendance policy?**

Attendance by at least one departmental representative at all meetings is mandatory for department eligibility for Travel Awards. Currently, the same does not hold true for Project Awards (i.e. you can be ineligible for Travel Awards while retaining eligibility for Project Awards). Due to the number of graduate students who apply for Travel Awards each semester, and the limited funds available, we have established specific policies on attendance while allowing flexibility for making up missed meetings as to not unfairly penalize otherwise eligible grad students for the extenuating circumstances of their GSC Reps/Alts. The policy is as follows:

**Zero missed meetings:** You're in perfect standing! All of the full-time graduate students who present at conferences are eligible for GSC Travel Awards! (note: students in their last year of grad school and preparing to defend do not need to be full-time to be eligible)

**One missed meeting:** Your Rep or Alt must give back one hour of their missed time to help GSC officers with GSC-related tasks. No new submissions from that department will be accepted, nor will any pending submissions be processed, until the missed meeting is made up for.

**Two missed meetings:** Your Rep or Alt must give back three hours (one for the first missed meeting, two for the second) of their missed time to help GSC officers with GSC-related tasks. No new submissions from that department will be accepted, nor will any pending submissions be processed, until the missed meetings are made up for.

**Three missed meetings:** No new Travel Award submissions from the department will be accepted, nor will any pending Travel Award submissions be processed. There is no way to make this up, and the department's graduate students will not be eligible to submit Travel Award Applications until next semester. Because eligible applications must be received within the quarter in which the last day of the conference occurs (please see Travel Award form at [http://www2.uic.edu/htbin/codewrap/bin/stud\\_orgs/gsc/cgi-bin/travel-award.php](http://www2.uic.edu/htbin/codewrap/bin/stud_orgs/gsc/cgi-bin/travel-award.php) for directions and rules) students will essentially be ineligible for travel awards for any conferences that occur during that semester. The department DGS will also be notified of the missed meetings and the Travel Award ineligibility for the semester. **PLEASE MAKE SURE THIS DOES NOT HAPPEN TO YOU AND YOUR DEPARTMENT!!!**

Thank you for choosing to represent your fellow grad students in the GSC. We look forward to working with each and every one of you! Let's have a great semester!

For more info, visit [http://www2.uic.edu/stud\\_orgs/gsc/](http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/gsc/). Can't find what you're looking for there? Please contact us at [gsc-officers@uic.edu](mailto:gsc-officers@uic.edu).