

AGENDA

GSC General Body Meeting

November 11, 2008

I. Attendance and Review of Minutes

II. CampusCare- to be rescheduled.

<http://www.uic.edu/hsc/campuscare/>

III. Committees Reports

A. Social committee

1. Deana (Linguistics): Election Day social at Jak's Tap was a success! A good crowd turned up, played presidential trivia by Zoe for prizes, shot some pool, ate tasty barfood and had a great time! Thanks to Deana for a great job, and to all the reps for spreading the word and coming! Also, any ideas for future socials are welcome – they don't all have to be about food and drink.
2. Zoe (vp): Upcoming Social Events. 3 events intended for spring and 1 for fall, which will be discussed during project grants. Also, at end of the academic year, we'd like to show our appreciation and have a special event just for GSC reps.

B. Sustainability committee:

1. Holden (Neuroscience), bike committee is still working on meeting with the contact to arrange for designated parking for bikes in garages.
2. Ellen Kang (Anthropology): Stephen, primary rep for anthro, got in touch with contacts from Student Life, but they're currently at conference. He is also in contact with UICycle.

C. Communications committee: Ina (sec), Davide (tr)

1. Have done some research and chosen some other GSC websites that have features we'd like to emulate, and have features and content we hope to have on our site: events/meeting calendar, online grad life newsletter, links to useful information such as housing, transportation, Grad College orientation.
2. We would like to push to have a webmaster, this will be

discussed more later in new business.

D. *Academic Affairs Committee*: Sophia (Public Administration)

1. Major Topics Discussed:

- Tuition Differential – letter writing campaign
- Dissertation/Graduate Academic Workshop Series

2. Item for upcoming action: Workshop Series

When: January and/or February 2008 with options for evenings and weekend workshops. Ideally a three step series that graduate students could pick and choose from to attend.

Main Topics Workshop Series would cover:

- Logistics of Graduate College
- Writing Workshop
- Balance – Stress – Dealing with “The Bear”
- Institutional Review Board
- Financial Aid/Research Funding Assistance
- Navigating the Market

Possible Partners:

- GSC (to reserve space for free, possible project grant)
- Graduate College (resources, funding)

Possible Presenters:

- Allison Miller, Alumnae
- Lisa J. Knepshield

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IV. **UIC Student Senate members** (<http://www.uic.edu/depts/senate/>)

A. *Executive Committee*

1. Sophia (Public Administration). Global Campus. UIC Senate passed approval for accreditation of Global Campus. President White is weighing recommendations for moving forward and will give an update at the Nov. 13 Board of Trustees meeting. Global Campus (<http://global.uillinois.edu/>) was established as an initiative by the Trustees to offer affordable and accessible education. Previously only for graduate degrees, but now expanding to undergrad, but only in areas of high demand. The UIC Senate voted in favor of Global Campus becoming an independent accredited campus, but Urbana’s Senate voted against, raising issues of controlling the quality of education.
2. Gibran (Econ). Resolution on University of Illinois Ethics

Office Interpretation of prohibited political activity. UIC Senate approved the resolution that recognizes President White's stated commitment to freedom and expression and the UIC Senate urges him to revisit this aspect to further clarify, in concert with state officials and legal scholars, to more clearly distinguish between inappropriate political behavior and protected political expression. The button debacle: UIC faculty received a memo that they couldn't wear buttons or other paraphernalia in support of specific candidates. This was soon after rescinded, but everyone including Ethics and Law departments got involved. In the end it was agreed that everyone should be free to express their own opinions. So what was the verdict? UIC employees are free to express their political views on their own time, but not in the workplace. This does not seem like a real solution, nor was any clear policy implemented. Something to revisit and think about for the long term.

3. Reminder that Sophia & Gibran represent us in the UIC Senate, and that they are happy to hear questions, comments, and concerns.

Q: Where can we find more info?

A: Board of trustees website. <http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/>

Q: Are there stats about Global Campus: majors, degrees earned, jobs after degrees earned, etc?

A: Not available yet.

B. *Educational Policy committee: Deana (Linguistics)*

1. Discussion to establish a compressed MD/MS in clinical translational science. Decided that plan wasn't solid enough to ensure the desired level of education to students, not ready to be implemented, not ready to apply for grants for support.
2. Also discussed changes in undergrad curricula, sensible changes were made.

V. **Old Business**

A. *AFMFA waivers: Zoe (vp)*

Lists of students sent to Zoe were submitted today to the Grad College to get waivers, eligible students will get the fee waived. Please log in to Enterprise and check if you received the waiver or not! If you do not receive the waiver but believe you should, please contact the GC. GSC volunteered to facilitate the process of finding the students who should have had the AFMFA fee waived, but is not responsible for getting the fee waived. If you have students who still have questions, please have them contact the

GC to get waived.

B. *U-Pass meeting for the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC):*
Ina (sec)

1. Background: UIC is now in 3rd year of a 5 yr contract with CTA. 3 referendums in the past found that majority of students agreed to assessment fee for U-Pass for all full-time students. Fee was set at \$0.70/student/day for year one, and has not been raised since. It is possible that, due to the situation of the CTA and the economy, the fee may go up next academic year.
2. In response to requests to extend valid summer semester travel periods, SFAC voted on recommendation to increase the number from 64 valid travel days for a \$52 fee to 92 valid travel days for Summer 2009 for a \$73 fee. The rate has remained the same: cost of travel is \$0.70/student/day + \$7 for administrative costs.
3. The possibility of a year-round U-Pass was discussed, specifically in the context of graduate students. This would involve not only a new contract with the CTA, but also a change in what the UIC Graduate College defines as the academic year. If there is a large positive response from graduate students on this topic, it can be revisited in future SFAC U-Pass meetings.

C. *Travel Awards:* Davide (tr)

1. Distribution is not even between semesters. Davide will find and analyze data from previous years to see if this is an actual trend, and if it is, the GSC might revise from quarters to semesters to better distribute use of funds.
2. Notably, the distribution between departments is also uneven. Please tell the grad students in your department about this Travel Award and encourage/help them to present their work at conferences and apply!

Q: How does this translate per capita?

A: Don't have this data, but will take it under advisement.

Q: What if some types of conferences don't have as many opportunities to present? Like math vs. chem.?

A (Ina): Maybe we can work with DGS's to establish a standard for each department.

A (Irene): Or we could change system to be more like HPSC who awards different dollar amounts for different things, eg, presenting vs. attending. Dollar amount is determined at the end of the quarter.

A (Davide): if you feel your dept gets less, maybe write up a proposal of what is fair to represent original work for educational value vs. going to conference for fun.

A (Irene): If you have ideas to amend requirements/criteria for next year, email ideas to Davide. We'll try to put together something for next meeting next year.

D. *Project Awards:* Two submitted, one attempted submission did not go through but the GSC votes in favor to hear the proposal.

1. Zoe (vp): GSC event paired with UIC athletics for a Tailgating event to go support UIC Women's basketball team on Nov. 22, 2pm at the UIC Pavilion. Project award asking for \$300 to provide food/beverage for 50 grad students to go to this. Athletics agreed to allocating 50 courtside seats (as opposed to the normal student section), Pavilion access from 12-5pm. Men's game is at 7pm but grad students would have to pay for that themselves. If approved, this project would need to get a more accurate head count to plan for enough food, beverage, seats.

Q: Why project grant money and not events money?

A (Zoe): More events money available for the spring if we don't spend it now. The Project Grant money has already been allocated for Project Grant Awards, and should be used.

2. Bethany (Biopharmaceutical Sciences): Continuation of trip to Abbott Labs from last year. Over 130 students wanted to go, Abbott could only accommodate 29. So this is a continuation to give other grad students a chance to visit Abbott. The only restriction is that if you went last year you can't go this year.

Q: How did you choose the 29 students who got to go?

A: First come first serve. Sent out email to all GSC reps, then later to APS chairs.

Q: What is Abbott? And what is this trip about?

A: Abbott is a pharmaceutical company in IL, this trip is for grad students who might be interested in going into industry. Tour, speakers, talks on resources. Not just for pharm and science people, there are job opportunities in admin such as with HR too.

Q: How much money requested and what for?

A: \$500. Minibus is over \$700. APS will cover the rest. Abbott limits the number of visitors as not to be disruptive.

3. Marilena (Occupational Therapy):

Teach-In for Single Parent Health Care on Jan 21, 5:30pm, Chicago Room in SCW. No limit on attendees. Open discussions and 3 speakers: a patient, a physician, and a social worker. Applying for \$500 for food, advertising and cost of supplies.

4. Votes to approve: 3 applications submitted, funding for 6 applications available.

Q: Are we voting between the three applications? And how much money and how many awards each semester?

A (Irene): We are voting to approve each application individually. There is funding for 6 projects at a maximum amount of \$500 each project per semester. http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/gsc/documents/gsc-projectgrant.pdf

5. GSC votes on three Project Proposals, all three carry.

E. Graduate Student Bill of Rights

Committee members met with Dean of GC, revisions needed to be made to address the changes requested by the Dean, mainly that nothing could be included about employee rights since the GC can not endorse that in a Graduate Student Bill of Rights (employee rights and student rights must be addressed separately). We revised and will meet with the GC again in December.

VI. New Business

A. *Dissertation Workshops*: Ina (sec)

These will be held on the evenings of Jan 14 and March 12, 2009. One will be on East Campus, the other on West Campus. Alison Miller will give a talk on dissertations and navigating graduate years, as well as give students an opportunity to purchase her new book. Exact times and locations will be announced as soon as they are determined. Alison Miller is a UIC alumnus and has been giving free talks to UIC grad students for several years now. More info at <http://www.thedissertationcoach.com/>

B. *Webmaster position*

Communications Committee brought up the need for a designated webmaster. Discussion led to the GSC to vote on a Request for Proposal for a Webmaster by the Communications Committee. Vote passes, the Communications Committee will compose a RFP outlining the criteria for GSC webmaster and website. Once the RFP is available, applicants will submit their proposals as Project Grant Proposals in the amount of \$500.

VII. Committee Meetings

VIII. Adjourn

GSC General Body Meetings 5:30 PM SSB B/C
February 10, 2009
March 10, 2009

April 14, 2009

GSC Executive Board 2008-2009

Irene Klein, President
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