

GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL
UIC UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO

AGENDA
GSC General Body Meeting
February 10, 2009

I. Attendance and Review of Minutes (*note: Nov minutes are now online, we apologize for the delay*)

II. **UIC Chancellor Dean Paula Allen-Meares.**

<http://www.uillinois.edu/our/news/spotlight/C.Meares.cfm>

<http://media.www.chicagoflame.com/media/storage/paper519/news/2008/07/14/News/New-Uic.Chancellor.Set.To.Take.Office.In.2009-3390240.shtml>

Scheduled Topics include:

- a. Diversity in the grad student body (*not addressed*)
- b. Upcoming hurdles and how UIC will handle them
- c. UIC's financial situation and how grad students can help
- d. Tuition Differentials

(Chanc. Allen-Meares) I know there is a large concern about the tuition differentials. These are determined by market value, infrastructure costs, previous years, needs of that dept (history vs. chemistry). There is NO DEFINITIVE TARGET about budget. 10% is the number floating around? Different depts may have different capacities to offset differentials through, ex; waivers.

Q (John Russell, Chemistry, jrusse2@uic.edu): One concern is the differential during summer months when value of TA pay, which many graduate students count on for income, is much less.

A (Chanc. Allen-Meares): I did not know this and doesn't understand why it is, will raise issue.

Q (Shay Kilby, Biomedical Visualization, skilby2@uic.edu): Our department doesn't have their own TA slots, our students have to get TA position from another college. Why?

A (Barbara Henley, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, bhenley@uic.edu): Depends on funds designated by your specific college/dept. Your college/dept has probably not designated funds for TA positions.

Q (Harish Kanchi, Mechanical Engineering, hkanch1@uic.edu) Can there be a situation where PhD students are taken into consideration and given some sort of relief?

A. (Chanc. Allen-Meares)UIC does not have different tiers. Michigan had "ABD" status, for example, for graduate students who had completed their qualifying exams, where they got a break.

Q: Why do we have to pay differential for things like thesis credits? We don't get paid

unless we're registered. This is even when we have obtained our own funding.

A (Chanc. Allen-Meares): The longer you stay, the more you cost, but there's also the consideration of value added that the graduate student adds to the university. I don't know why you'd have to pay the differential when you have obtained your own funding.

Q: Is there a standard how each college decides what percentage assistantship is given for what type of work done?

A (Chanc. Allen-Meares): The budget model here is a modified of hybrid RCM (responsibility center management hybrid model). Harvard is known to be a RCM oriented university. In some of the public institutions you'll find hybrid models. There are several sources of income including revenues from tuition, indirect cost recovery (ICR), and interest from gifts. At Michigan I had a lot of flexibility with this and could invest \$4.2M on financial aid. But other institutions will have different budgets and different priorities. Within colleges, budget decisions will be made to decide where their budget is spent. Immediate needs must be addressed, if opportunity arises, then investments can be made. I assume that you talk to your colleges and your graduate directors and assume that there are opportunities to have conversations within these different colleges and schools.

Q (Sophia Magill, Public Administration, skilby2@uic.edu): What are you most excited about, when you see UIC graduate students?

A (Chanc. Allen-Meares): I hope that students will work with me. We need to be more entrepreneurial, using fundraising, and hope that students will be partners and spokespersons. For example, student trustee James Winters is organizing an advocacy trip to Springfield to advocate for more state funding. UIC is TERRIBLY underfunded. I'm not giving excuses, I need help, including from all grad students.

Q (Zoe Hanson, VP): In regards to the fundraising just mentioned, as a public institution we don't really fundraise. As a member of the Student Centers Board, I talk to the alumni member on that board and they are trying to get fundraising from alumni, but that's all the fundraising I know of. What are some of the initiatives that UIC is taking to fundraise?

A (Chanc. Allen-Meares): I have been soliciting donors since I signed on. We have an anonymous donor for \$30M in the works pending legality, another donor \$22M. At Michigan it was my responsibility to raise money and during my time at Michigan I built a facility, I raised the endowment to about \$45-50M, and I brought in \$100M of research and support, so I hope that I will be able to achieve – exceed – that past history here. In fact I'm even going to Arizona to meet a potential donor. As I said, we all need to be more entrepreneurial, and I need to be the role model and set the pace. Thank you all for having me here.

Any further questions for UIC Chancellor Dr. Allen-Meares can be sent to Irene at iklein1@uic.edu

III. Brief updates from committees

- a. Academic Affairs (Harish Kanchi, Mechanical Engineering): MiniSymposium was put together by Harish Kanchi, Juan Martinez, Anne Fink, Sophia Magill, and Amanda Yang over last 3 months. The kickoff event on January 15 was a great success! 150 students attended. 2nd installment is 2/12/09, flyer has been sent

out.

- b. Events committee (Zoe Hanson, VP): 1) Potential GSC rep appreciation dinner at end of year budget allowing. 2) More probable is to make this a bowling event.
- c. Web/communications (Davide Fossati, TR): We received 4 applications in response to the RFP, 2 are from students, 2 are from external sources. Is 4 apps ok for us to choose from? Or should we extend the deadline? (Consensus from reps is yes).

IV. Reminders and other business

- a. Project Grant applications (Irene, Pres): So far we've received one for the History Conference, which has been sported for a few years now. Please encourage your constituents to apply for these! We will vote on these in March, please advertise, we'd like to see more!
- b. Reminder: Please notify officers of any GSC Rep changes in your department.
- c. Next meeting is 3/03/09, not 3/10/09.

V. **CampusCare**, Shannon Wilcox – Assistant Director of CampusCare. Shannon will go over the new CC website and address issues that students have. We request that if you have specific questions about your individual accounts that you refrain from asking them here. Shannon also had first aid kits to give out.

- a. There are CC meetings every month, changes that occur happen due to feedback from these meetings. Irene is a student member who attends every month.
- b. New website – design came from student focus groups. Last website didn't work well with firefox, macs, etc, so those probs have been fixed. These problems were addressed based on feedback from the meetings.
- c. Deadline to waive just passed, but all forms including waiver form is online.
- d. If you lose insurance you can reinstate at ANY TIME. Doesn't need to be during open enrollment period. This was to address people losing employment due to the current economy. Will have to pay full fee for the term, is not pro-rated.
- e. Independent forms for other changes in coverage – marriage, baby, doesn't have to be during open enrollment.
- f. Important to have ID card on you in case you need medical service away from UIH and family care. It is a student insurance benefit, not a nationwide insurance company like BlueCross-BlueShield, so having the info on you is important.
- g. Visual/Dental: To make an appointment go to the CC website under benefits link, click on "locate provider", put in zip code, gives list of providers. This is NOT campuscare. You need to bring UNITED HEALTH PROGRAMS card, not CC. United Health is insurance for visual/dental. It's a separate company/vendor. So you need to print BOTH ID CARDS! CC for medical, UHP for Visual/Dental. If you call to make an appointment and say you have UHP and they still say they don't take it, call CC for help, tell them the problem. CC will call them and verify that you have UHP eligibility.
- h. Visual: free annual eye exam, dilation, all else is discount schedule
- i. Dental: free annual exam, x-ray, all else is discount schedule
- j. Pharmacy benefit: only need to pay copay for generics, even if no CC you still get a student discount.

Q: why does College of Dentistry not take CC?

A (Irene) College of Dentistry does not take CC. But if you are a Grad Assistant

or grad fellow, you get GDAP (graduate dental assistance program). Has nothing to do with campuscare.

Q: (Zoe) what is the Health service fee vs. CC? Does the website explain this?

A: Yes, this is now all listed on the website. Must get these through family medicine because it's not a licensed health insurance, it's a "health benefit"

Q (Holden Brown, Neuroscience): What if during summer you're not registered for classes full time and you have CC but not the health service fee? I had a bad experience where family medicine wouldn't let her come in when she was sick.

A. Annual OB/Gyne exam itself is covered by health service fee, some of the labwork and stuff is covered by CC. Health service fee, which you only pay if you're enrolled. But if you have CC over summer, all other medical needs should be covered.

(Holden): Maybe Family Medicine needs to be better educated about what each fee covers and what services students are entitled to. They said I couldn't come in for anything but a very serious illness.

A. We do have training sessions for them, as well as a manual. But it's a fine line to tell them what to do and to enforce it.

Q. why can't the 2 be combined?

A. This is up to board of trustees, not CC. But Shannon agrees, it causes a lot of confusion, and CC website tries to explain the difference and that CC is separate from Student Health Fee. CC was started to provide accessible health benefits for students at a reasonable cost. Outside private providers have not been as affordable or all-inclusive. This is not up to CC, this is up to UIC.

Q. Is there a central list of all medical resources on campus? CC, health service fee, GDAP, mental wellness clinic, counseling center, etc?

A. No, there is not but there should be. If one is compiled we'd be happy to put it on CC website.

Q. The current policy makes it very difficult to obtain referrals. I had to convince the doctor at Family Medicine to give me a referral to a specialist.

A. You need to get referral to see specialist, that's just the way the system works. The system is set up like an HMO and can't handle open appointments with specialists. Also, remember that CC does not run Family Medicine. If there's a prob with Fam Med, bring up issues with director of Fam Med.

k. Another frequently asked question is what do do in emergency situations. This info is all on the website.

l. Dispute charges: can call CC and most times it will be fixed.

Q. Why are charges for spouse and children so expensive?

A. Liability costs is a lot. Deductibles are minimal.

A.(from a rep): Costs are comparable to other universities.

A. On the old CC website there used to be a link to cost comparison to other providers, but didn't include it on the new site b/c it was thought that no one was looking at it.

Please provide feedback, we really take it into consideration and bring it to the table and try to get it approved if possible. The meetings really address feedback and issues brought up by the students. It is especially good if you provide it in written/email form. Irene sits on CC advisory committee. If you have more questions please email her. The board takes feedback very seriously.

(Irene): Before moving on, any more questions you wanted Chancellor to answer?

(Zoe): Glad the Chancellor came to speak, and that she values graduate students' opinions. Would be good to meet the hierarchy at UIC and also know what they all do for us. Transparency.

Q: It's hard enough to talk to DGS, how can we talk to even higher ups? "Transparency" seems to be the buzz word here. Any way to facilitate this?

A (Zoe, VP): I know of a few things in place. For example, Dinner with the Deans is a weekly event hosted at the Stuekel Towers by faculty-in-residence Tom Glenn.

Q: Why can't there be department/program reviews every semester?

A (Zoe): There are, at least for pharm.

A (Dean Deanna): Every college has its own rules. If your college doesn't do this, try to contact Dean of the college about this. All the Deans report to the Provost, but evaluation process is decentralized. Best course of action is to find ally in dean's office and GC to advocate and implement this.

(Irene): quick show of hands for how many people have evals in their departments/programs

(Juan Martinez, Sociology): There's a diff btwn evals on classes vs. evals on programs.

(Shay Kilby, Biomedical Visualization): My program gives informal input through her (grad rep) to head of program, but we only have about 20 people in our program.

Q (Juan): Can there be centralized resource for evals, and listing for TA positions, etc?

A (Dean Deanna): would probably work best if GC took care of this.

(Irene): this will need to be addressed at more length later. Maybe Academic Affairs can think about this.

(Irene): anything else on CC?

Maybe we can list all the med resources on the GSC website.

VI. Bill of Rights

a. Online vote and results

- i. 34/49 approved, the rest abstained
- ii. Online voting is legal, is used by many orgs on campus (including GSC in past years), and is valued since it is linked to individual email addresses. Only one vote per email, email is verification.
- iii. Reason for online vote was due to timing. Originally obtained a time slot with GC on 2/6/09 and any special meetings for the GSC have to be announced 2 weeks in advance, so not enough time to hold a special

meeting. But then after the GSC officers decide to have an online vote for the BOR, GC postponed from 2/6/09 to 2/13/09.

Topics brought up by email:

- b. BOR was modeled after NAGPS BOR and other university grad student BORs. Rights vs. best practices were separated due to what could be legally defended or to what recourse was available for. Best practices are things that GC said they could not uphold, but GSC BOR felt they wanted. Another weird situation is that we're half student, half employee. Employee rights are covered under the contract with UIC as negotiated by the GEO.
- c. We also wanted a BOR to protect RAs b/c they're not covered under GEO contract, as they are not employees.
- d. Authorship vs. IP. Are not the same..
 - i. Zoe: We had put info on intellectual property and authorship stuff on each table. Authorship doesn't have specific info/rules? IP has very specific rules in a document available from Board of Trustees.(Document found at www.uillinois.edu/trustees/rules.cfm) Your dissertation is "co-owned" by you and UIC. Patents, unfortunately, are owned by the university since all the resources are theirs. General rule: Univ doesn't care unless it's something that can make money. This is pretty standard at all universities. So IP not in BOR but Authorship is.
- e. Accurate Results: We used SurveyMonkey for several reasons delineated in Irene's email. We were not aware of USG problems.
- f. Dean Deanna: That was silly undergrad clique drama.

Q: Where is old BOR?

A: There was none on this campus. This will be the first. This is the first doc to protect RAs who are not covered by GEO contract. Also, typos have been corrected.

Q (Nick Ardinger, Education): is there a way to reconcile dept rules vs. BOR? Advising covenants, policy, or whatever other name. Which takes precedence?

A. BOR is pretty minimal. These are only things that GC can guarantee.

Q. Irene: do we need a ***statement to say that these are the minimal requirements required by the GC from each dept. anything above and beyond can be implemented by individual depts. But needs to be enforced by them.***

A. (General consensus from reps is yes, we should add this to the BOR)

Q. Point 1.5.2. GSC as advocate for student grievances?

A. Let's change statement to ***clarify that GSC can act as student advocates within the rules of the university grievance policy.***

Q. Is there a formal form?

A. (Dean Deanna): there is a formal Univ. grievance procedure that must be followed. GSC can help the student but procedure is set. ***BOR needs to have clarification on grievances. These deal with matters involving the individual, ex: unfair grade, harassment, etc. In this situation not appropriate for GSC to be advocate. There is someone in Dean Deanna's office (dean of students office) that takes care of that. Grievances are not***

for problems with for ex; tuition differential. The resources are available, there needs to be better ways to communicate where students can find help.

(Irene): So let's **define individual vs. group grievance in BOR.**

GSC votes to endorse BOR with changes discussed. Vote passes. None oppose, none abstain.

(Irene): Once approved by GC it will be disseminated widely by email and grad student handbook to all grad students.

Q. what if new issues are brought up and changes need to be made?

A. amendments can be made.

Q. so is BOR something that the GC will uphold?

A. YES. Hence the rights, which they can and will uphold, vs. the best practices section, which they can't uphold/enforce.

VII. Adjourn

GSC General Body Meetings 5:30 PM SSB B/C

March 3, 2009

April 14, 2009

GSC Executive Board 2008-2009

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