



# Graduate Student Council

## GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL (GSC) MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** September 5, 2019

**TIME:** 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**PLACE:** Student Services Building, Conference Room B and C  
([1200 W. Harrison St., Chicago, IL 60607](http://www.uic.edu/1200W))

### 1. Welcome & Dinner

- The president of GSC welcomed the representatives, graduate students, and speakers.
- A team activity hosted by Sydney, the first team of three must find the date when school was founded?

### 2. Welcome back presentations from the 2019-2020 GSC Officers

- i. GSC President, Sai Siva Kare
  - He spoke about GSC, its mission, and plans for the upcoming year
  - Introduced all the officers and explained how GSC operates with the help of EC, officers and the administration.
  - GSC operations and budget allocation was explained by him briefly.
  - What is travel and project award? Visit : [Gradstudentcouncil.uic.edu](http://gradstudentcouncil.uic.edu) for more details.
  - He pointed out that the travel award can be given once and project grants can be given by more than once to the same group, depending on the availability of funds.
  - PDA symposium: 13<sup>th</sup> September this will be organized jointly by GSC and PDA.
  - He asked for any suggestions about the events from public:
    - Some events for improving communication and presentation skill sets of students.
    - Vice-President said that there are different events like toastmasters and Research forum organized by UIC where they teach students about improving communication skills.
  - Possible events that would be organized by GSC in the upcoming year are LinkedIn Photoshoot, networking and career panel events
  - A representative raised a question where the grant money goes?
    - President suggested that we can have a workshop based on that.
  - President discussed about other social and professional events like welcome back party, yoga and Halloween.
  - He pointed out that GSC have representation with the senate where different chancellors and officers from administration come together to discuss about their duties and obligations with the students.
  - Council representatives and officers are leaders, and should know the impact that they are having in the world
- ii. GSC Vice-President, Biswajit Maharathi
  - He spoke about Executive Committee students' involvement in Senate and Leadership opportunities
  - GSC is representing body of graduate students, which interacts with the administration.
  - GSC's representation in the Education Committee:
    - Recommends candidates for education and research related work.

- Research covers all the web store software which are research tools for students.
  - Education department covers the improvement of online teaching experiences by providing better black board and online lecture experience.
  - Senate is involved in constructing professional, financial and educational requirements for the students to graduate with a degree at UIC.
  - Representation at Information Technology Governance Council (ITGC) Education Committee (EC):
    - There is an opening in ITGC EC, if you have a query regarding that contact : [GSC-Officers@listserv.uic.edu](mailto:GSC-Officers@listserv.uic.edu)
    - Senate is looking for the representation, reach out to GSC officers using: [GSC-Officers@listserv.uic.edu](mailto:GSC-Officers@listserv.uic.edu)
- iii. GSC Treasurer, Sivaraman Laksmipathy
- He spoke about budget, its allocation, travel and project award applications
  - Budget Allocation and spending:
    - Major allocation towards travel and project grants. More information at: [Gradstudentcouncil.uic.edu](http://Gradstudentcouncil.uic.edu)
  - Travel grants:
    - Given to the students who are the main speaker, chairing and leading a lecture.
    - Proof and abstract of the project is required.
    - Only one travel grant is given to students.
    - The awards are given as a first come first serve basis.
    - The travel grant can be filled online, and more information is available at the GSC website: [Gradstudentcouncil.uic.edu](http://Gradstudentcouncil.uic.edu).
  - Project awards:
    - Given for any project or conference that you are hosting. More details are given at the GSC website: [Gradstudentcouncil.uic.edu](http://Gradstudentcouncil.uic.edu).
    - The project awards are given based on voting done by the students.
  - The awards are given quarterly so more applicants can reap the benefits from those grants.
- iv. GSC Secretary, Ritesh Jagatramka Function and responsibilities of Departmental Representatives
- Website:
    - Meeting minutes and agenda available at <https://gradstudentcouncil.uic.edu/>
    - Complete list of representative available with department
    - Notify any changes in the department name
  - Reminder of departmental representative duties and obligations:
    - 100% Attendance is encouraged, please check to make sure any changes in the representatives
    - **Communicating with respective departments/schools**
    - If you can't make it, let GSC know ahead of time

### 3. Speakers for tonight

- i. Dean Linda Deanna, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs/Dean of Students and Advisor for the GSC:
  - Dean Deanna has been the dean for over 18 years.
  - Office of the Dean of Students is involved with Undergraduates and Graduates.

- A lot of respect for all the graduate students:
    - She appreciates how students maintain personal, professional and academic life. She acknowledges the fact that all the students are juggling between different priorities and still make it to the meeting.
  - Student Legal Services:
    - They are the ones who care about students.
    - It is highly confidential.
    - The funding for this service is included in the student fees.
  - UIC Relief fund for students:
    - UIC has funding for students who are having social and/or personal problems.
    - This a relief fund for students in emergency or need.
    - Over 900 students were helped by the funding committee which is Office of the Dean of Students.
  - Dean Deanne will be present at all our meeting don't be afraid to reach out to her.
- ii. Rabiah Mayas, P.h.D., Associate Director of Science in Society, Northwestern
- Opportunity available at the science club:
    - Science Club is organized to motivate the youth for taking active participation in science.
    - Science Club holds a program where they help researchers for research related issues.
    - The sessions are for 90 minutes a week where they are engaging with high school students to take their favorite snacks and make it healthier.
    - This program is more about science and relationship and how they merge together.
    - Increased abilities for designing and presenting is observed amongst students.
    - The mentors share that it reinvigorates their problem-solving skills.
    - They have had a strong relationship with UIC students.
    - For more details, visit: [sis.northwestern.edu](http://sis.northwestern.edu)
- iii. Susan E. Panek, UIC Student Trustee, Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois:
- Board of trustee has one student representation from each U of I universities.
  - Susan is one of the Trustees, she serves as the link between board of trustee, grad college and students.
  - Board of trustees are making active decisions about financial, professional and personal well-being at all three universities of U of I.
  - Her office is SCE 392, reach out to her at [spanek4@uic.edu](mailto:spanek4@uic.edu).
  - She will be present at all GSC meeting.
- iv. Peyton Bohnsack, PhD, President, UIC Postdoctoral Association
- Career Development Symposium:
    - On Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> September at SCE.
    - Have 350 enrollments.
    - In the meeting all the people who have graduated as PhDs will talk about their experiences and how they have overcome the financial and professional hurdles.

#### 4. Project Award:

Viktoriya Zvoda, Biophysics Networking Symposium in Chicago, Project award:

- A fair on biophysics networking symposium.
  - Postdocs will be able to come and network.
  - This event is mainly for graduate students and done for graduate students. This an open event will be happening at SCE.
- Key points:
    - She will be making a guide for arranging an event of this capability.

- The guide will include a timeline of the events and other minute details behind organizing the event.
- There are an overwhelming number of participants from different universities across Chicago.
- The graduate representatives voted for providing the grant.

## 5. Important updates to the GSC Constitution and overview

- Constitution amendments were made in summer:
  - No discrimination is permitted on the basis color and creed.
  - The constitution is made available in the GSC website: [Gradstudentcouncil.uic.edu](http://Gradstudentcouncil.uic.edu).
  - DGS appoints the rep. and alt rep.
- The department reps are chosen by DGS and travel and project grants are given to only the departments that have good standing with GSC.
- Duties of the Reps:
  - Attend all the meetings to have a good standing with GSC.
  - Distribute the meeting minutes to the students.
  - Promote GSC events.
  - Bring any student issues in the meetings
- A representative pointed out that Travel awards are given by UIC graduate college as well.
- If the department has two absences, they will be marked as invalid and after three the department may not be eligible for project and travel awards.
- A complete department list can be found in the constitution in the GSC website.
- Representatives can help GSC by making sure their names and departments are enlisted appropriately on the website.

## 6. The meeting is adjourned.

**Web:** [Gradstudentcouncil.uic.edu](http://Gradstudentcouncil.uic.edu)

**Email:** [GSC-Officers@listserv.uic.edu](mailto:GSC-Officers@listserv.uic.edu)

