



GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL (GSC) MEETING AGENDA

DATE: November 7th, 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://1200.W.Harrison.St.,Chicago,IL.60607))

1. Welcome & Dinner

- The president of GSC started the session and wished that everyone did well on their midterms

2. Speakers for tonight

- i. Benn Williams, Fellowships and Awards Coordinator, Graduate College:
 - He is doing training in EB history and is looking for resources for funding. He had three-year fellowship which led him to spend time in France
 - Their office deals with leasing funds to students for the student fellowship and he's the link between students and the office which releases funds. He is responsible for fellowship and students fund. He doesn't process the RA and TA/GA waivers but appreciates students reaching out to him. He doesn't deal with federal loans.
 - Why apply for a fellowship? For funding and making your resume cool with recognition from peers' families and industries.
 - It (Fulbright fellowship) is like a club and students can be part of that. If you have good funding from external sources, you could get a full fee waiver. You should start applying as soon as possible but planning should be done well before a year.
 - You can apply for funding like pre-doc, doctoral carrier, dissertation funding and please set aside 5-10 hours per week and try to keep up to date with the funding options, thinking of it as a part-time job. They revamped their website which is linked to the UIC Graduate College website (grad.uic.edu), look under the funding and award section for more details.
 - Some of the funding opportunities are PGRA, PGIA, AGR, AOTDA and SPA look into the website mentioned above for more details. You don't necessarily have to match it with the department, but it increases the chances if you do
 - For travel grant, he processes the money, please be careful while documenting your application please use the convention mentioned in the website. You could reach out to him to ask for the sample. He insists on sending everything as a single document.
 - He pointed out that your DGS should be your friend and you should try to have a good connection with them in order to increase your chances to get the funding. The application for DSF is due in the next term and you should reach out to your DGS for more details as soon as possible.
 - He is not associated with the DFI and does not take part in dispensing the funds for that scholarship. If you are from any minority and you are eligible for DFI, he encourages you to apply for those.
 - GSC provides you with travel awards and OIA provides another travel award of about 5k. Presidents research in DTA is another program which is another beneficial aid for students

- UIC SnAP is an application which will send you an email for the awards that you are eligible for, so he insists on everyone to subscribe to it.
 - Prominent external funding agencies provide funding for students who wants to study abroad, and they promote students from public universities like UIC. He is at the center of this program and really wants more students to apply for it.
 - Boren fellowship requires for the students to be collaborating with federal agencies and it helps them to boosts their profile to get jobs into the federal agencies. Therefore, you want to apply for this to increase your chances to get into the federal government.
 - He suggested that you should look at the CV of your advisors and people you admire to expand your understanding of the fellowship options available to you.
 - He discussed about other options please look in the website enlisted above to see all the options available to boost your resume and increase your chances of getting waivers.
 - DZLFF will provide you with a decent amount of funding to go to Germany for a semester. For longer term you must go through other sources that will be available with him and don't be afraid to reach out to him.
 - GA/TA waivers are taxable and do keep that in mind going forward with the funding options. Some of the search engines are:
UIUC, Pivot, Spin, US education of financial aid,
 - He said that UIUC, PIVOT, and SPIN are highly beneficial for the students to benefits from funding. Again, make it like a part time job to increase your chances to receive funding.
 - His weekly emails are directed to catch a wider section of the public so he will not be sending details of funding which is specific to a department.
 - go.uic.edu/online-funding for finding the details for more opportunities
 - He is appreciative of people reaching out to him and he likes to help students with components for different types of funding. He will connect you to different sources if he is not aware of the details of funding that you are interested in.
 - He says that funding documentation is a foreign genre and most of the advisors are not up to date with the documentation of funding. But please try to reach out to him with funding opportunities with substantial funding (not just \$200) because he deals with more than 8000 students and needs time to spend with his family.
 - Sometimes you might need a letter from him for F-35, F-34 or for tuition wavier he would be happy to help under such circumstances. He can help you with collecting your funds from external agencies if required.
 - Get accustomed to google sheets for making a checklist for all the documentation required for awards. It will help you to stay more organized. It is an iterative process so have more organized documentation to stand out. The more concise your documents are the better it is for your application. Connect the dots.
 - Please make it a point to be genuine and try not to formulate your documents. Write, edit, revise and get another set of eyes. Some person who doesn't know what you do would be a good place to start. Your target would be to answer the "so what" question that a reviewer would have.
 - His email address is: bwilli7@uic.edu
- ii. Ben Aldred, Ph.D., Reference and Liaison Librarian:
- He is here to talk about the library resource and how it can benefit the students. They have been continually adding new resources that students can take advantage of.

- He wants to make sure that students take advantage of all the resources that they have been adding to the website: library.uic.edu
 - His contact is available on researchguides.uic.edu. You can search for purchases on the library website and under how to section you might find more details about how to get paid research materials that are not available through UIC library.
 - He brought into the light that Abigail Gobin is someone who can help you with data management and it is a precious tool for researchers.
 - You can use make an appointment with the librarian link which is tailored to a specific department and can help you connect with the right person. Librarians can help you with very special task that you might not have an idea about.
 - Note: He is always present at all the GSC meetings and would be happy to help if you have concerns regarding the library. Some students are having problems with RefWorks and librarians are working hard to keep it updated and running.
 - Request items link can help you get articles with inter-library loan. If there is a situation where you need a lot of articles from the journal, he recommended to reach out to a librarian for the same.
- iii. Melissa Maderia (Sr. Technology Coordinator, OTM), and Melissa Maderia (Sr. Technology Manager), Office of Technology Management:
- Their mission at OTM is both to commercialize and to protect the research work done by the students. And if students are looking to patent something, they can reach out to OTM to ask help for the same.
 - There is a huge impact on what researchers do and they should exploit the resources available at OTM. If you have questions you should reach out to the OTM website to get more information.
 - They have been collaborating with business school to have different seminars where you can learn about starting your own business venture. They have different seminars that cover vast number of topics across entrepreneurship.
 - They have SPIR awards that offer substantial sum of money for students working in life sciences. All the details are on the UIC OTM website. Also, you can sign up for the listservs which send out weekly emails with details about all the seminars.
 - They are affiliated with COE; under this affiliation, they see the potential areas where commercialization is possible. They offer graduate hourly and research positions at their office. They have vast amounts of data and are constantly looking for data scientists who could spare some hours to go help them.
 - Any students can disclose to the OTM about a potential work that the student think could be a viable commercial product. They promote the student only disclosure, wherein graduate students can reach out to them without including their advisor into it. They will critically scrutinize that topic and see what is the potential of the product in the industry could be.
- iv. Joanna Groden, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Research, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research (OVCR):
- She oversees research all around UIC. She is not obligated to talk to the students but is appreciative of students reaching out to her. She said that the Office of Research is the tool that helps in inculcating new research ideas and provide resources to the students.
 - Office for Post-Doctoral Research promotes the acquisition of tools for students. They advocate training of the students. With-in this training period you can learn about different research tools and make yourself distinct from other applicants.

- They provide compliant and functional infrastructure for all the different students and staff group at UIC. She has an open-door policy and is very appreciative of students reaching out to her. She believes in providing support and back up to students in need. Their office comprises of different offices which are tailored to different departments at UIC. They focus on providing opportunities for improving your research capabilities. They have a handout for RDS available on their website.
- It can help you jumpstart sponsored research through supporting development of your working teams. They address different research opportunities in accordance with the needs of society. They have tools which investigate academic and research integrity. There are issues about formal compliances within the research groups.
- They have services which deal with the funding sources which allows the advisor and clinical trials to oversee the smooth operation of research. They promise privacy and provide legal agreements for people who work as a subject or researchers.
- They have an animal facility that cares about more than 30000 species of animals, where the officers carry out a detailed analysis of formally complying with the strict guidelines set by the federal government. This is a highly regulated field of research that deals with monitoring or working on animals.
- The office of grants contract deals with the budget and grant allocations for the research. Research resource centers promote research guidelines for specific research sections like NMR, Microscopy, Nanotechnology, etc. They have an annual budget of about 7-9 million dollars a year so that researchers can benefit from it.
- The area of COI deals with the conflict of interest and commitments where they want faculty to disclose their financial area of management but their relationship with other industries and agencies. They corroborate with the agencies and faculties to keep everything fair and just.
- Export control compliance assists researchers to comply with university, applicable and other laws. She pointed out that students should take interest in gaining insight into these resources because it might be a great opportunity to have a better future carrier in research or work with the industry.
- She pointed out that there is wonderful wealth of opportunity where you can pave the way for a great future of research or administration. She is appreciative of students reaching out to her about their personal problems with research and related aspects. Her email address is: jgroden@uic.edu
- They are lacking behind in academic computing resources but are constantly working on improving it. Other opportunities outside data sciences are available at the OVCR. She thinks that community led to address the social issues are crucial resources that students should take benefit from.
- They have 5 federally qualified health institutes that deal with health issues at UIC. The issues are complex, and they are hoping to find solutions for all of them. She points that material science can be both structural and medical. They are providing huge funding for promoting research in energy-related fields.
- She pointed out that faculties and students are talented, and they are working in providing better living standards to all the people. They have the utmost respect for promoting equity and take great pride in how Chicago land benefits from the research that is being done in the university. They are looking to promote the use of AI for different research fields. They embrace the diversity of different areas where researchers come from and how they can work together to do better research.

3. Updates

- i. Update on Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) meeting, Biswajit Maharathi, Vice President, GSC:
 - The SFAC meets once a year, they discuss demands of different universities that comes under UOI. This year the committee decided that student fees will be increased by 5\$ because Chicago campus is need for more funds to improve research and infrastructure tools for students.

4. Representatives Sign-In & Adjournment

5. GSC Executive Committee Meeting 7 PM onwards

Web: Gradstudentcouncil.uic.edu

Email: GSC-Officers@listserv.uic.edu

