



**GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL (GSC) MEETING AGENDA**

**DATE:** October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

**TIME:** 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**PLACE:** Student Services Building, Conference Room B and C  
([1200 W. Harrison St., Chicago, IL 60607](https://www.uic.edu/understanding/1200-w-harrison-st-chicago-il-60607))

**1. Welcome & Dinner**

**2. Speakers for tonight**

- i. Dr. Amalia Pallares, Associate Chancellor and Vice Provost for Diversity, Professor of Political Science and Latin American and Latino Studies:
  - She has been at UIC for 25 years as a faculty.
  - The office has been at university for not more the 3years. [university.uic.edu](https://www.university.uic.edu) will have more details on diversity platform at UIC. More than 30000 students and 16 colleges with John Marshall office. Their agenda is to promote cultural diversity and inclusion.
  - They provide diversity education, in which they will go to events and meetings to promote issues like racial bias and gender discrimination. Office of Access and Equity deals with equality and gender discrimination.
  - Diversity is more about cultural advancements and hold workshop to promote positive workplace environment. The focus on inclusive classroom has increased exponentially this year. They offer training and provide modules to work with all type of international students.
  - The challenges faced by international students are discussed and thought to the faculty to promote inclusion. They are also planning to start camps for students who are facing mental health issues. They have language diversity and academic benefits for students.
  - They are planning to setup a dashboard for students to maintain direct contact with them. They are working with three different colleges extensively: Business, PA and Finance
  - Student Inclusion programs are installed to provide support to the students. They take care of financial aid of the undocumented students. They charged a taskforce focused towards native Americans and their problems.
  - Their office works in coordination with Chancellors office to make sure that students needs are addressed. UIC has seven cultural centers, which is more than any other university in the world. Working very hard in the west campus to create more programming opportunities for the student.
  - The centers are provided for hosting support groups and conferences for increasing awareness amongst student about cultural diversity and inclusion. Arab American Cultural Center at UIC is the only one in the country. A new disability cultural center has been established in 2018 to teach students to advocate for themselves.
  - Heritage garden has a curriculum based around it and during the cultivation season there will be camps for fresh farmed food. They have butterflies which can be a good way to replenish mind and soul after a long day at work. They have a black history month which is one of the most popular moments.
  - The vice provost for global engagement was created two years earlier and the provost has created an organization for understanding the issues that International employee are being thought to maintain a better workplace environment.
  - Her email address is [amalia@uic.edu](mailto:amalia@uic.edu), please feel free to reach out to her with any queries.

ii. Dr. Shu-ju Ada Cheng, Education and Outreach Specialist, UIC Women's Leadership and Resource Center (WLRC)

- She has empathy for new students trying to navigate around the campus.
- Campus Advocacy Network provides resources for student to prevent or report issues regarding gender discrimination and sexual violence.
- They have organized campaigns to make students more equipped to prevent sexual violence. They have promoted events which talk about consent, stalking and discrimination
- These are more basic terms to have more detailed understanding check the UIC website and look for sexual violence and gender discrimination.
- They are different than other organizations because they are survivors centered and they have facilities that will help you to understand what a victim can do to feel empowered to decide.
- They are not obligated to report the incident and it is up to the victim to decide where they can choose what they need moving forward.
- The victim might want to keep everything confidential, therefore they will empower students to decide, by walking them through the whole process.
- The incident of crime and be reported anonymously, they provide emotional support and a system with different options; like reporting to title 9, police complaint or any other emergency accommodations.
- They host catering workshops for different categories of students, to promote awareness about dating, sexual violence, consent, etc. Their duty is to inform people that sexual violence may be intertwined with racial discrimination. Their department vows to make it a point to promote knowledge about how racial discrimination can be related to sexual violence.
- Their main task is to promote their events and make students more aware about the workshop that CAN organizes.
- They are not open 24 hours but will accommodate students other than their regular office hours. You can reach them using phone. Email: [can@uic.edu](mailto:can@uic.edu)
- Her personal email: [adacheng@uic.edu](mailto:adacheng@uic.edu)
- She pointed out that their work is survivor centered and still it is important for them to promote training about sexual violence and discrimination.

iii. Sophia Hamilton, Director of UIC Disability Resource Center (DRC)

- The email address for DRC is: [drc@uic.edu](mailto:drc@uic.edu)
- You can reach them through email, phone: (312)413-2183, or their office in SSB. They will not provide resources with legal help and residential issues.
- Office for Access and Equity provides pregnancy accommodations, they can provide accommodations for TAs with work and school.
- They are affiliated with the federal government funding sources. In April 1977, ARCTILE 505 was introduced to promote equal access to students with disabilities.
- They identify the barriers to any student with disability and provide them with reasonable accommodations. They work personally with students to tailor a plan for the student
- CART is sign accommodation provided for students with hearing problems, where they show caption in the screen.
- They also provide accommodations for students with deadlines, etc. They only to academic accommodations and not personal accommodations, like providing with wheelchair, etc.
- Reasonable accommodations cannot change the requirements for academic or course structure.
- For those who wants to get involved with DRC, students suffering from any disability should reach out to them and ask for accommodations. Students with mental health conditions and diabetes can reach out to them with need for any accommodations. They provide with an accommodation letter which must be submitted by the students to the instructor.
- Note for TAs: If students approach you anticipating needing accommodations, it is your duty to ask students to contact DRC. You should be mindful for not making any judgements on

based on a disability of the students. Be considerate of what you say and make a point to inform DRC about the same.

**President Sai Siva Kare:** Informed representatives about upcoming election in 2020 and get involved in the functioning of GSC. He would like GSC to have representatives from different diverse background, apart from engineering background.

### **3. Project Award**

Anna Torres, 4th Ibero American film Festival:

- They are students from Hispanic and Latin American college.
- The project will be held from October 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. They have requesting the amount of 500\$.
- Their total budget is around 2330\$, most of which is for the movies that they are going to show. They were funded by GSC in the year 2018.
- They have involved all the departments of UIC, and different professors will give informative lectures after the movies. They have a total of 1300\$ and still need around 1000\$.
- The representatives voted for giving them the grant.

### **4. Representatives Sign In & Adjournment of the General GSC meeting**

### **5. GSC Executive Committee Meeting 7 PM onwards**

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

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

