



Graduate Student Council

GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL (GSC) MEETING MINUTES

DATE: December 5th, 2019

TIME: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PLACE: Student Center East (SCE), Room 302
(750 S. Halsted St., Chicago, IL 60607)

1. Welcome & Dinner

- Sydney Erlik (GSC Executive Committee Member) is part of the Schweitzer fellowship that covers financial scholarship for students who are interested in contributing in order to improve the health of professionals and people from different departments are welcome to apply for this scholarship in the next year.
- You will have to collaborate with different companies and Schweitzer has affiliations with different companies who are organizing this. You can apply before February and it is a great opportunity to socialize with different students from other universities and policy and lawmakers.
- You need to be a graduate student and you should have completed 200 hrs. worth of volunteering. The clause states that you could have been part of any social organization and have volunteering experiences for the given number of hours.

2. Speaker for tonight

i. Michael Moss, Assistant Chancellor/Director:

- Why is it that an increase in graduate and undergraduate is necessary?
- Enrollment at the university increases exponentially (increased to 35000) and the number is substantially increased for the students, especially undergraduate. They had a significant blow financially in the year 2017 from which they have not recovered. They give a lot of financial aid for undergraduates, he claims that 66% of them receive grants. They have focused their funding on the residents promoting their intake.
- The tenured track faculty are declined in the university. The cost of the salary has been increasing recursively. The total salary is well over 8 million in the year 2020. You should also know that graduate assistants who are being employed must be paid more money.
- UIC has close to 1 billion in deferred maintenance for the year 2020. Apart from that, general cost increases have convinced them to increase the fee for the next fiscal year. They received about 13 million dollars of funding from different sources for the year 2020. The UIC budget office receives money centrally which is directed towards different campuses.
- 50 % of their funding was given to improve the quality of faculty and provide better resources. The only thing they could do was to cut revenue or cost. The total increase that they have predicted they would garner about 3 million dollars. Even with the increases that are being proposed here they are not even tackling the current problems.

- The total budget is 3.5 Billion out of which the state pays about 1 billion. Others are distributed amongst the medical and engineering college. They must worry about meeting the demands of faculty and at the same time keep the cost for students minimal.
 - Chancellor's office is vested upon the power to increase the cost, but some universities are expecting deflated admission rates so they are planning to keep their tuition rates flat.
 - The library is also expecting 2.7% for improving its tools which are benefitting the students. Campus Care will also be estimating the fee increase to ~10-20\$ per semester. Student health fee includes contraceptive care for women and the flu-shots. They have future plans to bring LARC in action. LARC is a biological contraceptive agent which prevents unforeseen pregnancy.
- ii. Daniel Williams, CPA; Executive Associate Director of Campus Auxiliary Services, Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs:
- He is the fiscal officers of student affairs. He is the co-chair here at SFAC along with Dean Deanna (Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs/Dean of Students, Advisor of GSC). This group primarily consists of student councils and the students are the voting members of the committee. He will talk about all the student's fees that have been taken under jurisdiction.
 - Sometimes, around Fall they had discovered the need for an increase in the fee of all the students. By November they were wrapping all the decisions of the increase and the board of directors will meet in December to finalize the fee increase. The fee increase is for the year 2021 and will be finalized later this year.
 - Dean Deanna has concurred with the fact that the increase in any amount has always been passed by the board of trustees and the recommendations of SFAC are always taken seriously. Fee changes regarding U-pass will be given by CTA by March 31st, 2020. They need data from FY 2020 to finalize the increase in health insurance. The final recommendation cannot be available before 3-4 months and will be available by April 2020, because they need more months to obtain data set.
 - The student fees are divided into transportation, student health, library and resources, tuition and health insurance. They answered the question of whether the fee increase is essential. They think that there is value in the process that they have followed to increase fees for the students.
 - They decrease the student fee in FY-14 and increased it by a few percent in FY-15 and 16. After the increase they had a constant price for three years. Until 2019, they increased the price because of different construction projects related to the Ignite Center. They have passed the contracts to increase the size of different buildings, answering the question of why they are increasing student fees.
 - They have increased the fee of about 5\$ per semester to cover the substantial increase of medical students at Peoria and Rockford Campus. They have been able to contain the increase of the student fee to a very reasonable inflation level of about 2 percent over the period of 5 or 10 years. Even after increasing the fee for the health sector, he is convinced that they have done a fair bit of work to keep the balance between resources and value given to the students.

- There are concerns amongst the students about the increase because students are incurring a considerable amount of debts to go to grad school. They want a sliding scale which needs to estimate the amount that we need to increase over the years.
- Pace and Metra do not offer any program for graduate or college students to cover cheaper travel rates or any set payments, and they have not entertained this idea historically to all the organizations. You could reach to him at: dw01@uic.edu

3. Project Award:

- Chicago land Philosophy graduate conference. They have made the topic of conference broad to provide inter-disciplinary participants. They are expecting graduate students and professionals from the Chicago area.
- Students from philosophy, political science, and linguistics, their key speakers are Prof. Richard Moran and Maria Schechtman.
- They are expecting 500\$ for the total amount of 2000\$. The budgets for the conference were allocated towards speakers' flight, food, and accommodation. The event will be at UIC.
- They are planning to have three graduate students and one speaker each day. They have put all their advertising for the conference on different websites and social media platforms.
- Her email address is mmejia20@uic.edu
- The team voted for giving the grant.

4. Updates

- i. Attendance Status of Departments, Ritesh Jagatramka, Secretary GSC:
 - Summary of attendance
 - i. Two meetings missed:
 1. College of Applied Health Sciences, Rehab. Sci.
 2. Latin American and Latino studies
 - ii. Three meetings missed:
 1. Linguistics
 2. Education
 3. Business Administration
 4. Management Information systems
 5. Master of Health profession education
 6. MPH
 7. Oral Sciences
 8. School of Architecture
 9. MsSCOM
 10. School of public health
 - Makeup by different means – Talk to officers
- ii. Travel and Project Awards Status, Sivaraman Lakshmiopathy, Treasurer, GSC:
 - The project awards have been given for two quarters
 - For the department to keep on receiving benefits from project and travel awards it is primitive for representatives to attend all the meetings.

- Way back in 2015 GSC had processed 64 awards in quarter 4.
 - The main purpose of GSC is to give the maximum amount of travel and project grants.
 - He wants more students to know about the travel awards and project awards. So, he wants representatives to reach as many students as possible.
 - More than 60 departments but still numbers are not flattering, and he wants more students to take benefits from the awards.
- iii. Discussion regarding future GSC events, Amira Kefi, GSC Executive Committee Member
- Amira is a PhD student in bioengineering, she would like to talk about some of the GSC opportunities. We had different events about career development and different social and panel events.
 - Suggestions for events that students want to see in future.
- iv. GSC SCW Lounge and General Updates, Sai Siva Kare, President, GSC
- Sai has a quick update about GSC lounge in SCW which will be open to all students. GSC is working with Charles Farrell (Executive Director for Business Development/UIC Student Centers) to get new furniture and design ideas.
 - It is not from GSC funds. The majority of the students are in favor of having a lounge/study area on the west campus.
 - The GSC elections are around the corner, in April 2020 GSC meeting. He encouraged the representatives to run for officer positions.
 - This semester the university is facing tough times and he urged everyone to help their fellow students.

5. Representatives Sign-In & Adjournment