



GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL (GSC) MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 6th, 2020

TIME: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

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

1. Welcome & Dinner

2. Speaker for tonight

- i. Danny Lambouths III, UIC Office of Diversity:
 - He is a graduate research assistant from the office of diversity. The office of diversity is starting an equity-based project. The mission of the project is Access, Inclusion, Engagement, and Equity. They are planning to conduct an all-inclusive survey for all the students.
 - Two pilot surveys will be made available to students in February. There will be questionnaires send out to students and it is an iterative one-on-one process. They are looking for support from the graduate students so that they can extend them better services.
 - The purpose of the survey is to understand how the included students feel at UIC. The feedbacks of the students are deeply appreciated.
 - Where are the survey questions are coming from? All the questions were validated by different survey organizations in and out of the university. They have added demographic-based questions and have extended the details from previous years to better facilitate the need of UIC students.
 - The data is voluntarily taken from students and they have been encrypted so the reader doesn't know the students. They get the data from different colleges at all the campuses of UIC and it is a long iterative process.
 - Some example questions that could appear in the survey:
 - If you could do this all over again would you choose UIC?
 - How do you engage with the duties you have to perform at UIC and how do you perform them?
 - It is an asset-based model where they introspect decisions that the administration at UIC needs to undertake to better this institution.
 - They will have free coffee and donut at the event. More details for the event can be found on their website: <https://publichealth.uic.edu/academics/diversity-inclusion/>
- ii. Robert Ballantyne, Psy.D., Assistant Director for Paraprofessional Development, UIC Counseling Center:
 - On account of an emergency with a student at the counseling center, Dr. Joe Hermez has come instead of Dr. Robert. He is here to talk about services that are available at the counselling center in UIC. More details can be found at <https://counseling.uic.edu/>
 - They are an outpatient mental health clinic for graduate and other students. They organize individual, psychological and group therapies for students to partake in. They have specific group

therapies based on color, grad, undergrad, men and women groups. They provide coupled therapy sessions where partners can come and tackle problems in personal and mental life. One of the partners should be from UIC to take benefits from this program.

- Their therapist serves based on an integrated medical model where different daily challenges tackled by the students are dealt with. He suggests that anytime you are wondering about different mindfulness and medicinal therapy sessions, don't be afraid to reach out to them for help. They offer mindfulness and yoga-related therapeutic care.
- They help in teaching essential skills to students for maintaining balance in work social and personal aspects of life. They work in training core groups of students who take classes with them to broaden the different aspects of their personal and emotional life.
- United Support network is a group-based program and you can register for it through their website. For this program, they have added two graduate groups and students are welcome to go there to interact and train with professionals who can help them find common grounds and get rid of their day to day problems. The idea is to understand the concerns of graduate student's life. You can talk about your problems while performing social activities.
- They have felt good Friday starting from 2/7/2020, in which they will talk about different sleep and wellness programs. "Sleep is for strong", "Love Thyself", are some of the different topics of the seminars.
- They offer a semester worth of care for enrolled students with the university. They have different forms that are tailored towards understanding the personal problems of different students and they later find different group therapies for those students.
- Over the years they have increased the group number from 3 or 4 to about 15 or 16. Also, they provide helps for TAs who can assist disturbed students at UIC. There is a section on the website, which has different modules which can help TAs to interact with disturbed students. It can be found here: Go to counseling.uic.edu > Look for "Concerned others" tab > Select "How to help someone in distress" subsection > Look for "I am a faculty/staff member".
- The idea is to build the relationship between students and TA's. It helps in teaching TAs to enhance their experience with students. There are personal training sessions available for graduate students as a whole but there is nothing tailored towards TA, he says that they might rectify this in the future.
- You can exploit the resources available for mental health which is provided on their website. On the website, there are lots of different resources which has been discussed earlier. Also, there are videos available on the website for students to tackle some of the challenging mental issues.
- They have about 16 full-time staff and they added a new position for crisis counsel. The training session is stretched over the semester but it is rigorous which is based on promoting transitioning effects into the lives of the student. The clinic tries to provide free services because it is a benefit provided to all students at UIC.
- Campus care can provide access to different Hospitals with Psych outpatient care but have an outburst of patients. Although they try to give preference to students with campus care.
- Their model is pretty robust and they are providing services to students from different departments at UIC. They offer cost and clinically effective services. They are very welcoming and want all the students to reach out to them.

- They want to better educate staff and faculty so that they can provide all the support and care required by students at professional levels. There are managers in their department who are trying to expand the office by adding more members so that they can get rid of the waitlist for the students. You can call them after hours if you have any problem and still get help.

3. Project Award

- i. Sydney Erlik and Amy Heider, 2020 Chicago Disability Studies Conference, UIC Disability and Human Development Student Association:
 - They will be hosting their annual conference on April 24th, Friday. The targeted audience is students at UIC but they are open to students in the greater Chicago area.
 - The seminar would provide the students with a chance to engage with people from different fields. It might also lead to opportunities to start different campaigns related to disability and human development.
 - They have funding from various departments and they are looking at a total of about \$4800. They are planning to serve breakfast, lunch and afternoon snacks. They are paying a small amount to speakers and the conference rooms.
 - This is the fifth time they have organized the event at UIC and are excited to keep the momentum going. They have advertised the events on all different kinds of social platforms. The total numbers of keynote speakers are three and there are about 15 panelists which include some students from international organizations associated with disability.
 - Their department is directly involved with different communities related to disability studies and they have close relationships with different activists' organizations from the USA. They have tie-ups with different organizations that are present in every state of the country.
 - The topics of the presenter will be disability-focused and there will be some of the speakers will be disabled thereby promoting inclusion. They are tied up with DSCC and one of the key-note speakers is the president of DSCC
 - The representatives voted for giving the award.

4. Updates

Information regarding the opportunities in senate, Biswajit Maharathi, Vice President, UIC GSC:

- Senate has 9 committees and about 19 students are needed. If you decide to participate in the executive and senate committee meetings you will have to attend their meetings.
- Senate Executive Committee has lots of important decisions being undertaken, this is a very intensive event but different offices like Chancellor's Office, The Office of Provost takes part in the same.
- Senate committee on education policy deals with different education policies at UIC. The research committee focuses on research proceedings and how students can collaborate to make their research better. Although the commitment is more it is a good option to understand how the university functions to better the lives of students.
- There are external relationships and support services which discusses blackboard and other research and teaching-related tools.
- The selection process will involve voting which will be done by existing members of the senate.

- The campus care is expecting an increase of about \$24 per semester for all students. This is because they will provide LARC services for free. LARCs are biologically induced long-term contraceptives. About 13.9% of the female used the LARC method. The fee will be revised based on the participation they get in the LARC program.
- i. Chancellor's Student Service and Leadership Awards (CSSLA), and upcoming GSC Elections, Sai Siva Kare, President, UIC GSC:
 - Information regarding the election of officers for GSC. Please, read the qualifications required for those posts at the GSC website. There are some exceptions made to those rules, please read the constitution carefully. You can run for the president position if you have previous leadership experience.
 - There is a leadership award of 1800\$ for all the officers and he encourages all the representatives to apply for it. Elected officers are required to hold the positions for an academic year.
 - CSSLA is given to students who have shown leadership qualities and community services can apply for this award. Sai believes that representatives should be awarded for being loyal to GSC.
 - Engineering career centers and GSC will collaborate on the engineering international panel alumni event which will be held on Feb 26th, 2020.

5. Representatives Sign-In & Adjournment

6. GSC Executive Committee Meeting

Web: Gradstudentcouncil.uic.edu

Email: GSC-Officers@listserv.uic.edu

