



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

**DATE:** Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**TIME:** 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**PLACE:** Your Computer (Zoom Call)

1. **Speaker for tonight:**

Jared O'Connor, President-elect of GEO, Campus care update

- He had some updates regarding campus care, GEO has a proposal for a summer campus care fee and a brief overview of their demands from the University. University has enacted the CARES act coverage via campus care, with that you can receive coverage for testing and treatment throughout the state as in-network. You will have free care throughout the semester you are registered. Students pay 673\$ or 445\$ for fall/spring or summer semester respectively.
- As per the GEO contract, 10% of dependent fees are covered during the Fall and Spring semesters.
- Earlier the campus care students affiliated with GEO had to pay 250\$. We are paying 445\$ for summer semester coverage that is significant. Typically, we get 70% coverage for out of network patients that can be covered by the Campus Care. During the crisis, they have agreed to cover all Covid-19 related costs. This means the university can afford more than they have been giving us.
- The GEO is asking that GSC and Undergraduate Student Government (USG) support them to give the campus care to students in the summer for 225\$.
- Students not in Chicago could also claim benefits if they are part of the campus care services. Anything related to COVID will get in-network related insurance coverage. You can call UI health and be reimbursed through campus care.
- We are asking for the administration to reduce the cost of Summer Campus Care to 250\$ for all students who will enroll in the Fall 2020 semester
- As GEO they want it to be a campus-wide coalition. They have received lots of benefits from these small steps. They want to continue the momentum of providing accessible healthcare and housing options to support students during the pandemic. GSC, USG, GEO is the governing body and they should come together to help all the students.
- He took a poll via zoom and majority of the representatives supported the GEO's effort in subsidizing summer campus care fees. He will contact soon with a formal email to receive support from GSC.
- His contact is [joconn28@uic.edu](mailto:joconn28@uic.edu), GEO is trying hard to provide better negotiations for students who are stuck in Chicago during this pandemic.

Kristyn Caragher, Assistant Professor & Reference, and Liaison Librarian (STEM), Richard J. Daley Library

- She works with COE, works with the Physics, CS, and other engineering departments. Subject experts in different and each department has a specialist who can help students to promote research

in their expertise. The link called research guides.uic can help to do a literature survey specific to your database. Any specific help related to research consultations can be given to different students.

- They have the COVID-19 library page and different help can be provided to the students from a chat with the research librarian. IILAN can help students to get access through the world catalog (WORLD CAT) on the library website. This is a powerful tool that can be used to do a specific literature survey. This helps in auto-populating the details from the paper that you want to order.
- I-share is a consortium of the library that helps in sharing the physical items. But during the pandemic, this is not available. Nonetheless, different people are having different accessible resources like Iilan can help to receive the resources.
- Different specifics can be found at the library COVID-19 page and Google Scholar UIC tab.

## **2. GSC Annual Budget Review**

Sivaraman Lakshmiopathy, Treasurer, GSC

- The financial updates regarding quarter 3 and 4. There was one only project award. There were 56 awards awarded for people who did not get refunds from their conferences. About 50% of the people were able to get the award.
- The awards not given in the last semester were brought forward into quarter 4. The max amount of budget goes to travel and project awards, leadership awards, events related to food, and office merchandise. GSC has spent about 90,600\$ in the academic year.

## **3. GSC Travel Award Increase Proposal**

Sai Siva Kare, President, GSC

- The GSC Exc. Committee decided that we will increase the travel award by 50\$ to 325\$. The increase is proposed to be started from the next term. Due to the current situation, the officers can choose to not proceed with the award.
- The GSC Exc. the committee wants as many students to get the award and they feel that the increasing amount is justified. The budget amount for the following year may remain the same and since there was no justified increase in the past, the officers thought it would be wise to increase the amount to 325\$. The representatives supported the increase.

## **4. New Officers Welcome Speech**

Christine Barber, Secretary, 2020-21

- Social worker advocates and she is looking forward to working in the office and urges the students to bring up the concerns to the GSC officers.

Sheetal Prasad, Treasurer, 2020-21

- She hopes everyone is doing good. She thanks everyone for the unconditional support and love. As a treasure, she would like to bring in the digitization process for all the forms.

Amira Kefi, Vice President, 2020-21

- She expresses deep gratitude towards GSC officers. She appreciates the opportunity given to her to lead GSC at the upfront. She is excited to serve the students and expresses that her life has been like a roller-coaster and she wants everyone to reach out to her with issues, she hopes that students come out of the pandemic on the united front.

Maria Escamilla, President 2020-21

- She extends her thanks to everyone. Her vision is formed toward collaboration, development, and advocate for student needs. She wants everyone to be involved at the school and grow and develop together. She wants everyone's support and help from graduate students all the while maintaining hope during the pandemic.

## **5. Outgoing Officers Farewell Speech**

Sivaraman Lakshmipathy, Treasurer, GSC

- He expresses gratitude towards all the officers. He wants to thank Dean and everyone at the office who helped us all through the academic year. He shares the experience of how every week he would looking forward to the meetings to represent the students. HE joined GSC to help fellow students. Over the years he feels the urge to help others and wants to grow as a team. He welcomes all the new officers.

Biswajeet Marathi, Vice President, GSC

- Forgetting about the COVID-19 pandemic, GSC had a great year. He extends his thanks to Exc. Committee and other GSC officers to have a great year. He says he had great leadership experience.

Sai-Siva Kare, President, GSC

- He would like to thank representatives, dean, and everyone who helped make GSC successful in the year.

## **6. Comments from Representative:**

- A representative wants representatives to come together and discuss their issues. He wants more discussions to be done on more events on research and educational tools.
- Lindsey thanks everyone to hold GSC meetings and she acknowledges the fact that GSC officers have brought different speakers that can speak about different student needs.

## **7. Concluding Remarks**

Dean Linda Deanna, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs/Dean of Students & Dean of Students

- She says congratulations to all the new officers, she heard the current officers talk and says that this has been one of the best years that GSC has had in the past. She says that the officers this year were the best of officers that GSC had under her terms. She exclaims to all the students that the officers were splendid in all the duties that they performed. She says GSC had a successful year because of Sai's leadership. She wishes that everyone has a good successful semester.

## 7. Representatives Sign-In & Adjournment

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

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

