



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

**DATE:** Thursday, November 5, 2020

**TIME:** 5-7pm

**PLACE:** Zoom

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://uic.zoom.us/j/89430734247?pwd=SzVNU3h2LzVLUkJKZzlJMINyUWpjZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 894 3073 4247

**Password:** GradSC2020

**1. Updates from GSC**

- a. Travel and Conference Awards
  - i. Applications will be reviewed monthly and applicants will be contacted to inform applicants of acceptance or missing information
- b. Maria will be meeting with Chancellor Amiridis on 11/23 – please email Maria or the officers so that she can ask questions from graduate students
- c. COVID-19
  - i. On October 30, an email from Chancellor Amiridis was distributed regarding the increased test positivity rate for COVID-19 on campus; doubling in the last week to 1.51%
  - ii. Remember to be using COVID-19 mitigation measures – wear a mask, social distance from others, wash your hands, and disinfect; quarantine yourself if you have symptoms and get tested (UIC has testing capabilities)
- d. Get your flu shot! (<https://today.uic.edu/flu-shots>)

**2. Good Trouble Coalition Updates**

- a. Elizabeth Rossiter, GSC Rep and liaison



## Graduate Student Council

- b. Response to Chancellor's Letter
- c. Last meeting was on 10/26
- d. [https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRCgSXYgT\\_sDK96EYbpONo3SZP-DRoG-kHiVwayjtk6bpl2X4JvveV0c1iDxu53UVvECyXqfIJJaQn2y/pub?urp=gmail\\_link&gxids=7757](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRCgSXYgT_sDK96EYbpONo3SZP-DRoG-kHiVwayjtk6bpl2X4JvveV0c1iDxu53UVvECyXqfIJJaQn2y/pub?urp=gmail_link&gxids=7757)
- e. <https://goodtroublecoalition.wordpress.com/>
- f. [goodtroubleuic@gmail.com](mailto:goodtroubleuic@gmail.com)
- g. Make connections with Chancellor's status committees is the priority right now
- h. Still needing to spread the word with undergrads (USG is engaged); sending out notices to aggressively spread notice

### 3. Introduction – Senate Executive Committee

- a. <https://senate.uic.edu/>
- b. If you have concerns that you would like brought up to the UIC Senate please reach out to James Edwards or Melissa Macero
  - i. James Casey Edwards, UIC Student Senator
    - 1. [jedward@uic.edu](mailto:jedward@uic.edu)
    - 2. [jcaseyedwards@gmail.com](mailto:jcaseyedwards@gmail.com)
  - ii. Melissa Macero, GSC Representative and UIC Student Senator
    - 1. [mmacer2@uic.edu](mailto:mmacer2@uic.edu)

### 4. Guest Speaker – Arab American Cultural Center

- a. Nesreen Hassan, Program Coordinator
  - i. [nesreenh@uic.edu](mailto:nesreenh@uic.edu)



- b. <https://arabamcc.uic.edu/>
- c. Da'am Student Support Services
  - i. Student support
  - ii. Wellness series
  - iii. Academic and career enrichment
  - iv. Advocacy about individual and collective concerns
- d. Ibda'a Creative Practices
  - i. Art
  - ii. Culture
  - iii. Film
- e. Community Discussions
- f. Tawasul: Strengthening Connections
- g. Intercultural/Cross-Movement Programs
  - i. Heritage Garden
  - ii. Cultural understanding and change
  - iii. Cross-cultural events
  - iv. Solidarity

**5. Guest Speaker – Women's Leadership and Resource Center**

- a. Ramona Gupta, MS, Associate Director WLRC
  - i. [ramonag@uic.edu](mailto:ramonag@uic.edu)
- b. <https://wlrc.uic.edu/>
- c. Ramona provided words of encouragement: Keep going, keep advocating for yourself and other students at UIC!



- d. Video
- e. Everyone is welcome at WLRC, regardless of gender identity
- f. Working to end gender-based violence
- g. Campus Advocacy Network (CAN)
  - i. Confidential and free support and resources for anyone in the UIC community (student, staff, faculty) who have experienced or are experiencing interpersonal violence, domestic violence, stalking, or sexual harassment.
  - ii. Due to virtual nature (due to COVID-19) you will need to call or make an appointment online – when campus office is open, resources can be accessed by walking into the center
- h. Shake It Up Series
- i. 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of center next year – planning events for the next year
- j. WLRC and CAN offer education and training around gender-based violence and are happy to come to your classes and meetings to host interactive conversations (i.e., not PowerPoint presentations) with students and employees.
- k. We frequently offer internships and assistantships to graduate students. If you're ever interested, please reach out to us. We're full this semester but may have openings next semester depending on what kind of funding is available at the university.
- l. We are hoping to relaunch our Write @ WLRC program next semester. It's a write-on-site space geared toward grad students and junior faculty—basically a shared accountability space for folks to work on writing, grading, or any other



projects. We are also trying to expand our Write @ WLRC program to include some professional development for grad students and jr faculty, which might include some of the topics you all wrote about in the comments (gender bias in student evaluations, career prep, etc.).

m. Q&A

- i. Gender bias in evaluations
- ii. Increased DV/IPV due to COVID-19 stay at home orders

**6. Guest Speaker – Disability Resource Center**

- a. Sophia Hamilton, Director
  - i. [shami3@uic.edu](mailto:shami3@uic.edu)
- b. <https://drc.uic.edu/>
- c. Normally located in the Student Service Building (suite 1070) due to COVID-19, the DRC is operating completely virtually
- d. DRC provides support for students at UIC who require access and other reasonable accommodations for disabilities; removing barriers to equal access to education (lectures, tests, classrooms, dorms, etc.)
- e. Accommodation Process
  - i. Disclosure and request → Interactive Process → Letter of Accommodation → Implementation
  - ii. Call, email, or check out DRC website for more information
- f. [go.uic.edu/AccessibleDocs](https://go.uic.edu/AccessibleDocs)
- g. [go.uic.edu/AccessibleOnlineEvents](https://go.uic.edu/AccessibleOnlineEvents)
- h. Access Copies of Presentations: <https://drc.uic.edu/presentations/>



**7. Guest Speaker – UIC Career Services**

- a. Jean Riordan, MA, Executive Director
  - i. [jriordan@uic.edu](mailto:jriordan@uic.edu)
- b. <https://careerservices.uic.edu/>
- c. Primary Services from Career Services
  - i. Career Exploration
  - ii. Resume Building
  - iii. Job Search
  - iv. Interviewing Skills and Practice
- d. Wants to know how Career Services can be more helpful to graduate students and support graduate students
- e. Q&A
  - i. Can a department have a workshop for its grad students?
    1. 100% yes, absolutely 100% yes
    2. This is helpful for Career Services to know the challenges that are facing grad students in a particular department so that we can tailor our support to a department
  - ii. What types of resources or info sessions do have you for graduate students who are trying to navigate both the academic job market (Tenure-track and NTT) and the alt-ac or non-academic job market?
    1. Not a lot, right now there is not a lot of formalized support for people looking for academic jobs; this is something Career Services can build out



- iii. Are counselors specialized in particular area?
  - 1. Not in a formal sense, advisors work as generalists but often have experience in particular areas due to their own professional backgrounds
- iv. Supports for international students?
  - 1. Will make a note of it to work on
- f. November Career Development Workshops

## **8. Networking and Discussion Among Reps**

- a. What challenges did you face this semester and how do you think GSC/UIC could work to improve it for you? (General grad school challenges, challenges specific to COVID-19 changes, other challenges related to GA/TA/RA positions, etc.).

### **b. Challenges**

- i. There is a lot of pressure and feels like there is no support for students trying to survive 2020
- ii. Coordinate with GEO for managing the workload of TAs during virtual work
- iii. Lots of meetings – becomes hectic
- iv. Job search during COVID-19
- v. Needs of international students and the changes to student visas – GSC seek clarity from administration

### **c. Supports**

- i. Slack groups
- ii. Game nights



- iii. Stress management supports
- iv. Get updates about next semester – radio silence from the administration –  
see what GSC can get out of the administration

**9. Representative Sign-In and Adjournment**