

GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL **UIC** UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

JANUARY 19TH 2010 - MINUTES

Old Business

CampusCare Advisory Committee – Zoe (GSC President)

- Only 1 meeting so far.
- The big issue – when to call CampusCare (for questions about coverage) vs. Family Medicine (for actual health issues).

Call for Nominations for GSC Officer Elections – in April – start thinking about nominations or if you want to run!

Project Grant Update – Harish (GSC Treasurer)

- The ones we funded last semester were:
 - o Biopharmaceutical students hosted a single-payer advocacy speaker.
 - o Steven Thurs. lunch time movie series for Anthropology.
- 4 graduate project awards available in Spring 2010 – covers honoraria for non-UIC people.

Travel Award Update – Harish (GSC Treasurer)

- 148 travel awards awarded. 20 approved last week. So maybe 160 by next week.

Open Floor Presentation- Academic Regalia - Scott Morgan, Psychology

- Concerns from his students – they dislike the UIC graduation robes.
- Complaints: garish colors – fuchsia!, velvet patches.
- Open question: Should we change the regalia?
- Who is the point person to talk to?
 - Dean Deanna (Dean of Students) - Row Rowser Campus Aux. Services (2nd floor in SSB)

Resolution regarding graduate student employee contract and social science departments – Deana (GSC Vice-President)

- *grad. employee contract still not signed.*
- *5 depts in social sciences lost 16 staff members*

Jason Stodolka (GEO President): grad. employee contract expired in Aug 2009 – a complete proposal was submitted in April – Uni. administrators have not agreed on all points, stalling on negotiations – University is not getting much money from the state so they need to raise tuition differentials. Thurs. 1.21.2010 - Board of Trustees meeting on W. campus – all employees (staff + workers + student employees) SCW at 11am are going to rally to be heard.

Holden Brown (Neuroscience): Just a comment: the state has not funded university so they have to figure out how to deal with that.

Jason Stodolka (GEO): University administrators had our contract for a long time so they know our points.

Katie Clark-Keene (Special Education): What did you (GEO) ask for?

Jason Stodolka (GEO): Wage increases, waiver of all tuition and fees + differentials, increased access to health care, different health care management

Scott Morgan (Psychology): are they in dialogue? Have they been honest about the financial situation – we only have so much money so can't do anything about it?

Jason Stodolka (GEO): We meet once a month, they haven't given a counter proposal based on economic issues. Only last week they got back on healthcare issue.

Deana (GSC VP): Where can we access the GEO proposal

Jason Lotter (GEO): Come talk to any GEO staff or steering committee. Or email: staff@uic-geo.net

Deana (GSC VP): What happens if grad employees don't get a contract by the end of the year?

Jason Stodolka (GEO): The union can keep pressurizing administrators and negotiating can go on back and forth

Zoe: The campus care issue about asking that students get employee healthcare – the state of Illinois doesn't allow that.

Jason Lotter (GEO): We know.

Zoe: How far will GEO compromise?

Jason Stodolka (GEO): We backed off on childcare for grad. employees with children – uni. has agreed for prices of formula, etc.

There is a proposal for callboxes in every building for security – still negotiating where and when such measures should be activated.

Scott Morgan (Psychology): We got the email about furlough days @ UIC, what about the grad. employee resolution @ UIUC – how does it affect UIC?

Jason Lotter (GEO): We are vocalizing our position as grad. employees. We play a vital role in UIC's mission - for cheaper. Yes we are in a budget crisis but we should be a priority for the service we render.

Steve Davis (Anthropology): Regarding the resolution in social sciences – a number of academic professionals were terminated and all services were

reorganized. Grad. students sent letters to Deans. Dean Gillet (Graduate College) gave a good response on his position. Dean McBride who is responsible for these decisions gave a very short response. Chairs of depts. and faculty are meeting soon to determine how else restructuring can be done.

Justin Joyce (English): I don't think GSC should interfere – the problem lies with state funding not university administrators.

Yvonne Isom (Criminal justice): But those decisions have a ripple effect on TAs/GAs duties as we have lesser support staff. I second any motion that Dean McBride meet with students to hear how we are effected by this.

Steve Davis (Anthropology): We will draft a resolution for Dean McBride to and Social Sciences depts. to meet with students.

4 oppositions. 1 abstention.

Motion passed.

If anyone has questions about the wording of the resolution, contact Steve Davis: sdavis8@uic.edu

Deana: Who (students) would meet with Dean McBride?

Steve Davis (Anthropology): Grad. students from all affected Social Science depts. and GSC reps (any) who want to meet.

Holden Brown (Neuroscience): why not just say we support the Chairs and faculty?

Justin Joyce (English): Do the faculty want grad students in on that meeting?

Yvonne Isom (Criminal Justice): Dean McBride has met with faculty and discussed how it would specifically affect them. He should do so with students as well.

Scott Morgan (Psychology): Would we vote on these proposals once written?

Zoe: Yes.

Robert Farley (Philosophy): What is the purpose of us drafting these resolutions?

Zoe: The resolution is an official document that we support or are against certain issues – we are a credible org. so lends the cause credibility.

Juan Martinez (Sociology): Both resolutions are asking for dialogue and not for making a change. We all agree as a grad. student body that we have lines of communication with administrators about relevant issues.

Scott Morgan (Psychology): Yes, we support frequent dialogue between the GEO and university. Actually supporting GEO completely is different – the GSC and GEO have different fundamental goals.

Motion that university administrators meet often with GEO to work out a contract as rapidly as possible – we are concerned about the lack of progress.

Juan Martinez (Sociology): Second.
3 opposed. 1 abstention.

Motion passed.

Kim Richards (Learning Sciences): I motion to discuss what the university is doing to pressurize state to fund us.

Justine Joyce (English): Second.

Zoe: The Chancellor and Provost are speaking with legislature but there's no response from them.

Holden Brown (Neuroscience): There's a rumor about LAS not taking any new students next year – the Chairs are not in support of that.

Kim Richards (Learning Sciences): Maybe we should be more vocal – send the resolution to candidates and opponents – its election season.

Deana: We can also send the resolution to media outlets – what we support and believe should happen – could send to greater public but they wont understand state stuff.

Scott Morgan (Psychology): Motions that we draft a resolution to send all state legislatures, candidates (governor), press release to have Illinois government live up to its financial responsibility.

Holden Brown (Neuroscience): Second.

2 oppositions. 3 abstentions.

Motion passed.

Jason Lotter (GEO): The rally on Thurs. is about full funding for higher education – an end to furloughs and cut backs – come to such rallies and events so govt. sees some of the pressurizing we are doing.

CSSLA - Dean Deanna (Dean of Students, GSC Faculty Adviser)

http://www.uic.edu/depts/sldvs/awards%20pages/sldvs_cssla.html

- Undergrad./grad./professional student are eligible
 - 3-500 students nominated
 - Ceremony on the 2nd week in April – there's usually an alumni speaker.
 - There's also the Jefferson award for Public Service – very prestigious
- Dean Deanna is happy to nominate you – her nominations usually get the awards.

Contact Dean Deanna: ideanna@uic.edu

Travel Award Eligibility Criteria Review - Zoe

Last meeting there was a motion to change wording – but our website doesn't say 1st author it says *presenting* author.

Chris Pelzmann (Mech. & Industrial Eng.): Does it cover multiple authors in one paper?

Deana (GSC VP): They need separate applications.

Open Floor Discussions

A: Tuition/Fees Issues

Zoe (GSC Pres.): At the next meeting – Frank Goldberg (Vice Provost for Resource Planning and Management) – we will have an in-depth discussion on tuition issues.

Send questions to gsc-officers@listserv.uic.edu for Frank Goldberg so we have them in advance.

Jason Lotter (GEO): There might be a 25% increase in tuition differential for science and a tuition increase of 10-20.

Kim Richards (Learning Sciences): Do we have a right to have a grad. student representative in our depts. faculty meetings?

Steve Davis (Anthropology): Just this year our Chair said we'd have a grad student rep. at faculty meetings.

Henri Gillet (Dean of Graduate College): University statutes say that non-faculty members can be invited as observers. But it is up to the individual department.

Seth Meyer (Germanic Studies): show of hands of people who go to faculty meetings. Result = a small majority.

Julie Fountain (History): we have a student liaison – elect someone from our History society and that person talks to the DGS to let them know about grad student issues.

B: Health Care Issues

Scott Morgan (Psychology): Is there a FAQ sheet area about family medicine/campus care issues - like a decision tree.

Zoe: Details are in the CampusCare document on their website:

<http://www.uic.edu/hsc/campuscare/>

Deana: Where do we find info. about the Graduate Assistant Dental Plan?

Jason Stodolka (GEO): GEO got the GADP so on the GEO website:

www.uic-geo.net

Steve Davis (Anthropology): We are dissatisfied with CampusCare – general HMO and emergency care.

Zoe: only limitation of CampusCare – we can only see UIC practitioners.

Jason Stodolka (GEO): The cap on money for prescriptions covered per year is low. For some people it is an issue.

Dean Deanna: CampusCare said they'd raise cap but it'd raise cost for everyone – the representative student group who decides on this and reviews it every year with all other fees decides against raising the fee for everyone for the benefit of a few.

Heather Grummond (Public Health): What our health coverage covers is not clearly understandable. We are paying 100/mnth and its disappointing that winter break we aren't covered.

Zoe: We aren't covered only in the Summer.

Christine Robinson (Math): We are paying less for 80% coverage and CampusCare does put the insurance policy up on their website and if not – call their number.

Heather Grummond (Public Health): There's an issue with summer coverage – if not in Chicago (for internships) – CampusCare can't be used.

Chris McCallough (Bio. Sciences): If it were life-threatening emergency – CampusCare will cover you anywhere.

Scott Morgan (Psychology): Life threatening is relative – cut arm?

Zoe: A problem arises if you graduate -> you will immediately be dropped by CampusCare. That's problematic for people with preexisting conditions – there's no possibility of extending it temporarily.

Harish: CampusCare takes care of everything and makes things easier for international students who don't understand the whole American health care system.

C: Financial Aid

Justin Joyce (English): Why is full-time status for financial aid different than being a full-time student (8 credits) in a dept.?

Jason Stodolka (GEO): Some financial aid officers don't realize there are separate rules for grad students.

Zoe: How % time assistantship affects eligibility for financial aid? As a RA at 40% I was given 40K in loans and as a 0.1% GA all loans were revoked.

Meeting Dates Spring 2010

February 16th

March 16th

April 20th

UPCOMING GSC EVENTS

Feb. 10th: Navigating the academic job market
Logistics of getting through graduate school