

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

**11/11/2010 – Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome: Deana Lewis (GSC President)**

**Counseling Center Services: Dr. Joseph Hermes**

Location: SSB 2010

Hours: Mon-Fri - 8:30am - 5pm

[www.counseling.uic.edu/](http://www.counseling.uic.edu/)

- Our mission: Direct mental health for students at UIC
- Staff: clinical psychologists, psychiatrists, post-docs doing licensing training - diverse in staff to offer service to diverse students
- Services:
  - o Individual, couples, group counseling
  - o Career counseling
  - o Crisis intervention
  - o Psychiatric consultation – medication management
  - o Stress management
  - o Case management and advocacy – for students who have issues that need resources on both sides of campus
  - o Referrals – can refer distressed students if maybe you as a Teaching Assistant come across some students who need help, you can refer them to us for evaluation and help.
- inTouch hotline for students to talk about issues/concerns: 6-10:30pm
- Let's Talk pilot program – new program this semester – students can have a 10-15 minute talk with a counseling professional who is available at different campus locations at different times. Then can decide on formal consultations.
- Have liaisons with different colleges to refer students as well as groups such as the many cultural centers on campus

Jae Truesdell: Can students come under their coverage – other than campus care?

Can students get their prescription anti-depressants renewed or dispensed at the Counseling Center?

JH: All students pay a health service fee – different from Campus Care. Whether or not you have health insurance you are eligible to use the Counseling Center because of the health service fee.

We have a psychiatrist 60% of the time – to manage psychotropic medication.

Harish Kanchi (GSC Treasurer): What about summer – students don't pay health service fees then?

JH: As long as students have "continuing student" status – enrolled in spring and continuing in fall - they can come.

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Steve Davis (Anthropology): As a TA I have referred students to the Counseling Center and heard only positive things. The only negative: would I as a graduate student have to wait in same area as undergrads?

JH: We understand we provide confidential service. But, we offer a variety of services like consolation/career services - not exclusively mental health services so someone could be there for any of the other services as well.

## **Campus Care Changes: Jae Truesdell**

*(Masters in Public Health student, co-Chair of Student sub-Committee of Chancellor's Committee of LGBT Issues)*

Email: [jae.truesdell@gmail.com](mailto:jae.truesdell@gmail.com)

- Proposing equal access to health care like other universities for transgender individuals
- Several items aren't covered
  - o Mental, surgical, hormonal health care
  - o Full coverage of in/out patient facilities
- UIC isn't discriminatory just need to address some issues in the coverage. Example: Syringes are not covered but the 2 hormones that are covered for hormone therapy need to be administered with syringes.
- Proposed changes taken from [http://www2.uic.edu/stud\\_orgs/gsc/documents/campus\\_care\\_changes\\_RE\\_Trans-health\\_exec\\_summary.pdf](http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/gsc/documents/campus_care_changes_RE_Trans-health_exec_summary.pdf)
- " 1) addressing the language of the Certificate of Coverage, 2) CampusCare coverage of transgender medical health in full, and 3) implementing transgender health training for campus medical personnel. "Will it cost money? – the cost may increase by less than 20c across all students or not increase at all based on what other schools have done.
- How many people need this? < 1% of the population

Juan Martinez (Sociology): What are the next steps?

JT: GSC has access to Campus Care officials as student reps go to their meetings. Through discussion tonight, we can vote to bring this proposal to Campus Care.

Dr. Joseph Hermes: When you talk about cost – do the insurance companies take in the cost or is it distributed to insured students?

JT: Insurance companies pass the 20c cost to all students

JT: For those of you who may not know exactly what transgender means: It is the term to qualify persons not living as their sex assigned at birth. Not all want surgical operations to transform appearance. Identity could be different – going from male->female or female->male.

Stephen Davis (Anthropology): When asking for training for medical personnel in general they should generally be more sensitive and not announce why patients are there when in the waiting room for instance!

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GSC Rep: Medical professionals get training on being non-discriminative, tolerant and polite. Whether some students practice it or not is hard to uphold.

JT: I appreciate that comment. Transgender health issues are not in the curriculum at UIC. There should be more education on specific issues on dealing with such patients – I currently teach a course and training sessions on this.

## **Campus Care Changes: Ina Han**

*(MD/PhD student, GSC Rep. for Neuroscience represented graduate students at Campus Care advisory committee meeting on Oct 27<sup>th</sup>)*

*Email: ihan2@uic.edu*

- Emergency Coverage - @ UIC or network hospitals 100% covered. Out of plan hospitals (out of state or network) Campus Care doesn't necessarily cover all expenses.
- Health Professional Students Council had issues with Campus Care over accidents with needles and/or scalpels during rotations – students doing rotations in other hospitals need to go to the offsite hospital they are doing their residency in and follow their procedures but then have to pay out-of-pocket. Apparently, this has been remedied so if you still know of issues you can bring it up with Campus Care administration.
- Proposed changes: Emergency Room (ER) visits at out of plan hospitals – Campus Care will pay 70% whether emergency or not after \$35 co-pay to visit ER. If you need surgery 100% covered (that's there now) because you are admitted to the hospital.

Betul Demirkaya (Political Science): 2 concerns. 1. What if we are out of state? What if we lose consciousness?

Ina: If you are out of state – now need to call Campus Care and they give the OK for referral to the out of state hospital. Under proposed plan guaranteed 70% coverage to ER visit whatever it is. If you lose consciousness and an ambulance takes somewhere else you will be covered 70% if you stay in the emergency room.

Christopher McCallough (Biology): We always hear different things. Is it 70-30 for everything or just for out of plan hospitals?

Dean Deanna: Always 100% coverage for UIC plan networks.

Christopher Pelzmann (Mechanical & Industrial Engineering): Is this change going to increase our fee every semester?

Ina: They said they can make this change in policy without increasing fees.

Steve Davis (Anthropology): The old system was bad. New system might be bad. Why do we have to settle for one of these? Can we propose a third? We get 100% coverage except in unusual cases. If its life threatening it is 100% covered.

Basil Iannone (Biology student + GEO): Just to clarify an inaccuracy – if you call Campus Care beforehand, get their permission to go somewhere else you will get covered. Not always true.

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Hear lots of cases of students having to go through lengthy appeal process. For folks who aren't working near campus - 30% seems like a bad idea.

Deana Lewis (GSC President): Campus Care representative will come to our January meeting so we can talk about ideas/proposals with them.

Nicole Koonce (Special Education): To temper the conversation - I don't have Campus Care. With my personal plan I would have to inform insurance if I use an out of state hospital within some days. No ability to negotiate the prices. Insurance pays 80% but I'd still have to pay rest. Not having to get referral and some ability to negotiate actual payment – 70% of total/actual bill not of negotiated rate would be better than most other plans.

Jason Coupet (Education Policy): 70-30 in non-emergency situations; 100 % in emergency life-threatening situations. That's a decent insurance plan – I don't have Campus Care and with my premium I'd have to pay more still.

Basil Iannone (GEO): It's not that simple, not clear. 70-30% coverage for ER visits; 100% if actually admitted.

Jason (GEO): If you are admitted - 100% covered. If life-threatening emergency doesn't result in you being admitted - may not be 100% covered.

Gibran Rezavi (Economics): Can I recommend Campus Care bring a flowchart - instead of words show a decision tree of this plan. Would make a great cheat sheet. If we need to think of ideas to pitch ideas to them – they are not going to run healthcare at a loss so someone will have to pay for it.

Christopher Pelzmann (Mechanical & Industrial Engineering): We are constrained by reality to some degree and economics. We don't want health coverage to be in negative - that's going to hurt us all if we get in debt.

Heather Drummond (Public Health Sciences): What if we use out of state facilities that are not ER – if we wait at a QCare facility for hours and then get seen – would that be covered at all?

Ina: Not sure. \*\*We can ask Campus Care in January.

Jessica Salerno (Psychology): How does this 70-30 compare to other insurance plans?

Ina: They showed how Campus Care plan compares to that offered to other Chicago universities and it looks pretty good.

Steve Davis (Anthropology): How many university plans did they compare it to? So 4 schools have worse plans than we do.

Jae Truesdell: What about commuters – end up going to closest ER – would “out of plan” hospitals mean not just out of state?

Ina: Yes.

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JT: What if we stay overnight?

Ina: If you are admitted – 100% covered.

JT: It is hard to compare Campus Care with health insurance companies as it is not a health insurance company.

Juan Martinez (Sociology): Are we taking proposals before the January meeting? Then send an email in January to remind everyone to think about these questions. The length of time to report to Campus Care about out-of-plan hospital should be > 48 hours. If you are knocked out and go to another hospital that doesn't leave you much time. Campus Care should extend that time to a week.

Deana Lewis: We'll compile your suggestions so continue to let us know your thoughts. You need to forward information about these issues to your constituents – when we send it in Jan.

Eduardo Bustamante (Kinesiology): I motion to support CCSLGBTQI and the proposed changes to certificate of coverage. This is something we can do to support as a body, something Jae can leave with.

Juan Martinez (Sociology) seconds.

Rigel Gjomemo (Computer Science): What are the points you mentioned from the Certificate of Coverage?

GSC Motion + Certificate of Coverage points:

[http://www2.uic.edu/stud\\_orgs/gsc/documents/GSC\\_Motion\\_for\\_Equal\\_Access\\_to\\_Campus\\_HealthCare-11.11.10.doc](http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/gsc/documents/GSC_Motion_for_Equal_Access_to_Campus_HealthCare-11.11.10.doc)

Proposed Campus Care changes information:

[http://www2.uic.edu/stud\\_orgs/gsc/documents/campus\\_care\\_changes\\_RE\\_Trans-health\\_exec\\_summary.pdf](http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/gsc/documents/campus_care_changes_RE_Trans-health_exec_summary.pdf)

[http://www2.uic.edu/stud\\_orgs/gsc/documents/campus\\_care\\_changes\\_RE\\_Trans-health.pdf](http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/gsc/documents/campus_care_changes_RE_Trans-health.pdf)

Steve Davis (Anthropology): I propose we vote on this within 10 days

Heather Drummond (Public Health Sciences) seconds

All vote aye!

**Project award: Holden Brown (GSC Vice President)**

**Lauren Bowman**: (*Chair of the Student Subcommittee of the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Women , PhD student here*)

- Event on safety to be held tomorrow (Nov. 12, 2010) at the Commuter Student Resource Center.
- Planned on someone outside UIC but this person couldn't come at the last moment. We get funding from the committee only if we have someone from outside UIC. So now we already advertised but here to pay for food. The event will have bystander training too from Campus Advocacy Network.
- We had some giveaways donated.

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- We were encouraging commuters – lots of crime on blue line platform.

Ina Han (Neuroscience): How has this been advertised?

LB: UIC calendar, flyers student listservs.

Ina Han: Are the flyers on East and West campus?

LB: Yes. Some professors are giving students extra credit to attend.

Harish Kanchi: Who paid already?

LB: Me and a friend on the CCSW. We are given a budget only if we have outside speaker.

Heather Drummond (Public Health): Can't they bend the rules?

LB: As a Chancellor's Committee they are strict on rules. All the Chancellor's Committees have seen budget cuts so are particular about spending.

Jose Melendez (Learning Sciences): Is this the last meeting to give out project awards?

Holden Brown: Project awards not given out this semester get carried over to next semester.

Abstentions: 2

Nays: 0

Motion passed.

**Announcements: Deana Lewis (GSC President)**

I talked with the Chancellor about tuition differentials and the tuition taxation. FYI: Tuition differentials come from the Deans of Colleges - not a central authority. We will have more information on this at one of the next meetings.

Service project: Share Your Wealth drive for school supplies helping out 8 local children groups from Nov 15-Dec 3rd. This is a GSC sponsored service event in conjunction with the Student Leadership Development Services office at UIC. The GSC rep. of the French dept. is taking the lead so contact him for more info. The big event will be on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> where we will be meeting at the UIC Hospital to sort all the donations. More details will be forthcoming.

Meeting with the University Librarian: The Librarian wants to know what grad. students want. We proposed a grad. student only area in library. If there are journals you want - email us. Or anything you want to see – please email us.

Please make sure you send out the GSC Digest and meeting minutes to your constituents, as it is one of the requirements/duties of being a GSC rep.

Christopher Mccallough (Biology): How is this being tracked?

Deana: Now, we hear from students in departments when they are not receiving things. We have you on the honor system which may not be the best system but that's what we have. We can have you cc us on emails. If you want to propose a change – email us.

Harish: We are being firm about only accepting applications within the quarter the conference end date falls.

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Randall Owen (Disability Studies): What happens if one applies for a travel award after the quarter?

Harish: The end date of the conference determines which quarter to submit in. They have 30 days from that end date to apply. It is first come first serve for each quarter so it helps to apply at the start of the quarter if your conference falls within it. Nov 1<sup>st</sup> is the start of this quarter.

Basil Iannone (GEO): Anyone wanting to assist in forming a new proposal for Campus Care – contact me. Email: [bianno2@uic.edu](mailto:bianno2@uic.edu)

## Upcoming Fall Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Monday, November 29 <sup>th</sup>	11a-12p	Meet President Hogan	SCE 302
Friday, December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	4:30-8p	End of the Year Party	Stanley's on Racine

## Upcoming Spring Dates

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Thursday, January 13 <sup>th</sup>	5-7p	GSC Meeting	SSB Conf B/C
Thursday, February 10 <sup>th</sup>	5-7p	GSC Meeting	SSB Conf B/C
Thursday, March 10 <sup>th</sup>	5-7p	GSC Meeting	SSB Conf B/C
Thursday, April 14 <sup>th</sup>	5-7p	GSC Meeting	SSB Conf B/C