

## General Body Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2011

### Jason Waak, UIC Historian

Website: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/uichistory/index.html>

Email: [unionfan@uic.edu](mailto:unionfan@uic.edu)

UIC Historian Office born in 1998.

Check out the Pier room in SCE for exhibits.

Presentation can be found here:

[http://www2.uic.edu/stud\\_orgs/gsc/documents/UIC-Historian-2-10-11.pdf](http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/gsc/documents/UIC-Historian-2-10-11.pdf)

### Deana Lewis, GSC President

- Know that communication with the executive board is always open – email, call us.
- You are agents here, agents representing your departments - you can make things happen, we [Exec. Board] facilitate that as well as being agents. Here you get the feel for issues, information, then you get consensus from dept.
- We have a responsibility to you and graduate students in general.
- You have a responsibility to your constituents.

Jordan Gunn (Pharmacognosy): Add to the monthly agenda time to open floor to questions, motions, issues about things presented. Sometimes it is hard for reps to interrupt a speaker or the packed agenda to address an issue.

DL: That's a good suggestion. We will add time after each presentation to get motions + discussion. We added the announcements time for anyone to talk about issues in their departments or events happening that the larger graduate student community could join.

### **Campus Care Issues**

Patrick Kania (Biomedical Visualization): Is there some way to let incoming grad students know the info about Campus Care (CC) we have heard so they can evaluate options?

DL: Related to the CC issues we discussed last time, we gathered more info. Two weeks ago was the CC advisory meeting with an undergrad rep, grad rep, health professional student rep, Dr. Ginsburg (Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs), Roger Carlson (Director of CC), Shannon Wilcox (CC), Dr. Tranmer (Director of Family Medicine). Carlson proposed the 70/30 ER care plan to get opinions. I met with the GEO yesterday. They have a CC Working group – collecting info about other insurance options.

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Note that for 2011-2012 CC will stay the same - nothing changes except for language in the Certificate of Coverage to make it gender-neutral.

Carlson will present different proposals in a transparent way (with details so we can see where the numbers are coming from) to get feedback from clients (grads + undergrads) to find what is fair + helpful.

Sara Amaral (Urban Planning): If you are getting info. about blog will you forward that info?

DL: Definitely will forward blog info and will put on info our site.

Rigel Gjomemo (Computer Science): I was under the impression it was going to start – 70/30 plan next year.

DL: There was some misinformation regarding the 70/30 plan. How things work in general is that whatever is decided in committees now will take effect in Fall. Some heard the 70/30 plan was a proposal that was going through, others thought it was an idea to get feedback on. Regardless of the confusion around it, it is not in effect now or next year. It will be one of the 5 proposals that Carlson will put out.

Ina Han (Neuroscience): At the CC meeting, did they bring up how Obama's new health care plan that allows people to stay on family plan till 26 years old would affect CC? More undergrads might opt out of CC so how would CC compensate for that loss of money?

DL: There was no talk about Obama's health care plan - strictly about ER issues and different plans. That will be an interesting issue – of the 13,500 CC clients, about 4,000 are grad students.

Jason Coupet (Educational Policy): There's been lots of misinformation about rules, logistics about how to address health issues. It would help if there were clearer instructions - if you are sick in this way, do this and so on – a better way to know what to do.

DL: CC has revamped website so it's easier to navigate. We could get a GSC CC committee to funnel info about CC to grad students. That could be something the GSC could do.

Holden Brown (Vice President): CC could talk at grad orientation – new grad students – about how they can opt out, what CC provides.

Christopher Pelzmann (Mechanical Industrial Eng.): Our dept. has Shannon Wilcox come for our dept. orientation to talk about CC.

Ivan Alvaro (College of Business): What is the timing for these proposals to come out?

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DL: Before next Fall so that proposals will be out there so we can get feedback by Fall. No exact date or timeline was sent though.

Heather Drummond (Public Health): Is there a formal student rep at every CC advisory meeting or is it sporadic?

DL: There are 4 students at those meetings. We asked in early Fall for a GSC rep and Ina Han offered to be GSC rep. Others represented are the Undergrad Student Govt., the student trustee and the Health Professional Student Council.

Here is the timeline: In the Fall, CC meets with GEO and the CC Advisory Committee separately. In the Spring CC meets w/ GEO and then CC Advisory Committee separately. Then CC Advisory Committee send proposals to the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) who reviews and votes on whether to send it to the Board of Trustees.

Jennifer Boone (History): Does CC take CC advisory proposals – do they take student opinions or does CC just have the final say? How do we get info out to all grad students?

DL: Advisory committee has students to give us some voice/leverage. Then SFAC votes - so students vote again. The 70/30 did not pass because of the GEO + students on the CC advisory committee.

About updates – we try to do them about committees at the end of our monthly meetings so people know what’s happening. But if you think we need to get more info out somehow – we can do that.

Dean Deanna: Student fees are voted on by SFAC – 9 voting students and 2-3 faculty/staff who vote. If CC wanted to make a policy they would get student input and would be sensitive to input/opinion of students – CC is not an insurance company they are a service offered by the UIC Physicians group to campus. Students really have leverage – for instance, student fees are not increasing next year. Students underestimate the power/voices they have- - you have more leverage than you think.

Jordan Gunn (Pharmacognosy): I formally propose forming a CC subcommittee in the GSC.

Stephen Davis (Anthropology) seconds.

Jesse Ackles (Linguistics): Don’t we have one already?

DL: No.

VOTE: 1 Nay, 1 Abstained – Majority Yes.

*Motion passed.*

Jordan Gunn– Chair of the GSC CC Subcommittee – jgunn4@uic.edu

VOTE: Majority Yes.

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GSC CC Subcommittee members:

Ina Han (Neuroscience)

Steve Davis (Anthropology)

Jennifer Boone (History)

Heather Dummond (Public Health): It can also be other grad students – does it have to be a GSC rep who serves on this?

DL: yes just a grad student.

HD: I will send the info to students in my program.

Shuang Zhou (Physics): What is the responsibility of this CC subcommittee?

DL: We can discuss this here or via email: what is the vision for this committee? What is its charge? At our next meeting this committee will report on info/findings. What should they be focusing on or doing?

Joanna Bovee (Psychology): A focus could be getting info to incoming students - simpler info handed out about prescriptions for instance.

Nicole Koonce (Special Education): A plan for disseminating info in an organized fashion about CC services.

Ina Han (Neuroscience): A lot of this info is on the CC website – it is our responsibility to look at that website. We can ask for transparency about new policies – that is not on their website. The committee could bring that up at the next CC advisory meeting – something like a proposals page on their website.

DL: They are going to do that.

Jordan Gunn: We need to be looking out for new students – last thing on their plate is to read through the whole policy – simplified rules: call office don't go to ER, such info. We shouldn't require students to sit through all that info in a presentation.

Jason Coupet (Educational Policy): We don't have an orientation in my dept. The last thing I'd want to happen is to go to the nearest hospital and have to later pay ER bill. We need simple rules: If you get sick, call this number, etc.

Jennifer Boone (History): Yes we need to look at the policy. In our dept orientation a student who has figured out CC gave a hand-out and made a short presentation about different situations and what to do - dental care, eye care, numbers to call. When one is sick it's hard to figure out what numbers to call, etc.

DL: You can think about this and get back to us – email, etc.

Stephen Davis (Anthropology): We should network with GEO for information or other groups or administrators to get more information.

DL: We don't want to reinvent the wheel – if other schools have similar issues we can learn but we have a different job - we are representing entire depts.

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Steve Davis: We can gather and disseminate the info we have. Gather info about proposals, prudent lay-person standard, ceilings on student payments – 70/30 plan but what if 30% is \$10K or some such amount.

DL: Any other questions?

Major Issues Overall:

- Access: emergency situation when away from UIC - why is it we cannot go to hospitals close to where we live?
- Claims: making the denial more transparent.
- Contact: whom to contact in an emergency + info. on appointments (length of time).

Jordan Gunn: How do we gather questions and answer all of them? How is that filtered through to us – should we create a new email address?

DL: Usually the chair of the committee gathers questions; each member works on what part they want to focus and the work is divided.

## ***GA Tuition waiver taxation***

Fall semester many GAs had their tuition taxed - some got \$0-\$200 paychecks. RA/TAs weren't affected. Tax code issue: university making sure everyone is being taxed correctly – apparently university was following this policy from the beginning. Because GAs are not working in the field of their study, their tuition waiver is considered supplementary income which is taxed at a different rate.

GAs are not taxed on the first \$5250 of tuition at 25% on the federal level and 5% state tax.

Shuang Zhou (Physics): I have a TA and a tuition waiver. Am I affected?

DL: If you are a TA/RA you are not affected. Still it is a concern to everyone – all grad students. As the GSC we can't get info from Payroll. The GEO bargaining team does get info and they are working to get the money classified in different ways that's legal so it won't be taxed.

Jason Coupet (Educational Policy): Not all universities have taxed students.

DL: GAs may be taxed but on different sums of money and at different scales.

Steve Davis: You can tell GAs in your dept. to talk to or email GEO, as they want to know who all have this problem and they will respond.

DL: We want to know how grad students are being affected as well. We have open communications with administrators and good relationships with them and the GEO.

Steve Davis: What might we be able to do as the GSC? The GEO has leverage, legally binding obligations with administration for bargaining. How do we get our GSC voice heard?

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DL: We still have a voice – we are on committees and it is also our job to get accurate info out.

Dean Deanna: About the tax issue you can write to your Congress person or Senator about this – it's an IRS issue.

DL: Bargaining hasn't started so we don't know the university's position.

Steve Davis: We can motion that the university at least spread out payments instead of taking it all out of two consecutive paychecks.

Ina Han: Does the university have power over this – taking the taxes all at once – the manner of collection and time might be dictated by some IRS policy?

DL: Whom should we ask?

Dean Deanna: I will find out if there's a prescribed collection method and let you know.

Christopher Pelzmann (MIE): Probably taxed all at once as the tuition waiver is finalized at the middle of the Fall semester when the contract is signed and credit hours settled.

DL: We have 4 paychecks in the Fall semester, it might be possible that tax can be taken out bit by bit instead of all of 2 paychecks.

Harish Kanchi (Treasurer): Fees are due at the end of Sept. and tuition waivers go through Sept 10th so that only leaves Oct, Nov for taxes to be taken from.

DL: We should find out what options we have in this.

Ina Han: Was wondering if it was a surprise or warning to the GAs when they got no paychecks.

DL: Last academic year I got a petition from payroll, filed it, taxes were waived. This year same petition, mailed it out, but in Oct. there was no money in my paycheck as the tuition waiver taxed.

Adam Forker (Public health): I'm an in-state GA – didn't know until I got a \$0 paycheck.

Jordan Gunn: We need dissemination of info. about these issues as well. Info a 1<sup>st</sup> year grad student would find useful - tax is doubled because tuition increases with the number of credits you register for.

DL: That's a good idea for orientation. Sometimes credit hours depend on depts.

Jordan Gunn: Since we have representation from all graduate programs here, we can start the dissemination here.

Q: As a GA/TA you have to pay fees + tax?

DL: Yes. All student employees pay student fees. The SFAC had a proposal to lower fees overall. 2011-2012 fees will decrease if the BOT votes on the proposal sent up by the SFAC.

***Chancellor Student Service Awards***

<http://www.uic.edu/depts/sldvs/awards.html>

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Dean Deanna: Chancellor Student Service Awards – I extend an offer to nominate you—send me an email ([ldanna@uic.edu](mailto:ldanna@uic.edu)), introduce yourself, leadership, service + CV and I will nominate you. Everyone I nominate has high likelihood of getting it out. I know your time is valuable, you provide service so I think you deserve it.

**GSC Officer nominations** are open. We will have elections at the March meeting so the new officers can transition smoothly in April. Email us your nominations.

Jesse Ackles (Linguistics): I nominate Jordan Gunn to be treasurer.

DL: Anushka will confirm with your nominees if they are willing to take on the position they have been nominated for by email.

**GSC constitution** needs to be amended. We need to have a committee to go over it and propose changes, as some articles are outdated and we GSC officers have suggestions on what needs to be removed/incorporated.

[http://www2.uic.edu/stud\\_orgs/gsc/documents/GSC\\_Constitution\\_Rev2007.pdf](http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/gsc/documents/GSC_Constitution_Rev2007.pdf)

GSC Constitution Subcommittee members:

Nicole Koonce (Special Education)

Heather Drummond (Public Health)

Kelsey Rydland (Public Administration)

## Upcoming Spring Dates

| <b>Date</b>                         | <b>Time</b> | <b>Event</b>                               | <b>Location</b>     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|--|---------------------|
| Thursday, February 24 <sup>th</sup> | 3-4:30p     | Library Resources                          | SCE, White Oak Room |
| Thursday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup>     | 5-7:30p     | Thirsty 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday           | Stanley's on Racine |
|                                     | 3p-4:30p    | Logistics of Getting through Grad. College | SCE, White Oak Room |
| Thursday, March 10 <sup>th</sup>    | 3-4:30p     | Stress Management                          | SCE, 613            |
|                                     | 5-7p        | GSC Meeting                                | SSB Conf B/C        |
| Thursday, April 14 <sup>th</sup>    | 5-7p        | GSC Meeting                                | SSB Conf B/C        |