

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

AGENDA  
GSC General Body Meeting  
April 27, 2009

**I. Diversity Advisory Committee**

Elizabeth Cambray: Diversity Advisory Committee  
College of Education (Past GSC Representative and Present Alternate)  
[http://www.uic.edu/depts/oaa/diversity/diversity\\_at\\_uic.html#](http://www.uic.edu/depts/oaa/diversity/diversity_at_uic.html#)  
[http://www.uic.edu/depts/oaa/diversity\\_planning/](http://www.uic.edu/depts/oaa/diversity_planning/)  
[http://www.uic.edu/depts/oaa/diversity\\_planning/DST%20Conversations%20with%20Campus%20Constituencies.pdf](http://www.uic.edu/depts/oaa/diversity_planning/DST%20Conversations%20with%20Campus%20Constituencies.pdf)

The whole campus is being asked to think about diversity and what it means to their constituents. In preparation, I'd like to share a couple of documents with the GSC.

I'd like to make sure that our group begins to think about this issue so that we can be a part of the conversation. While I am not on the Diversity Strategic Thinking and Planning (DSTP) committee, I am on the Diversity Advisory Committee, in part, as a representative for the GSC so I share the responsibility of bringing this information to the group.

If it hasn't already, the Diversity committee will set up meeting that includes the GSC. The GSC is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> group of constituency groups that the DSTP plans to meet with. On back of the handout there are questions that the DSTP wants us to think about.

Q. How does DAC define "diversity?"

A: DAC decided not to define it, but better to define goals for the UIC campus. There are so many ways to define diversity so instead we want to concentrate on long term goals, as in a mission statement and plan of action. Most conversations thus far have been on action. So questions for us, what types of actions do we see needed at UIC?

Each college has DAC reps. Contact them if you're interested. DAC meets every other month. Feel free to email Elizabeth on anything.

**II. New Student Trustee**

UIC Board of Trustees. Elias something? Undergrad, bio major. Temp student trustee? Here until June 30? Main things: there will be U-Pass increase, but no increase in health fees. May 21 will be the next Trustee meeting, they will discuss budgets on tuitions. The meeting is open to all if you're interested.

Q: What ever happened to Lobby Day? How did that pan out?

A: I personally did not go but a couple USG members went and said it went well.

**III. Project Award Updates**

- 1) Chemistry poster session. John Russell from Chemistry. Many compliments from faculty from physics and chemistry, John has pics and will send it out. Over 20 posters and a good turnout, it was a successful event.
- 2) History conference. Tom Dorrance from History. Significant increase in applications and attendees from last year. History faculty members were impressed, and the new planning board for next year's conference has already been chosen.
- 3) Abbott: Bethany White from Biopharmaceutical Sciences. Visit date is May 21, buses will leave UIC around 7am to get there by 930am. The event will be all day. Bethany is waiting on a finalized schedule before she sends out the announcement email.
- 4) Drug Court: Yvonne Isom from Criminal Justice dept. About 65 attendees. Allowed dept to do something interesting that the dept won't fund.
- 5) Exhibit at International Museum of Surgical Science. Shay Kilby from Biomedical Visualization. Event Aug 7 – Sept 16. Ina is in touch with Meena Malhotra (Biomed Viz) who is planning the event.

#### **IV. Final Committee Reports**

- 1) Communications (Davide Fosatti): Website update - aiming for early summer, end of May.
- 2) Academic Affairs (Harish Kanchi): 3/12/09 was the final installment of the first GSC Mini Symposium. Harish thanks all the members. Hopefully this can be a yearly event from now on.
- 3) Social Events (Deana Lewis): THIS THURSDAY!!! Bowling. Free. 1-5pm. Food from whole foods! SCE bowling alley.
- 4) BOR (Irene): We voted to have a blog to discuss the BOR but hardly anyone used it. For those who participated, thank you. All the individual points that we had a vote for passed, the lowest % acceptance by online vote for the individual points was 84%. There has been difficulty in the GC reaching a final conclusion on the BOR, each meeting is attended by largely different populations, and they don't seem to agree, so the GC as a whole keeps changing its mind. So at this point in time, GSC will move forward without GC's official seal. The BOR will be distributed at the GC orientation as ratified by the GSC. We have the GC's approval, just not their endorsement yet. Hopefully it will get endorsed by them soon, perhaps before the Fall semester.

#### **V. Budget**

Today we'll vote on budget for 2009-10 AFY. Davide made this year's budget more detailed than last year. \$103,000 requested, approx 3% increase from this past year.

3% is customary for inflation. Not positive we'll get it but hope so. Main difference from this year's budget is Academic Events. This year we sponsored a few workshops that weren't anticipated. We think the workshops are a good thing that we want to keep funding, so we will add it into the budget.

Q: (Deana Lewis, Linguistics) How many of the 240 awards have been awarded?

A: last deadline is 4/30, so I won't know until next week the end number for the year. But we anticipate it will be very close to 240, probably not over.

Q: (Holden Brown, Neuroscience) Where does \$ go if it's not spent?

A: It goes back into the University reserve fund. Most money left over at the end of the year is due to people not claiming their travel awards. To help address this, we shifted the travel award dates earlier to try to avoid rollover to be paid out from next year's budget. So application dates of April 30 is the deadline to be paid from this year's money. Anything afterwards will be awarded from next year's money.

Q: (Harish Kanchi, Mechanical Engineering) What is NAGPS?

A: National Association of Graduate-Professional Students. <http://www.nagps.org/> We didn't join this year but we did join American Student Government Association (ASGA), which is about \$200 for annual membership. We left NAGPS in the budget in case the next GSC Exec Comm finds it useful. But NAGPS underwent recent changes, so we're not sure how beneficial it will be to the GSC exec comm. This is something the new exec comm will need to decide.

Q: (Stephen Davis, Anthropology) Why don't we just request more money? Has to be justified. Also, more money requested by us also means more fees will be assessed from the students.

Q: Can travel awards be more?

A: It's a tradeoff between how many you can give and how much you can give per award. But it's up to GSC. It's your counsel. For example, each meeting's food is about \$500, if you don't want food at meetings and want that \$ to go to travel awards instead, that's up to the GSC. Travel awards have always been an ongoing issue. Lots of grad students depend on GC and GSC travel awards, especially since fewer and fewer departments help defray conference travel costs.

Davide: Suggestion. We'll be attending SFAC meeting to request budget for 2010-11 AFY. We can try to redo math, increase amount for travel awards, and see if we can justify more due to less help being given by departments, as well as inflation and travel just costing more. Our funds are not dependent on university funds per se, it depends on enrollment since our money comes from student fees.

Motion to vote: request more money for travel awards with justifications at upcoming SFAC meeting for 2010-11 year. Motion passes.

Irene: Any changes you want for budget for the 2009-10? Money total amount is set, but budget allocation amounts are up to you.

Q: What are the benefits of NAGPS and ASGA?

Irene: NAGPS is a national lobbying groups for grad students. They also facilitate grad loans. Our BOR is modeled after theirs. ASGA has good online resources but more

geared more towards undergrads.

Motion to vote on budget: motion passes.

## **VI. Campuscare**

Irene wants to bring up health insurance about summer, especially for graduating students. CC website has resources for insurance for graduating students (gap coverage options). Irene will be emailing this info out. Last CC meeting coming up soon, please email any concerns to Irene so she can bring up the issues.

## **VII. ELECTIONS**

Currently: one person running per office. Anyone else interested?

### Candidate for President: Zoe Hanson

I'd be good as GSC president to ensure continuity, as well as having experience as VP. But the big thing: I want GSC to find out and capitalize on all the campus opportunities to impact all these different meetings like SFAC, CC, etc. Also we need to try to make the administration accountable to us. For example, the Chancellor came to speak to us and that was good, I hope this will continue.

Q: what is your view on travel awards?

A: We're not a travel agency. Already 70% of our budget goes to travel awards. But this is not our sole purpose. If 100% goes to travel awards then why have a GSC? We are advocates of grad students. Our money should go towards other things that benefit grad students too, not just travel awards.

### Candidate for VP: Deana Lewis

First year as a GSC rep. Involved in many committees in grad school. Linguistics grad student. Interested in community as commuter campus. Grad students don't really have a space of our own. Involvement, connections between different departments. Social events. Etc. Make it our campus. More events doesn't mean need more money. Just more sense of community and involvement.

Q: view of increase in travel awards.?

A: I'm for it.

### Candidate for Secretary: Anushka Anand

Was GSC rep for Computer Science department from 2005-6. Will be President of CS student assoc for the upcoming year. Is impressed by changes in the last couple of years. Wants to get reinvolved so students can count on GSC as advocates, resources, etc. YES, is in favor of asking for more for travel awards, but agrees that the other things are important to. Like Zoe said, the GSC is here do do other things in addition to giving Travel Awards.

### Candidate for Treasurer: Harish Kanchi

Member of student affairs committee, which established the first GSC Mini Symposium. Also was past President of Indian Graduate Student Assoc, and was also in his department's MIE GSC. Not a budgeter by nature, wants to learn. Stance on travel awards: we should ask for more money, but not to cut out other things either. Mini Symposium was example of other GSC events that are important and shouldn't

be cut out.

Vote for candidates for each position passes.

Congratulations to the 2009-10 GSC Executive Committee!

President – Zoe Hanson

Vice President – Deana Lewis

Secretary – Anushka Anand

Treasurer – Harish Kanchi

**GSC Executive Board 2008-2009**

Irene Klein, President

Zoe Hanson, Vice President

Ina Han, Secretary

Davide Fossati, Treasurer

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