**GRADUATE COUNCIL**

University of Chicago

March 6, 2017 7:00 p.m.

Booth School, Harper Center C-07

**AGENDA**

1. Call to order
2. Election Code Votes (see exhibit I) Open to Reps
3. Budget Change Proposal Carlos/Jake
4. GC President Platform Speech (10 Mins) Nick/JD
5. GC President Q&A (20 Mins) Open to Council
6. GC President Vote
7. Community Initiative Pilot Carlos/Jake
8. Committee Updates VPs
9. Updates from schools, divisions, or community Anyone
10. Adjourn (to the Pub!)

**Exhibit I) Divisional Election Codes**

Divinity School Election Code

For the election of a Representative to the Graduate Council

Article I: Candidacy Requirements:

1. In order to appear on the ballot, candidates must submit petitions declaring their candidacy to the President of the Divinity Students Association in advance of the election.
   1. The President of the Divinity Students Association shall send an email to the students enrolled in the divinity school with a call to submit petitions of candidacy.
   2. This email must be sent at least two weeks prior to the occurrence of an election, and there must be at least five days for campaigning after petitions are due.
2. All candidates for office shall be given a copy of the SG governing documents, including this Divinity School Election Code, and shall be informed of all material rules and regulations, upon receiving petitions for candidacy. Such information shall be posted to the Student Government and Graduate Council website(s).
3. The period of time allowed for candidates to complete their petitions shall be not less than five days, or greater than fourteen days.
   1. Petitions shall be comprised of a 150 word statement submitted to the President of the Divinity Students Association. These statements shall be made available on the Graduate Council website.
4. Candidates wishing to run as write-in candidates must submit a petition to the President of the Divinity Students Association before the beginning of the elections which states an intention to run and which contains at least one valid student signature from the candidate's electoral unit.

Article II: Campaign Expenditures:

1. Candidates for Graduate Council shall limit campaign expenditures to $150.
2. Expenses shall be measured by their fair market value, not their actual cost. Where an item or service is donated to a candidate or given at a markedly reduced price that is not available to the general public, fair market value shall be defined as the average or usual cost to obtain the item or service in the area in which it was obtained. Otherwise, the actual price of the item or service may be considered its fair market value, at the discretion of the President of the Divinity Students Association.
3. Candidates shall keep original receipts of all campaign-related expenditures, and shall submit them to the President of the Divinity Students Association in a manner specified by the President of the Divinity Students Association.
4. Candidates may not spend beyond their respective limit. Refusal to cooperate with a request by the President of the Divinity Students Association for production of any documents or records related to campaign expenditures, or actions to purposefully mislead the President of the Divinity Students Association on this matter, may be punishable as specified in this Divinity School Election Code.
5. Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs) may not use money allocated to them by Student Government to support the campaign of any candidate or candidate team. Campaigns are prohibited from accepting this support.

Article III: Candidate Conduct:

1. Campaigning before the availability of petitions is prohibited. Such early campaigning is defined as attempts to gain votes prior to the announcement of the availability of the petitions. This includes flyering, mass emailing and public declarations of candidacy on social media, in a publication, or at a mass assembly of students. Reaching out to individuals to learn about issues, attempting to find running mates, and having exploratory conversations and email exchanges are not considered to be early campaigning. When identified, early campaigning should result in a warning for the offending candidate. If multiple warnings are issued, the Divinity Association may choose to bar the candidate from the election by a majority vote of its membership.
2. Promises of personal favors by candidates or slates attempting to gain votes may be punishable by vote penalties. ‘Personal favors’ should not be confused with exploratory conversations regarding leadership positions, platform plans, or proposed initiatives.
3. Unwarranted personal attacks are prohibited. Personal attacks are defined as attacks on a personal characteristic of a candidate that are calculated to create a negative impression of that candidate beyond the scope of the candidate’s platform or suitability for office and either
   1. are not used to support a conclusion that a candidate is unsuitable for office or has a deficient platform; or
   2. weakly support such a conclusion and there exists an obvious alternative way to support that conclusion at least as well without resorting to the personal attack.
4. Defamation, defined as the alleging of provably false facts about candidates in a manner calculated to undermine their campaigns, is prohibited.
5. Behavior at Divinity Student Association sponsored events, such as a formal debate, incongruent with the letter or spirit of the Divinity School Election Code to engage in a civil and respectful manner may result in removal from that event and further penalties.
6. Candidates shall adhere to the University's Student Organization Posting Policy, and any relevant interpretations as set out in the Student Government Elections and Rules Committee's Candidates Packet. Violations of this policy are infractions under this Code. For the purposes of this rule, candidates are subject to the same restrictions as RSOs except as specified in the Candidates Packet, and the relevant event is the election. The posting policy may be found here: <https://leadership.uchicago.edu/posting-policy>. The most current version of the Candidates Packet will be available at <https://sg.uchicago.edu/elections>.
7. Campaigns are expected to be conducted in accordance with all University regulations and local, state, and federal law. However, with the exception of the Student Organization Posting Policy, these laws and regulations are not incorporated into the Divinity School Election Code and an action that violates them is not also a Divinity School Election Code violation that can be adjudicated by the Divinity Students Association, unless:
   1. Performing the action may benefit one's campaign or harm another campaign but candidates generally refrain from doing so because it is prohibited by law or university regulation;
   2. The action is conducted with intent or effect to benefit the violator’s campaign at the expense of another’s or to harm another’s campaign; and
   3. The Divinity Students Association can conclude that the action violates the law or regulation on its face with minimal legal analysis.
8. Campaigning cannot take place within 50 feet of a polling station
   1. Since computers are used to vote, no campaigning can take place within 50 feet of any public computer
   2. Candidates are prohibited from approaching potential voters with a web-enabled electronic device to solicit votes

Article IV: Infractions

1. The Divinity Students Association shall level an infraction against any candidate or slate found to have taken actions that violated a rule that would have led to winning votes at the expense of other candidates. Such actions include, but are not limited to, early campaigning, spending beyond a candidate’s imposed limit, removing the posters of another candidate, or violations committed under this Code.
2. Infractions shall be classified as minor, major, or disqualifying, each corresponding to a particular penalty.
   1. Minor infractions, such as limited overspending or unallowed postering, may result in a 5% deduction in overall vote total for candidates.
   2. Major infractions, such as repeated minor infractions, extreme early campaigning, or unwarranted personal attacks, may result in a 10% deduction in overall vote total for candidates.
   3. Disqualifying infractions, such as repeated major infractions or gross violations of the letter or spirit of the Divinity School Election Code in a manner that undermines the integrity of the election, may result in immediate disqualification from the election. If the disqualification occurs prior to the actual administration of the election, the disqualified candidate's name shall not appear on the ballot. Disqualifications shall require a motion by the President of the Divinity Student Association that is supported by a majority of that body.
3. Infraction level for a given offense is determined by the discretion of the Divinity Students Association.
4. For improper actions by candidates that do not officially break rules, The Divinity Students Association may issue warnings towards the goal of good sportsmanship and a clean election.
5. Candidates may be held responsible for campaign-related Constitution, By-Laws, Divinity School Elections Code, or Candidates Packet violations committed by members of their campaign teams. A campaign team is defined as a candidate or candidates for office and those people and groups actively and/or publicly working towards the election of the candidates.
6. Write-in candidates are subject to the SG Constitution, By-Laws, Divinity School Elections Code, and Candidates Packet, with the exception of rules regarding petitions. Violations of these documents by write-in candidates are subject to the same penalties as rule violations by official candidates.

Article V: Divinity Student Association Election Procedure

1. The President of the Divinity Students Association shall establish a timeline for conducting its elections in accordance with this Code. Such a timeline must be made publicly available on Grad Council's website and through a school or division wide email sent no later than two weeks prior to the date of the election.
2. In the case of an uncontested race, no election will be held.
3. Allegations must be brought to the Divinity Students Association within one week of the end of the relevant elections. These allegations may be brought by any student, by any student group, or by any member of the Divinity Students Association or Student Government. Anonymous complaints will not be considered. Complaints will be received by the the President of the Divinity Students Association (who will post an email address to the SG and GC websites at which he or she may be reached) who will present the complaint, in its entirety, to the rest of the Divinity Students Association; otherwise, complainants should not contact individual members of the Divinity Students Association regarding their complaint. Information submitted to individual members will not be considered.
4. Once an official complaint has been made, the Divinity Students Association will issue a formal decision pursuant to this Code.
   1. The President of the Divinity Students Association shall respond to a complainant's request for a hearing with a scheduled time and location for such a hearing within forty-eight hours of the complaint being properly filed
   2. The President of the Divinity Students Association shall notify the defendant of the complaint against him or her and the time and location of the hearing by twenty four hours prior to the start of the hearing.
   3. For a complaint to be properly formatted it must:
      1. Allege a violation committed under this Code and list pertinent sections of this Code
      2. Provide a statement of the events that transpired and why those actions are a violation of the pertinent sections of this Code.
      3. The President may, after consultation with the members of the Divinity Students Association, notify the complainant that the complaint is improperly filed and instruct the complainant to file again properly. No hearing will be held in the event of an improperly filed complaint.
5. An appeal will only be considered if significant additional information is provided with the appeal. Per the SG Constitution, the Elections and Rules Committee is the final arbiter of all elections disputes, so any appeal must be directed to that Committee. New information shall be submitted with an appeal along with a copy of the original decision to the SG Executive Committee and to E&R. E&R will not consider an appeal predicated on the notion that the Divinity Students Association erred in its initial ruling.
6. While the complainant(s) and the defendant(s) will lodge the complaint and defend their conduct in an open meeting, The Divinity Students Association will deliberate and make a decision in private.
   1. If under extraordinary circumstances, and in consultation with Grad Council's staff advisor at UChicagoGRAD, the Divinity Students Association members find unanimously that the nature of a particular case is such that a public complaint process would be injurious to the safety or wellbeing of either the complainant(s) or the defendant(s) or both, then the Divinity Students Association may hear such complaints in a special private session called after the conclusion of its public meetings and prior to its deliberation. At such a session, the Chair of Student Government's Elections and Rules Committee must be present as an ex-officio member.
7. Student Government's Elections and Rules Committee in conjunction with the Center for Leadership and Involvement, will issue a Candidates Packet. The Candidates Packet may not contradict the SG Elections Code, the By-Laws, or the Constitution. The Candidates Packet will include the following:
   1. House Rules detailing E&R Committee Procedure.
   2. An Honor Code governing conduct and decorum at E&R-sponsored events.
   3. Additional interpretations specific to the election regarding the University Posting Policy and Reimbursement guidelines.
   4. An agreement to abide by the Election Code, Honor Code, University Policies, and House Rules.
   5. Other useful information.
8. Graduate Council Candidates shall adhere to the Candidates Packet as specified in this Code.

Article VI: Ballot presentation and voting

1. The names of all candidates shall appear on the ballot. The order of the names shall be randomized.
2. Instructions regarding how to mark the ballot shall appear on each ballot.
3. The Ballot shall be sent to all Divinity School students.
4. For students voting for multimember positions, one may submit votes for a number of candidates up to the number of actual representatives.
5. For students voting for multimember positions, one may submit write-in votes for up to the number of actual representatives, as described above. Each submission for a write-in vote must be unique and may not duplicate names.

Graham Election Code

FOR ELECTION BY DIVISIONAL OR DEAN'S COUNCIL

Article I: Candidacy Requirements:

1. In order to stand for election to Graduate Council, candidates must submit petitions declaring their candidacy to GSABLL in advance of the election, the date of which must be publicized on Graduate Council's website.
2. All candidates for office shall be given a copy of the SG governing documents, including this Graham Election Code, and shall be informed of all material rules and regulations, upon receiving petitions for candidacy. Such information shall be posted to the Student Government and Graduate Council website(s).
3. The period of time allowed for candidates to complete their petitions shall be not less than five days, or greater than fourteen days.
   1. Petitions shall be comprised of a 150 word statement submitted to the Chair GSABLL. The Chair shall make these statements available on the Graduate Council website.
4. Candidates wishing to run as write-in candidates must collect 2.2% of Graham's population based on the most recent Autumn Quarter Census and present them to the GSABLL on the day the election is to held in order to be considered for election.

Article II: Campaign Expenditures:

1. Candidates for Graduate Council shall limit campaign expenditures to $150.
2. Expenses shall be measured by their fair market value, not their actual cost. Where an item or service is donated to a candidate or given at a markedly reduced price that is not available to the general public, fair market value shall be defined as the average or usual cost to obtain the item or service in the area in which it was obtained. Otherwise, the actual price of the item or service may be considered its fair market value, at the discretion of GSABLL.
3. Candidates shall keep original receipts of all campaign-related expenditures, and shall submit them to GSABLL in a manner specified by GSABLL.
4. Candidates may not spend beyond their respective limit. Refusal to cooperate with a request by GSABLL for production of any documents or records related to campaign expenditures, or actions to purposefully mislead GSABLL on this matter, may be punishable as specified in this Graham Election Code.
5. Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs) may not use money allocated to them by Student Government to support the campaign of any candidate or candidate team. Campaigns are prohibited from accepting this support.

Article III: Candidate Conduct:

1. Promises of personal favors by candidates or slates attempting to gain votes may be punishable by vote penalties. ‘Personal favors’ should not be confused with exploratory conversations regarding leadership positions, platform plans, or proposed initiatives.
2. Unwarranted personal attacks are prohibited. Personal attacks are defined as attacks on a personal characteristic of a candidate that are calculated to create a negative impression of that candidate beyond the scope of the candidate’s platform or suitability for office and either:
   1. not used to support a conclusion that a candidate is unsuitable for office or has a deficient platform;
   2. weakly support such a conclusion and there exists an obvious alternative way to support that conclusion at least as well without resorting to the personal attack.
3. Defamation, defined as the alleging of probably false facts about candidates in a manner calculated to undermine their campaigns, is prohibited.
4. Behavior at GSABLL sponsored events incongruent with the letter or spirit of this Code to engage in a civil and respectful manner may result in removal from that event and further penalties.
5. Candidates shall adhere to the University's Student Organization Posting Policy, and any relevant interpretations as set out in the Student Government Elections and Rules Committee's Candidates Packet. Violations of this policy are infractions under this Code. For the purposes of this rule, candidates are subject to the same restrictions as RSOs except as specified in the Candidates Packet, and the relevant event is the election. The posting policy may be found here: <https://leadership.uchicago.edu/posting-policy>. The most current version of the Candidates Packet will be available at <https://sg.uchicago.edu/elections>.
6. Campaigns are expected to be conducted in accordance with all University regulations and local, state, and federal law. However, with the exception of the Student Organization Posting Policy, these laws and regulations are not incorporated into the Graham Election Code and an action that violates them is not also a Graham Election Code violation that can be adjudicated by GSABLL, unless:
   1. Performing the action may benefit one's campaign or harm another campaign but candidates generally refrain from doing so because it is prohibited by law or university regulation;
   2. The action is conducted with intent or effect to benefit the violator’s campaign at the expense of another’s or to harm another’s campaign; and
   3. GSABLL can conclude that the action violates the law or regulation on its face with minimal legal analysis.

Article IV: Infractions:

1. GSABLL shall level an infraction against any candidate or slate found to have taken actions that violated a rule that would have led to winning votes at the expense of other candidates. Such actions include, but are not limited to, spending beyond a candidate’s imposed limit, removing the posters of another candidate, unwarranted personal attacks, or violations committed under any article of this Code.
2. Infractions shall be classified as minor, major, or disqualifying, each corresponding to a particular penalty.
   1. Minor infractions, such as limited overspending or unallowed postering, may result in a 5% deduction in overall vote total for candidates.
   2. Major infractions, such as repeated minor infractions, extreme early campaigning, or unwarranted personal attacks, may result in a 10% deduction in overall vote total for candidates.
   3. Disqualifying infractions, such as repeated major infractions or gross violations of the letter or spirit of the Graham Election Code in a manner that undermines the integrity of the election, may result in immediate disqualification from the election. If the disqualification occurs prior to the actual administration of the election, the disqualified candidate's name shall not appear on the ballot. Disqualifications shall require either a motion by the chairperson that is supported by a majority of GSABLL or a motion supported by all voting members.
3. Infraction level for a given offense is determined by the discretion of the DIVISIONAL/DEAN'S COUNCIL.
4. For improper actions by candidates or slates that do not officially break rules, GSABLL shall issue warnings towards the goal of good sportsmanship and a clean election.
5. Candidates may be held responsible for campaign-related Constitution, By-Laws, Graham Elections Code, or Candidates Packet violations committed by members of their campaign teams. A campaign team is defined as a candidate or candidates for office and those people and groups actively and/or publicly working towards the election of the candidates.
6. Write-in candidates are subject to the SG Constitution, By-Laws, [SCHOOL/ DIVISION] Elections Code, and Candidates Packet, with the exception of rules regarding petitions. Violations of these documents by write-in candidates are subject to the same penalties as rule violations by official candidates.

Article V: GSABLL Procedure:

1. GSABLL shall establish a timeline for conducting its elections in accordance with this Code. Such a timeline must be made publicly available on Grad Council's website and through a school or division wide email sent no later than two weeks prior to the date of the election.
2. Allegations must be brought to GSABLL within one week of the end of the relevant elections. These allegations may be brought by any student, by any student group, or by any member of GSABLL or Student Government. Anonymous complaints will not be considered. Complaints will be received by the Chair of the GSABLL (who will post an email address to the SG and GC websites at which he or she may be reached) who will present the complaint, in its entirety, to the rest of the committee.
3. Once an official complaint has been made, GSABLL will issue a formal decision pursuant to this Code.
   1. The Chair of GSABLL shall respond to a complainant's request for a hearing with a scheduled time and location for such a hearing within forty-eight hours of the complaint being properly filed
   2. The Chair of GSABLL shall notify the defendant of the complaint against him or her and the time and location of the hearing by twenty four hours prior to the start of the hearing.
   3. For a complaint to be properly formatted it must:
      1. Allege a violation committed under this Code and list pertinent sections of this Code
      2. Provide a statement of the events that transpired and why those actions are a violation of the pertinent sections of this Code.
      3. The Chair may, after consulting SG's Elections and Rules Committee, notify the complainant that the complaint is improperly filed and instruct the complainant to file again properly. No hearing will be held in the event of an improperly filed complaint.
4. An appeal will only be considered if significant additional information is provided with the appeal. Per the SG Constitution, the Elections and Rules Committee is the final arbiter of all elections disputes, so any appeal must be directed to that Committee. New information shall be submitted with an appeal along with a copy of the original decision to the SG Executive Committee and to E&R.
5. The complainant(s) and the defendant(s) will lodge the complaint and defend their conduct in an open meeting.
   1. If under extraordinary circumstances, and in consultation with Grad Council's staff advisor at UChicagoGRAD, the GSABLL members find unanimously that the nature of a particular case is such that a public complaint process would be injurious to the safety or wellbeing of either the complainant(s) or the defendant(s) or both, then GSABLL may hear such complaints in a special private session called after the conclusion of its public meetings. At such a session, the Chair of Student Government's Elections and Rules Committee must be present as an ex-officio member.

Humanities Election Code

FOR ELECTION BY THE HUMANITIES ELECTION AUTHORITY

Article I: Candidacy Requirements, Timeline, and Election Administration:

1. At least two weeks prior to the date of the Graduate Council Election as set by the Dean of Students in the Division, Department Coordinators shall solicit applications from students in their respective departments.
   1. Department Coordinators shall solicit applications by the same representative processes used for applicants to the Humanities Divisional Government, which may vary by department.
   2. Department Coordinators shall establish a deadline for applicants. Such a deadline shall be no fewer than five days, but not more than one week, after the initial solicitation for applications is made.
   3. The election shall occur during the Winter Quarter.
2. At the time applications are solicited, candidates shall be notified of the date and time of the election.
3. Department Coordinators shall submit the names of all applicants who have filed by the deadline to the Dean of Students.
4. The Dean of Students shall then contact all applicants from all departments reminding them of the date and time of the election, which shall occur as the convening of the Humanities Election Authority.
   1. The members of the Humanities Election Authority shall be all applicants submitted to the Dean of Students by the Department Coordinators.
5. Candidates wishing to run as write-in candidates must collect signatures from 2.2% of Humanity’s population based on the most recent Autumn Quarter Census and present them to the Dean of Students on the day the election is to held in order to be considered for election.
   1. Write-in candidates shall be those who have decided to run after the application window has closed.
   2. They shall be non-voting members of the Humanities Election Authority.
6. The Humanities Election Authority shall conduct a vote amongst its membership to select two members to serve in the Graduate Council for the academic year.
   1. In the event that a candidate plans to study abroad, move away from the Chicago area, or leaves their program during their term of service, the Humanities Election Authority may choose to elect alternates to serve as declared proxies during the temporary vacancy created by the absence of the elected representatives.

Article II: Humanities Election Authority Procedure and Adjudicatory Processes:

1. The Dean of Students shall establish a timeline for conducting Humanities’ elections in accordance with this Code. Such a timeline must be made publicly available on Grad Council's website and through a school or division wide email sent no later than two weeks prior to the date of the election.
2. Allegations of misconduct related to the election of Humanities’ representatives must be brought to the Dean of Students within one week of the end of the relevant elections. These allegations may be brought by any student, by any student group, or by any member of Student Government. Anonymous complaints will not be considered.
3. Once an official complaint has been made, the Dean of Students will issue a formal decision pursuant to this Code.
   1. For a complaint to be properly formatted it must:
      1. Allege a violation committed under this Code and list pertinent sections of this Code
      2. Provide a statement of the events that transpired and why those actions are a violation of the pertinent sections of this Code.
      3. The Dean of Students may, after consulting SG's Elections and Rules Committee, notify the complainant that the complaint is improperly filed and instruct the complainant to file again properly. No hearing will be held in the event of an improperly filed complaint.
4. An appeal will only be considered if significant additional information is provided with the appeal. Per the SG Constitution, the Elections and Rules Committee is the final arbiter of all elections disputes, so any appeal must be directed to that Committee. New information shall be submitted with an appeal along with a copy of the original decision to the SG Executive Committee and to E&R.
5. The complainant(s) and the defendant(s) will lodge the complaint and defend their conduct in a meeting with the Dean of Students.

Social Sciences Division Election Code

For election to the Graduate Council as conducted by the Executive Committee of the Dean’s Advisory Council.

Article I: Candidacy Requirements:

1. In order to stand as a candidate, candidates must be currently serving members of the Social Sciences Student Executive Committee (EC).
   1. Members of the EC shall be chosen by the following procedure:
      1. Spring Quarter members of the Dean’s Advisory Council (DAC) will issue a call in their individual PhD departments for interested students. The DAC will then elect up to five of those applicants to the Executive Committee.
      2. Early Autumn quarter administrators in the MA programs shall issue a call for interested MA students, and the DAC will then elect up to two of those applicants to the Executive Committee
2. The period of time allowed for candidates to respond to calls for candidates shall be not less than five days, or greater than fourteen days.
3. The DAC shall make its elections timeline publicly available.

Article II: Social Sciences Student Executive Committee Electoral Procedure

1. The EC shall be seated pursuant to Article I of this Code.
2. The EC shall operate independently from the rest of the DAC for the purposes of electing representatives to Graduate Council.
3. The EC shall elect two of its own numbers to serve as representatives of the Social Sciences Division in Graduate Council.
4. The election of Graduate Council representatives shall occur no sooner than two weeks after the first call for interested students is made in the Autumn Quarter.

**Exhibit II) Candidate Statements:**

**Nick & JD:**

As your 2017-18 Graduate Council (GC) co-chairs, we aspire to make interdivisional collaboration and community building a visible aspect of the University of Chicago graduate experience. Our time spent working with GC and as members of the graduate community have shown us both the compelling need for meaningful interdivisional relationships, and the potential of multi-disciplinary collaboration. Therefore our primary goals are to foster community building, empower students to tackle challenging problems through collaboration, and ensure that the foundation laid by our team and previous Graduate Council leaders continues well into the future.

Community:

Graduate Council currently hosts a fantastic series of events through our Social Committee that bring together hundreds of graduate students from all divisions and schools to mingle and get to get to know one another. However, these transient interactions do not often lead to meaningful relationships, a broader sense of community, or useful collaborations. Large GC events also do not appeal to graduate students that would prefer a more intimate social setting. In an effort to build graduate community, we will host smaller, recurring events where students can learn about other divisions and meet great people from across the university. These events will be at the suggestion of students, and could include such things as a rock climbing group, a gaming group, or a book club. In addition, GC will expand the Issues Committee into a robust, far-reaching advocacy wing. Graduate students will participate in a set of four advocacy panels that work on achieving small, tangible goals in response to issues from all aspects of student life.

Collaboration:

Opportunities abound at the university for collaborations between students from different divisions. Whether you’re a business student looking to learn about the medical industry, or a scientist wondering how to get involved in public policy, there is a lot of important work being done at the interface of multiple disciplines. At Graduate Council we have the resources and capabilities to encourage students to tackle problems collaboratively. We will hold workshops at the beginning of every quarter, and provide advice throughout the year to teach students looking to create inter-divisional groups and organize events, seminars, or other activities how to build connections and collaborations, while directing them to our finance committee funding.

Continuity:

For the past three years Graduate Council has both expanded the breadth of its core committees, and added other important roles and capabilities. With the added focus on marketing, and transparent financial reporting this past year, GC has gained credibility among its various stakeholders. In order to continue this success it is important to create a robust pipeline of talent from all divisions, and to codify the roles, responsibilities, and best practices established in previous years for all executive positions.

We hope that by carrying out these specific aims, as well as expanding on our current marketing plans, and digital presence, we can successfully take Graduate Council a step further in being the primary advocate for graduate student life at the University of Chicago.

**Exhibit III) Proposed Budget Change**

Graduate Council – It was brought to our attention recently that we have a discrepancy in our budget, which leaves us in a ~$20k hole versus what we thought we would be able to spend. It isn’t immediately clear what caused the error, but it appears to be related to last year’s budgeting process. Essentially, we were given the wrong budget, but it was not caught until now by administrators, broader SG or us, and for that, we apologize. The buck is supposed to stop with us, and there were ways we could have caught this error earlier had we done some different checks. We are still working to try and figure out what caused this issue in the first place, but regardless, we would like to find a way forward immediately so that our VP’s know how to plan for the Spring Quarter. We have talked with and received approval for the following plan from each of the relevant VPs:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **GC Fund** | **Total Budget inc/dec** | **Amt to Discrepancy** | **Amt to Community Pilot** |
| Travel | -$5K | $5K | $0 |
| Social | -$10K | $10K | $0 |
| Finance | -$7K | $5K | $2K |
| Admin Budget | -$1K | $0K | $1K |
| **Total** | **-$23K** | **+$20K** | **+$3K** |

* + - Travel and Finance will have to award fewer Spring awards
    - Social will bridge the gap by cancelling the end of year bbq
    - The community pilot program will receive a $3k budget for the Spring Quarter