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**All Member Graduate Council Meeting**

Date: 1/11/2022

**Attendees:**

Yilin Liu  
Yingxuan Liu  
Bishwa Pandey  
So Jung Kim  
Sasha Warren  
Charlotte Stender  
Dinesh Das Gupta  
Connor Christensen  
Bilal Baqar  
Aimee Gonzalez  
Jiachong Chu  
Alexa Cinque  
Colleen Wohlrab  
Aaron Alpar  
Joseph Solis  
Henry Liu Megan Barnett  
Zhengyuan Ling  
Olivia Pura  
Sophia Horigan  
Patrick Maguire  
Fatima Bouftas  
Natalie Griffin  
Indranil Ghosh  
Joe Reda  
Briana Banks  
Hugh Yeh  
Madeleine Oswald  
Yanan Long  
Ney Grant  
Sicheng Luo  
Tyler Mikulis  
Kayla Jones  
Nikita Mehta  
Catherine Witt  
Dylan Sosa



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Meeting Opens:

Nikita introduces the guests to the meeting.

The council was joined by Dana Bozeman (Director of Diversity and Inclusion for UChicago GRAD), Ravi Randhava (Assistant Provost and Executive Director of the CI+I), and Denise Jorgens and Hannah Barton (Assistant Provost and Executive Director of the CI+I).

Nikita handed over the presentation to our guests, with Dana going first.

### **Diversity and Inclusion for UChicago GRAD**

Dana mentions that there has been a new hire to her team, a diversity outreach coordinator, which is in line with the University's increased hiring across the DDI space. She highlighted the role played by DDI to help increase diversity in the student body and support them as well.

Dana points out she and her team do on-demand workshops across the University. There are also programs to help students write their diversity statements for fellowship applications.

Dana also talked about the various bodies that are under the DDI's umbrella, namely MOSAIC, DAB, GRAD on the Ground, and THRIVE.

She discussed Maroon Mates, the mentorship program that is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Created by DAB it is a peer mentoring program that was initially started for PhD students in the first year but rolled out to all graduate students from the second year onwards.

She also mentioned an anti-racist and ally training program that is scheduled to restart soon.

### **CI+I**

Ravi started by laying out the mission of his team that is to enhance the life of students especially those of color, LGBTQ, First Generations.

His group caters to both undergrads and graduate students across all 13 divisions of the university. He leads a team of 7 full-time employees and 20 student employees that are spread across Graduate Assistants, Ops, and Peer educators.

CI+I works to create a physical presence of students from all walks of life on campus, along with representation in coursework. They also run supportive programs to provide tangible presence across the student journey.



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The approach to work is very collaborative and they work closely with UChicago GRAD and I-House. Ravi says one of his goals right now is to help with red tape while dealing with the matters of inclusion. On another note he mentions there were renovations to the lounge in hi building that is open to students from the 24<sup>th</sup> of January.

### **International House**

The International House has nearly 500 students. IHouse will be celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year and will be offering 90 fellowships in the coming year. The UChicago IHouse is part of a worldwide consortium in 20 cities.

In the last year they had a combination of virtual and in person events. IHouse is open to Cosponsoring events under its Global Voices program. Hannah highlighted other IHouse programs like Health and Wellness programs, Social Programs and Grad fair.

The meeting moved on to questions from the audience to our guests.

### **Questions to the guests.**

#### **How can non international students participate in the IHouse events?**

Hannah and Denise pointed out that domestic students were always welcome at IHouse. There are 15 grad intern that are split evenly between international and domestic students. These interns drive programing ideas and think about programs for themes that cut across the world.

Denise highlighted that the definition of international students has to include first generation student, and US nationals who have lived abroad for extensive periods of time.

#### **How can students help with increasing diversity on campus?**

Dana and Ravi answered this question. They mentioned that since there is no single grad school there is no simple answer to the question.

They said that there is an initiative to increase diversity at all levels with increasing resources for the same.

However, they mentioned that the faculty selection comes under the ambit of the central provost. There is a program to develop a diverse faculty application pool.

They said that students should start by volunteering to be resources for each unit and just help with the initiatives that are in place. It is best to ask the DII administrators at the divisional level.



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Dana mentioned there is a new Vice Provost of Diversity that was hired who will have new programs in place.

### **What is being done to increase inclusion at the University?**

Ravi mentioned there are programs on knowing your rights and being an ally series. On the UChicago website, there is an initiative to increase the number of pronouns for students to choose from. Finally, on the lounge he mentioned earlier, there is a call for students to create and display their artwork to beautify the area, and they will be compensated for it.

### **What is the future of Diversity Statements in the application process at faculty, post-doctoral, and PhD levels?**

Unfortunately, currently the DII team does not have any power over this. Jason Merchant the new VP might be able to push this forward. There is a problem since the faculty does not put much weight on this aspect of the applications and there is no singular hiring practice across divisions, which further complicates things.

Our guests dropped off at this point.

### **Representative Reports**

**Harris:** Considering writing a formal access to rapid testing.

**Humanities:** Have added 3 new representatives.

**Law:** Were unable to push start date back by a week so started on 3<sup>rd</sup> January. Releasing a survey to get the students view on how the Covid outbreak was handled. The general mood across Law is that the messaging was not done well and there needs to be more clarity on the decision-making process. Students are looking for more quantitative substance to the messaging and some clarity as to what changes.

Nikita suggest shaving a broader discussion on this in the next meeting.

**Pritzker:** Change in the President of UChicago Medicine and the ER is swamped by Covid cases right now.

### **Executive team report:**

Joseph: Simplifying the marketing process so it is as easy as possible to replicate. He asks to be CC'd whenever emails are forwarded to communications officers at each division to improve transparency.



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Olivia: Still planning for a social in the winter quarter with a 1000 people capacity. Ticket sales will be different this time around.

Briana: Pedagogy workshop for TA faculty on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There is a booklist being finalized. States that Juneteenth speaker will be virtual this year.

Joe /Sophia: Ordered free reusable menstrual product that will be packaged and distributed in the first week of February.

Indranil: Travel cancellations have created a problem. There is a review of refunds being done. Some students are trying to game the system by asking for travel funding and not attending conferences. Will update the Bye laws for the website.

Zhengyuan: Academic social events can be availed from his fund, only one application per student per year. It can be \$15/person. This can be for study groups and projects. Grammarly and headspace will be made available to students in February. LinkedIn premium sales will not happen due to lack of discount.