University of Chicago Student Government

**Graduate Council Minutes**

1 February 2016

Booth C-25

7:00-8:30 pm

Attendance (**Bold** = present, (L) = late)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Elliott Balch | Graduate Council Co-Chair |
| **Casey Anthony** | **Graduate Council Co-Chair** |
| **KR Ling** | **GC Representative - Booth** |
| **Jamarr Buchanan** | **GC Representative - Booth** |
| **Haley Stinnett**  **(Proxy-Aneesha Suresh)** | **GC Representative - BSD** |
| **Elyse Watkins** | **GC Representative - IME** |
| **Matt Peterson** | **GC Representative - Divinity** |
| **Lisa Fan** | **GC Representative - Law** |
| **Jimmie Zhang** | **GC Representative - Law** |
| **Andrew Wilmington** | **GC Representative - Pritzker** |
| **Gabe Velez Lorna** | **GC Representative - SSD** |
| Jonah Simpson | **GC Representative - SSD** |
| Carlos Grandet (proxy) | GC Representative- Harris |
| **Proxy** | **GC Representative –SSA** |
| **Proxy** | **Humanities** |
| Romit Chakraborty | GC Representative – PSD |
| Katie Perri | Graduate Liaison to the Board of Trustees |
| **Tyler Kissinger** | **President, Student Government** |
| Kenzo Esquivel | VP for Student Affairs, Student Government |
| Alex Jung | VP for Administration, Student Government |

Meeting called to order, 7:18 pm

1. Call to order
2. Town Hall debrief and next steps, Casey
   1. Gets complicated with all of the deans present, might work better with individual town halls within divisions
      1. Ex. Social Science specific town hall
   2. Next time make a list of topics/major points of discussions
   3. Decrease introduction time
      1. Other opinion🡪hearing each department’s perspective helped, ie Booth vs. non-professional schools
3. Travel Fund update, Haley
   1. Record number of applicants, two rounds of funding done
   2. Various levels of funding
   3. Travel fund committee is sparse, February 11th at 5:30pm there will be a Travel Fund party to review applications and get pizza and beer
      1. See what other students are up to, see the application process
      2. Can’t come to review if you submitted a travel grant
      3. Reynold’s Club in the Student Government Office
4. Social Committee update, Lisa
   1. February 18th, Bottles and Botega still selling tickets (10 dollars a piece)
   2. Winter Social is February 26th, 5 dollar ticket includes drinks, food and transportation (Facebook Event, or Logan Center ticket page)
   3. MAB events: upcoming comedy show on February 5th, donating 10 free graduate student tickets; Summer Breeze will also have some free tickets to the concert
      1. Distribute tickets online through Logan
      2. Email Lisa Fan with interest in comedy show, includes aftershow
   4. Steppenwolf Event: will be coordinated with Lisa
5. Finance Committee updates and action, Gabe/Matt
   1. Many applications submitted
   2. Funding could become more selective; want to push applications to be submitted earlier for a more fair comparison
   3. Could fund some later that weren’t recommended for funding now
   4. Full budget on agenda
      1. Religious Minorities Event: Applying for other funds as well, recommend deduction from request
         1. Currently receive annual allocation money and SGFC money, are an RSO
         2. May want to keep funding separate, level the playing field for groups that can’t apply for funding from the larger student government
         3. Consider that they have already received Student Life Fee money
         4. **Motion to reject the request**

In favor: 11

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 2

**Motion passes**

* + 1. **Motion to pass the second item request (Constructing Peace Amid Trauma)**

In favor: 12

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 1

**Motion passes**

* + 1. **Motion to pass the 3rd request (After the MD)**

In favor: 14

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

**Motion passes**

* + 1. **Motion to pass the 4th request (RNA Club) at suggested level**
       1. Gather students from BSD and PSD, as well as other universities
       2. Was other funding received from other universities? Meetings typically rotated and provided shared funds; recently revived and staying at UChicago to revive funding.
       3. Previously sponsored by IDT, now less funding; 3 meetings per year at 870 dollars per meeting

In favor: 14

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

**Motion passes**

* + 1. **Foundation on the Hill submitted to the wrong fund**
    2. **Rugby Request**
       1. Not an RSO, don’t want to join the undergrad RSO
       2. Students are already paying for food, lodging, equipment etc.
       3. 50 people in the club that are active, paying tournament fees could be a big deterrent
       4. Booth groups’ only funding is club member dues, supports many types of grad students
       5. Did fundraising event last quarter, no other money received from school
       6. Requesting 2,000 dollars for Duke Rugby Tournament
       7. Consider needs of community, and this could be in line with Graduate Council goals; stress relief, physical activity, community-building
       8. Large attendance at these events
       9. Plan to sell jerseys and have a second fundraiser in the spring to make up current deficit
       10. Haley: RNA club funded at less, but serves more students
       11. Rugby people: trying to recruit from other schools, generates community among spectators as well
       12. Alyssa: There is precedent, funded the softball league last year
       13. **Motion to fund at 750 dollars**

In favor: 9

Opposed: 1

Abstain: 1

**Motion passes**

* + 1. **Motion to resubmit (Booth Luxury Contest)**

In favor: 13

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

**Motion passes**

* + 1. **SSA/DSA Winter Social**
       1. Comment: this is a Student Government asking for funding, they already have funding sources
          1. Could have a motion requiring the money to be returned after the SSA elections
       2. SSA didn’t have a Student Government at the time (last year’s election was invalidated), and therefore they do not have access to their funds
       3. Divinity didn’t want to fund the entire event in full; now there is more funding from SSA with a government
       4. Potential funding from Dean of Students; money allocated for orientation
       5. 3500 dollars short without funding; Div school putting in 25% of yearly budget currently
       6. Expectation of 2,000 dollars from SSA
       7. Who do the funds go to if the elections are not validated?
          1. Div school would manage funds
       8. Potential conditional vote to fund based on whether or not elections are validated
          1. Promise would have to come from Div School; SSA can’t make commitments without government
       9. First time that SSA and Divinity are collaborating
       10. Other governments fund joint events
       11. **Motion to fund DSA/SSA group with the caveat that if SSA gets the money (elections are validated) the money will be repaid to Student Government; will fund on Thursday (contingent on election results)**

In favor: 11

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 2

**Motion passes**

* + 1. **South Asia Graduate Student Conference**
       1. Cut funding from request; don’t want to fund bringing in other students from other schools for the event
       2. Cut from 6,000 dollars to 2,000 dollars
       3. Balance of 25,000 dollars
       4. Existed for 13 years
       5. Is there a process for following up events and the use of these funds?
          1. Working on it
       6. **Motion to fund suggested amount**

In favor: 13

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 1

**Motion passes**

* + 1. **Public Policy Forum**
       1. Large budget, bringing in the Chilean Ambassador
       2. Suggest a reduction to 3,000 dollars
       3. Receiving outside funding, not an RSO
       4. Comment: South Asian Conference has larger attendance, receiving less money
          1. Response: didn’t want to fund bringing in outside students
       5. **Motion to fund at $2,000**

In favor: 12

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 2

**Motion passes**

* 1. Full budget on agenda
  2. Discuss group travel

1. Student Government update, Slate Member(s)
   1. Funding committee opportunities
   2. Three committees that would benefit from grad presence
      1. SGFC: Funds groups every week
         1. Funds RSOs, has set standards for costs, very efficient
         2. Working on opening up SGFC funds and Annual Allocation money to non-RSO grad organizations
         3. Would be good to have Graduate Students on this committee, improve funding efficiency
         4. Good at efficiently allocating money
         5. Currently have one Graduate Student at large member (vacancy on committee)
         6. Booth student on SGFC, 2 representatives from GC (one filled currently)
         7. Have an auditing process in place, a funding code
            1. Comment: might not be amenable to groups that are not as similar to previously funded groups
      2. Annual Allocations
         1. Happens once a year, large scale events
         2. Currently receiving applications for this board
         3. 5-midnight from Thursday-Friday, twelve hour days for one weekend
      3. CORSIV
         1. Committee on recognized student organizations
         2. Assembly meeting
         3. Sets policies for funding non-RSOs
         4. Spot open currently
      4. PCC
         1. Programming Coordinating Council
         2. Doc Films, other arts groups
         3. All groups interested in involving more grad students
         4. Spot open on the committee
      5. Graduate Divisions interested in participating in U Pass program
         1. Fixed fee every quarter to get unlimited CTA ride
         2. 100 dollars a quarter for SSA students
         3. All but 1-2 graduate divisions were interested last year
         4. Potentially reinitiating conversations
         5. Not an opt-in program, everyone in division would be charged if you opt in
2. Trustees and Student Survey update, Katie/Gabe
   1. Working on language
3. Updates from schools, divisions, or community members
   1. Humanities Division concerned that Graduate Council is not an elected body
      1. Some divisions are elected members
      2. Could speak with a Dean, but want this issue to be student-driven with very little administration involvement
   2. SSA elections were invalidated; no representatives last year, but proxies were used
   3. Historically, attendance has been low, and getting representatives to come has been up to the dean
      1. Improved attendance will mean changes in process of representation
      2. Talk to individual divisions’ deans about who is being allowed to come and participate in voting roles
      3. Comment: Deans do not determine who can vote
      4. Tyler: spring elections coming up, Graduate Council ballots could be incorporated to increase fairness and attendance
   4. Graduate Council is completely open; anyone can attend regardless of the number of votes per division
      1. Share this with your divisions
   5. Comment: Humanities doesn’t feel people should be able to vote without being elected
      1. Reply: if no one is here at all, that division does not get funding
   6. Comment: There are elected officials within the Humanities Division, might be useful to speak with them about moving forward with more formalized election process for Graduate Council

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned, 8:55 pm