University of Chicago Student Government

**Graduate Council**

26 October 2015

Booth C-08

7:00-8:30 pm

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Elliott Balch** | Graduate Council Chair |
| **Casey Anthony** | Graduate Council Chair |
| **KR Ling** | GC Representative - Booth |
| **Jamarr Buchanan** | GC Representative - Booth |
| **Haley Stinnett** | GC Representative - BSD |
| **Zach Jarin (Proxy)** | GC Representative - IME  |
| **Gabriel Velez** | GC Representative - Divinity |
| **Matt Peterson** | GC Representative - Divinity |
| **Lisa Fan** | GC Representative - Law |
| **Jimmie Zhang** | GC Representative - Law |
| **Caroline Meehan** | GC Representative - Pritzker |
| **Gabe Velez Lorna** | GC Representative - SSD |
| **Jonah Simpson** | GC Representative - SSD |
| **Aneesha Suresh (proxy)** | GC Representative- Harris |
|  | GC Representative -SSA |
| **Levke Koop** | GC Representative-PSD |
| Romit Chakraborty | GC Representative - PSD |
| **Katie Perri** | Graduate Liaison to the Board of Trustees |
| **Alex Jung** | VP for Administration, Student Government |

Other students in attendance: (Listed on google doc)

Meeting called to order, 7:08pm

**Announcements**

* Amy Chan (University Community Service Center), 5th year at University of Chicago
* Email: amychan@uchicago.edu
	+ One of 20 departments under Campus Student Life
	+ Work with student engagement group
	+ Graduate students engaging with OCE
	+ Resource for graduate students
	+ Social Change Wheel included in handout, 12 spokes of social change efforts
		- Work to engage student interests/strengths into community benefit
	+ Seven undergraduates and four graduate students on board
	+ UCSC works to identify organizations across the city of Chicago to partner with in programming
		- Community-based federal work study program
		- SSA has federal work-study students focus on interests that benefit community
	+ Days of Service offered—could potentially work closely with graduate schools or divisions to plan
		- Cross-department days of service possible too
		- Issues/neighborhoods of interest to different programs can be coordinated with the UCSC
	+ Service Match
		- Ongoing, project-driven, skills-based organizations
		- Staff members from the organization work closely as mentors
	+ One-time and ongoing opportunities
	+ Office of Civic Engagement
		- Community Programs Accelerator conducts research, consulting and analysis (just closed application for second year)
		- Looking for students with data analysis skills to work closely with staff members to improve effectiveness of community service efforts
	+ Office looking for ways to create experiences for graduate students that are interdisciplinary
		- Teens to work closely with graduate students, businesses, governmental organizations to create dialogue and offer programs
		- Potentially a summer opportunity (paid/stipend) for graduate students to work on project-driven, skills-based opportunities for graduate students to mentor undergraduate students
			* Want to help staff to think more “macro” for service delivery
			* Organizational allocation of funds in working on social justice issues
			* Distribution of funds based on quantitative and qualitative data
			* Consulting/capacity building
			* United Way, Chicago Community Trust
		- Question: Do you work with SEI at Booth?
			* In discussion
			* Also working potentially with Chicago Innovation Exchange
		- Potential for networking outside of division, increased perspective diversity
		- Establishing a mentoring program between graduate and undergraduate students
			* Bridge the gap
			* Graduate student groups could collaborate with undergraduates
		- Question: Do people lead sites for Days of Service (75 sites)
			* Yes, both graduate and undergraduate leaders
	+ November 20th: Panel on Examining the intersection of mental health and social justice
		- Sheriff will be attending
	+ MLK Day of Service
		- MLK day weekend (30th anniversary of the national holiday)
		- Partnering with city year to create murals in a designated school
	+ Take delegation of students to the National Impact Conference
		- Social justice, activism and community service
		- Best practices conference, about 700 students attend
		- Held at Amherst this year

**Proposed Bylaws Amendments**

* Changes reflect last meetings’ suggestions and discussion
	+ Motion
		- Favor: 14
		- Opposed: 0
		- Abstain: 0
		- **Motion passed**

**Community Reports**

* **Travel Fund (Haley Stinnett)**
	+ Apply by November 6th for this fall
		- In the future, you must apply in advance of travel, currently can apply for fall travel
		- So far, have 12 for advanced and 6 for basic
			* Mostly from humanities, remind your department about applications
	+ Advanced: presenting at conference
	+ Basic: just attending conference
	+ If posting for your department, include the Graduate Council webpage link to funding regulations
* **Social Committee (Lisa Fan)**
	+ Over 1,000 people attended food truck social, very successful (about 300 last year)
		- Let Lisa know about changes
	+ Looking to plan a Mardi Gras event for the weekend
	+ November 6: Pub Social, free pub entrance
	+ November 20 Gargoyle Gala
* **Student Government**
	+ Applications for SG Committees now
	+ Have elected general student body members, will be sending list of committees
	+ Many committees involve funding
	+ SG Finance Committees taking applications now
		- Tuesday meetings, 5-7pm
		- Involves large portion of funding (ie RSOs)
		- Graduate Council budget 212,500 dollars, SG Finance Committee budget is about 700,000 dollars
		- GC Representation for SG will be determined by GC
		- Annual allocations and reserve allocations (about 30 percent reserved for this year)
		- November 2nd Assembly meeting:
			* Grad Students Report
			* University Budget
			* Campus Policing
* **Trustees and Survey Funding (Katie)**
	+ Research on Graduate Student Survey (Census vs. Survey)
		- Met with Survey Lab (increased credibility, data availability), recommended survey over census
		- Use benchmark data from American Association of Universities to develop questions
		- $5,000 budget includes prizes/giveaway incentives and analysis (statement of work for this year)
			* Includes time for making survey, measure participation across divisions, pulling data into standardized files, purchasing access to data from other universities
		- Create a more uniform set of priorities across divisions
		- Areas to cover roughly established, looking to move forward on peer institutions’ data
	+ Motion to fund survey, out of summer funding
		- Favor: 14
		- Opposed: 0
		- Abstain: 0
		- **Motion passed**

**Funding Requests Received for Action**

* **Community Reason Tragedy Conference (November 5th and 6th)**
	+ Committee on Social Thought
	+ Workshop requesting 1,000 dollars
	+ 7 Grad presenters from UChicago Social Sciences Division
	+ CAS Workshop, very interdisciplinary, bringing together different perspectives
		- Have funding from CAS and the department
	+ Funding for bringing in a guest speaker, speaker/moderator dinner and for printing
	+ Discussion:
		- High per-person cost (40-50 people for $4,000 conference)
		- Can we ask for a more expanded audience?
		- Can we collect a metric on how many people effected per dollar
		- Ask estimated attendance vs. capped attendance vs. past attendance
		- Do we have an exit survey for funded events (actual attendance?)
	+ Motion to fund
		- Favor: 13
		- Opposed: 0
		- Abstain: 1
		- **Motion passed**
* **Spanish Graduate Students Committee**
	+ Graduate Student conference
	+ Partnering with UIC and Northwestern
	+ Hoping to occur every 2 years to facilitate dialogue
	+ Presenters from literature and cultural studies in Brazil and Spain
	+ Dividing costs between Universities—UChicago paying for food, hotel for one of three keynote speaker (three day conference)
	+ Requesting $500
	+ Center for Latin American Students, CAT center for Latin American Studies
	+ Motion to fund
		- Favor: 14
		- Opposed: 0
		- Abstain: 0
		- **Motion passed**

**Presentation by GSU and Travel Reimbursement (Jonah)**

* Three members of Graduate Students United went to coalition of graduate student employees’ meeting
	+ Thirty university members
	+ UChicago one of the founding members of the coalition
	+ Planned round tables, panels
	+ Three day conference on issues affecting graduate students
	+ Trish wrote a conference article
	+ Resolutions were adopted
	+ Some universities have recognized graduate student unions with collective bargaining rights (mostly public universities)
		- Contract exchange between universities with recognized unions
		- Database created online (important resource for administration negotiations)
	+ Advocating for graduate students with an administration opposed to GS collective bargaining
	+ Discussion: SG budget much larger than GC, funding might be better spent elsewhere
		- Could be an event that GC should support
		- Was an agreement already reached to fund this (repay SG)?
		- More of a measure to holdover funding until GC could approve
	+ Motion to fund travel reimbursements $750 to Student Government out of summer fund
		- Favor: 12
		- Opposed: 0
		- Abstain: 2
		- **Motion passed**

**Reflections on Overall Structure**

* Should finance committee receive requests first and have a recommendation?
	+ Larger council size, more money, more funding requests
		- Cut down on time with finance presentations instead of group presentation
		- Discussion: create a list of questions that affect funding
		- Provide a Finance Committee recommendation to full Council
		- Consensus was we will try this way next time
* Graduate Council structure vs. undergraduate council structure
	+ Student Gov assembly 🡪 poor grad participation 🡪 less money traditionally allocated to GC
	+ Graduate student government includes an extra layer of government in the form of Dean’s Council or Student Associations within divisions, which do not exist on the undergraduate side
	+ More graduate students (7,218 full-time) than undergraduate students (5,466) but undergrads pay slightly more each ($1,167 vs. $1,089)
		- Graduate students fund about 35 percent of central fund, and undergraduates fund 65 percent
		- Graduate programs receive 10 percent of funding, and undergraduate students receive 90 percent of funding
		- Includes 52% budget increase
		- $550,000 difference between graduate input/output
		- Alex Jung, SG VP for administration, proposed to convert graduate organizations to RSOs, use SG funding
			* Can have summer funds, extra funding
		- RSO structure is very comprehensive, and favors undergraduate timeframe/setup/experience
		- Could be a more viable option for more established graduate organizations
		- Disconnect between graduate information and undergraduate information on RSO structure/knowledge of funding
		- Modify RSO approval?

**Updates from schools and divisions**

* Hanna Holborn Gray (First female UChicago President, escaped Nazi Germany)
	+ Speaking Thursday, November 5th 4:30pm-6pm
	+ Room 105
	+ 5733 South University
* Assembly: Monday, November 2nd 6:00pm (Provost Isaacs)
* Assembly: Monday, November 30th 7pm
* GC: Monday, November 16th 7pm

**Community forum: issues, concerns, news**

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned, 8:55 pm