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