University of Chicago Student Government

**Graduate Council Minutes**

11 January 2016

Booth C-07

7:30-8:30 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 **(Proxy-Vivian Fan)** | **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** |
| **Caroline Meehan** | **GC Representative - Pritzker** |
| **Gabe Velez Lorna** | **GC Representative - SSD** |
| Jonah Simpson | GC Representative - SSD |
| Carlos Grandet (proxy) | GC Representative- Harris |
| Proxy | GC Representative –SSA |
| **Levke Koop** | **GC Representative-PSD** |
| **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, 7:30pm

**Travel Fund Update**

* Record number of applications last semester
* Talking about group applications in the future

**Social Committee Update**

* Second Pub Social Thursday, January 26th
* Rock Bottom on Friday, February 26th will be the winter grad event
* Tickets are 5 dollars
* Providing free bus transportation
* Party in the Sky upcoming in the spring, as well as a barbecue

**Finance Committee updates and actions**

* Funding requests: Committee providing recommendations
* Recommending today about another 7,000 dollars, which leaves another 32,000 in the budget
* Expecting a lot of events with requests in the spring
* Well Being: South Side Narratives of Health and Wellness, SSA
  + Requesting $8,390
  + Recommend funding $3,000
  + Have done well with other funding, open to a large audience
  + Selected items from the budget that make sense for Graduate Council to fund
* Emerging Markets Summit
  + Request $6,000
  + Recommend $2,000—entire amount may not fit in our budget
  + They can return later in the quarter to request more
* Parent Group
  + Childcare sessions for graduate students
  + Requesting $1,200, recommend funding in full
* Steppenwolf Arts and Culture Event for Graduate Business Council
  + $750 to support seeing a play
  + Suggest funding in full
  + Theatre in Chicago, play: *Domesticated*
  + Hope to target Booth students, would reserve 10-15 tickets for all graduate students
  + Funding would allow bus transportation
  + Advertise to other graduate departments
  + Half Booth Students, half non-Booth students
    - Potentially use the Grad Gargoyle
  + Booth students based in Hyde Park would be more likely to attend
  + $15 dollar per ticket subsidy
  + Student group rate for tickets
  + Artist in Resident John Michael helped to set it up
* Questions:
  + Funding for summit to reduce ticket prices (45 dollars last year, inhibitory)
    - Some tickets reserved for grad council
    - Tickets will go on sale after spring break
    - Last year the group was funded for $5000
    - We have an increased budget, might be able to fund in full
    - Last year the money was marked by quarter, at this point last year we had spent 10/40 thousand
    - Want more awareness and more applications, but we are at about the same place as last year and we have more money, might be able to fund more
* **Motion to fund Summit at $5,000 and all others as recommended:**
  + In favor: 9
  + Opposed: 1
  + Abstain: 1
  + **Motion Passes**
* **Expanding funding:**
  + Follow-up form for groups as a part of the funding they received
  + Who came, could they have used more money and how
  + More applications in—spread information
  + Opening up the funding for groups in general, not just for specific events
    - IE intramural sports
  + Working group issue: we voted to fund, but they don’t have account numbers (not an RSO)
    - Would have to pay out of pocket and get reimbursed
    - Work on a better way to fund non-RSO groups
  + Meet regularly with Student Government and College Council, working on ways to expand access to resources for graduate groups that are not RSOs
    - Have been receiving requests from more groups with ongoing events, or not part of traditional RSOs

**Trustees and Student Survey update**

* Will send out a date for a working group for developing the survey
* Last quarter’s problem was distribution of survey to constituents
  + Sorted out administration component
  + Now working on content
* Working group open to all
* Questions regarding Trustee Lunch that was scheduled for the Monday with security issues
  + People who had been selected for the lunch will be given priority for future lunches

**Meeting with Vice Provost Beilock**

* Deans from Humanities, BSD, PSD, Booth, Social Sciences
* February 1st at 6pm
* Questions:
  + Booth groups are not RSOs, and aren’t eligible for funding through SG
  + No financial aid available for Booth students, only merit aid
    - At group and individual level students are left out of funding
    - They contribute to the Student Life fund significantly
    - Division-level direct funding changes that could rectify this
  + Healthcare premiums, work hour limitations
  + Graduate students pay a significant amount into overall budget, Graduate Council only gets 10% back
  + PhD students will be getting increases in stipends
  + Email coming with update on 49,000 budget for groups, popular travel fund and links, February 1st event (bring concerns)
    - Opportunity for representatives to follow up with constituents on your own listserv—gather more questions and opinions
  + Provost sees Graduate Council as a forum for these conversations (this is the time and space to communicate with administration about grad issues)
  + Will the event be moderated?
    - Panel with moderator
    - Could be more informal Q and A
  + Feel free to email in questions as your division sends them in
  + Policy-related questions especially relevant, would be nice to have them in beforehand

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

* Pub Social Thursday, January 21st
* February 18th 4:30-7:30 Bottles and Bodega (50 tickets available)
  + 10$ per ticket, guests welcome
  + Link in the Gargoyle, also available through Logan Box Office Website starting on January 19th
  + Grad Council Listserv reminder will be sent
* BSD Pizza, Science and Discussion funding was discussed last time
  + Resubmission was requested, not received
  + Grad Council will send the group what they have
* Booth: Student Government Executive Slate elections coming up
* Co-Chairs: email going out in next couple days to all grad students with information about funding availability, the 2/1 town hall, and upcoming social events

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned, 8:05 pm