University of Chicago Student Government

**Graduate Council Minutes**

16 November 2015

Booth C-08

7:00-8:30 pm

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

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| **Elliott Balch** | Graduate Council Co-Chair |
| **Casey Anthony** | Graduate Council Co-Chair |
| **KR Ling** | GC Representative - Booth |
| **Jamarr Buchanan** | GC Representative - Booth |
| Haley Stinnett | GC Representative - BSD |
| **Elyse Watkins** | GC Representative - IME |
| Gabriel Velez | GC Representative - Divinity |
| **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** | GC Representative- Harris |
| **Francesca** | 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 |

Meeting called to order, 7:08pm

**Next Student Government Assembly meeting:**

Monday, November 30, 2015, 7:00 p.m. Harper Center (Booth School) C-03

**Next Graduate Council meeting:**

Monday, December 7, 2015, 7:00 p.m. Harper Center (Booth School) C-08

**Introductions**

**Guest: Vice Provost Sian Beilock**

Also attending and responding: Matthew Christian, Associate Provost and Chief of Staff, Office of the Provost

* Began position 1 year ago
* UChicago arts/cross-divisional programs/grad students and post-docs
* Began UChicago Grad to support graduate students and post docs
  + Oral and written communication
  + Grad fair (about 500 students, 60 employers)
  + Lunch at promontory with 50 faculty, deans and employers to discuss value of advanced degrees, career options for advanced degrees
    - Academia, government, non-profit and industry options discussed
* Questions about student employment, looking to support graduate students in most effective way possible, here to start dialogue on policies and practices of the departments
* Question: Updates on employment situation with hours cap and tracking of teaching hours?
  + Hours being set for teaching are under debate, but non-negotiable, and new updates?
  + Answer: 19.5 hours on the books since 1983
    - New system is better able to track hours (still an approximation)
    - Depends on hours put in outside of the classroom, which depends on experience
    - Need a system to describe and approximate the number of hours put into a class
      * Working with dean of students
      * Meeting with dean of students and masters in humanities and social sciences
* Question: Hours results in graduate students could lose their jobs if they are in violation of hours cap, essentially a pay cap; many students rely on teaching jobs, some teaching jobs can’t be filled
  + Pay increase possible to compensate for decreased hours that students can now work?
  + Answer: GAI students have more built in hours, after this the admin is working on how to work in these hours/exceptions
    - Think of students as “students first” and support them as they go through their degree and focus on research/studies
* Comment from dean: Is it a compensation issue, or an hours issue? Want more compensation or want to spend less time working?
  + Student response: People aren’t generally working more jobs for “fun” doing it because it is necessary to get by; further in program more likely to have kids, family, life outside of university that make it more necessary to have jobs
    - Makes “students first perspective” difficult for students, need money to support studies
    - Students want to the option to figure out for themselves how much time/money they want to spend (students can decide for themselves how much they can work during their program without a cap)
    - Not all programs have teaching hours required
    - International students can’t get jobs off campus
    - 19.5 hour cap limits even jobs that relevant to course work
* Comment: Hours are flexible, can work with advisor to allocate hours, it is an average across 3 quarters
  + Must continue making progress towards degree, work with faculty to achieve this
  + Response: Who can grant these exceptions to hours cap?
    - Seems more on a divisional administration level currently
    - Answer: Faculty advisor and student can advocate and work with dean of students to find balance
* Question: Will there be any career services resource sharing between schools? For example law student looking for business jobs.
  + Answer: UChicago Grad is designed to fill this role, has faculty from across several departments, can make an advising appointment here to make connections
  + Answer: Can help set you up with an internship or externship and adjust CV to new career paths
  + Answer: Model of flexible training (many similar skills between jobs/fields)
* Question: Is there a centralized database for job positions/internships?
  + Answer: An entire site has just been launched for making connections with employers
  + Answer: Internships/externships for the summer website launched; can apply to many funded positions (70 total last summer)
    - Must be able to advocate for how this will advance your career/education
* Question: Is the 19.5 hour cap related to benefits?
  + Answer: No, benefits are unrelated, cap is designed to keep students as students, benefits program recently extended to 6th and 7th years
* Question: Assumption that students cannot prioritize their studies and work more than 19.5 hours without a faculty advisor signing off on the number of hours that a student can work is incorrect
  + Answer: Faculty advisor should work with the students to determine how best to further educational path, including which and how many jobs a student should take
  + Answer 2: Balance should be established with the university and the student between work and studies
  + Answer 3: Flexible issues that can be discussed, depends on student, want to have discussions between students and advisors representing academic goals
* Question: Why the change to track student teaching hours and limit them now?
  + Used to let students teach up to 19.5 hours, now begin tracking and people lose jobs
  + Answer: goal has always been to track these hours, but now we can more effectively and still believe that students first mentality depends on limiting job hours
    - Post-fifth year requirements might be different to support students financially
* Question: ACA the reason for tracking?
  + Answer: No, depends on IRS, now a minimum for outside of classroom hours per in-class hours
  + Answer: Numbers set based on discussion with dean of students, working on a policy for students first with flexibility for teaching and work experience (hours are best-guess approximation)

**Travel Fund Update**

* Elliott for Haley
  + 83 applications this quarter (30 last year)
  + Still being accepted until December 12th
  + Reviewing travel grants
  + 51 advanced applications –500 dollars maximum to present original research (35% from humanities, 25% from SSD, rest from combination)
  + 32 basic applications (attending conference without presenting) 50% from Booth; 300 dollar maximum
  + Reviews done by November 20th, present at next meeting

**Social Committee:**

* Gargoyle Gala 8-11pm Ida Noyes
* Pub Social success (about 500 people)
* Planning winter event

**Finance Committee Updates and Action**

* Gabe and Matt met to discuss finance proposals and deliberate
* **Recommend:** approve Law School Musical ($1500)
* **Recommend:** approve Christians in Business (hosted by Booth and Law)
* **Recommend:** approve Chicago Booth Education Management Conference ($1,000)
* **Recommend:** approve 450/750 dollar request for Chicago Policy Review Lunch with a Legend
* **Discuss:** Ecologies Working Group (not RSO, de facto group of students that meet 1-2 times per month), wanted lunch snacks funding and bowling event (recommend not fund bowling), recommend fund partially
* **Discuss:** Science Art Show, requested $2,000, vague budget; applying to other sources of funding
  + First event between BSD, IME and PSD, last year they ran out of food
* Questions: funding for working groups? Follow-up form for groups that have been funded?
  + Bracket the budget into quarterly pots?
* Motion to approve the recommendation of the finance committee (approve approvals, table discussed items)
  + - Favor: 11
    - Opposed: 0
    - Abstain: 0
    - **Motion passed**

**Student Government update**

* Tyler Kissinger, President
  + Slate is president and 2 vice presidents
  + Working on funding pots to distribute 2.2 million dollar budget
  + Working on tracking number of students served, graduate vs. undergraduate
  + Working with chairs to prioritizing graduate student involvement
  + SGFC🡪weekly distribution of funding
  + Program Coordinating Council has large budget, would be useful to have a grad council member on this committee
  + Good feedback from admin about provost at assembly meeting
    - Following up on questions
    - Independent review committee
  + Executive committee meeting with President Zimmer tomorrow (let Tyler, Casey or Elliott know if you have questions)

**Trustees and Student Survey update**

* Staff and two student reps are allowed in open session (no discussion of graduate students)
  + Discussed new dorm, admissions, programing for undergrads
* Survey progress being made, timeline hopefully ready by January

**Updates from Schools and divisions**

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

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned, 8:05 pm