

University of Chicago Graduate Council
General Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2024

International Student Experience (Iva):

- We want to increase resources for international students to help them move to Hyde Park, especially mid-year.
- **Goal 1:** Compile a resource guide for release mid-April.
- **Goal 2:** Develop a mentorship program, perhaps modeled on the one in PSD.
 - How do we recruit mentors?
 - Reach out to ISAB, International House, other bodies to determine how different this will be and how it'll interact with existing bodies.
- **Action items:** Write-up of proposal from Iva; reach out with resources currently being offered in the divisions.

Social Programming & Events (Paul):

- Down to two venue ideas for Winter Event: River Roast and Chicago Sports Museum.
 - Both venues toured, roughly equal cost as of right now.
 - **February 16** will be the date for both events, to be finalized by Friday.
- Update on speed dating service proposed by Crown students:
 - How to advertise via email?
 - GGW.
 - How to advertise in person?
 - Tables in Reynolds, etc., through Grad Council.
 - Advertising in Crown can go through GC reps.
 - How to get funding?
 - GC fund in the future, though not this year because all the funding has been allocated.
- General thoughts:
 - Reach out to Carolyn Banner.

Graduate Council Fund:

- Each year, Grad Council allocates \$140,000 of its budget to the Graduate Council Fund, which is available for individuals up to \$750 and groups up to \$1500.
- **The fund has been depleted for the 2023-2024 academic year.**
 - Funding was allocated equally across quarters based on event date and divisions and degree programs relative to enrollment.
- Demand was extremely high this year; we'll revisit for next year to see how we can improve this for next year.
- Responses from attendees:
 - VP D&I (Irma): D&I allocated some of their funds to the GC fund already, but they could allocate more.

- We will have end-of-year reports to aid with how we're allocating the budget for next year.
- VP D&I (Safia): Can we get some sort of income generator for GC?
 - In theory, yes, though the primary source is student events, and we don't want to excessively charge students for events.
- Booth Rep (Tanvi): Important to make sure we don't over-allocate for particular students.
 - Direct to students is important for efficiency, but definitely want to avoid inappropriate or incongruous spending.
- Other general thoughts:
 - **Proposal:** For winter and spring, have half the budget for each quarter available for booking in advance and half the budget reserved to open during the quarter at hand.
 - Funding allocation switched to an administrator this year; in the future, we could consider moving back toward this (some concerns raised about this).
- Statement from the Co-Presidents will be released tomorrow, regarding the fund and future publishing of data about fund usage.
 - We'll revisit how to allocate funding for the future, for the next year.
 - Statement will include form for who *would* have applied.
 - Advertisement to come in GGW.

Spring Quarter Meeting Dates

- March 20 at 6 pm.
- April 24 at 6 pm.
- May 15 at 6 pm.
- We'll have a separate meeting with President Paul Alivisatos.

Looking Ahead

- We've received approval from Dean Rasmussen to centralize Division Rep elections to the Grad Council, which will change three things:
 - Votes orchestrated by GC in the spring with constitutional codification.
 - Introduction of general body GC reps if a specific graduate school does not fill their representative slots.
 - General body will only vote on general reps if a specific representative is not chosen.
 - Introduction of one first-year GC rep per school to be elected in the fall of the new academic year.

Adjourning until February 28.