**GRADUATE COUNCIL**

University of Chicago

October 24, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

Booth School, Harper Center C-05

**AGENDA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Graduate Council** | **Division** |
| **Mary Burkey** | PSD |
| **Rhys Povey** | PSD |
| **Chris Stamper** | BSD |
| **Manuel Esquivel** | Harris |
| **Elizabeth Gosselin** | Booth |
| **Victor Ojeleye** | Booth |
| **Rachel Carbonara** | Divinity |
| **Miriam Tripaldi** | Humanities |
|  | Humanities |
| **Filzah Iqbal** | Graham |
| Andrew Wilmington | Pritzker |
| **Elise Timtim** | Pritzker |
| **Jesus Valdovinos** | SSA |
|  | SSD |
|  | SSD |
| **Taryn Strohmeyer** | Law |
| Stephen Tomasulo | Law |
| **Elyse Watkins** | IME |
| **Sean Oris** | MAPSS |

1. Call to order
2. UCSC Presentation Amy Chan
   1. Amy Chan
   2. UCSC celebrating the 20th Anniversary
   3. 20 for 20 campaign
   4. Looking to partner with GC to help raise money and awareness for UCSC
   5. 12 programs, 6 open to graduate students
   6. Spent 15 years in the non-profit education space before UC
   7. Graduate studies focused on academic achievement and character development
   8. Want to help graduate students meet students in other divisions, and explore areas around Hyde Park
   9. Fall under the Office of Civic Engagement
   10. 20 for 20
       1. Center was founded by First Lady Michelle Obama
       2. What can you do to become more civic-minded and civically engaged?
       3. Celebrate the past 20 years, plan for the next 20
       4. Leverage assets for social change
       5. Establish strategic partnerships to support UChicago student civic engagement
       6. Graduate student skills can be employed
       7. First Fridays (at SSA or Ida Noyes)
          1. 1-2PM Alumni and Community Leader panel
          2. 2-2:30PM: Roundtable discussion with student and community leaders
          3. 2:30-3PM: Tabling and networking (food)
          4. Choose a different issue each month
             1. Ex. Education, politics and government, criminal justice
             2. First one is November 4th 1-3pm Ida Noyes

Michael Strautmanis, Andrea Zopp

* + 1. Second Saturdays
       1. Day of Service 10am-1pm
       2. Neighborhood Explorations, 10am-1pm
          1. My Block, My Hood, My City
          2. High School students from local neighborhoods take UChicago affiliates around their neighborhoods
       3. Meal Sharing, 6-8pm
          1. Mealsharing.com
          2. Strangers invite other strangers into their homes for a home-cooked meal
          3. Invite students to sign up as hosts to cook for friends and friends of friends
          4. Guests could contribute a suggested minimum donation of 20 dollars
    2. Elizabeth: Can you talk about Michelle Obama founding your center?
       1. After she left a non-profit, she approached Dean Boyer about setting up an office with full-time staff
       2. She will be coming back to give a keynote at Rockefeller
    3. Miriam: Can you say more about meal sharing?
       1. We hope to invite graduate students to become hosts, and graduate students can decide how many people to invite
       2. Want to set up a private link for UC
       3. Want to become a leader in civic engagement
    4. Jesus: What is your relationship with schools that require practicums?
       1. Want to see how SSA students can be involved in workshops
       2. Tomorrow there is a workshop on power and privilege
       3. Can email Amy if you would like to establish contacts between the center and your division
  1. [Amychan@uchicago.edu](mailto:Amychan@uchicago.edu)
  2. Office is in between campus north and Ratner

1. Sharing Funding Stories Kayla Mendel
   1. Every meeting we will have people or groups that we have given funding to present on how the money was spent
   2. Kayla Mendel
      1. Received a travel fund grant last summer
      2. Presented at the American Association of Physicists in Medicine
      3. Conference was in DC
      4. Looked at MRI-Induced Adaptive Response to Radiation Therapy in FSa and SA-NH Mouse Tumor Lines
2. Unionization Resolution Carlos/Jake
   1. Important for GC to clarify their position on this important topic
   2. Makes sense to have a position that is decided by the reps
      1. Can clarify the position, or decide if you want to have a resolution
   3. Discussion on the resolution
      1. Miriam: Why did you come up with this idea in the first place?
         1. Jake: Without one, we wouldn’t know what to say about GC’s position on unionization. Jake and Carlos have guessed that neutrality is the best position, but there can also be resolutions supporting and opposing unionization that can be passed
         2. Miriam: The problem is that you guessed, and didn’t involve representatives
         3. Carlos: I think that this is your time to present your positions, we have the right to propose a resolution, and you can state your opinion.
      2. Jesus: we would have preferred that the agenda item was “Unionization discussion,” instead of a proposed resolution, and I am against this. My stance is that I am here to represent the students, not the administration
      3. Manuel: Coming for the Harris point of view, I might not be ready to vote on this yet, and I might need more time to determine what position might be best for our student body, but this is a great start.
      4. Jake: This is a starting point, it can be updated or changed at any time.
      5. Rachel: What’s the date of the vote on unionization?
         1. Roughly May.
         2. If more than 30% of students confirm interest, then there is a vote.
         3. Then a majority is needed
      6. Sean: Neutrality might let us represent the student body more effectively. What resources are there?
      7. Jake: There isn’t an unbiased comprehensive source, and we are working on it. If we adopt a neutral stance, we could try and become the place for unbiased information, and hold town halls.
         1. Is there any resource about unionization in general?
         2. Working on new website
      8. Carlos: The intent is to become a platform for information on the situation. There is a better chance of providing information on all of the aspects of unionization if GC is a neutral platform. We also don’t think it is the role of GC to take a position.
      9. Megan: One of the challenges is where this is actually drafted after this discussion.
      10. Miriam: It would be nice to notify GSU, because neutrality is essentially taking a position against unionization.
      11. Carlos: We have contacted GSU and the administration, and they ask for our position, so we are trying to establish a position before we invite people to speak.
      12. Nick: Talked to Brown University students, and it is not unprecedented to establish a platform to inform other students, like GC. Neutrality can help with disseminating information, and it would keep us in line with most of our peer institutions.
      13. Miriam: I would like to notify my constituents and gauge their response.
      14. Jesus: We have a student body that has strong sentiments, and we should listen to them. We should have more time and discussion.
      15. Sean: Would be useful to start with a position of neutrality to have the conversations and talks that are necessary to form opinions.
      16. Rachel: I think it would be enough time to vote in 8th week at the next meeting in 3 weeks.
      17. Chris: BSD adopted neutrality last year, and they have been holding town halls since then. A poll showed most students don’t have enough information.
      18. Elizabeth: It makes sense that we don’t have enough information, but I don’t feel comfortable with the 3 week gap.
      19. Elise: I think in 3 weeks we would still be in a sounding chamber of people that are pro-union, because they are pro-union.
      20. Sean: A stance of neutrality allows us to give information, in three weeks we still wouldn’t have enough time to speak for our students
      21. Mary: If we are for unionization in 3 weeks, are we going to join the campaign for unionization? Or against? Is there a point in adopting a stance other than neutrality?
      22. Carlos: We want people to address and inform the student body, and GC can help bring in reps.
      23. Sean: Motion to vote on the resolution:
          1. In favor: (Filzah, Mary, Chris, Rhys, Elise, Sean Oris, Steven, Elizabeth, Taryn, Victor, Elyse)
          2. Opposed: (Miriam, Jesus)
          3. Abstain: (Rachel, Manuel)
          4. **Motion passes**
3. ’16-’17 Structure
   1. Open Summer Chair Carlos/Jake
      1. Responsible for organizing GC social events in the Summer Quarter
      2. Select the dates of GC events for the next academic year
      3. Must be seated by the end of Fall Quarter
      4. We either have to change the bylaws by the end of the quarter or seat it
      5. These things are usually handled by the chairs, but they could be handled by the Summer Chair
      6. Miriam: It makes sense for the Summer Chairs to be someone who has already done the Chair job the previous year, and they could work with the new chairs to transition
      7. Sean: Motion to vote for our nominees
         1. In favor: (Filzah, Mary, Chris, Rhys, Elise, Sean Oris, Steven, Elizabeth, Taryn, Victor, Elyse, Miriam, Jesus, Rachel, Manuel)
         2. Opposed: 0
         3. Abstain: 0
         4. **Motion passes**
   2. Committee on appointing chairs Megan
      1. Max: there is also supposed to be a liaison for GC on CC, or we will get rid of the position.
         1. GC can decide if they are interested in filling the position, or the amendment will take away the position
         2. CC is an open meeting, having the position just requires someone to go
      2. Elizabeth: Motion to advise the Committee on Constitutional Review to repeal Article 2 Section 14
         1. In favor: (Filzah, Mary, Chris, Rhys, Elise, Sean Oris, Steven, Elizabeth, Taryn, Victor, Elyse, Miriam, Jesus, Rachel, Manuel)
         2. Opposed:
         3. Abstain:
         4. **Motion passes**
      3. Megan: Jesus and Megan will touch base on setting up a proposal about how to seat chairs, and eventually add it to the bylaws
         1. Sean: We contact you if we are interested?
            1. Yes.
4. Seating SG Committees Carlos
   1. Student Government, Graduate Council and Administrative Advisory Board Committees
   2. Need a GC rep for the Finance Committee (SGFC)
      1. Sean Oris
   3. Can ask Jake or Carlos about committee information and about joining
   4. Max: Need to seat the Committee on Elections and Rules
      1. Must have one graduate member
      2. Can’t be running for re-election through an E&R process
         1. Could probably be okay running through a separate divisional election
   5. You can join more than one committee
   6. Need to start filling them now
5. Updates
   1. Ivy+ Summit Carlos/Nick
      1. Went to the Ivy+ Summit at Brown
         1. Unionization, student resources and advocacy were discussed
         2. Voted to be official members of Ivy+
         3. Second plus member of Ivy+
            1. MIT is the other plus member
            2. 5-4 vote
         4. Student Government structure, committee number and unionization
         5. We are the only joint student government (with undergrads)
         6. Next year it is at Harvard
   2. Unionization Town Hall Miriam
   3. Student Perspective Series Megan
      1. Graduate Liaison—Megan
      2. SPS reps: Renita Ward and Nick Williams
      3. Fall: College focus
         1. Winter: Grad focus
         2. Spring: Combined college and grad
      4. Luncheon with Board of Trustee Member
      5. SPS Graduate Representative positions had 25 applications, interviewed 6 applicants, Renita and Nick selected
      6. Graduate student housing, career planning discrepancies between divisions; spring will be mental health and wellness
      7. Miriam: Will you address the Student Advanced Fee?
      8. Megan: Email us with ideas for the SPS, trying to pick topics that can be impacted by the board, but can do a “lay of the land” in the beginning of important issues for grad students in general
   4. Committees VPs
      1. Elyse/Finance: Funded 5 events so far, 9500 dollars. Hoping for more small events—need to advertise within the divisions. Would like to draft an email to send to divisions soliciting requests
         1. Haven’t gotten any mental and physical wellness requests
         2. 3 committees, want to make sure each has a GC rep
         3. Have a lot of interest from the Grad Fair, but want to offer it to GC reps first; not a huge commitment, couple hours once every 3 weeks
         4. Meet the Tuesday after the applications are due. There are three committee chairs that can set the days
         5. Elyse: the link to the applications are on the website, and they are all available to all GC reps
      2. Nick/Travel: 120,000 to advanced and basic funds. $600 dollars for advanced fund, $350 for basic
         1. Rest of the money will be social events for people who got awards
         2. Will help promote funding opportunities
         3. 3 subcommittees to be filled
            1. Judging applications
            2. Reimbursement Chair
            3. Social events chair
      3. Lisa and Kayla/Social: Working on Gargoyle Gala
         1. Tickets are online
         2. Sold 156 tickets
         3. Social Committee meeting is this Wednesday at noon, C56 in Booth
         4. 500 total tickets
      4. Miriam/Issues: Email with issues
      5. Exec VP/Neha: Devising general marketing and operations plan for the rest of the year. Working on funding for organizations, collaborating with UChicago Grad, email if you are interested in helping
6. Updates from schools, divisions, or community Anyone
   1. Max: If you don’t want to use E&R, you have to have your division come up with rules, and this body approve it by 2/3. This must be approved by the end of the quarter.
      1. Max can help any division come up with written rules
   2. Nick: Looking to improve website, if you know any web developers email Nick.
      1. Need headshots
7. National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) Summit
   1. November 3rd and 4th in Long Island New York
   2. 2 people from Graduate Council
   3. Should we attend?
      1. Cost is $1200
      2. Could fund several events with this money
   4. Neha: what would the benefits be?
      1. It is an extremely large version of Ivy+
   5. Government representatives also attend
   6. There is a 10,000 dollar operational budget for GC matters, we have spent 1000 dollars
   7. There is also a Midwest regional conference in April
8. Adjourn

**Exhibit 1 – GC/Assembly**

Next Graduate Council meeting:

Monday, November 14th, 7:30pm

Harper Center Room C-05

Next General Assembly meeting:

Monday, November 14th, 6:00pm

Harper Center Room C-02

**Exhibit 2 - Involvement Opportunities for GC Representatives**

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Constitutional Review Committee

Committee on Student Employment

Student Government Finance Committee

Community Service Fund

Committee on Student Services

Sexual Assault Awareness Committee

Uncommon Fund

Committee on Campus Sustainability

Committee on Registered Student Organizations

GRADUATE COUNCIL

Graduate Issues Committee

Travel Fund Committee

Finance Committee

Social Committee

Marketing and Operations (working with Executive VP)

ADMINISTRATIVE ADVISORY BOARDS

Student Health Advisory Board

Campus Transportation

Committee on University Discipline for Disruptive Conduct

**Exhibit 3 – Resolution on Graduate Council Neutrality on the Issue of Graduate Student Unionization**

WHEREAS the preamble to the Graduate Council By-Laws reads in part, “The purpose of the Graduate Council is ... to foster the interaction among graduate students from diverse disciplines. This shall be accomplished through activities including, but not limited to, correspondence with the university administration, sponsorship of social events, and participation in the Student Government (SG) Assembly”, and;

WHEREAS it pertains to the issue of graduate student unionization at the University of Chicago, and;

WHEREAS Article II §1 of our By-Laws further states that, “The Purpose of the Council shall be to legislate for the betterment of the graduate student body of the University of Chicago and bring the concerns of individual constituencies to the attention of the entire Assembly”, and;

WHEREAS the Graduate Council of this university is comprised of representatives of twelve distinct graduate divisions representing an array of thoughts and opinions on this important issue relating to graduate student life, and;

WHEREAS the unique nature of graduate student unionization at the University of Chicago presents the Graduate Council with an opportunity to serve as the sole interdivisional, impartial platform for those on all sides of unionization to convey their message to the various graduate divisions, and;

WHEREAS this Graduate Council exists equally for those graduate students seeking to join a union, those who do not wish to unionize, and those who are ineligible to unionize regardless of their views on the issue, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Graduate Council of the University of Chicago, assembled on this twenty-fourth day of October 2016 hereby declines to adopt an official position in the affirmative, or in the negative, with respect to the question of graduate student unionization, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Graduate Council shall commit time at meetings, and other resources, to provide forums, which shall be equally open to those both in favor and opposed to graduate student unionization in order to afford graduate students and their representatives the opportunity to ask questions of both sides equally, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that individual members of Graduate Council remain free to associate with whichever side of the graduate student unionization effort they so choose despite the fact that this Council has no official position on the matter as a governing body, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in not taking a position on graduate student unionization as a governing body, we are best able to honor our commitments made in the By-Laws to both foster interaction between different graduate divisions, and to bring concerns of diverse individual constituencies to the Assembly.