

Graduate Council General Body Meeting

April 24, 2024

Guest: University of Chicago President Paul Alivisatos

- Graduate and doctoral education is particularly pressing today and in flux. One of the current institutional goals is to see how specialization at this level can be increasingly door-opening.
- Master's-level education is also changing – increasing MA options, including two new Booth MAs and a suite of 4+1 options. Evolution of Master's degrees requires more on-ramps into our Master's degrees for undergraduates.
- The combination of these two changes will help the entire graduate body become more tightly integrated into the life of the university as a whole.
- Some major university-wide programs are in progress, including a Climate and Energy Institute, as well as some programs pertaining to data and artificial intelligence. Some potential structural reorganizations and launching of programs to come – these are just highlights.
- **Question:** How does the increased Ph.D. stipend affect PI pay?
 - Less research money is available, other funds will be adjusted.
- **Question:** Concerns about new Booth MAs involving students with less work experience?
 - This was considered when implementing the program. Overall in business education, people are shifting younger.
- **Question:** Response to the letter drafted by one VP Diversity & Inclusion and the Co-Presidents about campus climate following October 7 on campus, and the arrests of students in Rosenwald?
 - UChicago is open to protest in many forms, but policies will be enforced in cases of substantial disruption. Concerns regarding potential future demonstrations are noted.
- **Question:** What is the University President's relationship with student leaders?
 - Student groups can certainly reach out to meet with him.
- **Question:** What more can be done to support international students?
 - The aim is to systematically help all Master's students within this increasingly large network, in the hopes of helping students with careers in that light, too. The need of the international population is pressing and noted, and work to support them is in place.
- **Question:** Can individual schools release statements on events like October 7?
 - Our principled stance on institutional neutrality exists so that students have the freedom to speak. The worse alternative would be a constriction on sanctioned points of view. The institution does not establish truth; it is students and faculty, engaging in dialogue. Look at the *Chicago Canon* text for institutional precedent.
- **Question:** How open is the administration to potentially amending the Chicago Principles or the Kalven Report?
 - The Kalven Report in 1967 is a strong statement of the principles, but the principles date back earlier – for example, see the 1900 speech by William Rainey Harper. Our strength as an institution is our willingness to reflect and discuss, but he does not see a need to change our principles.
- **Question:** Why has the University not moved to divest from fossil fuels?
 - The endowment does not really work like that, first and foremost. As an institution, we are not looking to endorse a political position via our investments. It is incumbent upon

the investors to invest in a way that promotes the learning of our students. We should invest in such a way that the benefit to our students and faculty is maximized.

Co-President Elections

- 2024-2025 Graduate Council co-presidents to be elected during our final meeting on May 15.
- We will be electing two positions:
 - **Co-President / Graduate Board of Trustees Liaison:** Must have one year of GC Executive Board experience to run.
 - **Co-President / GCRB Speaker:** Must have one year of GC legislative experience to run.
- The two co-presidents will run as a ticket.
- The two co-presidents must have permission from their academic schools to run – namely, saying they are in good standing and will be there a full year.
- Any election rules can be removed by a simple majority vote, except for the requirement for the Graduate Council to be run by two co-presidents.
- An information session regarding election details and the election of new graduate representatives will happen soon.
- We will be voting on the constitution on the final day of the term.
- Tell Liv and Terrius of your intent to run by May 1.

Divisional Representative Elections

- **End of April:** Interest form sent out to all graduate students, and eligible candidates will be added to the ballot.
- **Mid-May:** Ballot will be sent to all graduate students, and students will have 1-2 weeks to cast votes for their own divisional representatives.
- **Late May:** Those elected as representatives will be notified, and will work with the newly elected co-presidents.

Next Meeting

- May 15 at 6:00 pm in Harper Center C06.
 - This meeting will feature Co-President Elections and a vote on the Constitution.