

University of Chicago Graduate Council
General Body Meeting, March 20, 2024

Guest Speakers

Brooke Carrell, Assistant Provost and Executive Director of UChicago GRAD Experience
Elsy Gonzalez, Manager of Event and Graduate Student Spaces

- Oversee GRAD student lounge and GRAD student resources (family resources, tax help, application and internship help, working with GSU on contract near to ratification, etc.).
- GRADUCon alumni networking event coming up this weekend.
- Working on partnerships with spaces across the University.
- Creating new guidelines on hosting events given new funding changes at UChicago. Beginning with a form asking about the intention for the event, receiving follow-up and advice from the UChicago GRAD team. There will also be a purchasing request form in order to ensure that events are within budget and compliant with university policy. (All of this information will be shared in more detail.)
- Working with Grad Council – this partnership between UChicago GRAD and Grad Council allows us to have continuity over the years, despite turnover in elected and appointed members. This also works well with the restructuring of Grad Council.

Co-President Elections

- Graduate Council Co-Presidents will be elected during our final meeting on May 15.
- They will be indirectly represented through elected representatives.
- Requirements for candidates:
 - The candidates will run as a ticket.
 - They must be from different schools.
 - They must receive permission from their academic school (showing they are in good standing and planning to be here the full year).
 - Any election rules set for each election can be temporarily removed for an election cycle with a simple majority from the GCRB, if necessary.
- There will be two Co-Presidents next year.
 - One will serve as the Graduate Liaison to the Board of Trustees, and this Co-President needs to have one year of GCRB experience.
 - The other will be the GC Representative Board Speaker, and this Co-President needs to have one year of GCRB experience to run.
 - Both of these positions will be the head of Grad Council.
- Candidates need to notify Liv and Terrius of their intent to run for Co-President by May 3 via Google Form. Each candidate needs to have a year of experience in order to run.
 - The Google Form will be shared on April 1 to all members of the Executive Board and the GCRB.
- An information session with election details, and election details for new Graduate Reps, will take place at our April 24 meeting. This is the same day that a vote will happen in the Legislative Branch to codify the new constitution.

Updates from Graduate Council Representatives

- **Athletics:** There will be a Bulls event next Wednesday, \$15 tickets on sale soon, you can get a ticket for you and a friend. The pre-game experience will be the ability to see the team warm up on the sidelines. There will be a bus leaving from campus at 4:15, or else meet at the stadium at 4:30. The experience will be 4:30-5:30 and the game from 5:30-10 pm. Then a bus will bring people back to Harris.
- **D&I:** Ramadan art exhibit coming up this Friday. Cooperating with Rockefeller & Office of Spiritual Life. There will also be an outdoor exhibit. Looking for a collaboration with Student Wellness, possibly looking to do an event on mental health.
- **Social Programming:** Spring Event confirmed on April 19, 7-11 pm, at the MSI. Tickets will go on sale March 24, this Sunday.
- **GSU update:** Everyone is getting a raise, cash payments for benefits, full raise to \$45k goes into effect in October. All Ph.D. students have access to the raise, but you do not get full benefits unless you are in a teaching position. Voting coming soon, but you need to be a card-signing member to vote; if you are in a BSD- or PSD-type position, you have the option to sign two cards. Sign up to be a steward if you want to enforce the contract.
- **Harris Reps (on behalf of legislative branch):** Try to put together a meeting next Tuesday regarding a report, probably from 4-8 pm— this year, transitioning to an annual report. Next year, seeking to do a quarterly report. The Tuesday meeting will be about what this report should look like moving forward, and what will be the process by which we have these conversations moving forward.
- **Funding update:** We will get funding reports on the website by the end of the academic year. (And we want those in place before new Co-Presidents come into office.)
- **Constitution update:** It will be finalized and on the website by the end of the year. The goal is to get it to the Graduate Council representatives to review by April 1.

Issues Raised by the General Student Body

- **Question from a Finance Committee Member at Pritzker School of Medicine:** How is the budget allocated? Speaking from grievances at Pritzker regarding funding.
 - The fund is open to every student. We changed this year from a three-funding-category structure to a two-funding-category (individual and group) structure, recognizing that in the past resources were not allocated. The simple structure led this year to funds being depleted more quickly than usual. We had the budget divided in thirds and allocated a third per quarter, so the spring funds went to events in the spring for which the funds were requested in advance.
 - Moving forward, we are considering a new model for structuring the funds.

- One proposal is the Co-Presidents each year sending out a memo saying what the funding priorities will be for that year.
- Total GC budget was roughly \$500,000 per year. Funds receive about \$175,000.
- **Two takeaways from the funding allocation this year:** One, we want to clean up our own structure to maximize efficiency. Two, we need specific divisions to be less reliant on Graduate Council for funding for their students and fund their students themselves, especially divisions in which students are paying tuition.

Upcoming Meetings

- April 24 – **President Paul Alivisatos.**
 - There will be a Google Form to ask questions in advance.
- May 15 – **Co-President Elections.**
- Both meetings will begin at 6 pm, held in Classroom 06 in Booth. Calendar invites have been sent out to members, and meeting dates, times, and RSVP forms can all be found on the Grad Council website.