University of Chicago Student Government

 **Graduate Council**

November 25, 2013

Booth C09

6:00-7:30PM

**Bold=In attendance**

**Law School:**

**Gillian Seaman
Hunter Vance**

**Booth:**

**Kristen Uyemura**

**Zeynep Gunay**

 **Eric Adler**

 **Jason Forte**

Humanities:

**Ahona Panda**

**Daniel Morgan**

**Harris:**

Andrés Pérez
Emilio Franco

**SSA:**

**Julia Tier**

Jamie Hinsz
**Aaron Mallory**

**SSD:**

Tom Worth
Misha Teplitskiy

**BSD:**

Erin McAuley
**Jeffrey Steimle**

**PSD:**

**Anthony Martinez**
Noumaan Shamsi

**Div:**

**Ted Good**

**Pritzker:**

**Hannah Roth**
**Dominic Catalano**

**Kaya Williams**

**Jimmy Brown**

**Ella Butler (SSD proxy)**

**Robert Owens (SSD)**

**Tyler Kissinger**

**Josh Johnston**

**Navin Manjooran**

**Presentation from GSU**: 6:10-6:30

* GSU Started in 2007 at the time that the Graduate Aid Division began to give 5 year stipends for graduate students and fought for those who were not grandfathered in
* Currently not legally recognized because UChicago is a private university so they cannot be legally recognized
* GSU got TA positions paid double to $3000, which is still slightly under comparable institutions
* More recently have been working on affordable childcare and getting lactation stations
	+ Currently many university lactation stations are utility closets at the university
* Currently working on healthcare issues and teaching training to make it more culturally sensitive and helpful
* Important to have a completely graduate run space
* Trying to collaborate with the university to figure out how to improve services
* What is GSU’s relationship with the professional schools?
	+ Legal question as who could be legally recognized as part of the union and students at professional schools probably could not
* Sending a strong message that research is work
	+ Want to organize happy hours or social hours
* Budget for GSU will be decided later
* Question: What is the accountability of President Zimmer to the different issues that are brought up in meetings?
	+ Very little actual accountability
* Question: What schools or sections are mainly in GSU?
	+ Social Sciences, Humanities, Biological and Physical Sciences, SSA
	+ Expanding most rapidly in biological and physical sciences

**Funding Request**: 6:31-6:47

* Requesting $908 for first speaker of total of $3433 for 4 speakers for travel fund for Sociology Colloquim
* Could fund this year’s event with departmental money but cannot fund next year’s
* Why $300 for 48 hours of taxis and meals?
	+ Upper bounds just in case because it is important to show their appreciation because there is no honoraria
* Deliberation
	+ Seems to put the burden on SG rather than the school to fund the event in full because they have money in their account as it is
		- However, this falls outside their departmental allocations
		- Funding in part is essentially like not funding at all
	+ $300 for 24 hours seems very high
		- Could we get the money back just in case? Measure of accountability?
		- Jason points out that maybe $300 is not that much because they have to pay for the cab from their own home to the airport, etc. Per diems can go quickly
	+ Perhaps we are becoming too focused as a group on what we are paying for versus contributing money to allow an event to occur
		- Josh says being critical about budgets is useful
	+ Motion to fund in full with Anthony taking care of receipts for the meals with potential reimbursement
		- Yes-13
		- No-0
		- Abstentions-0
			* **Passed, funded in full for first speaker at $908**

**Navin Manjooran, Graduate Liaison to the Board of Trustees**-6:47-7:09

* Board of Trustees is made up of individuals who have donated a lot of money (mostly more than $50 million). President is appointed by the Board of Trustees and the President oversees all university proceedings with a vision for the future of the institution
* Board meets 3 times a year and the Board decides an agenda
* Graduate Student Liaison to the Board of Trustees and Undergraduate Student Liaison to the Board of Trustees who sits in on the meetings
* Board members are split into the different committees and have their meetings and run through the agenda
* Tenure track jobs are much more difficult to get
* The last Board meeting Navin sat on the Campus and Student Life Committee
	+ Pushed for career opportunities for graduate students
	+ They talked about international programs and development and expansion
* Navin would like to hear graduate students’ perspectives to take it to the next meeting (most schools do not allow for these meetings so take advantage)
* Many Board members are anonymous donors, but they are on the website at <http://trustees.uchicago.edu/>
* Ahona asks how do graduate representatives go about speaking with the Board of Trustees?
	+ Liaison usually tries to get the issues discussed
	+ Often issues stay in the minds of the liaisons
* Concern
	+ Gender bias in the law school with professors which had an effect on the gender of students coming

**Events Committee**-7:09-7:13

* Breakfast event for the schools that reply, so reply to the email
* Want to work on distributing announcements more equally between divisions

**President Zimmer meeting debrief**-7:13-7:30

* Thank you to everyone who submitted questions
* Met with President Zimmer for one hour
	+ University cutting money (as mentioned in Crain’s) might not necessarily mean there are actually budget cuts but rather that they might just be moving money around
	+ Asked question if more students could have access to the Board of Trustees?
		- Zimmer said yes and to take advantage of luncheons that already exist, and to use this opportunity to strengthen professional skills
	+ Anthony asked about university moving from theoretical research towards more applied research?
		- Concern that graduate students will not see the benefits from the economic value of technology
		- Meeting with Levi and Anthony Martinez to talk about incentive structure
	+ Talked about career programs
	+ University’s vision for the next 30 years with land ownership
		- No more expansion past 63rd Street to buy land
			* But will they rent or use land?
		- The university will buy land in Washington Park
	+ Jason Forte asks why go to Washington Park and not past 63rd Street?
		- Josh Johnston explains that residents of Woodlawn feels that the university is kicking them out of their own neighborhood (although he personally questions that) whereas Washington Park might feel like the university has never had interest in the neighborhood although it is very close by

Announcement that there will be free shuttles to airport for break

Questions or comments? Contact Caitlin Grey, SG Secretary, at cggrey@uchicago.edu