University of Chicago Student Government

**Graduate Council**

February 10, 2014

Booth C09

5:45-7:38 PM

**Bold=In attendance**

**Law School:**

Gillian Seaman   
Hunter Vance

**Booth:**

**Kristen Uyemura**

Zeynep Gunay

**Eric Adler**

**Jason Forte**

Humanities:

**Ahona Panda**

**Daniel Morgan**

Social Sciences

Ella Butler

**Harris:**

Andrés Pérez (proxy)  
Emilio Franco

**SSA:**

**Julia Tier**  
**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

**Jimmy Brown**

**Josh Johnston (chair)**

5:52 pm **Meeting called to order**

**Logan Arts Center Discussion**

* Katie, Student Arts Engagement Coordinator at the Logan Center
* Student Life is interested in reaching out more to graduate students
* What do you look for in social events? What draws you to social events?
  + Free food, free booze (all)
  + Scheduling (BSD)
    - Later night events (b/c of lab schedules in the science divisions), e.g. ~7 pm
    - Not on the weekends
  + Networking in a social setting; opportunities to meet grad students from other divisions (SSA)
  + Art Spiegelman event was great; interactive events; programmatic element is good (Humanities)
  + Booth students don’t go to events in Hyde Park b/c 90% of them live downtown

**Money update**: ~$11,500 left

6:06 **Anthony’s Proposal**

* Many funding bodies on campus require that groups provide a certain number of free tickets to the funding council
* Partly for accountability, so that GC reps can go see what the event is like
* Deliberation
  + Motion to include in our funding guidelines that 2 free tickets be given to GC upon receipt of funding – **Passed**
    - 10 in favor
    - 0 opposed
    - 1 abstention

**SG** **Assembly,** 6:09-6:13

* This Thursday; last Assembly, no GC reps showed up
* There will be discussion around the Unity Fund -- $30,000 to do anything, basically

**Eschatology Funding Request** (Michael and Dan)

* Requesting $2,000
* Conference is called “Eschatology and the Moral Order”
  + Eschatology is the study of the end
  + Goal is to bring together a group of graduate students who study the intersection of religion, ethics, and politics – students from across the country (e.g., UChicago, Notre Dame, Yale, etc.)
  + Open to the public
  + Re-initiating a relationship between Notre Dame and UChicago
* Confirmed resources:
  + Div School
  + Divinity Students Association ($500)
  + Martin Marty Center ($4,500)
* Tight budget, includes a $2,000 stipend for the four conference planners (2 UChicago students, 2 Notre Dame students)
* Questions
  + What happens if you don’t get the $2,000 from Grad Council?
    - Probably an across the board cut
  + Estimated attendance?
    - 70-100 at the keynote
    - 30 student presenters
    - 10-15 per speaker
* Deliberation
  + Student stipends – we have not funded other conference planners who compensate themselves for their work
    - Also, half of the
  + Would we fund this conference in general?
    - Yes; it is interdisciplinary (they mentioned at least 4 departments)
  + Maybe fund $800-1,100?
  + Motion to fund $1,000 – **Passed**
    - 9 in favor
    - 2 opposed
    - 0 abstentions

**Emerging Markets Funding Request**

* Requesting $6,250
* Booth used to have multiple region-focused conferences per year; decided last year to pool resources and have a single summit covering a broad range of topics and regions
* Hotel is the biggest cost at $50,000 (it’s a minimum, so they can’t lower this cost)
  + Other spaces were not conducive to the conference
* Over 50 speakers, and 400+ attendees; this event will build Booth’s brand
* Total cost of the event is $69,500; have $30,000 secured in sponsorship
  + Expecting $17,240 in ticket sales
* Questions
  + Are non-Booth students involved in the planning process?
    - Not at this point, but they’ve reached out to students at Harris and the Law School to help market the event
  + How might the conference have an impact on other schools?
  + Sustainability for future years?
    - Nearly all corporate sponsors from last year (except two) renewed this year; hope that all new sponsors this year will renew next year
  + There’s a $22,260 gap in the budget
    - Expect additional corporate sponsorships, approximately $16,000
      * $8,000 and $4,000 asks are in limbo; actively reaching out to other groups
* Deliberation
  + Budget is double last year’s; we gave them $1,000 last year
  + This seems like an entirely Booth event – no students from other divisions are involved in planning; no collaboration with other divisions (Social Sciences would have been interested!)
  + Token funding with stipulations? No funding with an opportunity to come back?
  + Program from last year indicates potential to engage students from other schools, but they haven’t done this yet
  + Booth might step in if there’s a gap of only a few thousand dollars
    - Implications? They would probably have to scale the event down and host it at Gleacher again in the future.
  + Motion to fund $2,000 – **Passed**
    - 6 in favor
    - 5 opposed
    - 0 abstentions

**Law School Musical Funding Request**

* Requesting $795
* No new information compared to last week; still no clarity on what ticket sales will be used for (potentially for next year’s event)
* Motion to fund $0 – **Passed**
  + 7 in favor
  + 3 opposed
  + 0 abstentions

**Social Innovations Conference Funding Request**

* Requesting $1,500
* Conference to address how the non-profit sector is changing
* Applied to the Uncommon Fund
* Will charge for tickets if necessary; received $3,000 from SSA SGA
* Keynote speaker is the COO of Metropolitan Family Services, who is also a clinician
* Questions
  + Broader grad school outreach?
    - Students from other disciplines will be interested in the non-profit sector
  + Working with RSOs?
    - Partnering with an RSO at SSA; want to pursue other avenues of funding first
* Deliberation
  + Motion to fund in full – **Passed**
    - 10 in favor
    - 0 opposed
    - 0 abstentions

**South Asia Graduate Student Conference Funding Request**

* 4 grad student organizers from History, Div School, South Asian Languages and Civilizations
* Theme is “The Self in South Asia;” 11th year this conference is taking place
* They are short approximately $5,000 – hoping to support out-of-state and international students via scholarships
  + $10,150 of their budget is dedicated to bringing out-of-town graduate student presenters to campus and subsidizing their stay/travel costs
* Two anecdotes
  + The SALC department has received applications to the PhD program from people who attended the conference last year
  + Columbia reached out to students who planned this conference for advice
* Questions
  + Where is funding coming from?
    - $11,500 is from an endowment of the Committee on South Asian Studies at UChicago
    - $1500 from the Nicholson Center for British Studies
    - Deficit is $4,880
  + If this is the 11th year, why haven’t you requested funding previously/what is different this year?
    - Each year they try to do more to support foreign/out-of-town students’ travel costs
  + Estimated attendance?
    - Varies by time of day, etc.
    - Hoping to increase attendance by pitching the conference (and specific panels within it) to different divisions, at workshops, etc.
    - They will have faculty panelists from different divisions to attract a variety of students
* Deliberation
  + Should we be funding non-UChicago grad students with our Student Life Fee funds?
    - How central are they to the conference experience? Pretty central. We often fund UofC students to go to other countries, etc., and in this case we’re bringing the diversity of international students’ experiences to UChicago.
  + Motion to fund $2,000 – **Passed**
    - 8 in favor
    - 2 opposed
    - 0 abstentions

7:38 **Meeting adjourned**