University of Chicago Student Government

**Graduate Council**

05 October 2015

Booth C-08

7:00-8:30 pm

Attendance (**Bold** = absent, (L) = late)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Elliott Balch** | Graduate Council Chair |
| **Casey Anthony** | Graduate Council Chair |
| **Francesca Valentina (Proxy)** | GC Representative - Booth |
| **Jorge Franco (proxy)** | GC Representative - Booth |
| **Haley Stinnett** | GC Representative - BSD |
| **Aneesha Suresh (proxy)** | GC Representative - IME |
| **Matt Peterson** | GC Representative - Divinity |
| **Jorge Gonzales (proxy)** | GC Representative - Harris |
| **Francesca Valentin (proxy)** | GC Representative - Law |
|  | GC Representative - Law |
| **Maurico Banuelos (proxy)** | GC Representative - PSD |
| **Caroline Meehan** | GC Representative - Pritzker |
| **Alyssa Wiener** | GC Representative - Pritzker |
| **Gabe Velez** | GC Representative - SSD |
| **Jonah Simpson** | GC Representative - SSD |
| **James Crowe (proxy)** | GC Representative- SSA |
| **Caryn Thor (proxy)** | GC Representative -SSA |
| **Levke Koop** | GC Representative-PSD |
| **Romit Chakraborty** | GC Representative - PSD |
| **Katie Perri** | Graduate Liaison to the Board of Trustees |

Other students in attendance: (Listed on google doc)

Meeting called to order, 7:10

**Announcements**

* Next Meeting: October 26th, 7pm Booth C-08
* First Assembly Meeting: Monday, October 12th

**Retreat Recap**

* September 18th-19th
* Barbecue dinner Friday
* Program Saturday: why GC, notes recorded (available upon request)
  + Need to be visible on campus
  + Increase resources available to graduate students
  + Bring together different divisions
  + Increase institutional memory in the organization
  + Important to make resources available to graduate students (GS unlikely to form RSOs, minimize paperwork to increase involvement)
  + Much of student gov is undergrad-led, but 2/3 of students are grad
  + Role of advocacy, shared priorities among GS

**Overview of what’s new**

* Working with Center for Leadership and Involvement
* Darren Pierre (Center for Leadership and Involvement) and Kalee Ludeks (UChicago Grad)
* Spent summer reaching out to new divisions (more robust and representative council)
  + Divisions with representation use the resources
* Find ways to partner with the trustees/senior level administrators to ensure that GC voice is heard
* Do not need to be a rep to be on a committee
* Haley: Graduate Council Travel Fund
  + 2 Funding Sources
    - 1 for original work presentation: $500
    - Smaller award $300 for attending conferences (without presentation)
      * Better for groups not presenting original work
      * Total travel budget doubled, more students can be accommodated
      * **Looking for people to read applications for travel funding (contact Haley)**
* Social committee chair: Lisa
  + $100,000 for social programming
  + Goal: incorporate more social events across all grad schools
  + Food truck social next Thursday
  + Pub social every quarter (RSVP on Facebook)
  + Last year: Party in the Sky: graduate school-wide formal in Sears Tower
  + Boat cruise at the end of this year
  + **Interested in working with social committee contact Lisa**
* Finance Committee:
  + Follow up on funded programs
  + Next meeting: presentation from graduate students united about August conference, discussion on fees, money going into student government vs. how much goes to undergrad activities
    - Work on addressing students with special needs (disabilities, mental health and counseling)

**Proposed 2015-2016 Budget, for adoption**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2014-2015 budget | 2014-2015 actual | 2015-16 proposed |
| Travel | $30,000 | $37,931 | $60,000 |
| Group Sponsorships | 45,000 | 51,201 | 49,000 |
| Social Committee | 65,000 | \*\* | 100,500 |
| Summer 2016 | N/A | 0 | 10,000 |
| Meetings and Administration | 3,500 | 2,613 | 5,000 |
| Total | $143,500 | $91,714 | $224,500 |

* Vote on proposed budget from retreat
* Went to Student Government last year for more money
  + Increased budgets for social and travel
* Social includes CLI’s budget
  + Darren has $57,500 for CLI programming for grad students (this is included)
  + Includes revenue from ticket sales as well, not known for last year
* Grad students need summer funding for fall travel, use money from social revenue to fund this
* Meetings/admin: food at meetings, printing
* Last year grad committee saw that undergrads have huge budget, GS does not have huge budget
  + Budget therefore expanded 51%
  + <$1,000 left in fund last year
  + Travel budget was supplemented from student government
* Audience Question: Is there a fund for scholarships? Grad students’ loans
  + Discussion on where the fees are going
  + Response: new budget will be meeting a need that was present last year but could not be funded
  + Conflict of interest, graduate students allocating money to graduate students
  + Choose professors to front a committee to allocate money (essay contest)
  + Potentially use GC voice to advocate for lower tuition/lower fees
* Motion to fund budget
  + In favor: 15
  + Opposed: 0
  + Abstaining: 0
  + **Motion passes**
* Future needs can still be adjusted for, revenue unknown as of now from social events

**Survey of graduate students**

* Get priorities from students
* Develop survey to use year after year
* Undergraduate students are more heavily surveyed, university can make decisions based on this data
* GS data will help with case in front of board of trustees

**Updating Bylaws**

* Haven’t been updated since May 7th, 2007
* Changes listed on document
* Amendments offered
  + “If one or more Graduate Students is present from a division or school for which an insufficient number of proxies has been assigned, the Chair or Co-Chair must designate the proxy or proxies from among those students.”
  + Motion to table
    - Favor: 15
    - Opposed: 0
    - Abstain: 0
    - **Motion Passes**

**Funding requests received, for action**

* Eric Dreff: Mid-Western Inter-University Workshop in Jewish Studies
  + Expect 20 students total, 10 from UChicago, audience for 60
    - 19 faculty from all institutions
    - Open to all graduate students
  + History of Judaism, Jewish Studies Club
  + Jewish Workshop
  + Multiple schools
  + Keynote speaker
  + Panel
  + Breakout groups
  + Interinstitutional, community, dialogue, networking
  + Goal: bring in panelists, advertising, travel reimbursements for other schools
  + UChicago Event: Nov 2nd (Oct 26th?)
    - Martin Kafka
  + Also funded by Chicago Center for Jewish Studies
  + $8500 of outside funding
  + **$500 Requested**
* Paul Vadan from Classics Dept
  + Graduate Conference
  + Nov 20-21
  + Topic: Individual and the community in urban upheaval
  + Case study on communities under great stress, how they deal with this stress
  + Difficult topic in ancient history to discuss emotions/thought processes
  + Topic gaining interest
  + Dept hasn’t had a graduate conference organized in at least 6 years
    - Lots of people interested in this subject, even beyond dept
    - 60 people estimated attendance
    - Classicists invited, speakers and professors interested in interdisciplinary approaches
      * Art/humanities/social science
  + Received a grant, other funding sources were changed over the summer
    - Applying to interdisciplinary sources (linguistics, political theory etc)
  + Advertised to humanities and social science (classics, social science, art history, politics, comparative literature)
  + EU, UK, USA, France all have respondents
  + Presentations, dialogue encouraged
  + Audience: UChicago, UMich, Northwestern
  + **$500 requested, hotel for speaker from Connecticut**
* Discussion of funding opportunities-- Mid-Western Inter-University Workshop in Jewish Studies
  + $49,000 for requests like this
  + Want stipulation that the event is broadcast to all of grad council/all organizations
  + Div Rep Comment: Coffee shop budget was used to renovate coffee shop, Divinity School Organizations have less money
    - Dearth of organizations devoted to Jewish Studies
    - UChicago is well-known for expertise in this area
    - Political theory, anthro/social studies applications for wider agenda
  + Motion
    - Favor: 14
    - Opposed: 0
    - Abstain: 1
    - **Motion passed**
* Discussion of Funding Opportunities—Classics Department
  + Motion
    - Favor: 14
    - Opposed: 0
    - Abstain: 1
    - **Motion passed**

**Student Body President Tyler Kissinger**

* Grad Council and College Council coming together: Assembly
* Executive Committee is made up of the graduate council leaders, the college council leaders, board liaisons and the executive slate
  + Slate: President Tyler Kissinger, Vice President Alex Jung and Vice President Kenzo Esquivel
* Allocate 1.4 million dollars of budget
  + Analysis/Oversight of budget is lacking (need more data on waste, etc.)
  + SG discussions on funding for graduate students relevant here
  + SG Cabinet looking at budget improvements for next year
* Vice Presidents not filling the roles anymore, replacing with chairs
  + Bio sheet in email with appointments, needs to be approved by college council and graduate council
  + Application process: email with call for student gov applications
    - 200 applications total (to chair roles and committees)
    - More graduate representations in committee
* Elliott: no oversight on spending of funds, majority going towards undergraduate funding
  + Need more justification for undergraduate budgets
* CAT: rep is also a college council rep, has experience with MUN, better at unifying
* Motion to accept positions:
  + Favor: 14
  + Opposed: 0
  + Abstain: 1
  + **Motion Passes**

**Updates from schools and divisions**

* Note: events for funding don’t have to be open to all of graduate school
* Grad Council interested in hosting a forum on Trauma Center?
  + Also invite Students for Health Equity?
    - Founded 2008-2009 after local shooting
    - Worked with community group in Woodlawn

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned, 8:30 pm