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