University of Chicago Student Government

**Graduate Council**

February 24, 2014

Booth C09

6:00-7:20 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** (Dan Dai as 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**

**Josh Johnston (chair)**

**Jen Kennedy (ORCSA)**

6:07 pm **Meeting called to order**

**Kenya IIP amendment**

* Wrongly recorded amount -- $48 of their request was accidentally left off, even though they were approved full funding
* Deliberation
  + Motion to add $48 to the funded amount in order to reflect the original funding decision – **passed** 
    - 10 in favor
    - 0 opposed
    - 1 abstention

**General announcements**

* This is the last meeting of this quarter
* **Party in the Sky** will be held on April 25th from 6:30-10:30 pm
  + $7,000 subsidy from the Unity Fund; tickets will be around $25 this year, instead of $65 last year 🡪 because of this, we might use a lottery system (at least at the beginning) to ensure broad representation
  + All grad students are welcome, all individuals can bring a +1
  + Sky Deck in Willis Tower (top floor)
* **Gargoyle Gala** is March 7th
  + As of late last week, 13 people had bought tickets – ticket sales opened last week
* Applications are open for **Annual Allocations** and the **Elections & Rules Committee**
  + Apply at committees.uchicago.edu
* Events committee is doing a **movie ticket sale** the week before finals in all the different grad schools
  + Professional schools are covered, so if reps from other divisions/schools are interested, talk to Josh
  + All this entails is picking up tickets & cash box from Reynolds, selling them at the division-specific location, and bringing the tickets & cash box back

**EPSA Who’s Who in IL Education Request**, 6:12-6:22

* Requesting $550
* This is the group that came at the beginning of the year, whom we told to come back with a more detailed request – they decided to hold off on hosting the event at the originally planned time and re-planned it for this quarter
* EPSA’s signature event for the year
  + Seeking to bring together a diverse panel of professionals with careers in education policy (Board of Ed, CPS, consulting firm,
* Mainly marketed to Harris students; currently have 25 RSVPs
  + But they’ve been working with students from the Law School, Divinity, UTEP
  + Want to reach out to other divisions, student groups, undergrads through the IOP
* Lunch event; funding is for food for 40
  + Evening events last quarter had low turnout; lunch events have had higher turnout
  + Box lunches to maximize the event time, which is only an hour
* Deliberation
  + Event is in three days, but they’ve been in touch with Josh for a couple of weeks
  + New RSO; event seems solid, but narrow – they are not going to be able to reach out to all these different groups and divisions in that short time
  + Motion to fund in full – **passed** 
    - 11 in favor
    - 0 opposed
    - 2 abstentions

**DuSable Conference Request**, 6:22-6:36

* African-American MBA Association is requesting $10,500
* In the past this has been a primarily Booth event; this year they are planning to open it up to the entire graduate community
* Total cost of conference = $25,000
  + Includes cost of location, food, travel/honoraria, planning costs (e.g., website costs)
* Fundraising
  + Have raised $10,000 over the last year; don’t expect to get $10,500 from GC, but need
  + BCG has provided some funding
  + 2 keynote speakers, someone from BCG and the President of JP Morgan
  + What happens if you fall short of funding?
    - Not sure; haven’t thought about it yet
    - Maybe they’ll charge for tickets if they fall short
  + Have you reached out to AAMBAA alumni for individual contributions/support?
    - No; in the past they’ve relied solely on corporate sponsorships
* Conference is free; day and a half-long event (Friday afternoon-Saturday) 🡪 only 120 available spots
* What are the giveaways?
  + “Conference swag” – t-shirts, etc.
* Deliberation
  + We want to support this event
  + Good that it’s open to the entire University community, incl. grads and undergrads
  + Should reach out to other funding bodies at other schools or multicultural funds
  + Could also apply to SGFC
  + A few reps are comfortable funding up to a couple thousand; we can’t fund them much more than that because we need to preserve some funds for next quarter’s requests and there are other groups we want to be able to support
  + Motion to fund $2,000 – **passed**
    - 11 in favor
    - 2 opposed
    - 0 abstentions

**Spring Institute Request**, 6:40-6:56

* Requesting $1,300 for a one-day sociology conference on globalization
* Expecting 100 in attendance
* 3 panels before the keynote, lunch, keynote address, reception
* Only requesting funding for the portion of the conference that is open to the public (there are a few closed, departmental events
  + The total cost of the conference is $3,500; received $2,500 in funding for ORCSA
  + Requesting funding for the $1,000 gap and the $300 prize for the student paper competition
* Expect students from mostly the social sciences; also expect people from the Graham school, undergrads to attend throughout the day
* Sell tickets through the department as well
* Deliberation
  + Tension about funding a prize, especially because the papers competition is so focused on one department
  + Conference doesn’t seem like it will draw a huge variety of grad students
  + Motion to fund $1,000 – **passed**
    - 12 in favor
    - 1 opposed
    - 0 abstentions

**Travel Fund discussion and online voting**, 6:56-7:20

* Travel Fund has officially launched (as of last week), and we already have 10 pending requests
* We had decided to vote on all TF requests as a full council; do we still want to do this?
  + The alternative is to have a rotating committee of 5-7 students meet to consider requests and make decisions without the full council
  + Convening a smaller committee to consider these requests might be more practical, especially given the tight time frame between now and the rest of the year
* Limit of $500/person
* This is a pilot in some sense – we are collecting data on who applies, who we fund, etc., so that we can gain insight on the design of the fund and what students need/want
* When designing the application, the committee tried to build in certain criteria that would make it easier to make funding decisions; but not every proposal that meets all the criteria gets funded – the criteria just makes it easier to rule out certain proposals
  + Areas of focus are academic contributions and professional development
  + Of the group that created the Fund, maybe one person from that group could ‘chair’ a rotating group of GC reps who consider the proposals each week?
  + What about case competitions? – These are eligible, as they fit under the ‘professional development’ criterion.
* Is there interest in convening a smaller group to consider these? – Yes, from 4 or 5 reps, and probably 1 or 2 who aren’t here
* Motion to create a smaller committee of GC reps to consider Travel Fund applications through the rest of this year – **passed**
  + 12 in favor
  + 0 opposed
  + 0 abstentions

7:20 **Meeting adjourned**

These minutes were recorded by Grace Pai. If you have any questions, please contact her at gracepai@uchicago.edu.