

GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

DATE: December 6, 2018 **TIME:** 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PLACE: Student Services Building Conference Room B and C
(1200 W. Harrison St. Chicago, IL 60607)

1. Welcome & Dinner
2. Speakers for tonight:
 - Natalie D. A. Bennett, PhD, Director of Women's Leadership & Resource Center
 - Women's Leadership and Resource Center, and Campus advocacy center
 - Located: 1101 West Taylor Street, 3rd Floor, (Above Chicago Public Library)
 - They respond to extracurricular questions and needs. They focus on feminist programming and issues .
 - They host a variety of events:
 - An exhibition involving the feminist and queer response to sexual violence
 - They also conduct a Lunch Lecture Series - Inviting advance graduate students and faculty talk about their work on problematizing on feminist practices, questions to advance
 - Lecture ONWARD series - Focusing on difficult questions in a relaxed setting.
 - Page Turners – Reading and discussing books together
 - Past book: Who fears death – Nnedi Okorafor– UIC Alumni
 - Bringing speakers from other fields to bring different perspectives
 - Key Program – Campus Advocacy Network (CAN)
 - They support and advocate for people who currently/has suffered from stalking, assault or sexual misconduct
 - They find accommodations
 - Emotional support
 - Campus Housing
 - Psychological consultations
 - They educate anti-violence, and how to respond to violence
 - Training with sorority life
 - Response to inquiries and concerns
 - Support for undergraduate students, and have adapted for the rest of university and learning how to approach different circumstances.
 - They spread information



Graduate Student Council

- How to report Inter-Personal Violence:
 - Students come to TA's how to respond
 - Every unit at UIC must report (few exceptions)
 - Confidentiality only applies to Counseling Center and Campus Advocacy Network
 - Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act is a federal statute requiring colleges and universities participating in federal financial aid programs to maintain and disclose campus crime statistics and security information.
 - Mandatory Reporting – the institution must respond to the event
 - Timeline of events from the UIC Police
 - And these must send to Dean of Students to then decide to approach the situation
 - What to do when someone discloses to You
 - Explain your mandatory role
 - Or, refer that person to someone else
 - Help them get information for themselves
 - You should tell the head of your academic Unit
 - “I sent information to Title IX office”
 - As the Title IX office will approach the department
 - Check-In with the person
- Questions:
 - Is it possible to coordinate workshops for one's department?
 - Response: Yes, CAN will help create workshops to inform and guide the department members on rules and policies.
 - Is it an easy process to conduct this workshop?:
 - Response: There might be a process you might have to approach the Department Chair
 - What is covered under the term of “violence”?
 - Response: Within UIC culture and policy, sexual misconduct or assault is prohibited. The UIC is stringent on this. The anti-violence culture is strong, and the University would respond against it.
 - Contact the speaker for different programming, workshops or education:
ndabl@uic.edu
 - And for more information please visit: <https://wlrc.uic.edu/>



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- Vincent Adiutori, PhD, Adjunct Lecturer, GC 512 "Written Communication and Presentation Skills"
 - Graduate College helped create this course around 2016
 - Originally for STEM students, then expanded for Humanities and Social Sciences
 - Lecture talks for the first 6 weeks
 - For STEM field, the focus is on the brief rhetoric on the sciences, then writing for a broad audience
 - Humanities and Social Sciences, the course starts with annotated bibliography and literature reviews
 - There are Peer review sessions, with a focus on particular problems
 - Also practiced on: Conference papers, dissertations, job materials, presentations
 - Oral presentation, lightning talks, and 5-min presentations for STEM students; Social sciences don't do those kind of presentations
 - The professor allows for work across disciplines, allows for smart communication and integration
 - Four things he wanted to focus on within the course:
 - The specific terminology in writing
 - Practice in a proper writing environment
 - Multidisciplinary aspect allows for there to be a focus on writing, itself
 - Oral presentation practice
 - Pass/Fail class for 3 cred hours
 - Open to all international and domestic students
 - Enrollment process
 - Screening process- making sure there's a project that students are writing, so they want students that are finished with coursework to allow for better management
 - Contact your DGS for eligibility
 - Welcoming no matter skill level or stage
 - Clarification: There are two different sections: one STEM and another non-STEM
 - The students are asked to work on two writing projects.
 - Contact the Dr. Adiutori by email: vadiut2@uic.edu
 - And visit website for more information: <http://engl.uic.edu/events/department-colloquium-vince-adiutori/>
- Jeff Schuhrke, Co-President. Graduate Employees Organization.
 - GEO is the union of UIC student workers
 - Most activist are either RA's or TA's



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- They argue for contracts for students
- Protects against student workers
- Negotiation help improve contracts
 - Negotiation from March
- University wants to increase salary by \$1400 over 5 years
- Not accepting that, they want a substantial greater amount.
- The speaker stated that UIC RA's make ~10,000 less than other universities
- Fee waivers are protected by these contracts, but they are arguing for more:
 - For example, International students should have fee waived
 - Speaker argued that: Created in 2013, and the fees were increased for no publicly-stated reason
 - Appointment policies vary by department and not clearly established beforehand. So, they want departments to explain the criteria and reasoning behind their policies to protect against unfair practices.
- Please visit their website for more information: <http://uic-geo.net/mainsite/>
- They have Facebook ([facebook.com/pg/uicgeo](https://www.facebook.com/pg/uicgeo)) and twitter (
- They want to also help with faculty unions
- They are forming coalition with all the other unions
- The GEO is member driven and depends on students
- They are currently looking for new members
- They have an upcoming contract campaign
- Question: A representative asked if a strike will be organized. The speaker announced that voting on such an event will be coordinated around February.
- Cory Reiter, G3-MD/PhD Candidate, Representative of the UIC Mental Health Task Force.
 - Focus is on mental health for health profession students and grad students
 - “Trends in mental health are staggering and frightening”
 - The task force was coordinated by the Chancellor in order to understand and combat the decline in mental health exhibited by students.
 - Chancellor assigned administrative faculty and students to take the lead.
 - The members are tasked with challenging the current problems surrounding mental health care.
 - Resource allocation is a crucial aspect to the many problems.
 - The speaker's contact info: creite3@uic.edu



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- The speaker is asking for students to approach her with their problems in getting the help they need.
- Speaker opened the floor up for comments:
 - Representative: When one wants to go to the Counseling center, there's long backlog, with long wait times.
 - Speaker acknowledged: The counseling center is aware of these issues and they want to improve their resources for students.
 - Representative: Students in the west campus are challenged with having to travel to the other side of campus to receive help from the Counseling center.
 - Speaker: There is a barrier to access, and there once was a program on the west side but was closed.
 - Representative: There's only 20 therapy sessions allotted to students, is there a way to increase the number sessions?
 - Speaker: That certainly is a short-term solution, however the counseling center does refer to external long-term solution if the situation requires it. Although, it is still a problem as they're also limited to small staff and backlog.
 - Speaker: The scope of the task force will be to broaden assistance beyond counseling center. As there should be a wide battery of resources. However, there's a definitive need to improve information and awareness.
 - Representative presented the idea of asking departments to help spread more information on these resources.
 - Speaker: They will try to promote the incorporation to all syllabi.
 - Representative requested for a list of all available resources around campus.
 - Speaker wants to create a list for all resources, alongside the task force. Once completed, the list will be distributed to all representatives.

3. Updates from the GSC Officers:

- Nomination for the GSC Vice-President
 - Vice president Carrie Nacht stepped down.
 - New vice president is needed, voting based on constitution
 - Officers nominate Pratik-Sanjeev Deshpande
 - The majority vote decided: Pratik-Sanjeev Deshpande will be Vice-President
- Updates on GSC website, by Juan Maldonado, GSC Secretary
 - New "re-vamped" website should be ready and online by the end of January.

4. Project awards presentations:

- Meloddye Carpio & Victoria Tissera - “Spanish Film Club”
 - Spanish Film fest
 - Films from 5 different countries
 - Approaches different topics
 - These films represent the different films in Latin America and Spain
 - They will have a round table discussions on the films, with different faculty members.
 - And so, they ask for GSC to help cover the costs of select films
 - Will include subtitles for non-Spanish speakers
 - Not charging for entrance
 - Catering limited to 25 people for catering cost, they hope for more people, around 50-60 people per film.
 - The event will take place: March 18-22, Daley Library Conference room 1-407
 - Keynote speaker will be brought into the discussion by Skype
 - Covered partially with Latino Film Festival
 - They will publicize the event with the GSC logo, as required.
 - Voting Decision: Yes, GSC will assist with the film festival.
 - On the condition, they advertise the event on West Campus and online for all students
- Shariwa Oke - “2018 Frank Armitage Lecture Series”
 - The Frank Armitage Lecture series took place, previously 10/18-20/18
 - Topic included how art shaped medicine in Rome.
 - They argue it was beneficial to all students, as the discussion covered different disciplines
 - They are asking for retroactive funding
 - They got assistance from the Biomedical visualization department.
 - They host this particular event every two years.
 - More graduate students than health professionals attended the event
 - Voting decision for reimbursement: 25 – no, 20 – yes. GSC will not retroactively assist with this event.
- Lauren Schwerzler - “Unapologetic: A lecture by Charlene Carruthers”
 - Radical Public Health organization representative from graduate students
 - They will discuss the “Epidemics of Injustice” book by Charlene Carruthers
 - Community speaker each week
 - Theyre bringing Carruthers February 7th
 - For Graduate students, open to all



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- Benefit will be to help understand racism, poverty and sexism.
 - Speaker is from Chicago and active in Chicago movements
 - They're requesting \$500
 - Will take place at West campus
 - Keynote speaker from last year was funded from GSC
 - Book club is organized by Radical Public Health and Minority Students for Public Health
 - They can host the event for 500 people
 - GSC can help with room reservations.
 - No registration fee and open to public
 - Voting Decision: Yes, GSC will assist with the film festival.
 - On the condition, they advertise the event on East campus and online for all students
5. Three Minute Thesis:
- Ritesh Jagatramka "Energy Storage Systems", Department of Civil and Materials Engineering
 - Postponed for next General Meeting
6. Representatives Sign In & Adjournment of the General GSC meeting

[GSC Facebook Page](#)

[GSC Website](#)

Email: GSC-OFFICERS@listserv.uic.edu