COUNCIL AGENDA PACKET

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2014

6:30PM

NOTRE DAME ROOM (202)

LA FORTUNE STUDENT CENTER

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FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING DATES

DECEMBER 18, 2014

November 20, 2014 – Council Agenda

Meetings held at 6:30PM in the Notre Dame Room (2nd Floor)

- Roll Call/Sign-In
- Approval of the Minutes (October 16, 2014)
- Executive Committee’s Report: Kate Boehlefeld, Kyle Watson, Tony Cunningham
- Break-Out Committees
- Committee Reports
  - Academic Affairs – Meredith Doellman
  - Health Care – Sean Phillips
  - Internal Affairs (Orientation, Symposium, Teaching Awards) – Michelle Comas
  - Professional Development – Lindsay Baxter, Antonio LePore
  - Publicity & Procedures – Samantha Atkins
  - Quality of Life – Andrea Castonguay, Courtney Davis, MacKenzie Warren
  - Social – Gillian Shaw
- University Committees
  - Academic Council – Meredith Doellman
  - Academic Technologies – Meredith Doellman
  - Graduate Council – Kate Boehlefeld
  - Library Committee – Meredith Doellman
  - LaFortune Tenants – Gillian Shaw
  - Professional Development (TREC) – Lindsay Baxter, Antonio LePore
  - Traffic Appeals – Andrea Castonguay, Courtney Davis, MacKenzie Warren
  - University Healthcare – Sean Phillips
  - Women Faculty & Students – MacKenzie Warren
- New Business
  - Mimi Beck, Program Director – Grad Student Life. Announcements
  - Jessica Kayongo and Diane Walker, Hesburgh Library. Updates from the library renovation steering committee.
  - Vote for a local Charity to receive GSU Gala funds for the 2014-15AY. Please fill out the form ahead of time and give it to Gillian, GSU Social chair after the meeting.
- Old Business
- Adjournment
Minutes
October 16, 2014

OFFICERS: Kathryn Boehlefeld, Political Science (GSU President) ABSENT; Kyle Watson, Chemistry & Biochemistry (Co-Vice President); Anthony Cunningham, Psychology (Co-Vice President)

CHAIRS: Meredith Doellman, Biological Sciences (Academic Affairs); Michelle Comas, Psychology (Internal Affairs-Orientation, Symposium, Teaching Awards); Sean Phillips, History (Health Care) ABSENT; Lindsay Baxter, Chemistry & Biochemistry (Professional Development) ABSENT; Antonio Lepore, Chemistry & Biochemistry (Professional Development); Samantha Atkins, Bioengineering (Publicity & Procedures); Andrea Castonguay, History (Quality of Life); Courtney Davis, Theology (Quality of Life): MacKenzie Warren, Physics (Quality of Life); Gillian Shaw, Chemistry & Biochemistry (Social)

DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES: Sara Morrow (Anthropology); Christina Horr, Alicia Specht (Applied & Computational Mathematics & Statistics); Stephanie Freed (Biological Sciences); Sean Vilanova, Kristen Johnson (Chemistry & Biochemistry); Linlin Liu (Economics); Mingming Cai, Homayoon Hatami (Electrical Engineering); Leanne MacDonald, Douglas Duhaime (English); Benjamin Wetzel (History); Jeremy Mann (Mathematics); Emily Kirkegaard (Medieval Institute); John Marchese (PhD Literature); William Smith (Philosophy); Sarah Dietz, Bryant Vande Kolk (Physics); Gregory Siems, (Political Science); Shanna Corner (Sociology)

WOMEN FACULTY & STUDENTS: MacKenzie Warren (Physics); Karen Hooge (Sociology)

UNIVERSITY VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVE: Dallin Lewis (English) ABSENT

FISCHER O’HARE GRACE REPRESENTATIVE: Kristofor Glinton (Chemistry & Biochemistry)

1. Kyle Watson (Co-VP) announces Kate’s (GSU President) absence and begins the meeting at 6:36pm.
2. Kyle entertains the motion to approve October’s minutes.
   a. Bryant Vande Kolk (Physics) motions to approve.
   b. John Marchese (Literature) seconds the motion.
   c. No one opposes, motion passes; October minutes approved.
3. Kyle moves on to Council Reports.
   a. Kyle: The Executive Committee report stands, any questions?
      i. No questions.
b. Meredith Doellman (*Academic Affairs Chair*): My report mostly stands except I had the advanced studies subcommittee of the academic council meeting after the report was turned in. We talked about trailing subjects from last year and topics we want to include this year. Grad student items on the radar are married and family grad student housing options. The other item on the radar is that they want to really look at health insurance and certificate programs. The Bitcoin meeting is not happening today, it will be rescheduled to a later date.

i. Jeremy Mann (*Mathematics*): Meredith, can you talk a little more about married student housing? Apparently the conditions are decrepit at the Fisher O’Hara Grace apartments, or one of those, I'm not entirely sure which one.

ii. Meredith: It's a topic that we will address this year, but we haven't discussed possible solutions yet. The University is aware that there are problems and that people are concerned. I will have a report on this in the not too distant future, but probably not by the Nov. 20th meeting. The Advanced Studies Committee is meeting Nov. 10th, but I can't guarantee that they will address housing.

iii. Jeremy: As soon as possible would be helpful.

iv. Tony Cunningham (*Co-Vice President*): as a point of interest they have been reviewing the housing situation for the last 2 years. They are officially closing University Village by 2018 and they are moving everyone over to FOG; that’s the current plan. They want to do more things about The Overlook for partnered housing options. There is movement in the housing department, but I doubt that with the closing of University Village in 4 years they will be making improvements over there.

v. Kyle Watson (*Co-Vice President*): We talked to Lauren Harding and she wants to incorporate our ideas into FOG when they make that transition.

vi. Jeremy: What can we do to improve the living conditions?

vii. Tony: Do you have any specifics as to what is wrong? Possibly direct and fixable things? Feasible things that can be done within the next 4 years?

viii. Meredith: I will take any suggestions to council. We also want one of the people involved in the housing partnership to come and talk to the GSU council. The Overlook has very thin walls from what I have heard.

ix. Courtney Davis (*Quality of Life*): Can we keep the Quality of Life committee in the loop so that we get continual feedback?

x. Tony: Yes we can do that, if Department Reps can come up with some realistic and specific things that need to be addressed.

xi. Kyle: Definitely. That way we could try to draft a resolution with GSU.

xii. Jeremy: It seems to be a systematic problem that the University isn't responding to complaints.

xiii. Courtney: Is it hazardous?

xiv. Jeremy: I really don't know any specifics. Can GSU ask for the list of complaints that they have received?
xv. Meredith: We can certainly work on that, but if the department reps and those living in grad housing can provide specific examples to GSU that would be helpful.


d. Michelle Comas (Internal Affairs): My report stands. The only correction is that the Research Symposium is actually going to be Thursday, April 9th.


   i. Jeremy Mann (Mathematics): The drop in viewership on the Facebook page could be due to the timing of the posts. It would be better if the posts were made in the evenings. Facebook pages are nice because you can type in what you want ahead of time and schedule the post for a certain time.
   ii. Samantha: Thanks for the feedback. I will schedule the Facebook posts to happen after 5pm to hopefully get more views.
   iii. Gillian Shaw (Social): Can you talk about the Newsletter going to Spam?
   iv. Samantha: Yes, it was a problem with 2 weeks of newsletters. I contacted our mailer service, and they said they did not change their spam filters. I contacted Notre Dame OIT and they also said that nothing had been changed, and suggested that it might have been something that got changed through Gmail's Spam Policy. Everything is fine now, and viewership is back up to ~50%.
   v. Andrea Castonguay (Quality of Life): For subcommittees of the GSU, should we contact you for posting information?
   vi. Samantha: Definitely.
   vii. Shanna Corner (Sociology): Regarding the Spam folder - not changing the subject header might be a part of the issue.
   viii. Samantha: I had heard that could be an issue. Right now, I'm just going to chalk it up to an anomaly since it's currently working again.

 g. MacKenzie Warren (Quality of Life): I'm compiling a demographic on the LGBTQ community. We talked to Karrah Miller (Director and Title IX Coordinator, Office of Institutional Equity) today to see about the policies. We got bad feedback on the discrimination policy; the University is in agreement with the bare minimum of state and federal laws. Please make sure to report all incidences of environments that are uncomfortable or harassing. Karrah offered to conduct training with individual departments, if requested. Also, we are conducting a bathroom survey to identify gender neutral bathrooms on campus. The committee on Sexual Assault wants to make bystander training available to grad students soon.

   The Time to Heal Dinner is in the last week of October. It is a dinner for victims of sexual violence.
   i. Gillian Shaw (Social): The shuttle service has been really inconvenient since it only runs until 6 pm. We would like a shuttle that runs from 7 to midnight, maybe once an hour.
   ii. Samantha Atkins (Publicity & Procedures): I agree with Gillian. The shuttle service is very inconvenient. I work on the North End of campus and there are no drop points near my office. The shuttle puts
me about half of the way there. It would also be nice to have shuttles that run more than once every half hour.

iii. Tony Cunningham (Co-Vice President): Let’s just say that not everything I suggested was taken into consideration by the Parking Committee. I do think this is an issue that GSU should definitely address. We should draft an official resolution to send to everyone. One thing I would like to do is find out if there is a way or system for registering complaints that would be compiled and sent to Parking Services.

iv. MacKenzie: We definitely need people on the parking committee, badly.

v. Courtney Davis (Quality of Life): I was in contact with the Director of Transportation at the University of Rochester, and they have a great system. It runs from early morning until after midnight and they sent us all the documentation of how their system was set up, what their partnerships look like, what kind of shuttles they use, what insurance, etc. and how they track ridership and budgets. All the info is here and ready to go, and that was before I had any knowledge of the shuttle that was set up here at the university. Tony has a good point, the complaints and feedback need to go somewhere collectively so there is a voice that will really get through.

vi. Samantha: Could we make a Wufoo survey for that? I can send it out to the list-serv.

vii. Andrea Castonguay (Quality of Life): That’s a good idea. Also, one of the things currently not working on the website is the "Contact Us" portion. I was wondering though if we could add to that and set up a form that would be a catch-all to deal with all campus complaints.

viii. Samantha: Yes, I can add a plug-in on the website for general complaints.

ix. Courtney: The other issue that we need to update on is safety. I talked to Chief Johnson of Campus Security. He is thrilled to know that the GSU is getting involved with the issue of off campus housing and safety. He put me in contact with Sergeant Tracy Skibins – there are a number of resources for students that live off campus. But, there is an issue of having a centralized location and an issue of lack of awareness. Sergeant Skibins gets all of the off campus reports and feeds them to the off campus committee and sends them out. But not everyone is on the list serv. Aside from that she wants me to let everyone know to lock doors and windows and use timer lights and ask a trusted neighbor to collect your mail if you’re going out. One other issue – students with disabilities be mindful that folks have food allergies when we order food for our council meetings.

x. Andrea: My piece mostly stands. GSPN had another meeting last night, small group meeting for the Steering committee. Looks like two possible avenues: one would be monthly events for the community. We still need to build this community so having events that may seem to duplicate or occur around other ND events isn’t necessarily a bad thing. We are hoping to get a pumpkin carving event the Sunday before Halloween and potluck the Sunday before Thanksgiving,
possibly on campus at the Knights of Columbus. The second thing is starting a smaller group so people who were interested in meeting others have a better opportunity. Other than that my report stands.

xi. John Marchese (Literature): MacKenzie, I have a question related to same sex marriage. Has the university addressed with you how they intend to address graduate students? I was thinking of terms in housing and terms of other benefits that are available.

xii. MacKenzie: I will look into this and get back to you.

xiii. Bryant Vande Kolk (Physics): Has there been a meeting set with the Housing Office yet, in reference to the Preferred Realtor Program?

xiv. Courtney: the director of the Preferred Realtor Program for the university wants to reschedule the meeting to bring the president (of the real estate company) in to the meeting. All we are trying to do is add the graduate student population to that, so we don’t have to reinvent the wheel. They may have to create a separate program for graduate students. (The office of Cressy and Everett is the Preferred Realtor).

xv. Tony: Would it be helpful to know other realtors that people have been successful with previously?

xvi. Courtney: I think it would muddle things. Cressy is our preferred provider. One of the things shared with me is that they do set up a tour with respective professors and staff members that are coming in. It seems to make sense to extend that to grad students since that model is already in place. At this point, it’s just trying to get everybody into the same room.

xvii. Jeremy Mann (Mathematics): I was curious if you all can clarify – the community can’t be too closely associated to activism. The queer speed dating event was postponed indefinitely. Why?

xviii. MacKenzie: it was postponed but not yet rejected. The event name needs to be changed.

xix. Jeremy: If the name were not changed then it would be rejected?

xx. MacKenzie: It needs to be renamed “friending event” not “dating event”

xxi. Andrea: the message we got was that speed dating of any kind was rejected because it goes against Catholic chastity.

xxii. Gillian: The monthly speed dating events at Legends will be cancelled in the future as well.

xxiii. Jeremy: it was not until the Queer Speed Dating Event was proposed that they canceled the Straight Speed Dating Event, I’m guessing just to eliminate that argument.

xxiv. Kyle: we met with the director of the Gender Relations Center. Eventually any of those events will be canceled because it doesn’t go with the University's mission to maintain chaste relationships.

xxv. Jeremy: just to clarify, does the GSU Executive Board support queer speed dating?

xxvi. Tony: We had nothing to do with it not being approved. Why is this pertinent?
xxvii. Kyle: for instance, if the Quality of Life has an event we send it to SAO for approval. We didn’t have an approval or disapproval of the event.

xxviii. Jeremy: as opposed to the Queer is the Night event? I was just curious as to what the Executive Board feels on this issue.

xxix. Tony: we approved it.

xxx. Courtney: Catholic social teaching has nothing to do with dating. That was not the issue. So if the Catholic doctrines weren’t the issue what is the issue? There is nothing in the Catholic doctrines with regard to dating per say. The issue is that the University is not here to make matches between students, so based on that it was determined that there would be no dating events across the board. I suggested that if GlassND was not permitted then it should be across the board. We were told that the decision on dating events is now across the board, not just for the LGBTQ community. We are going to have to reevaluate this in terms of how we move forward as far as events. It was new territory.

xxxi. Tony: also the Exec Board is very much in support of MacKenzie compiling this report to see what we can do and what the needs are.

h. Gillian Shaw (Social): I need to add to my "Events in the Works" section. I changed the date of Sustainability and Charity event to Dec 5th. I am looking for an opinion on the time to hold a Christmas party every year, I don't have children so I don't know what time is a good time to hold a children's party. Last year I had it at 2 and it was naptime.

i. Tony Cunningham (Co-VP): Andrea can you poll the GSPN and get some feedback?

ii. Yes, I can talk to Nathan Elliot.

iii. Gillian: He said I could hold the event on Dec. 15 and he'll get back to me about the time. I haven't heard from him yet.

iv. Tony: he is swamped because he is now rector of both University Village and FOG.

v. Courtney Davis (Quality of Life): Would it be possible to send out a survey?

vi. Samantha Atkins (Publicity & Procedures): Yes, I can send one out.

vii. Andrea Castonguay (Quality of Life): Gillian are you still planning the Halloween Party?

viii. Gillian: Yes I have this event all set up with Corby’s Irish Pub. GSU is only providing pizza and prizes for the costume contest. I made it from 8-10pm because Halloween is on a Friday so those with children can easily get a sitter. The event is free and this morning I might have to apply for an alcohol exception for this party that hasn’t had to be done in the past, hopefully I can get it together for Halloween.

ix. Tony: what does the alcohol exception entail?

x. Gillian: that alcohol will be at the event and available. I’ve put in two and Brian Coughlin takes a little over a month to get back to you. I am concerned we might have to shut the event down if we don’t get an exemption.

xi. MacKenzie Warren (Quality of Life): Why do we need one?

xii. Gillian: this just happened this morning and I need more clarification.
xiii. Andrea: how did you hear about the need for this? Did you get an email?

xiv. Gillian: I put in an SAO approval form for this event the beginning of September. The event was approved and then there’s an area for our adviser to put comments. All the events were approved, but I just got an e-mail this morning that the event is approved pending this comment about the exemption.

xv. Jeremy: my question is, why do these approval processes take so long? It poses a risk to people planning something.

xvi. Gillian: things take a long time to get approved because there are a lot of events that need approval. I just need to know well in advance that I’m going to hold an event, but late in the game changes to the event puts me in a bind. You just need to know the event that you’re going to put on and submit it ASAP. You need to put in an approval form 10 weeks in advance.

4. Kyle Watson (Co-VP): Any reports from the University Committees?
   a. Meredith Doellman (Academic Affairs): for the Library Committee, there is a grad student panel on library concerns October 29th and it will be not open to anybody so if anyone has any specific concerns, let me know by this date.

5. Kyle moves on to old business.
   a. Last month we did the first vote on the amendments on the GSU constitution. All approvals to the constitution have to be done twice. Are there any other concerns?
      i. William Smith (Philosophy) motions to approve. Mingming Cai (Electrical Engineering) seconds. No one opposed, motion passes.
   b. Bryant Vande Kolk (Physics): I have a question for Peggy. Have you met with the Office of Sustainability for Printing?
      i. Meredith: It was Peggy Roland from OIT. They are still working on it.

Executive Report  
November 2014  
Submitted by Kate Boehlefeld, Kyle Watson, Tony Cunningham

Conference Presentation Grants  
The committee met the first week of November to review applications for December, January, and February. Most everyone was approved for some amount of funding.

Faculty Senate  
John Affleck-Graves came to the faculty senate meeting to discuss current building projects and to provide some transparency to the approval process for these projects. All of the departments that will be moving to the new crossroad buildings were consulted about the space.

Eddy Street Commons Committee - Phase 2  
VP Tony Cunningham is sitting on a committee to discuss the future phases of Eddy Street Commons. Additional development is being planned for that area, and they have set the goals to develop a vibrant, livable and sustainable community. Presently they have opened up the floor for suggestions on potential additions to the area that would benefit the Notre Dame student, faculties and staff as well as the greater South Bend community. If you have any ideas or suggestions, feel free to send them to Tony at acunnin1@nd.edu.

Parking and Shuttle Feedback Form  
In order to provide accurate representation, the Graduate Student Union is interested in receiving feedback from the graduate students in regards to the recent changes to the parking areas and establishment of the parking shuttle system on campus. All responses will be kept completely anonymous unless the person chooses to offer their information at the end for further comment if requested. Please share the link for the Feedback Form with your departments and encourage them to provide their feedback!  
https://docs.google.com/a/nd.edu/forms/d/1xnypHQtepLRtP2805hhjcefJucqv5QW_hdXyaDio_U/viewform
Academic Affairs
November 2014
Submitted by Meredith Doellman

Academic Council and Advanced Studies Committee
The Academic Council met briefly on Monday November 10th. We approved the minutes and reviewed last year’s annual committee reports. The Executive Committee reported on two items it recently approved. They inserted language into the academic articles, stating that associate professors without tenure, that choose not to go up for tenure after three years, will go through a three year review process (similar to assistant professors without tenure. In addition, they approved the movement of the ESTEEM program under the purview of the Graduate School (in line with other professional masters programs the University offers). ESTEEM is now under the Graduate School’s academic code, which was edited to remove the previous exclusion of ESTEEM. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday December 18th.

We held our first Advanced Studies Committee meeting on Wednesday October 15th. I reviewed it verbally at the last meeting, but will report briefly in print here. We discussed agenda items that we might cover this year. The topics included the following trailing items from last year’s committee:

1) Proliferation of Certificate programs: Dean Carlson would like to discuss developing a template that will provide guidelines and oversight for these programs.
2) Response to the Graduate Student Life survey: This could include further discussion of the married student and family housing situations and satisfaction with “The Overlook” and private development standards.
3) They announced the 3-year test period for providing 100% health insurance subsidy to graduate students. This should bring us in line with comparable graduate programs around the country.

Other topics, which may be on the agenda this year, include:

1) Items that were formerly addressed by the (now dissolved) Graduate Council.
2) Degree programs for the new School of International Affairs.
3) Updates on current graduate programs from our Deans.

We met again on Monday November 10th, where Dean Laura Carlson presented on the current state of “Certificate Programs” at the University. The goal for this discussion was to determine whether a University-wide standard/template is required. She categorized the existing certificate programs into two types (one equivalent to continuing education credits, and a second “departmental certificate”), with a third that may come online soon (a credit-bearing certificate program for non-degree-seeking students, with requirements similar to a graduate minor). Representatives from Business and Law anticipated the development of these types of programs, as the number of courses offered online and in Chicago expands.
They also raised the possibility of “bundling” certificate programs into a master’s degree. The committee agreed that more oversight is needed for development of these types of programs. Moving forward, we agreed to gather more information on a few fronts:

1) Include current and developing certificate programs for full-time graduate students (e.g. Kaneb teaching programs, Ethics and Leadership programs beginning next year).
2) Benchmarking with other AAU private universities.

In the course of this discussion, the issue of allowing students to take courses across schools/programs was raised. The committee will look into whether tuition should be charged/waived and how to facilitate this type of exchange. We will meet next on Thursday December 18th.

**University Committee on Libraries**

On Wednesday October 29th, the library staff held a panel discussion with some graduate students. Most of the meeting covered plans for library renovations. These were detailed in my October report and will be covered by the library staff’s presentation to the GSU on Thursday November 20th. They also discussed “renovations” to the library’s website and online catalogs. They are at the beginning of the renovation process and welcome any feedback on the website. The following is a link to a 10 minute survey: [http://nd.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_em1gEzSOwTfrCTz](http://nd.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_em1gEzSOwTfrCTz). The library staff would appreciate any advice you can provide.

The University Committee on Libraries met on Thursday November 6th. The agenda included a presentation on Curate ND, and review of proposed future agenda topics.

CurateND has officially launched. It is an institutional repository for self-deposit of research results and associated data, meeting federal requirements for data management plans. One can deposit several types of data file (text, image, multi-media, etc.), it will be discoverable by web search (unless you place it under embargo), and the library will preserve the files (backed up in several places). In addition, it unites a researcher’s materials under a unique researcher ID and provides permanent high-capacity storage (even after you leave the University). A data management planning tool is also included, and the Center for Digital Scholarship will provide support. The public campus-wide launch will occur in February and include workshops. Please direct any questions to Rick Johnson or Andrew Sama.

The development team is working on interfacing with existing repositories, data management/ workflow tools, and version control websites. They are interested in soliciting feedback from graduate students in a variety of fields, concerning the types of tools currently in use. I am interested in your views on the best way to collect this information from graduate students in your departments.

Additional agenda topics for this year may include:
- open access publication
- campus study spaces for students, and
- plagiarism detection software

If you are interested in contributing agenda topics, please bring your ideas to the November
GSU meeting and we can discuss them along with the library renovations.

A meeting with Provost Tom Burish, on the five-year review process for University Librarian Diane Walker will occur on November 20th. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday December 4th.

**University Committee on Academic Technologies**
The UCAT met on Tuesday November 4th. We discussed upcoming events, including the Mobile Conference (Nov. 12-13), and the potential for a student-centered digital week this spring. The software update noted the expanded use of ArcGIS across campus, the changing paradigm from buying to leasing software, and the effects that these might have on our future software budgets. CRC updates indicated that they are in discussions to find funds for increased bandwidth. We also briefly discussed transitions to cloud storage (I have a multi-university report that ND was involved in, if anyone is interested), the need for increased security, and the stress that it places on current network bandwidth.

The majority of discussion focused on classroom technology updates. All 161 computers in classroom lecterns will be replaced this summer. Current computers have dual boot capability (pc or Mac), but the Mac option is rarely used. Maintaining this option to boot in Mac will increase the purchase price of the new classroom technology substantially. Do we think it is worth it? Do you or your professors use the Mac option? Would a PC environment be enough for you? Do you just bring your own laptop? Would it be more valuable to invest in making the classrooms “digital ready” (upgrading digital quality of projection display, including HDMI connection capability, etc.)? These are questions that need to be answered by January, in order to purchase equipment for summer installation.

We will continue to discuss the printing budget. Please bring any other proposed agenda items to mdoellma@nd.edu. The date of the next UCAT meeting has not yet been announced.
Healthcare  
November 2014  
Submitted by Sean P. Phillips

Graduate Student Union Sponsored Blood Drive  
The second GSU blood drive of the semester will occur on December 16th, 2014 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Hesburgh Library Circle. Appointments are encouraged by logging into www.givebloodnow.com and using the sponsor code IRISH.

Call for Ideas for Monthly GSU Health Events/Gatherings  
As this semester winds to a close, it is important to step back and assess some strengths and weaknesses of health care education within the graduate student community. Do you have an idea for a seminar topic, an event that should be highlighted, or a community cause that needs assistance? Please contact the Health Chair (sphilli4@nd.edu) with your ideas.

Statement from President Jenkins on Ebola  
The ongoing Ebola epidemic is a significant worldwide public health concern and one that we are taking very seriously at Notre Dame.

As the outbreak has progressed during the past several months, many Notre Dame staff members have been closely monitoring the situation. Let me emphasize: It is very unlikely that anyone on our campus could contract Ebola. That said, the safety of everyone on campus is our highest priority, and we believe it is prudent to follow best practices and be proactively prepared, especially as the Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks draw near.

The actions we have taken and recommendations we are making include:

- We are committed to a continual process of campus-wide risk assessment to identify and mitigate potential threats to our students, faculty, staff and visitors.
- Doctors, nurses, emergency medical technicians and other staff in University Health Services (UHS), the Notre Dame Wellness Center and our fire and police departments have developed response protocols and safety measures as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) for anyone exhibiting Ebola symptoms.
- All of our healthcare professionals and other emergency response personnel at Notre Dame are in communication and collaborating with area hospitals, local and state public health agencies and first responders.
- To the extent possible, we are monitoring the travel of students, faculty and staff.
- All students, faculty and staff are strongly urged to follow travel alerts issued by the U.S. State Department and CDC, which advise U.S. citizens to defer unnecessary travel to the affected countries in West Africa – Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.
• Students are not permitted to travel to these countries on Notre Dame-sponsored programs. Faculty and staff traveling to one of these countries are asked to register their trip with the Notre Dame International Travel Registry. As always, anyone who travels internationally is encouraged to schedule a consultation with a travel health provider at UHS or the Wellness Center.
• Anyone who has symptoms is asked to call UHS or the Wellness Center before coming to either facility. Please let staff know about your recent travel history when you call.
• Campus units that are hosting visitors from one of the endemic Ebola countries are asked to contact Susan Soisson (Soisson.1@nd.edu), the risk management coordinator with Notre Dame International, at least two weeks in advance of the planned visit.
• Up-to-date information and guidance on Ebola is available on the CDC Ebola website.
• All members of the campus community are asked to recall the basic precautions needed to avoid the spread of the common influenza virus or any infectious disease.
• In the weeks and months ahead, our healthcare and safety staff will continue to monitor this situation and take additional action, as necessary. These precautions and recommendations are made out of an abundance of caution.

Again, the possibility of someone here contracting Ebola is extremely remote, but I assure you that we are prepared and committed to the safety of all who live, work, study and teach at Notre Dame.

Please keep in your prayers those who have been affected in this country and worldwide, as well as medical professionals who are providing care and researchers who are seeking to find and refine effective remedies.

Upcoming Health-Related Events and Opportunities
The Department of Biological Sciences and the Eck Institute for Global Health are pleased to present a seminar by Dr. Terrie Taylor, University Distinguished Professor from Michigan State University. The talk entitled "The Pathogenesis of Fatal Malaria: A Few More Pieces of the Puzzle," will take place on Tuesday, December 9 at 4:00pm in 283 Galvin Life Science.

Each year, the Common Good Initiative (CGI) brings together graduate and professional students from around the University for the cause of social justice within a framework of Catholic social engagement. CGI immersions are situated in communities of Central America, North America, or the Caribbean that are creating personal and structural responses to issues of poverty, including industrial decline, global health, labor migration, political instability, and varied forms of discrimination. Internships are located throughout the world to put a graduate student's developing skills, disciplinary expertise, and topical interests to work in addressing the particular needs of church organizations, non-profits, and NGOs. All graduate and professional students are welcomed and encouraged to apply, with the online application being available the week of November 17th, 2014. For further information, consult the Center for Social Concerns website: http://socialconcerns.nd.edu/faculty/CommonGoodInitiative.shtml.
The University Counselling Center will host a third session in its series “Peace of Mind: The Art of Mindful Relaxation” entitled “Mindful Movement/Mindful Eating” on November 21st, 2014 from 1:30-2:30pm on the third floor of St. Liam Hall.

Recognition from Coordination Committee (Mental Health Awareness Week 2014)
The Graduate Student Union was recently recognized by the coordinators of the “Irish State of Mind” (Mental Health Awareness Week, 2014) with a photographic plaque featuring the Hesburgh Library illuminated in green (the livery of Mental Health Awareness Week) and a letter of thanks:

“Thank you so much for your involvement in and support of Mental Health Awareness Week on behalf of the Graduate Student Union. It was a pleasure working with you and I look forward to future collaboration. This week was a huge success and we could not have accomplished such success without you!”

Any addition suggestions, additions, or concerns, are welcomed and can be addressed to Sean P. Phillips at sphilli4@nd.edu.
Internal Affairs
November 2014
Submitted by Michelle Comas

GSU & Office for Postdoctoral Scholars 7th Annual Research Symposium
The second meeting was held with Kimberly Patton, Associate Program Director of the Office for Postdoctoral Scholars on Friday, October 24, 2014 to continue planning efforts for the GSU & Office for Postdoctoral Scholars 7th Annual Research Symposium. The date for the event is set for Thursday, April 9, 2015 and will be located in McKenna Hall. Evan Bryson with the Graduate School sat-in on this meeting to discuss an advertising plan for the event. Evan plans to have the event’s Press Kit (including event flyers, etc.) completed prior to leaving for Christmas break. In addition, an email was sent out to GSU chairs and representatives to nominate/recommend faculty member judges from their respective departments. I received a few responses and am waiting/open to more. As may be obvious, faculty judges are responsible for judging the symposium posters for their department on the day of the event and we will provide lunch. If you have any recommendation for a faculty judge in your department that you feel would serve well in this judging position and has the time/would be willing to commit to this, please email mcomas@nd.edu. Emails will be sent out to the nominated judges by the end of the month.

Moreover, correspondence continues with Antonio Lepore, one of the GSU Professional Development chairs, regarding collaborating on planning events: this year’s Research Symposium and 3MT, which will be held on the same day.
Planning for the 3MT event is in full swing. The date has been set for April 9th, 2015 at 5pm, and the venue will be the Jordan Auditorium at Mendoza. We are working to create a project plan and establish a team to help get this year’s inaugural event off the ground. 3MT originated in Australia at the University of Queensland. It is intended to involve students of every discipline, and bring employers directly to our graduate students. Anyone interested in being a part of this landmark event is encouraged to contact Antonio (alepore@nd.edu).
Publicity & Procedures
November 2014
Submitted by Samantha Atkins

Duties and Responsibilities

Weekly
Website Management
- GSU sponsored events from the Newsletter were added to the calendar and listed on the website's Events page.
- "Meet the GSU" has been updated with pictures and contact info of chairs.

Management of Facebook and Twitter
- The Twitter account is linked to the GSU Facebook account, so by posting on Facebook, GSU also makes the same announcement on Twitter.
- Facebook was utilized to post GSU events such as the Ticket advertising for GSU subsidized Chicago Tickets at the Morris Theatre (159 people reached), GSU sponsored Blood Drive (82 people reached), GSU Halloween Party (155 people reached).

GSU Newsletter
- September had a total of 2,725 student recipients for the newsletters, and October had a total of 2,720.
- This month featured: The GSU Blood Drive, Professional Development events from the Graduate School, Chicago at Morris Performing Arts Theatre, Grad Student Lightning Talk Event, Digital Week 2014, Rock Climbing, TEDxND, Better Block South Bend, football schedules, Food for Friends, Graduate Student Social, Energy Week, GSU sponsored Halloween Party, GSU sponsored Open Ice Skate, South Bend Civic Theatre's Haunted House, Art and Design Open Studio, Reilly Center Training Programs, Quality of Life Bathroom Survey, DPAC's Higher Ground.
  - October 1: 52.5% open rate
  - October 8: 52.9% open rate
  - October 16: 51.6% open rate
  - October 22: 53.3%
  - October 29: 52.7%
  - Oct 1st number of subscribers: 2,775
  - Oct 31st number of subscribers: 2,720
  - Average open stat (Sep): 52.6%, up 20.2% - the Spam problem from September has been taken care of.
Quality of Life
November 2014
Submitted by Andrea Castonguay, Courtney Davis, and MacKenzie Warren

University Committee Representatives
Objective: To ensure that the Graduate Student body is represented on various University Committees

Currently, there are two outstanding vacancies that need to be filled: (1) Traffic & Parking Committee, and (2) Graduate Student Ministry Partnership Team (GSMPT). In order to meet this demand, the Quality of Life Chairs are seeking two department reps. Interested parties can email Andrea (acastong@nd.edu) or MacKenzie (mwarren@nd.edu).

In addition, the Quality of Life Chairs are seeking help from any and all additional support from department reps interested in graduate quality of life issues. Interested parties can email Andrea or MacKenzie.

Spirit of Inclusion Initiative
Objective: To further educate the Notre Dame community on the diversity of its student body.

Quality of Life chairs met to discuss initiatives for Graduate Student Appreciation Week. In particular, Quality of Life wants to recognize the diversity of the Notre Dame community and the importance of equality among all members. Quality of Life plans to work with the GSU and Grad Life to develop specific initiatives, though any interested individuals are encouraged to contact Quality of Life to take part in planning.

LGBTQ Subcommittee: Graduate LGBTQ and Allied Student Society at Notre Dame (GlassND)
Objective: To establish a sustainable graduate LGBTQ community at Notre Dame through the formation of a GSU subcommittee, in order to better serve and support our LGBTQ students, including equal access and opportunity to Notre Dame classrooms, facilities and resources, increasing education on safety and protection issues related to the LGBTQ community, and rights and responsibilities of all members of the Notre Dame community.

MacKenzie will be compiling a report on the current university climate for LGBTQ graduate students and suggestions for improvement. The purpose of this report is to give the GSU and other University offices a better idea on how to meet the needs of this community. The report will be generated based on a survey of all ND graduate students and interviews with LGBTQ graduate students to be conducted by MacKenzie. The survey will be open to all graduate students and will provide a broad perspective on the campus...
view of and climate for the LGBTQ community. The interviews with LGBTQ graduate students will focus on the experiences of those individuals and suggestions for improvement. A survey has been drafted and is currently undergoing editing by the subcommittee. The goal is to have the survey process completed by the end of the Fall 2014 semester.

In addition, the subcommittee wants to address concerns about the University’s current

- anti-harassment ([http://equity.nd.edu/sexual-harassment-title-ix/policy/] ) and

As it stands, the University anti-harassment policy does not protect individuals on the basis of gender identity and the non-discrimination policy provides no protections for sexual orientation or gender identity. MacKenzie has composed a proposal to amend the University anti-harassment policy to include gender identity and expression, which is currently being edited by members of the subcommittee.

MacKenzie and members of the subcommittee met with Karrah Miller (Office of Institutional Equity), Matt Lahey (General Counsel), and Mark Kocovski (HR Consulting) to request clarification on the ND harassment and discrimination policies to discuss the procedures for changing University policy on September 17th. The subcommittee heard back from Karrah on October 16th. General Counsel refused to give a response in writing. Instead, MacKenzie and members of the subcommittee spoke to Karrah over the phone. Karrah indicated that the University anti-harassment and discrimination policies are in line with Federal law, but do not go beyond the minimum of what is required by law; however, Karrah stated that any individual who feels that they have been harassed or discriminated against for any reason should file a report with the Office of Institutional Equity.

The Office of Student Affairs has provided clarification on how the decision to grant benefits to same-sex couples will affect graduate students. All graduate students with a marriage license valid in the State of Indiana are eligible to apply for housing at University Village and spousal ID cards ([http://graduateschool.nd.edu/resources-for-current-students/spouse-id-cards/]). In addition, there will be a special registration available for spousal health insurance in the coming months.

The subcommittee was planning to host a candlelight vigil on Thursday November 20th for the international Transgender Day of Remembrance. This event is to honor those individuals killed due to anti-transgender violence in 2014. Updates on the event will be available at the council meeting.

The subcommittee is collecting information on gender-neutral bathrooms. If you know of a gender-neutral bathroom, please let us know by completing the following survey: [http://goo.gl/forms/bhgvo4UgFp]

Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention (CSAP)
There is a new resource available for reporting incidents of sexual harassment, misconduct and discriminatory harassment: speakup.nd.edu. The report will be directed to the relevant University office and may be submitted anonymously.

During the November CSAP meeting, the committee heard a presentation on GreenDot bystander intervention training (https://www.livethegreendot.com). This training program will be rolled out campus-wide next fall. The committee is discussing the best way to market the training to various campus groups (undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, etc.) and implement the program on campus.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for December 12th.

**Off-Campus Neighborhood Alliance**

*Objective:* To help the University meet its goals in the Strategic Plan (http://strategicplan.nd.edu) for off-campus students, to address future graduate student housing issues, and to provide a safe environment and network for graduate students living off-campus.

**Small ND Communities**

A meeting was held between the Executive Council and the Quality of Life Reps on 10/28 at the Morris Inn to discuss small community groups and how they fit into the GSU platform. Ideas discussed included setting up Notre Dame Neighborhood Watch groups for those students living off-campus and using the GSU website as an advertising space for this and other small community-based groups and associations. The group decided that information on how to set up a neighborhood watch group will be published on the GSU website in the near future.

**Graduate Spouse and Partner Network (GSPN)**

*Objective:* To establish a sustainable support and peer network for the spouses, partners and families of graduate students in order to lessen feelings of isolation, frustration and loneliness that can arise during the graduate school years.

The GSPN had a very successful pumpkin carving event on 10/26 with approximately 20 people in attendance. Most of those who attended enjoyed the opportunity to meet other grad students and families and asked that such social events continue in order to build greater camaraderie among the Notre Dame Graduate Student body.

Upcoming GSPN events include a family-friendly Thanksgiving potluck on Sunday, 11/23/14 at the Beichner Community Center, University Village and a holiday “date night” party at The Brick in South Bend on Sunday 12/14/14. Interested students can RSVP for the Thanksgiving potluck at: http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f44a9ad23a0f58-thanksgiving.

**Strategic Planning and Sustainability**

As part of the Quality of Life Strategic Planning and Sustainability Action Plan, Andrea, Courtney and MacKenzie have been meeting on a weekly basis to stay informed of each other’s projects and coordinate efforts. This has proven to be helpful in keeping long-term projects on track, as well as staying abreast of the various meetings held between members of the GSU, Quality of Life, and Notre Dame Administration.

**GSU Website**
Objective: To understand the current state of the GSU website, its operating system, and focus on what needs to be updated, modified, or improved so as to keep the Graduate Student body informed.

Following the GSU website audit, Andrea spoke with Mimi Beck and the Executive Committee on how best to update the website. At the same time, the Quality of Life team put together a short-term plan to publish new content on the Quality of Life section of the GSU page, with the goal to develop a more robust platform next semester to meet future needs. Pages whose content will be updated include:

- International Students
- Students with Disabilities
- Women Faculty & Students
- Students with Families
- LGBTQ Students
- Graduate Student Housing

Graduate Resource and Problem Resolution (GRPR)

Objective: To address, record, and resolve Human Resources issues that arise among members of the Graduate Student Body.

A case of potential harassment/discrimination was anonymously reported to the Quality of Life reps regarding an event that happened at The Morris Inn over the Halloween weekend (10/31-11/2). Andrea reached out to staff at the Morris Inn to confirm the validity of the incident. A report from one of the Morris Inn staff members is forthcoming.

Graduate students can submit problems and concerns to the GRPR email address (nd.grpr@gmail.com). This account is only accessed by Andrea and MacKenzie and anonymity may be requested. Department representatives are encouraged to advertise this resource to their constituents.
Social Report
November 2014
Submitted by Gillian Shaw

Recent Events
Halloween Party
Saturday, October 31st (8:00-10:00 PM). This event was held at Corby's Irish Pub in South Bend and was free to attend for students and their guests. The event was very successful, with around 100 attendees throughout the party who all seemed to have a good time. One $50 Visa gift card was awarded to the best individual costume winner, and 2 $20 Visa gift cards were awarded to the best couple costume winner. All of the pizza and candy was consumed, and the Corby’s staff was friendly and accommodating as usual. This event is highly recommended for future Halloween parties. The earlier party time was much appreciated by both those attending with families and those who had additional plans for the evening.

Open Ice Skate
Sunday, November 9th (5:15-7:15 PM). The Compton Family Ice Arena was reserved for two hours and free skate rentals, hot chocolate, and cookies were available to grad students and their guests. The event was fairly well attended, especially by families with young children. Another ice skating event is planned for February 8, 2015 that will follow the same format.

Mockingjay Movie Premiere
Thursday, November 20th (9:00 PM). 70 tickets ($8 each) and 70 concession stand vouchers ($6 each) were purchased for the premiere of the movie The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1 at the Cinemark 14 movie theatre (910 West Edison, Mishawaka, IN). The ticket and concession stand vouchers (which include a small popcorn and small drink) were sold for a combined subsidized price of $5 each. A similar event was held last year; however GSU only subsidized 50 tickets. There was a major outcry for additional tickets to be purchased, but with the timing was not possible. Hopefully, the increase to 70 tickets will ensure that all eager grad students are able to obtain a ticket.

Upcoming Events
Thanksgiving Brunch
Thursday, November 28th (11:30 AM – 3:30 PM). 450 tickets ($8 each) were purchased from North Dining Hall for their annual Thanksgiving Brunch. This event is for all students who are still here for the Thanksgiving Holiday. In addition, it is also for families who want to celebrate Thanksgiving but maybe don't want to deal with the hassle of cleaning up. For most events, the number of tickets/grad ID is 2. If the grad student specifies that he or she wants to take the family to this event the allowed
number of tickets is increased to 4. GSU had purchased all of the in-advance tickets for the NDH Brunch but we were approached by the MBAA program, asking if we could spare 30-50 tickets. Because the usual graduate student attendance is 400-420 persons, it was agreed that 40 tickets could be sold to MBAA program (at full price). Subsidized tickets to the Thanksgiving Brunch are currently on sale for $5 each.

**Sustainability Concert**  
**Friday, December 5th (7:00PM-11:00PM)**  
The fall 2014 charity event will be a fundraiser for, and in collaboration with, the Potawatomi Conservatory. The proceeds will go towards repairs to the Greenhouse Community Garden, which currently serves as a negative attraction and danger hazard on Potawatomi Park. These repairs will allow for expanded programming including plant propagation, public education programs, sustainability classes (such as composting and rainwater collection), and urban farming. Lead by the Botanical Society of South Bend and Unity Gardens, these classes will be free and open to the public, engaging a wide community of volunteers, as well as John Adams High School students and teachers. The fundraiser will take place at the Potawatomi Conservatory, a large greenhouse located south of campus. Tickets will be sold both ahead of time and at the door: $15 for graduate students and $30 for the general public. The night will consist of live music, raffles, silent auctions, and hors d’oeuvres.

**Christmas Party**  
**Friday, December 12 (8:00 PM-11:00 PM).** Legend’s club area has been reserved for grad students and guests. Hot and cold appetizers, water, and lemonade will be ordered and provided. A cash bar will also be available. Everyone is encouraged to wear his or her favorite ugly Christmas sweater and participate in the Christmas sweater contest, with the winner receiving a gift card prize. There will also be a gingerbread house contest, with the winning team receiving a gift card prize.

**Children’s Christmas Party**  
**Saturday, December 13 (10:00 AM-12:00 PM).** The community center at University Village has been reserved for a party for graduate students with children. An age-appropriate holiday movie will be shown and Christmas crafts along with hot chocolate, juice, and cookies will be available. There will also be a visit from Santa and have a grab-bag toy given to each child. A fellow graduate student has agreed to take “professional” photos of the children on Santa’s lap.

**Events “in the works”**  
Welcome Back Cupcake Wars – Friday, Jan 9th  
Weekend in Grand Rapids (Extended Brew Tour) – Saturday–Sunday, Feb 28-29  
Winery Tour of SW Michigan – Tentative date was April 11th but because of Gala plans this may be moved to April 26th (see Charity Gala table on the next page).

**Events already planned for Spring semester**  
Sister Act (Morris Event) – Saturday Jan 24th 8PM  
Open Ice Skate – Sunday Feb 8th 3-5PM

**Charity Gala**  
Preferred Dates: April 18th, 26th, or May 2nd
Reasons:
- These dates are pre-finals. All grad students should still be on campus.
- These dates do not interfere with religious holidays.
- Late April/early May offer a higher potential for nicer weather as opposed to early April. (But it’s still South Bend, you never know).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possible Venues</th>
<th>Pros</th>
<th>Cons</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Brick</strong></td>
<td><em>Gorgeous</em> location</td>
<td>No not-for-profit discount on weekends</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Extremely friendly and accommodating staff</td>
<td>Room rental alone almost entirely consumes the Gala budget.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Allows for outside caterer to minimize food costs.</td>
<td>Only date available May 9th (Saturday after finals)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Palais Royale</strong></td>
<td>Offers not-for-profit discount on room rental if a specific charity is “declared”</td>
<td>Same location as last year</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Location is ideal for those looking to explore DTSB after the event</td>
<td><strong>Only date available: April 4th (Saturday before Easter).</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Food is exorbitantly expensive and bringing in an outside caterer is prohibited</td>
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<td>No parking at location</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Woodward Room</strong></td>
<td>Location is ideal for those looking to explore DTSB after the event.</td>
<td>I have requested additional information twice from this venue and they are yet to get back to me.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Parking available at location</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Riverside Terrace</strong></td>
<td><em>Offers an elimination of the room rental fee if a specific charity is “declared”</em></td>
<td>Only date available April 11th</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overlooks St. Joseph river (really pretty).</td>
<td>Location = Downtown Mishawaka. At least 15 minute drive from campus. Maybe I should provide a shuttle to this location?</td>
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</table>

Bolded items indicate major pros or cons.
- **None** of the preferred dates are available. Action must be taken quickly in order to ensure that a venue is available for the Gala.
- This list is not extensive. Other venues explored include: The Century Center, The Double Tree Hilton, The Pool, and Club Naimoli. They were eliminated because of various reasons that I can go into if it is deemed it necessary.