December 9, 2010 – Council Agenda

Meetings held at 7:00PM in the Notre Dame Room of LaFortune

- Roll Call/Sign-In

- Approval of the Minutes (November 11, 2010)

- Executive Committee’s Report: Victoria Froude, Carolyn Rodak, Kasey Swanke

- Committee Reports
  - Academic Affairs – Kelly Martin
  - External Affairs – Melissa Pirkey
  - Health Care – Samuel Rund
  - Orientation & Electronic Resources – Kevin Mueller
  - Quality of Life – Victoria Froude & Kasey Swanke
  - Publicity & Procedures - Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham
  - Social - Ellen Childs & Karen Saavedra

- University Committees
  - Academic Council - Kelly Martin
  - Academic Technologies – Kevin Mueller
  - Faculty Senate - Carolyn Rodak
  - Graduate Council - Victoria Froude & Kasey Swanke
  - Committee for Women Faculty and Students - Amber Handy & Allison Regier
  - Library Committee – Kelly Martin
  - Traffic Appeals – Victoria Froude & Kasey Swanke
  - LaFortune Tenants – Ellen Childs & Karen Saavedra
  - Professional Development ad-hoc Committee – Ralf Bendlin

- Old /New Business
  - Athletic Department Letter: Men’s basketball and hockey packages – Victoria Froude & Kevin Mueller

- Adjournment

Merry Christmas ~ Happy Holidays from the GSU
Have a Safe and Happy New Year!
Minutes

November 11, 2010
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune Student Center

**Officers:** Victoria Froude, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering (*GSU President*); Carolyn Rodak, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (*Co-Vice President*); Kasey Swanke, Political Science (*Co-Vice President*).

**Chairs:** Kelly Martin, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (*Academic Affairs*); Kevin Mueller, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (*Electronic Resources/ Orientation*); Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (*Publicity & Procedures*); Ellen Childs, Sociology (*Social*) and Karen Saavedra, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (*Social*).

**University Committees:** Amber Handy, History (*Women Faculty & Students*).


**FOG & University Village Representatives:** Evan Claudeanos, (*Philosophy*) University Village.

1. Victoria Froude, *President*, called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
2. Victoria called for the approval of the minutes from the October 14, 2010 meeting. Heather Price announced that “Hilary Davidson” until item 22c should be “Heather Price”. Heather additionally announced that under item 22c, that “…multiple computers, it would be acceptable to count their answers” should read “…multiple computers, that any bias would be equally spread out on both sides.” There was a motion to approve the minutes as amended and the motion carried. The minutes were approved as amended.
3. Victoria stated that the Executive Committee’s report stands.
   a. Carolyn Rodak, *Vice President*, highlighted the new Subcommittee focused on International Student Support. Gretchen Busl, *ad-hoc Subcommittee for International Student Support Chair*, announced that the Committee’s aim is to assist international graduate students with any problems they may encounter, and to improve their overall experience. She stated that this committee’s efforts will be in addition to those of International Student
Services and Activities (ISSA). Ralf Bendlin, Professional Development ad-hoc Committee Chair, asked if this new committee will also assist graduate student spouses and post-docs. Gretchen stated that these populations will also be assisted by the International Student Support Committee. If any students have questions about this committee, they are encouraged to contact Gretchen (gbusl@nd.edu).

b. Victoria highlighted the Digital Asset Strategy Task Force that she and Kasey Swanke, Vice President, sit on. They are looking for ideas of how students use digital assets and how they would like to use digital assets in the future. If you have any thoughts, please contact Victoria (vfroude@nd.edu) or Kasey (kswanke@nd.edu).

4. Kelly Martin, Academic Affairs Chair, stated that her report stands. Victoria highlighted a new Subcommittee that was established under the Academic Affairs Chair, the Funding Subcommittee. This committee will look at the current status and future plans of Arts and Letters funding. If you are interested in participating in this committee, please contact Kelly (kmartin9@nd.edu).

5. Victoria stated that Melissa Pirkey’s, External Affairs Chair, report stands. Victoria announced that Melissa was attending the 2010 NAGPS Conference in Boston, MA. Victoria distributed the Center for Social Concern’s Fall 2010 “The Guide to Civic Engagement” newspaper. She stated that The Guide provides a comprehensive list of community organizations that the Center for Social Concerns has established a relationship with that are seeking volunteers. If any students are interested in getting involved in the community, The Guide is a great resource for organizations that need assistance. The Guide is available at the Center for Social Concerns, as well as on their website (http://socialconcerns.nd.edu/).

6. Samuel Rund, Health Care Chair, stated that his report stands. He announced that if any students missed the GSU blood drive, but still would like to donate, that there are other opportunities to donate on December 1st and December 7th. Students can sign up for a time to donate at the following websites: http://bit.ly/NDCav (December 1st) and http://bit.ly/NDMBA (December 7th).

7. Kevin Mueller, Orientation Chair, stated that his report stands.

8. Victoria stated that Elizabeth Martinez, Quality of Life Chair, did not have any news to report.

9. Sarrah Cheatham, Publicity & Procedures Chair, stated that her report stands.

10. Ellen Childs, Social Chair, stated that the Social report stands. She distributed a list of potential charities to be supported at this year’s GSU Annual Charity Gala. She then distributed voting ballots to each council member and asked that the Council vote on their preferred charity. Ellen then collected the ballots to tally the votes. Ellen stated that she would announce the winning charity at the end of the meeting.

11. Kelly Martin, Academic Council, stated that her report stands.

12. Kevin Mueller, Academic Technologies, stated that the University Committee on Academic Technologies convened for the first time on October 25th. Kevin asked the Council to provide feedback regarding graduate computing needs so that he may communicate to the Committee how the Committee can better assist the graduate student community. If any students have ideas or computing concerns, please contact Kevin (kmuelle4@nd.edu).

13. Carolyn Rodak, Faculty Senate, stated that her report stands.

14. Kasey Swanke, Graduate Council, stated that her report stands.
15. Amber Handy, Committee for Women Faculty and Students, stated that the Graduate School Childbirth & Adoption Accommodation Policy was being rewritten in an effort to make it more attractive. Amber stated that she will update the Council as progress is made regarding the Policy.

16. Kelly Martin, Library Committee, stated that her report stands.

17. Victoria Froude stated that Elizabeth Martinez, Traffic Appeals, did not have any news to report.

18. Karen Saavedra, LaFortune Tenants, stated that the Tenant meeting focused on procedures for emergencies, highlighting proper tornado emergency procedures. In the event of a tornado, proceed to the innermost room in the lowest level of the building. Additionally, the meeting reinforced that food waste can be recycled and encouraged that everyone on campus recycle all waste.

19. Ralf Bendlin, Professional Development ad-hoc Committee, stated that his report stands. He highlighted two upcoming events. The first event, Career Options Explored: Advisory Council Panel, will be held November 12th from 3-5pm in the Jordan Hall Auditorium. This event will consist of a panel of academic and non-academic presenters from the four disciplines within the Graduate School that will provide their career story and advice for graduate students interested in both academic and non-academic positions. The second event, The 5 Minute Research Spiel, will be held on November 15th from 5-6:45pm in the LaFortune Ballroom. This event is designed to provide graduate students with several opportunities to practice giving their research “elevator pitch”.

20. Victoria announced that no new business was submitted for the meeting, and opened the floor for any announcements.

   a. Ann Amico Moran, Associate Director of Graduate Student Career Programs for the Career Center, announced that she is new at the Career Center and that her goal is to strengthen the Notre Dame network, linking industry, academia, and government. She is available for one-on-one meetings to discuss career options and job placement. If you would like to meet with Ann, please contact her at amoran2@nd.edu. Ann announced that the Career Center will be distributing a survey in the following week that is aimed to gauge graduate students’ interest in workshops, asking for ideas for workshop topics as well as ideas to better suit graduate student needs in terms of career guidance. Ann encouraged all graduate students to take the short survey when they receive it.

   b. Ellen announced that the Boys and Girls Club of St. Joseph County will be the charity that is benefited by this year's GSU Annual Charity Gala.

   c. Victoria announced that no movement has been made by the Graduate Council regarding the outside chair requirement for proposal, thesis and dissertation defenses.

21. Victoria entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was approved and carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm.

Minutes submitted by Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham
Executive Committee’s Report
December 2010
Submitted by Victoria Froude, Carolyn Rodak, Kasey Swanke

Quality of Life Chair Opening
Liz Martinez, Quality of Life Chair, has recently resigned from her position. Therefore, the GSU is looking for a new Quality of Life chair for the Spring 2011 semester. This chair is charged with looking into any issue which contributes to the life of graduate students on campus. Responsibilities include attending the Parking and Traffic Appeals Meetings and planning the spring Bike Fest with RecSports. Complete details on chair responsibilities can be found in the GSU Constitution. The QoL chair will receive at $375 stipend for the Spring semester.

GSU 3rd Annual Graduate Research Symposium
The executive committee, along with Kelly Martin (Academic Affairs), has continued to plan this year’s research symposium. Abstracts have been returned from the judges and those selected to present at the symposium will be notified by Friday, December 10th. Planning continues as we recruit poster judges, create the symposium booklet, and plan day of logistics. If you would like to volunteer to help during the event, please email Kelly Martin (kmartin9@nd.edu).

GSU Christmas/End of the Semester Party - Sponsored by SAO
The executive committee, along with Karen Saavedra and Ellen Childs (Social Events Chairs) has planned a party for Christmas and the end of the semester with the generous support and help from Peggy Hnatusko and Student Activities Office. For our council meeting this month, we are grateful to be able to offer our hard-working committee chairs and department representatives a well-deserved nice dinner catered by Legends. Immediately following our council meeting, we will be hosting a Christmas-themed end-of-the-year party featuring a holiday movie showing, gingerbread house building competition, cookie decorating, ornament making, and individual holiday trivia. All graduate students are welcome and encouraged to attend both our council meeting and the party afterwards.

Graduate Council Meeting
The next graduate council meeting will not take place until January.

Digital Asset Strategy Task Force
Victoria and Kasey are still sitting on the digital asset strategy task force. The academic task force, which is currently writing up our final report, is looking for any short case studies that point out the need for more digital assets in education. In addition, any suggestions on what would be needed for the future (for teaching, research, etc) are welcomed. The communications task force is still deliberating about the needs and
solutions of graduate students as well, so please send any thoughts and suggestions to us.

**Faculty Senate**

We will be meeting December 7th. Updates at the meeting.

**Meeting with Peggy Hnatusko**

This month, Victoria met with the GSU advisor, Peggy, to discuss the call for a new quality of life chair and the GSU Christmas Party taking place on Thursday, December 9th.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**
Academic Affairs
December 2010
Submitted by Kelly Martin

Academic Council
The Advanced Studies Committee, together with the Office of Research, continues to write and revise guidelines and principles for postdoctoral appointments at the University of Notre Dame. The document clarifies the definition of a post-doc, responsibilities, benefits, grievance process, and other policies and procedures important to the position. We expect the document to be brought to the full Council for approval next semester.

University Library Committee
Candidates are currently being interviewed for the East Asian and Latin American Studies Subject Specialist positions. During winter break, the new catalog system will become the default on the library's webpage. You will still have access to the old catalog; click on the Catalog Classic tab. A Task Force has recently been formed to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for the libraries. Susan Ohmer, Assistant Provost and Interim Director of the Hesburgh Libraries, is leading the process.

Funding Subcommittee
The Funding Subcommittee will meet with Dean Sterling to discuss the current status of graduate student funding and the strategic plan. After this meeting, we will reassess how the committee can effectively advocate on behalf of the graduate students.

Graduate Student Research Symposium
By the time of the GSU meeting, acceptance emails should have been sent out.

Library Computer Cluster Move
We are still waiting to hear about the moving date, but will inform you as soon as we find out.
External Affairs
December 2010
Submitted by Melissa Pirkey

NAGPS
From November 11-14, I attended the 24th annual conference for the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students at MIT in Boston, MA. I attended several panel presentations, including a presentation on how the University of Maryland, Baltimore County developed a position of “Writing Advisor” within their GSA to assist the graduate community with general writing issues, a presentation on the “Consensus Building Approach to Decision Making,” as well as talks on surveying graduate populations and promoting civic engagement. Additionally, I observed a demonstration of a new social networking site for graduate students called GradShare (www.gradshare.com) which allows students to ask questions of other grads within their general fields (social sciences, humanities, physical sciences, business, engineering, education, and life sciences) and access articles written by experts on topics about professional development and graduate life. Finally, I attended the business meetings and voted on behalf of Notre Dame for the new executive board, as well as the location for the next annual meeting, which will be at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

GSU Volunteer Event: Northern Indiana Food Bank
On November 19th three graduate students attended a graduate student volunteer event at the Northern Indiana Food Bank. Though the event was advertised through the list serv and web site, recruiting volunteers was difficult. This may have been due to the time slot of the event, which took place on a week day during working hours, or due to short notice. While volunteering at the food bank is a valuable experience, it felt disorganized at times. I would not recommend using the food bank for group volunteer events again, though I would encourage individuals to consider volunteering with the food bank, especially if they can make a regular commitment.

If you have any suggestions for other locations that might be able to accommodate groups of students as volunteers, or have suggestions for days or times that might be more attractive to grad students, please let me know.
Orientation & Electronic Resources
December 2010
Submitted by Kevin A Mueller

University Committee on Academic Technologies
I could not attend the November meeting due to a class conflict. I passed along the concerns raised to me at the end of the November GSU Council meeting to the chair so that it can be discussed. I will elaborate on them more at the next meeting. The current concerns raised to me are as follows:

1) Make more software free for students (grad in particular) for research, teaching;
2) Discuss possible cost-saving measure for MATLAB license;
3) Easier way to share online space for collaborative research;
4) Better advertisement, promotion of new/current software available to grad students;
5) Classes on new software;
6) Galvin Building Library closing - noticed that only thing used was the pharos printer. Removed library but never put printer back in, which is what was promised;
7) Keep webfile or something similar.

If there are any other concerns or items you want brought up at the next meeting please let me know.
Quality of Life Report
December 2010
Submitted by Victoria Froude and Kasey Swanke

Quality of Life Chair Opening
Liz Martinez, Quality of Life Chair, has resigned from her position. The executive committee is currently taking applications for the Spring 2011 semester (available on the GSU website). See the executive committee report for more information. Feel free to contact Victoria (vfroude@nd.edu) or Kasey (kswanke@nd.edu) for more information about the chair position.

Married Student Couples Dinner and Reflection
- Friday, February 11, 2011, 6:00 - 8:30 pm
- Oak Room, South Dining Hall
- Registration Fee: $20.00 (refunded at dinner)
- Registration begins January 24, 2011 at the Office of Campus Ministries

For the second year in a row, the Graduate Student Union, the Office of Campus Ministries, and the Student Activities Office will hold an evening for graduate married student couples to intermingle and reflect on their family’s future in Academia. The evening will include a formal dinner, and over coffee and dessert Thomas Cummings (Director of the STEP Program, Institute for Church Life) and Dr. Kathleen Cummings (Assistant Professor of American Studies) will offer a short reflection on their experience of balancing faith and family in academia.

Parking and Traffic Appeals
Victoria and Kasey were unable to attend the Traffic Appeals meeting this month; however, future meetings are expected to be attended.
Publicity & Procedures
December 2010
Submitted by Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham

Website
I have continued to update the GSU website on a weekly basis as new events are announced and campus news is released. If you have any suggestions for content for the website, please contact me (sdunhamc@nd.edu).

Listserv Emails
I have continued to work with Donna Frahn to compile and send weekly listserv emails to the graduate student body, in an effort to inform students of all upcoming graduate-student related events occurring on campus and in the community.

Advertising
I have assisted the Executive committee with advertising for the upcoming GSU Christmas Party and Graduate Research Symposium.
Social Report
December 2010
Submitted by Ellen Childs and Karen Saavedra

NOVEMBER 2010

GSU Free Skate
- Friday, November 5th from 7-9pm at the JACC Ice Arena. Approximately 150 people attended and seemed to have a great time!

NBA Basketball – International Student Night with the Indiana Pacers
- Co-sponsored with ISSA
- 28 people signed up to take a bus to the Indiana Pacers game on 11/12. Two students even got to go onto the court during halftime!

International Taste of South Bend
- Co-sponsored with ISSA
- Tuesday, November 16 in the LaFortune Ballroom from 7-8:30.
- Food vendors from across South Bend came to serve approximately 250 people.

Thanksgiving Brunch
- Thursday, November 25 from 11:30-3:30. We sold out of all the tickets!

We are currently in the process of planning the following events:

DECEMBER 2010

Children’s Christmas Party
- Saturday, December 4th from 1-3pm at the University Village Community Center.
- All graduate students and their children are invited.
- We’ll provide food, gifts for the children, and even a visit from Santa!

"Season of Light" Film Screening
- Co-sponsored with ISSA
- December 5th at the Digital Visualization Theater in the Jordan Hall of Sciences
- The show begins at 3, with hot chocolate and cookies being served at 2:15

GSU Christmas Party
- Thursday, December 9, Legends from 8-11pm
- Celebrate the end of the semester and the holidays by creating holiday crafts and watching holiday movies! Details TBD.
- This event is sponsored by the Student Activities Office.

JANUARY 2011

**Skiing / Snowboarding trip to Swiss Valley (Jones, MI)**
- Saturday, January 29th, 10am – 5pm
- Tickets go on sale January 18th at the LaFortune box office.
- The bus will leave from the library circle at 10am, and will return at 5pm.
- Cost: $30 includes ski/snowboard equipment, lift ticket, and bus ride.
  - If you bring your own equipment, the cost is $25.
- Graduate students can purchase up to 2 tickets with a valid ID.

FEBRUARY 2011

**Hot Chocolate Social**
- Tuesday, February 15th, 2-4pm, LaFortune Ballroom
- We will provide hot chocolate and fixings, coffee, and cookies/treats. Come and take a study break!

MARCH 2011

**GSU Charity Gala**
- Friday, March 25th, 2011. We have begun researching locations for the Gala, including the Morris Park Country Club and The Landing.
- Also, we are thinking the theme will be a “Masquerade”.
- The gala will benefit the Boys and Girls Club of St. Joseph County.

APRIL 2011

**Legally Blonde~ The Musical**
- Friday, April 29th, 7 pm, Morris Performing Arts Center
- Price and ticket sales TBD.
University Committee of Women Faculty and Students
December 2010
Submitted by Amber Handy and Alison Regier

UCWFS Meeting
The UCWFS had its first meeting on Nov. 17th. Susan Ohmer was reelected as chair and asked the committee to consider several recommendations for the group to focus on in the coming year. These include a status update on the benchmark report on the recruitment and retention of female faculty that the UCWFS wrote in 2006, a reexamination of pay equity among faculty members, and thinking about how to celebrate the upcoming 40th anniversary of the arrival of female students at Notre Dame next year. The committee was also encouraged to tackle the ongoing problem of communication to the wider university community, perhaps by pushing hard to get the comprehensive website we were promised several years ago up and running. For now, the Women in Arts and Letters website provides some great resources for women and families in the area (http://wal.nd.edu/). There was also discussion about whether the name of the committee should be altered to reflect the majority of the group’s work, which focuses more on gender equity than on specifically women’s issues (though of course the two overlap). Susan Ohmer requested feedback on what the group would prefer to work on and a final decision will be made at our next meeting in December.

Graduate Student Family-Friendly Practices and Policy Changes
Perhaps of more interest to the graduate student community is the fact that at our next meeting on Dec. 10 the committee will take up the full report on graduate student family-friendly practices and policy changes which the GSU saw a portion of in September. Thanks to your input and the input from the DGSs the policy portion of the report has undergone substantial revisions to make it clearer, though it substantively remains the same. The report was approved and endorsed by the DGSs late last month and the UCWFS is eager to see it and (hopefully) endorse it as well. It will then go before the Graduate Council in January at which time we hope it is approved and put into action.

Family Play Time at Rolfs - Discontinued
On a more disappointing note, I am sorry to report that the Family Play Time at Rolfs will end this week and not continue into the spring semester. Not a single graduate student parent brought their child(ren) to take advantage of the reserved play space and RecSports is understandably going to return Court 1 to the regular reservation schedule rather than continue to hold it for us. While the relatively warm fall weather and the awkward timing of the hours RecSports was willing to let us reserve the space (which had to do with peak use times of the facilities) undoubtedly played a part in the lack of use, it is still a sad blow to our efforts to create family-friendly spaces on campus. We will continue to look for better ways to make those spaces available, but in the meantime I would ask the departmental reps to please look around your departmental offices and take down any remaining fliers for the Family Play time so that nobody goes over to Rolfs and comes away disappointed. Sarrah has already removed the information from the GSU website and calendar.
Professional Development ad-hoc Committee (TREC)
December 2010
Submitted by Ralf Bendlin

TREC Team Meeting
The TREC team met on Monday, November 8, from 4:30pm to 5:20pm in 112 Flanner Hall. We welcomed Ann Amico Moran, Associate Director at the Career Center for Graduate Student Career Programs. She introduced herself and shared her ideas and vision. In particular, she will complement the Career Center's existing means of counseling with a stronger focus on placement both for academic and non-academic career paths.

In addition, I was able to recruit two more members from the Physics and Civil Engineering departments. Also, thanks to Laura Carlson, Associate Dean at the Graduate School, I can now serve pizza at our meetings. If you know of any fellow graduate students in your department that might be interested in joining our group, please contact me at rbendlin@nd.edu. We are still looking for students that are willing to commit some time and work to help support the university’s endeavors in strengthening its professional development initiatives.

Research Spiel and Cocktail Party
Together with the Professional Development Team, I helped organize a two-part workshop series held on November 8 & 15 to assist graduate students develop and practice their research spiel. The first workshop was a lecture style, and the second part was in the form of a cocktail party sponsored by the Graduate School to let graduate students practice their ability to concisely share their research in a range of situations. The workshop was very successful and will hopefully be repeated next year. Until then, the slides are available at: http://graduateschool.nd.edu/professional_development/career/.

Together with Carolyn Rodak, I attend the professional development team meetings every Wednesday morning at the Graduate School.

Ethics Sub-Committee at the Center for Social Concerns
The newly established graduate student advisory group of the Center for Social Concerns had its inaugural meeting on Monday, October 25, from 4:15pm to 5:30pm in the Founders Room, 135 Geddes Hall (see previous report).

Together with Jay Brandenberger and Connie Mick, assistant directors of the Center for Social Concerns, TREC members discussed how to improve the involvement of graduate students in the center’s mission. After 90 minutes of brain-storming, we concluded that the following three formats are needed to suit all graduate students from all departments:

- one-day community service events;
Professional Development ad-hoc Committee 2

- week-long events (e.g., over fall/spring break) possibly with some kind of certificate and similar to existing programs already in place for undergraduate students;
- research projects in collaboration with the Center for Social Concerns spanning several years.

A second meeting was scheduled for November 22. However, it was canceled due to the short holiday week.
December 9, 2010

Mr. Josh Berlo  
Senior Assistant Athletic Director, Athletics Event Marketing & Ticketing  
University of Notre Dame  
C113 Joyce Center  
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Dear Mr. Berlo:

A recent issue was brought before the Graduate Student Union (GSU) Council on December 9, 2010 regarding season tickets for students. It is commonplace for the student ticket package for sports such as men’s basketball and ice hockey to exclude those games over fall and winter breaks. While this makes perfect sense for undergraduate students, graduate students keep very different schedules and are frequently on campus during these breaks. It would be convenient for these games to be included in an additional student ticket package. Having two options when purchasing season tickets would give those students who are on campus over break to attend the sporting event without worrying about it selling out to the general public. Alternatively, those students who will not be on campus can simply buy the original student ticket package and pay proportionally less.

The GSU would appreciate you and the rest of the athletic department to consider this proposal and provide students with more ticket options.

Thank you and Go Irish!

Sincerely,

Victoria Froude  
GSU President
October 14, 2010 – Council Agenda

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  - LaFortune Tenants – Ellen Childs & Karen Kajder
  - Professional Development ad-hoc Committee – Ralf Bendlin

- Old /New Business
  - The non-discrimination clause for the GSU Constitution which reads: “The GSU does not discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, religion, gender, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, age, disability, military and veteran status, socioeconomic status.”
  - A resolution has been drafted by Ana Velitchkova (Sociology Representative) to be sent to the Board of Trustees. Last month we discussed this topic for a short time. The topic was tabled until October to give representatives time to talk to their departments.
  - Items on Bullying of Gay Students – Elizabeth Martinez

- Adjournment
Executive Committee’s Report
October 2010
Submitted by Victoria Froude, Carolyn Rodak, Kasey Swanke

GSU 3rd Annual Symposium
The Symposium Planning Committee (including Victoria, Carrie, Kasey, and our Academic Affairs Chair, Kelly Martin) has commenced planning this year’s Symposium, to be held Friday, February 4, 2011. So far, we have secured funding for our budget from the Graduate School, the College of Engineering, and the College of Sciences and are currently in the process of continuing to advertise for abstract submissions and recruiting abstract and poster judges. Please encourage your constituents to submit their project abstracts to our Symposium in one of our four divisions: Engineering, Humanities, Sciences and Social Sciences. **THE DEADLINE FOR DOING SO IS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2010 AT MIDNIGHT.** Our Symposium offers graduate students a fantastic opportunity to share their work with other students, faculty, and members of the community. It also offers a nice in-house venue for gaining conference presentation experience and a chance to win cash prizes.

Lunch with Fr. Doyle
This month, the executive committee, along with Peggy, met with Fr. Doyle and Sr. Sue to exchange thoughts on graduate student issues and concerns and what the Office of Student Affairs can offer us this year. Among various issues, we discussed broadly how to better nourish a strong sense of community among the graduate community akin to that present among the undergraduate population.

Meeting with Peggy Hnatusko
This month, Victoria met with Peggy Hnatusko to discuss some GSU issues. We discussed the upcoming Halloween Party planned by the social chairs, finding a special judge for the forum category of the Graduate Research Symposium, and an upcoming visit from a group of student leaders from Arizona State University (including the ASU graduate student president and vice-president).

SAO Graduate Club Officers Meeting
This month, Kasey presented GSU funding opportunities in a meeting arranged through SAO to officers of established grad student organizations. Specifically, the GSU offers one group a concession stand to run during one of the home football games every year, matching funds of up to $250 for organizations with departmental support, co-sponsorship opportunities with other organizations hosting events that are open to graduate students, and support for other on-campus events. This information was enthusiastically received by club officers, and we hope students take advantage of these opportunities and especially apply for the concession stand opportunity next year. Interested officers should apply for our funds with the forms available on the GSU website. The executive board recognizes
the previous confusion regarding the application process in the past and will be revamping it for Fall 2011 requests.

**Digital Asset Strategy Task Force**
Victoria and Kasey are representing graduate student interests on a task force designated to determine the needs of the University in terms of improvements in multimedia technology and connectedness. Over the course of this semester, we will provide our thoughts on how the University can best preserve antiquated asset media and manage our digitized assets for academic use and general communications/publicity throughout the University.

**Faculty Senate**
This month the faculty senate invited Human Resources to the meeting to discuss Faculty health care changes from the previous year. We also enjoyed a visit from the Dean of the College of Science who highlighted all the awesome things going on within Notre Dame Science. We were then left with little time within our subcommittees to address our concerns. The student affairs committee briefly discussed the possibility of a joint resolution/recommendation regarding family friendly policies at the university. This discussion will continue at our next meeting in November. If you have specific comments regarding the proposed concept of a joint resolution between GSU and the faculty senate focused on raising the awareness of the need for family friendly policies on campus please contact Carrie @ crodak@nd.edu.

**Professional Development Committee**
Carrie continues to attend weekly (8:15am) professional development committee meetings with Laura Carlson and other representatives from the Kaneb Center, Career Center, Writing Center and ISLA (Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts) as well as several graduate students invested in improving international student programming as well as general graduate professional development opportunities. Look for these events within the GSU listserv email every Monday. If you have questions please email Carrie at crodak@nd.edu.
Academic Affairs  
October 2010  
Submitted by Kelly Martin

Academic Council  
The Academic Council granted final approval to two new degree programs: a Masters in Global Heath and a Ph.D. in Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics (ACMS). The Masters in Global Health is a one-calendar year, science-centric program that includes 1-2 months of field experience in a resource poor location. The ACMS Ph.D. will be offered in the new ACMS department created last year. Graduate students may serve as consultants in lieu of TA duties and under the terms of their stipends. The consultants will help other researchers with experimental design, data analysis, and statistical modeling. Grad students may also serve as Collaborative Assistants. The CA's will be a part of a research team on campus and will provide math and statistics expertise.

University Library Committee  
The Hesburgh Library is focusing on the addition of Subject Specialists. They are currently in the hiring process for specialists in East Asian and Latin American Studies and have plans for more hires in the future.

Library Computer Cluster Move  
The larger 10th floor reading room was recently outfitted with the IT infrastructure to support the computers. When we find out the official moving day, we will inform you via the listserv, posters, and the website.

Graduate Student Research Symposium  
We recently released the Call for Abstracts, which are due October 27th at midnight. Posters and mailbox announcements were sent to each department. Please encourage your colleagues to apply!
The external affairs committee is currently working on raising the graduate student community’s awareness of local service opportunities through existing agencies and groups, as well as coordinating specific, graduate student oriented, service events. As part of this effort, the external affairs committee will add a new feature to the GSU website called “Focus on Service,” which will be updated several times throughout the year. When possible, the Focus on Service content will coordinate with larger campus or community themes. For example, April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and content could focus on ways that graduate students can become involved in child abuse prevention and child advocacy. The text for the first installment of Focus on Service is provided below. I encourage representatives to share this information with their departments, let them know that future installments will be available at: http://gsu.nd.edu/student-resources/communityresources/focusonservice/. If you have ideas for Focus on Service content, please contact Melissa at mpirkey@nd.edu.

Focus on Service: Food Access and Hunger

Inspired by the United Nations World Food Day, which is observed on October 16th, the Graduate Student Union External Affairs Committee is dedicating this Focus on Service to food access and hunger at the local level. World Food Day (WFD) is a worldwide event designed to increase awareness, understanding and informed, year-around action to alleviate hunger. It is observed each October 16th in recognition of the founding of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1945. The first World Food Day was in 1981. In the United States the endeavor is sponsored by 450 national, private voluntary organizations. (Source: www.worldfooddayusa.org). To help alleviate hunger in our local area, please consider supporting a hunger related organization through a donation of food, money, or time. No gift is too small. If you’re not sure where to start, consider the Food Bank of Northern Indiana.

- In 2009, the Food Bank of Northern Indiana distributed approximately 4 million pounds of food;
- The Food Bank of Northern Indiana also operates a direct service emergency Pantry, assisting over 2,000 families a month.

The Food Bank of Northern Indiana needs volunteers to help sort food, pack boxes, clean, and organize. The Volunteer Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 am – 4 pm at a warehouse at 702. S. Chapin St. in South Bend. There is plenty of free parking and is located on a TRANSPO bus route with a stop directly at the Food Bank. For more information about volunteer opportunities, contact Lisa A. Jaworski at 232-9986, or by email at ljaworski@feedingamerica.org.
Health Care
October 2010
Submitted by Samuel Rund

Office of Alcohol and Drug Education Presentation
Morgan is an intern with the Office of Alcohol and Drug Education. She will be speaking briefly on ways her office might help graduate students.

You can contact her at:
Margaret Morgan (mmorgan2@nd.edu)
Graduate Student Intern
Office Alcohol and Drug Education Intern

Graduate School Health Insurance Subsidy
The Graduate School has sent the paperwork to student accounts to process our subsidy (10/1). We should get it soon.

Health Insurance Cards
They are slightly delayed; you should get it by the end of the month. If you need medical care on campus, you don’t need your card. If you go to memorial hospital, your student ID can be shown in place of your insurance card. Additionally, if you have your old medical card from last year, it is still valid.

Blood Drives
I have scheduled Nov 1st and Apr 5 as GSU blood drives. I am working with the South Bend medical foundation to coordinate some sort of competition between the departments, and have reached out to the medical school, architecture, business, and law schools to join us. This year, sign up will be online.

Flu Shots for Families
Due to low turnout last year, the graduate school will not be sponsoring flu shots for graduate student families this year.

Graduate Student with Families Email ListServ
I am starting a listServ for graduate students with families to disseminate information of health care services and access for graduate student’s families.
Orientation & Electronic Resources
October 2010
Submitted by Kevin A Mueller

University Committee on Academic Technologies
There has been no activity on this committee yet but I am a subscriber to their listserv so I will receive any updates.

Listserv
The listserv has been updated and seems to be working OK. Please let your departments know that if any students are not on the list to email me <kmuelle4@nd.edu> and I will take care of it.
Quality of Life
October 2010
Submitted by Elizabeth E. Martinez

Married Students Dinner – Save the (Tentative) Date of Sunday, Jan. 23
Regarding plans for the Married Students Dinner, I have met with, or had comprehensive
e-mail/phone conversations with, Karen Kajder (Catholic Community), Darrell Johnson
(Office of Campus Ministry), Peggy Hnatusko (SAO), and Nathan Elliot (University
Village).

An addition in-person meeting of Karen, Darrell and me is set for next week on Oct.
11, 2010 (a few days before the next GSU meeting). The current plan is to have the dinner
on a Saturday or Sunday evening (5 p.m. to 8 p.m.) in the early part of the Spring Semester.
We originally thought about late January or early February. Note, however, that this time
period includes many dates that are not desirable: Saturday, Jan. 29 (University Village
Dance 5); Sunday, Feb. 6 (Superbowl 44); Saturday, Feb. 12 and Sunday, Feb. 13
(Valentine's Day weekend); Saturday, Feb. 19 and Sunday Feb. 20 (Junior Parents
Weekend); and Sunday, Feb. 27 (Academy Awards 82).

Preferred dates under consideration are: Saturday, Jan. 22 (first weekend of
semester) and Saturday, Feb. 5. Places under consideration, having (1) that have
reasonable rental fees (less than $300), and (2) the capacity for cash bar being set up by
Catering by Design, are:

- **Warren Golf Course Clubhouse**: rental about $200, holds 80 -- Sent email to
  Peggy H. (SAO)
- **Sacred Heart Parish Center**: rental $350, holds 180 -- Spoke with Mary, 631-7512
  (on behalf of Mr. Eddy) and tentatively reserved for Sunday, Jan. 23, from 5 p.m. to
  9 p.m., contract being sent. The center is already booked for Jan. 22 and Feb. 5.
- **Morris Inn**: rental about $200, holds 80 -- Left msg. with Ms. Pryde, 631-2022

We have several ideas for speakers and formats. The goal is to mix two formats: a night of
fun and a night of reflection, retreat, and/or education. We have in mind a priest to offer a
blessing and/or reflection. We are looking for a couple, for example a faculty couple, to
speak about married student life.

We would like to set the date and the speakers in the next month. If anyone would
like to offer ideas or volunteer to assist with this event, the input would be greatly
appreciated.

Appeals Board Meeting
I attended the traffic appeals board meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 21. We discussed and voted
on about 20 or so traffic ticket appeals. In some cases there were pictures of the parking
lots or signs, but in other cases there were no pictures available. I thought that many of the
contested tickets, and the volume of contested tickets, pointed to a larger problem:
inadequate parking on campus. I am interested to know if any GSU members believe that
there are concerns about traffic that affect the quality of life for students and would ask that concerns be communicated to me.

**Bike Fest**
I emailed and called Tim Novak, last year's Bike Fest coordinator from RecSports. We had a scheduled call that did not go through and I have emailed and called him again.

**Student Ticket Exchange**
We will be attending the ticket exchange on Monday, October 11, 2010, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with overlapping shifts being covered by me and Melissa Pirkey.

**Nondiscrimination Resolution and Bullying of Gay Students**
During the last meeting the nondiscrimination clause was properly submitted to the GSU for consideration. Under new business for discussion (see last page of council packet), recent news events point to the importance of creating a safe place for all students of Notre Dame.
Publicity & Procedures
October 2010
Submitted by Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham

Website
I have continued to update the GSU website on a weekly basis as new events are announced and campus news is released. If you have any suggestions for content for the website, please contact me (sdunhamc@nd.edu).

Listserv Emails
I have continued to work with Donna Frahn to compile and send weekly listserv emails to the graduate student body, in an effort to inform students of all upcoming graduate-student related events occurring on campus and in the community.

Orientation T-Shirts
At this year’s orientation event, we ran out of T-shirts and had several students request more. In order to accommodate these students, as well as the persons that volunteered at the 2010 GSU Concession stand (held September 25th), we ordered 50 more shirts from Mike at AP Image (Mike@apimage.com).

3rd Annual Graduate Research Symposium
Advertising for the 3rd Annual Graduate Research Symposium is well underway. Thus far, we have advertised the Call for Abstracts via the GSU website (gsu.nd.edu), the GSU listserv emails, the LCD screens in the LaFortune Student Center (contact Amy Belke at abelke@nd.edu to advertise on the screens), quarter-sheet mailbox flyers, and 11”x17” posters. Flyers will be distributed to the local community at a later date.

Plans for advertising the event itself will include all of the above advertising methods, as well as an ad in the Observer.
Social Report
October 2010
Submitted by Ellen Childs and Karen Kajder

September Events 2010

Tour of the Tunnels
Tuesday, September 14 at 3:45 and 4:45 pm. The tours were a great success! Students were able to see the steam tunnels and also a full tour of the power plant. Both tours were filled and capped at 30 people.

Concession Stand
Saturday, September 25. The concession stand raised (profit) ~ $2100. We had plenty of volunteers (thanks!), but were very busy the entire day, and ran out of some essential items that needed to be purchased in the afternoon. We sold out of everything except for water and a few hot dogs. Volunteers who worked 4 hours received a Target gift card for $25, while all interested volunteers received a GSU t-shirt.

Straight No Chaser, A Cappella Performance
Sunday, October 3, 7:30 pm, Morris Performing Arts Center. GSU purchased 30 tickets at $25 each, and subsidized them for $12. All tickets sold out. Thanks to Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham for alerting us to this awesome program idea.

We are currently in the process of planning the following events:

Halloween Party
Wednesday, October 27th, 9:00 pm – 12:00 am at Legends. Come dressed up, dance, eat, and have a good time! GSU will provide free food and soda and a cash bar will be available, with a dance and costume competition. The Student Bar Association will provide around $200 worth of gift cards to be used for costume prizes. SBA is also looking into getting a deal for a DJ.

GSU Free Skate
Friday, November 5th from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at the JACC. The event will be free and open to all grad students and spouses. Free hot chocolate and cookies will be served. Unfortunately, due to a change in policy at the JACC, children are no longer permitted to skate on the ice.

Thanksgiving Brunch
Thursday November 25 from 11:30 - 3:30 pm at the North Dining Hall. Brunch will be served from 11:30 am – 3:30 pm. Tickets will be sold at the LaFortune Box Office for $5
beginning Monday, November 8. Children 5 and under are no charge.

**Children’s Christmas Party**

*Saturday, December 4th from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at the University Village Community Center.*

All graduate students and their children are invited. GSU will provide food, gifts for the children, and even a visit from Santa!
The Professional Development ad-hoc Committee met October 4th, 2010 from 3:30pm to 4:50pm in 112 Flanner Hall. Nine students attended from the Humanities (Theology, Literature, History), Social Sciences (Psychology, Political Science, Sociology), Engineering (Electrical Engineering), and Science (Physics). In addition, Laura Carlson from the Graduate School, Jody Peters from the Career Center, and Jay Brandenberger and Connie Mick from the Center for Social Concerns were present. We were particularly pleased to see the Center for Social Concerns joining our group.

TREC-Team – Teaching, Research, Ethics, Career
The name of our group, the Professional Development ad-hoc Committee, has proven to be cumbersome at times, especially in discussions and email correspondence. We have thus been looking for a new name ever since our first meeting in September. We are happy to announce that we are now going by the name TREC, which stands for Teaching, Research, Ethics, and Career, the four pillars of professional development at the Graduate School. While our official name will remain Professional Development ad-hoc Committee, we can now equally be referred to as TREC or TREC-Team, which should make things easier in everyday business.

Ethics Sub-Committee at the Center for Social Concerns
The Center for Social Concerns is forming a graduate student advisory/action group similar to the mission of the TREC team with a special emphasis on ethics. The Center for Social Concerns wants to improve its services for the graduate student community and is thus seeking input from graduate students. A subset of the TREC-Team will join a group of graduate students that are already connected to the center. An exploratory meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 25, 4:15-5:30pm in the Founders Room, 135 Geddes Hall. We hope to recruit enough students who are willing to serve on this sub-committee, which will meet monthly and be hosted under the Center for Social Concerns.

Panel “Extraordinary Summers”
The TREC-Team is moving forward with its idea to organize a panel discussion for graduate students on extraordinary ways for graduate students to spend the summer break. The idea is to cover all four pillars of professional development and to make the panel equally meaningful to students from all colleges. We have dedicated our next meeting to this event and I will be able to report more on this at the next GSU council meeting.

Overall, Laura Carlson and I are very pleased with the progress of this new committee.
New Business
October 2010
Submitted by Elizabeth E. Martinez

News Items on Bullying of Gay Students
As members of and representatives of the Notre Dame graduate student body, I believe it is important to discuss the issue of bullying gay students and how this bullying is usually not addressed until there is a suicide or other tragedy. To seed the discussion, please see these two items that were recently in the news. More information about these cases is readily available on Google News:

1. High school student in Cypress, Texas, with straight As and great parents commits suicide, why? Not because of teenage problems such as grades, parents, the use of drugs, alienation, etc. No, because he was being taunted at school over homosexuality.

2. College student at Rutgers in New Jersey, commits suicide, why? Not because of college problems that can’t be changed... No, because he was being humiliated in the dorms and on the Internet over homosexuality. See recent news posted on Google, October 8, 2010 (“Rutgers president defends response in suicide case,” AP, http://www.google.com).
November 11, 2010 – Council Agenda

Meetings held at 7:00PM in the Notre Dame Room of LaFortune

- Roll Call/Sign-In
- Approval of the Minutes (October 14, 2010)
- Executive Committee’s Report: Victoria Froude, Carolyn Rodak, Kasey Swanke

Committee Reports
- Academic Affairs – Kelly Martin
- External Affairs – Melissa Pirkey
- Health Care – Samuel Rund
- Orientation & Electronic Resources – Kevin Mueller
- Quality of Life – Elizabeth Martinez
- Publicity & Procedures - Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham
- Social - Ellen Childs & Karen Kajder

University Committees
- Academic Council - Kelly Martin
- Academic Technologies – Kevin Mueller
- Faculty Senate - Carolyn Rodak
- Graduate Council - Victoria Froude & Kasey Swanke
- Committee for Women Faculty and Students - Amber Handy & Allison Regier
- Library Committee – Kelly Martin
- Traffic Appeals – Elizabeth Martinez
- LaFortune Tenants – Ellen Childs & Karen Kajder
- Professional Development ad-hoc Committee – Ralf Bendlin

Old / New Business
- No new business submitted.

Adjournment
Minutes

October 14, 2010
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune Student Center

Officers: Victoria Froude, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering (GSU President); Carolyn Rodak, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (Co-Vice President); Kasey Swanke, Political Science (Co-Vice President).

Chairs: Melissa Pirkey, Sociology (External Affairs); Samuel Rund, Biological Sciences (Health Care); Kevin Mueller, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (Electronic Resources/Orientation); Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (Publicity & Procedures); Ellen Childs, Sociology (Social) and Karen Kajder, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (Social).

University Committees: Lauren Whitnah, Medieval Institute (Library Renovation); Amber Handy, History (Women Faculty & Students).

Department Representatives: John Dantonio, Lionel Pittman (Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering); Jackson Zorn (Art, Art History & Design); Jessica Stoller-Conrad (Biological Sciences); Elaine Mindrup (Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering); Douglas Rice, Ian Sander (Chemistry & Biochemistry); Mandy Albrecht, Shannon Flynn (Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences); Josh McManaway (Classics); Jason Rastovski (Economics); Ralf Bendlin (Electrical Engineering); Denise Ayo, Sarah Baechle (English); Meredith Meagher, Sean Phillips (History); Shashi Regmi (Kroc Institute for Int'l. Peace Studies); Gretchen Busl, Yvonne Mikuljan (Literature Program, PhD); Ben Reinhard, Lauren Whitnah (Medieval Institute); Charles Pence (Philosophy); Katherine Rueff, Collin Lines (Physics); Joe Brutto, Douglas Ansel (Political Science); Jeff Brooks, Ryan Kreager (Psychology); Filippo Gianferrari (Romance Language & Literature); Ana Velitchkova, Hilary Davidson, (Sociology); Ricky Klee (Theology).

FOG & University Village Representatives: Evan Claudeanos, (Philosophy) University Village.

1. Victoria Froude, President, called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

2. Victoria called for the approval of the minutes from the September 9, 2010 meeting. Victoria announced that Karen Kajder’s department, which is Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences, is absent from the attendance. Ralf Bendlin, Electrical Engineering Department Representative, announced that under point 21 of the minutes, “Linda Carlson” should be “Laura Carlson”. There was a motion to approve the minutes and the motion carried. The minutes were approved as amended.

3. Victoria stated that the Executive Committee’s report stands with one addition. She informed the Council that the Graduate Council has asked for feedback concerning outside chairs at Candidacy, Masters, and Ph.D. defenses. The Graduate Council has received complaints from faculty members stating that the responsibilities of being an outside chair for a defense is too time consuming. Victoria asked the Council for feedback regarding whether an outside chair is an asset to a defense, or a nuisance. Additionally, the Graduate Council offered to replace the requirement for having an outside chair with the option of having a defense videotaped and providing the option to
request an outside chair.

a. Several council members instantly expressed concern for removing the requirement to have an outside chair. Their concerns included not being comfortable requesting their defense to be videotaped, or requesting an outside chair when it is not a requirement. They stated that these options imply that they do not trust their committee, and they do not wish to be in that situation.

b. Victoria asked for an unofficial poll of the Council to gauge the Council’s response to this issue. The majority of the Council was in favor of maintaining the current requirement to have an outside chair at every defense, a small minority was in favor of removing the requirement, and the remainder did not express a preference.

4. Kelly Martin, Academic Affairs Chair, stated that her report stands. She highlighted that the abstract deadline for the 2011 Graduate Research Symposium is midnight on October 27th. She encouraged every Council member to submit an abstract for consideration. Additionally, Kelly requested that each Council member recommend one or two faculty members from their respective department to be an abstract or poster (or both) judge for the Symposium. If any members have a recommendation, please contact Kelly (kmartin9@nd.edu).

5. Melissa Pirkey, External Affairs Chair, stated that her report stands.

6. Samuel Rund, Health Care Chair, stated that his report stands. He announced that the health insurance cards have arrived in the mail. If any students have not received their card, please contact the insurance office at the University Health Services. Sam informed the Council that graduate student spouses may receive flu shots from the University Health Services after 5pm during the week. Graduate students can receive their flu shot at 8am or after 5pm during the week. Sam announced that the Fall GSU Blood Drive will be held on November 1st from 11am to 4pm in the LaFortune Ballroom. The American Red Cross will be posting flyers around campus starting October 18th with details for how to sign up to donate blood. Further, Sam highlighted the Graduate Student with Families Listserv email. If you wish to be added to this listserv email, please visit the following website for complete details: http://gsu.nd.edu/student-resources/healthcareresources/gradfamilyhealth/.

7. Sam introduced Margaret Morgan, a Graduate Student Intern at the Office of Alcohol and Drug Education. Morgan informed the Council that her mission is to plan events that both educate and support graduate students with respect to drugs and alcohol. Her goal at the council meeting was to obtain feedback from graduate students on the types of events that would be most beneficial. Ellen Childs, Social Chair, told Morgan to be realistic about attendance at such events and to provide incentives for attendance. Karen Kajder, Social Chair, suggested that Morgan keep the events short and try to include a professional networking aspect to the events. Amber Handy, Committee for Women Faculty and Students, suggested that Morgan host events outside of St. Liam Hall to encourage more students to attend. Morgan asked the Council if advertising the events as either an educational event or a support event would be more appealing than combining the two aspects into one event; the Council widely agreed upon the former. Additionally, Morgan asked the Council if advertising the events in a manner that related to stress relief would be the most appealing; the Council widely supported this thought. If you have any suggestions for events relating to alcohol and drug education, please contact Morgan at mmorgan2@nd.edu.

8. Kevin Mueller, Orientation Chair, stated that his report stands. Kevin added that the University Committee on Academic Technologies has scheduled meetings for the remainder of the academic year.
9. Victoria stated that Elizabeth Martinez’s, Quality of Life Chair, report stands. Victoria highlighted that there are several potential dates for this year’s Married Students Dinner. If you have a strong preference for one or more of the dates, please contact Liz (lizmartinez@nd.edu) or Karen (kkajder@nd.edu).
10. Sarrah Cheatham, Publicity & Procedures Chair, stated that her report stands.
11. Karen Kajder, Ellen Childs, Co-Social Chairs. Karen stated that her report stands. She highlighted the upcoming GSU Halloween Party, to be held October 27th from 9pm until midnight at Legends, and encouraged all graduate students to attend. Ellen asked for suggestions for locations to hold this year’s GSU Charity Gala. If you have any suggestions for a location, please contact Karen (kkajder@nd.edu) or Ellen (echilds@nd.edu).
12. Kelly Martin, Academic Council, stated that her report stands.
14. Carolyn Rodak, Faculty Senate, stated that her report stands.
15. Kasey Swanke, Graduate Council, stated that her report stands.
16. Amber Handy, Committee for Women Faculty and Students, stated that the Committee had not convened prior to the GSU Council meeting. She requested that Council members provide recommendations prior to October 27th regarding the language and content of the Graduate School Childbirth and Adoption Accommodation Policy that she emailed to each department representative prior to the council meeting. Amber stated that the Policy will be handed to the Graduate Council on October 27th, which is the last Council that has to pass the Policy before it is adopted as an official Graduate School policy.
17. Kelly Martin, Library Committee, stated that her report stands.
18. Victoria Froude stated that Elizabeth Martinez’s, Traffic Appeals, report stands.
19. Ellen Childs, LaFortune Tenants, stated that her report stands. She added that LaFortune is making a huge push for students to recycle all waste except for liquids, ice, and food. All other waste should be placed in the blue recycle bins located around campus.
20. Ralf Bendlin, Professional Development ad-hoc Committee, stated that his report stands.
21. Victoria announced that the Council vote at the September 9, 2010 meeting to add the non-discrimination clause to the GSU Constitution was a successful vote. Therefore, the non-discrimination clause will be added to the GSU Constitution.
22. Victoria opened the floor for new business. Ana Velitchkova, Sociology Department Representative, presented the Council with the results from the online survey that the Sociology Department distributed to the graduate student body.
   a. Carolyn inquired what a “valid response” was, and which departments were included in “Engineering Science”. Ana replied that several people started to take the survey, but never finished it, resulting in an invalid response. A “valid response” was a survey that was completely filled out. Additionally, the term “Engineering Science” was taken directly from the Graduate School website.
   b. Kasey asked if the survey directly addressed the issue of passing the resolution to the Board of Trustees, or if the survey only asked for students’ feedback about the resolution itself. Kasey stated that she did not feel that the survey was a good metric to gauge students’ support of the entire petition.
   c. Michael Dean, ESTEEM Program Representative, informed the Council that the survey was not protected by a log in, and therefore one student could take the survey multiple times and skew the results. Ana replied that the survey could only be taken once from each IP address, but that one student could take
the survey multiple times on multiple computers. Hilary Davidson, Sociology Department Representative, stated that as she and Ana were creating the survey, they decided that if a student was ambitious enough to take the survey on multiple computers, it would be acceptable to count their answers.

d. Michael stated that the email that was sent to the department representatives, which contained the link to the survey, contained bias. Michael stated that the sentence from the email, “If you think it is a good idea to poll the students in your department, forward the following link and remind and/or encourage your colleagues to take the survey” may indicate to the department representatives that if they do not support the survey that they should not forward the link to their constituents, creating survey bias.

e. Victoria stated that this resolution is not the only means the GSU has to address the issue. She recommended that members of the Council form an ad-hoc committee and draft a letter that addresses the GSU’s concerns of the issue. Victoria asked for volunteers for a Chair of the Committee. Elaine Mindrup, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering Department Representative, volunteered to Chair the Committee. Victoria stated that if any department representatives were interested in working on the Committee, to stop and talk to Elaine after the meeting. Ryan Kreager, Psychology Department Representative, suggested that the Committee also focus on new initiatives relating to the non-discrimination issue.

f. Victoria entertained a motion to vote to pass the resolution. The council voted on ballots, voting “yes” to pass the resolution or “no” to not pass the resolution. Sarrah tallied the votes; there were 4 abstained votes, 17 votes against passing the resolution, and 9 votes in favor of passing the resolution. The resolution was therefore not passed.

23. Victoria stated that Elizabeth’s item of new business was aimed to discuss bullying of gay students. For more information about Elizabeth’s item, please read her report in the October 14, 2010 council packet (found at http://gsu.nd.edu/about/archives/).

24. Richard Klee, Philosophy Department Representative, asked if the GSU or Student Activities ever supports a new graduate club with funds during their first year on campus. Peggy Hnatusko, GSU Advisor, informed the council of some current practices within Student Activities. Victoria stated that the GSU could give automatic funds to groups, but that it would involve changing the budget, which has already been approved for the year.

25. Richard Klee, Philosophy Department Representative, asked for clarification of changes made to the Student Activities alcohol policy. Peggy Hnatusko, GSU Advisor, stated that no changes have been made to the policy in recent years, but that there may have been increased enforcement of certain rules.

26. Peggy Hnatusko, GSU Advisor announced to the Council that SAO is hosting a Stadium Collection Drive in honor of Brother Andre Bessette. She requested that any students that are available to help at the Drive visit the SAO website (sao.nd.edu/stadiumdrive).

27. Victoria entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was approved and carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:26pm.

Minutes submitted by Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham
Executive Committee’s Report
November 2010
Submitted by Victoria Froude, Carolyn Rodak, Kasey Swanke

GSU Third Annual Graduate Research Symposium
The executive committee, along with Kelly Martin (our Academic Affairs Chair), has continued to plan this year’s Graduate Research Symposium. We are pleased to announce that we have received an outstanding and competitive batch of abstracts submitted almost in uniform numbers from students throughout all four divisions. We were also successful in recruiting a great and generous group of faculty abstract reviewers to narrow down a set of delegates who will present their work in poster form at the Symposium. We will continue our planning in this next month to recruit our judges panel, notify those who submitted abstracts of whether they have been selected as delegates, and plan logistics for the day of the event.

Graduate Council Meeting
Victoria and Kasey attended the meeting of the Graduate Council, which convened on October 27. Last month at the GSU Council Meeting, we reported that the agenda would include, among other items, voting on the Family Friendly policy measures and discussing whether to do away with the requirement to have an outside chair preside over graduate students’ oral examinations. Because the Family Friendly proposal has been sent back to the committee and is undergoing changes to clear up language and other issues, the Graduate Council was not able to discuss and vote on this. Doing so has been pushed back to our next meeting in January. Moreover, our discussion regarding keeping the outside chair requirement for oral examinations has also been pushed to the January meeting. Please send any thoughts you have on this to either Victoria or Kasey, or voice them at our Council meeting. In lieu of these items, we did discuss what, if anything, the University, Graduate School, and/or individual departments can and should do to use the rankings and results of the NRC study in a transparency effort to showcase Notre Dame’s strengths and weaknesses.

Digital Asset Strategy Task Force
Victoria and Kasey are continuing to represent graduate student interests on the University-wide task force assigned to propose a strategic plan to preserve the University’s digital assets now and in moving forward. Kasey sits on the communications task force and is currently in the process of conducting interviews with our GSU Electronic Resources Chair, Kevin Mueller, and representatives from other student groups around campus, including Student Government, MBA Association, and the Student Bar Association. Of course, if you have any thoughts on our digital assets, their storage, and problems/solutions regarding future preservation of and access to them, Kasey would be glad and grateful to hear them. Victoria sits on the academic task force and is currently looking for ideas of how
students use digital assets or how they would like to in the future. Some examples might be having a place for storage of your research materials, sharing digital documents for collaborative papers, or having access to open courseware. We're encouraged to dream up big ideas for the task force, so anything you think of is a welcome suggestion!

**Faculty Senate**
The Faculty senate rescheduled their meeting for November 9th so those who wanted to watch the election results could.

**International Agreements Committee**
Last year, the Graduate School started an international agreements committee to determine the place for dual degrees, joint degrees, and research collaborations in graduate programs. It was universally decided that these international collaborations should be encouraged, but there is no set process to forge these types of agreements. Victoria has been invited to sit on this committee for the current school year. This semester, the committee is charged with determining the best way for the Graduate School to encourage and keep track of these connections.

**Subcommittee focused on International Student Support**
Gretchen Busl will be heading up this new subcommittee aimed at improving support for international graduate students on campus. Here is a short write up from Gretchen.

“The main goal of this sub-committee is to better support international students in their immersion experience. As a student, I have watched friends and colleagues from other countries struggle to integrate into American culture and the university system, often feeling unsupported and isolated. As an English for Academic Purposes fellow, one of the most common pieces of advice I give to ESL speakers is to spend more time with native speakers. Therefore, I am seeking volunteers to join me in brainstorming ways to facilitate events that bring graduate students together in ways that celebrate the international and multicultural diversity of Notre Dame. This committee will explore ways to facilitate better integration of international students into campus activities, as well as provide opportunities for international students to share their cultural heritage with the wider university population.”

If you are interested in joining this subcommittee (or know someone who might be) please contact Carrie (crodak@nd.edu) or Gretchen (gbusl@nd.edu). Thanks!
Academic Affairs
November 2010
Submitted by Kelly Martin

Academic Council
I was out of town and unable to attend November’s Academic Council meeting, which was solely devoted to subcommittee meetings. I will report the subcommittee’s progress at the next GSU meeting.

University Library Committee
Subject specialist searches in East Asian and Latin American Studies should be completed by the end of the calendar year.

A new catalog system will launch in January. The catalog should be better organized and more attractive. The new search engine should provide more relevant returns, faceted browse capabilities, and real time availability information. YOUR FEEDBACK IS NEEDED! You can test the new beta system at the library’s home page. Select the “Beta Catalog Plus” tab instead of the default “ND Catalog”. Your search results page will have a “feedback” link at the top right of the page.

A new travel grant program will provide money to students travelling to Notre Dame to use the library collections. There is also a new fellowship program for ND graduate students with language skills. The fellowship will provide a stipend in return for help with the library’s language collections. Information on both programs will be posted on the Library’s Special Collections website.

Funding Subcommittee
A new subcommittee was formed under the Academic Affairs division of the GSU. This committee will look at the current status and future plans of Arts and Letters funding.

Graduate Student Research Symposium
Thank you to those that submitted an abstract. We will inform you of your acceptance in early December.

Library Computer Cluster Move
We are currently looking into purchasing new desks and partitions for the computers. We are waiting to hear about the moving date.
**External Affairs**
November 2010
Submitted by Melissa Pirkey

It has been a busy month for the External Affairs committee.

**NAGPS**
The National Association of Graduate & Professional Students will hold their annual meeting November 11th through the 14th in Boston. As I will be in attendance at this meeting, I will not be present at the GSU meeting. I will be available by email, however, if you need to contact me.

**Involvement in Community Service**
I have also been meeting with several members of the Center for Social Concerns, as well as members of the undergraduate student union to discuss ways in which the graduate student community might become more involved in community service. These meetings have been extremely helpful, and I am excited about the potential for collaboration with other groups who have invaluable experience developing both small and large scale volunteer opportunities. One such opportunity is the upcoming Food Bank of Northern Indiana event on Friday, November 19th. An announcement about this event was sent to the graduate student community via the listserv earlier this month. More information about this event can be found below. I strongly encourage representatives to inform their departments of this opportunity to give back this Thanksgiving season.

**Give thanks this season – join us as we volunteer at the Food Bank of Northern Indiana**
The Graduate Student Union invites graduate students and their spouses or partners to give thanks through service to others on Friday, November 19th from 1:00 – 4:00pm. This community service event will begin with a short tour of the Food Bank and some training, and then we will complete a service project. Since its inception, the Food Bank of Northern Indiana has distributed over 50 million pounds of food, reaching nearly 4 million pounds in 2009. The Food Bank of Northern Indiana also operates a direct service emergency Pantry, assisting over 2,000 families a month. The St. Joseph County Community Food Pantry provides 100% client choice, allowing individuals the opportunity to shop for the items they need.

This service opportunity provides you with the chance to give back to the community while meeting other Notre Dame graduate students. The Food Bank is located at 702. S. Chapin Street in South Bend. There is plenty of free parking and it is on a TRANSPO bus route with a stop directly at the Food Bank. This event has a cap of 10 students, and volunteers will be taken on a first come, first served basis. If you are interested in participating, please
contact Melissa Pirkey at mpirkey@nd.edu no later than TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16th. If demand for this event is high, more events will be held at the Food Bank of Northern Indiana.

**Tutoring Opportunity for graduate students and spouses and partners of graduate students**

If you or your spouse or partner are looking for The Robinson Community Learning Center (RCLC) of the University of Notre Dame is seeking part-time afternoon tutors. Tutors would be working with elementary students from mid-November through the end of the school year. Tutors will be asked to work on literacy skills with 2-3 children in one hour segments with a goal of 30 hours per student. Tutoring is scheduled Monday through Friday at the RCLC and three off site locations, with a commitment of three days per week.

This opportunity offers a competitive hourly wage depending on experience. If you are a graduate student, please remember to obtain permission from your department as necessary. For more information, please visit: (https://jobs.nd.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/position/JobDetails_css.jsp)
Health Care
November 2010
Submitted by Samuel Rund

Blood Drive Results
Thanks to everyone who came out. We did twice as much as last year!
Number of donors signed in: 57
Number of units collected: 46. That’s up to 138 lives saved in our community!
Number of walk-ins: 16. Number of new donors: 33!
GSU students: 20 Med School: 12 Law: 17


Campus Health Updates Health Services
Please take extra precautions as we enter flu/cold season. There are a number of upper respiratory infections on campus.

Immunization Requirements
Anyone who has not met all immunization requirements must do so in order to register for classes for Spring semester.

Health Care Committees
No news on formation/my involvement the health care advisory committee or health insurance plan selection committees.

Health Care Subsidy Info:
• The stipend itself may come from graduate school funds, departmental funds, grants, contracts, or external funds. If the graduate student is receiving funding directly from an outside agency/external source, and not through the ND payroll system, proof of this outside award should be shown to the DGS or graduate administrative assistant in the respective department. The department should then send Anne Veselik a copy of the outside award in order for the Graduate School to authorize the 75% premium subsidy if the stipend meets the minimum base stipend level.
• A student may only receive half of the subsidy ($465) in the fall if only the fall portion of the full stipend has been submitted by one’s department when subsidies are processed in October. Subsidies will be reviewed and processed again in the spring. If a full stipend is processed for the spring after October, then the student will receive the second half of their subsidy in March.
• If you have not received your subsidy by now, and you took out a student loan, please contact financial aid and make sure there is not a problem. People who have student loans and subsidy require extra work on student accounts end of things.
Orientation & Electronic Resources
November 2010
Submitted by Kevin A Mueller

University Committee on Academic Technologies
Attended the first meeting held on Monday, October 25, 2010. Ron Kraemer is the new Chair of the committee and Chief Information Officer of Notre Dame. This initial meeting laid the foundation for future meetings and allowed all attendees to express their input on what the top five issues UCAT should discuss this year. For any specific details please see me and we can discuss.

As a part of this committee I need to know what TECHNOLOGY ISSUES graduate students are most concerned with so that I can try to work out a solution with UCAT. Please direct any issues, comments, or suggestions to me before November 18, 2010 (the next meeting).

Listserv
The listserv has been updated and seems to be working OK. Please let your departments know that if any students are not on the list to email me <kmuelle4@nd.edu> and I will take care of it.
Publicity & Procedures
November 2010
Submitted by Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham

Website
I have continued to update the GSU website on a weekly basis as new events are announced and campus news is released. If you have any suggestions for content for the website, please contact me (sdunhmc@nd.edu).

Listserv Emails
I have continued to work with Donna Frahn to compile and send weekly listserv emails to the graduate student body, in an effort to inform students of all upcoming graduate-student related events occurring on campus and in the community.
OCTOBER EVENTS 2010

GSU Annual Halloween Party
Wednesday, October 27th, 9pm-12am, Legends. We joined the Student Bar Association, who provided the DJ and gift cards to the bookstore for costume prizes, while the GSU paid for the rental of the facility and the food catered by Legends. There were between 75 – 90 people there at any given time, and all the food and candy was eaten. The date of Halloween was not ideal this year, but we think that the turnout was good despite it being held on a Wednesday night. Most people left by 11:30pm. The costume winners were:

- Best Overall Costume - Dan McInnis (Grad student - CE-Geology) - $30 gift card to the bookstore.
- Scariest - Linda Kawentel (Grad Student - Sociology) - $30 gift card to the bookstore.
- Most Original - Christian Koller (Grad Student - Electrical Engineering) - $30 gift card to the bookstore.
- Best Couple - Alex White and Ian Sander (Grad student - Chemistry) - split a $50 gift card to the bookstore.
- Best Group - Peyman Hesami (Grad student - EE), Florencia Cadagan (Law), Ricky Wilson (Law), Mostafa Khoshnevisan (Grad student - EE), Houman Dehghan (Grad student - EE) - split a $50 gift card to the bookstore.

We are currently in the process of planning the following events:

NOVEMBER EVENTS 2010

GSU Free Skate
Will take place on Friday, November 5th from 7 – 9pm, at the JACC Ice Arena. The event will be free and open to all grad students, spouses, and children 5 years and older. Free hot chocolate and cookies will be served.

NBA Basketball - International Student Night with the Indiana Pacers
*Co-sponsoring with ISSA*
Friday, November 12, 2010, Departs ND at 2:45 pm, return around 1:00 am, meet at Library Circle, $55. Join ISSA and other international students from across Indiana at a special game between the Indiana Pacers and the Houston Rockets. Ticket price includes admission to the game, transportation to and from Conoco Field House in Indianapolis, a food voucher for dinner, and a free T-shirt!
International Taste of South Bend
*Co-sponsoring with ISSA*
Tuesday, November 16 in the LaFortune Ballroom, 7-8:30 pm. Event is FREE!

GSU Thanksgiving Brunch
Will take place on Thursday November 25 from 11:30-3:30pm. Brunch will be served in the North Dining Hall. Tickets will be sold at the LaFortune Box Office for $5 beginning Monday, November 8. Children 5 and under are no charge. The Dining Hall asks that no one show up at the door before 11:30am.

DECEMBER 2010

"Season of Light" Film Screening
*Co-sponsor with ISSA*
December 2nd, 7pm, Digital Visualization Theater in Jordan Hall

GSU Children’s Christmas Party
The Children's Christmas Party has been booked for Saturday, December 4th from 1-3 pm at the University Village Community Center. ALL GRADUATE STUDENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN ARE WELCOME. GSU will provide food, gifts for the children, and even a visit from Santa!

JANUARY 2011

GSU Skiing / Snowboarding trip to Swiss Valley (Jones, MI)
Tentative date of Saturday, January 29th.

FEBRUARY 2011

GSU Hot Chocolate Social.
We will provide hot chocolate and fixings, coffee, and cookies / treats. Tentative date of Tuesday, February 15th.

APRIL 2011

GSU Charity Gala
Tentatively looking at Friday, April 1st, 2011. We have begun researching locations for the Gala, including the College Football Hall of Fame, the Morris Park Country Club, and The Landing. Also, we are thinking the theme will be a “Masquerade”. We are also starting to brainstorm a list of charities so that we can vote on who will receive our donations.

Easter Brunch
Will take place on Sunday, April 24th from 11:30am – 3:30pm in the South Dining Hall. Tickets will go on sale for $5 at the LaFortune Box Office Monday, April 4. Children 5 and under are no charge.

Legally Blonde
The Morris Performing Arts Center on April 29th, 2011 at 7:00pm. Tickets are LIMITED and will go on sale Friday, April 8th.
December 9, 2010 – Council Agenda

Meetings held at 7:00PM in the Notre Dame Room of LaFortune

- **Roll Call/Sign-In**

- **Approval of the Minutes** (November 11, 2010)

- **Executive Committee’s Report**: Victoria Froude, Carolyn Rodak, Kasey Swanke

- **Committee Reports**
  - Academic Affairs – Kelly Martin
  - External Affairs – Melissa Pirkey
  - Health Care – Samuel Rund
  - Orientation & Electronic Resources – Kevin Mueller
  - Quality of Life – Victoria Froude & Kasey Swanke
  - Publicity & Procedures - Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham
  - Social - Ellen Childs & Karen Saavedra

- **University Committees**
  - Academic Council - Kelly Martin
  - Academic Technologies – Kevin Mueller
  - Faculty Senate - Carolyn Rodak
  - Graduate Council - Victoria Froude & Kasey Swanke
  - Committee for Women Faculty and Students - Amber Handy & Allison Regier
  - Library Committee – Kelly Martin
  - Traffic Appeals – Victoria Froude & Kasey Swanke
  - LaFortune Tenants – Ellen Childs & Karen Saavedra
  - Professional Development ad-hoc Committee – Ralf Bendlin

- **Old /New Business**
  - Athletic Department Letter: Men’s basketball and hockey packages – Victoria Froude & Kevin Mueller

- **Adjournment**

*Merry Christmas ~ Happy Holidays from the GSU*

*Have a Safe and Happy New Year!*
Minutes

November 11, 2010
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune Student Center

Officers: Victoria Froude, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering (GSU President); Carolyn Rodak, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (Co-Vice President); Kasey Swanke, Political Science (Co-Vice President).

Chairs: Kelly Martin, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (Academic Affairs); Kevin Mueller, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (Electronic Resources/ Orientation); Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (Publicity & Procedures); Ellen Childs, Sociology (Social) and Karen Saavedra, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (Social).

University Committees: Amber Handy, History (Women Faculty & Students).

Department Representatives: John Dantonio, Lionel Pittman (Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering); Virginia Hungate-Hawk, Jackson Zorn (Art, Art History & Design); Jessica Stoller-Conrad, Mary Cloutier (Biological Sciences); Douglas Rice, Ian Sander (Chemistry & Biochemistry); Mandy Albrecht, Shannon Flynn (Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences); Josh McManaway (Classics); Sebastian Roelands (Economics); Ralf Bendlin (Electrical Engineering); Denise Ayo, Sarah Baechle (English); Meredith Meagher (History); Shashi Regmi (Kroc Institute for Int’l. Peace Studies); Gretchen Busl, Yvonne Mikuljan (Literature Program, PhD); Katie Bugyis (Medieval Institute); Katherine Rueff, Collin Lines (Physics); Ana Velitchkova, Hilary Davidson, (Sociology).

FOG & University Village Representatives: Evan Claudeanos, (Philosophy) University Village.

1. Victoria Froude, President, called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
2. Victoria called for the approval of the minutes from the October 14, 2010 meeting. Heather Price announced that “Hilary Davidson” until item 22c should be “Heather Price”. Heather additionally announced that under item 22c, that “...multiple computers, it would be acceptable to count their answers” should read “...multiple computers, that any bias would be equally spread out on both sides.” There was a motion to approve the minutes as amended and the motion carried. The minutes were approved as amended.
3. Victoria stated that the Executive Committee’s report stands.
   a. Carolyn Rodak, Vice President, highlighted the new Subcommittee focused on International Student Support. Gretchen Busl, ad-hoc Subcommittee for International Student Support Chair, announced that the Committee’s aim is to assist international graduate students with any problems they may encounter, and to improve their overall experience. She stated that this committee’s efforts will be in addition to those of International Student.
Services and Activities (ISSA). Ralf Bendlin, Professional Development ad-hoc Committee Chair, asked if this new committee will also assist graduate student spouses and post-docs. Gretchen stated that these populations will also be assisted by the International Student Support Committee. If any students have questions about this committee, they are encouraged to contact Gretchen (gbusl@nd.edu).

b. Victoria highlighted the Digital Asset Strategy Task Force that she and Kasey Swanke, Vice President, sit on. They are looking for ideas of how students use digital assets and how they would like to use digital assets in the future. If you have any thoughts, please contact Victoria (vfroude@nd.edu) or Kasey (kswanke@nd.edu).

4. Kelly Martin, Academic Affairs Chair, stated that her report stands. Victoria highlighted a new Subcommittee that was established under the Academic Affairs Chair, the Funding Subcommittee. This committee will look at the current status and future plans of Arts and Letters funding. If you are interested in participating in this committee, please contact Kelly (kmartin9@nd.edu).

5. Victoria stated that Melissa Pirkey’s, External Affairs Chair, report stands. Victoria announced that Melissa was attending the 2010 NAGPS Conference in Boston, MA. Victoria distributed the Center for Social Concern’s Fall 2010 “The Guide to Civic Engagement” newspaper. She stated that The Guide provides a comprehensive list of community organizations that the Center for Social Concerns has established a relationship with that are seeking volunteers. If any students are interested in getting involved in the community, The Guide is a great resource for organizations that need assistance. The Guide is available at the Center for Social Concerns, as well as on their website (http://socialconcerns.nd.edu/).

6. Samuel Rund, Health Care Chair, stated that his report stands. He announced that if any students missed the GSU blood drive, but still would like to donate, that there are other opportunities to donate on December 1st and December 7th. Students can sign up for a time to donate at the following websites: http://bit.ly/NDCav (December 1st) and http://bit.ly/NDMBA (December 7th).

7. Kevin Mueller, Orientation Chair, stated that his report stands.

8. Victoria stated that Elizabeth Martinez, Quality of Life Chair, did not have any news to report.

9. Sarrah Cheatham, Publicity & Procedures Chair, stated that her report stands.

10. Ellen Childs, Social Chair, stated that the Social report stands. She distributed a list of potential charities to be supported at this year’s GSU Annual Charity Gala. She then distributed voting ballots to each council member and asked that the Council vote on their preferred charity. Ellen then collected the ballots to tally the votes. Ellen stated that she would announce the winning charity at the end of the meeting.

11. Kelly Martin, Academic Council, stated that her report stands.

12. Kevin Mueller, Academic Technologies, stated that the University Committee on Academic Technologies convened for the first time on October 25th. Kevin asked the Council to provide feedback regarding graduate computing needs so that he may communicate to the Committee how the Committee can better assist the graduate student community. If any students have ideas or computing concerns, please contact Kevin (kmuelle4@nd.edu).

13. Carolyn Rodak, Faculty Senate, stated that her report stands.

14. Kasey Swanke, Graduate Council, stated that her report stands.
15. Amber Handy, Committee for Women Faculty and Students, stated that the Graduate School Childbirth & Adoption Accommodation Policy was being rewritten in an effort to make it more attractive. Amber stated that she will update the Council as progress is made regarding the Policy.

16. Kelly Martin, Library Committee, stated that her report stands.

17. Victoria Froude stated that Elizabeth Martinez, Traffic Appeals, did not have any news to report.

18. Karen Saavedra, LaFortune Tenants, stated that the Tenant meeting focused on procedures for emergencies, highlighting proper tornado emergency procedures. In the event of a tornado, proceed to the innermost room in the lowest level of the building. Additionally, the meeting reinforced that food waste can be recycled and encouraged that everyone on campus recycle all waste.

19. Ralf Bendlin, Professional Development ad-hoc Committee, stated that his report stands. He highlighted two upcoming events. The first event, Career Options Explored: Advisory Council Panel, will be held November 12th from 3-5pm in the Jordan Hall Auditorium. This event will consist of a panel of academic and non-academic presenters from the four disciplines within the Graduate School that will provide their career story and advice for graduate students interested in both academic and non-academic positions. The second event, The 5 Minute Research Spiel, will be held on November 15th from 5-6:45pm in the LaFortune Ballroom. This event is designed to provide graduate students with several opportunities to practice giving their research “elevator pitch”.

20. Victoria announced that no new business was submitted for the meeting, and opened the floor for any announcements.

   a. Ann Amico Moran, Associate Director of Graduate Student Career Programs for the Career Center, announced that she is new at the Career Center and that her goal is to strengthen the Notre Dame network, linking industry, academia, and government. She is available for one-on-one meetings to discuss career options and job placement. If you would like to meet with Ann, please contact her at amoran2@nd.edu. Ann announced that the Career Center will be distributing a survey in the following week that is aimed to gauge graduate students’ interest in workshops, asking for ideas for workshop topics as well as ideas to better suit graduate student needs in terms of career guidance. Ann encouraged all graduate students to take the short survey when they receive it.

   b. Ellen announced that the Boys and Girls Club of St. Joseph County will be the charity that is benefited by this year’s GSU Annual Charity Gala.

   c. Victoria announced that no movement has been made by the Graduate Council regarding the outside chair requirement for proposal, thesis and dissertation defenses.

21. Victoria entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was approved and carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm.

Minutes submitted by Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham
Executive Committee’s Report
December 2010
Submitted by Victoria Froude, Carolyn Rodak, Kasey Swanke

Quality of Life Chair Opening
Liz Martinez, Quality of Life Chair, has recently resigned from her position. Therefore, the GSU is looking for a new Quality of Life chair for the Spring 2011 semester. This chair is charged with looking into any issue which contributes to the life of graduate students on campus. Responsibilities include attending the Parking and Traffic Appeals Meetings and planning the spring Bike Fest with RecSports. Complete details on chair responsibilities can be found in the GSU Constitution. The QoL chair will receive at $375 stipend for the Spring semester.

GSU 3rd Annual Graduate Research Symposium
The executive committee, along with Kelly Martin (Academic Affairs), has continued to plan this year's research symposium. Abstracts have been returned from the judges and those selected to present at the symposium will be notified by Friday, December 10th. Planning continues as we recruit poster judges, create the symposium booklet, and plan day of logistics. If you would like to volunteer to help during the event, please email Kelly Martin (kmartin9@nd.edu).

GSU Christmas/End of the Semester Party - Sponsored by SAO
The executive committee, along with Karen Saavedra and Ellen Childs (Social Events Chairs) has planned a party for Christmas and the end of the semester with the generous support and help from Peggy Hnatusko and Student Activities Office. For our council meeting this month, we are grateful to be able to offer our hard-working committee chairs and department representatives a well-deserved nice dinner catered by Legends. Immediately following our council meeting, we will be hosting a Christmas-themed end-of-the-year party featuring a holiday movie showing, gingerbread house building competition, cookie decorating, ornament making, and individual holiday trivia. All graduate students are welcome and encouraged to attend both our council meeting and the party afterwards.

Graduate Council Meeting
The next graduate council meeting will not take place until January.

Digital Asset Strategy Task Force
Victoria and Kasey are still sitting on the digital asset strategy task force. The academic task force, which is currently writing up our final report, is looking for any short case studies that point out the need for more digital assets in education. In addition, any suggestions on what would be needed for the future (for teaching, research, etc) are welcomed. The communications task force is still deliberating about the needs and
solutions of graduate students as well, so please send any thoughts and suggestions to us.

Faculty Senate
We will be meeting December 7th. Updates at the meeting.

Meeting with Peggy Hnatusko
This month, Victoria met with the GSU advisor, Peggy, to discuss the call for a new quality of life chair and the GSU Christmas Party taking place on Thursday, December 9th.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
Academic Affairs
December 2010
Submitted by Kelly Martin

Academic Council
The Advanced Studies Committee, together with the Office of Research, continues to write and revise guidelines and principles for postdoctoral appointments at the University of Notre Dame. The document clarifies the definition of a post-doc, responsibilities, benefits, grievance process, and other policies and procedures important to the position. We expect the document to be brought to the full Council for approval next semester.

University Library Committee
Candidates are currently being interviewed for the East Asian and Latin American Studies Subject Specialist positions. During winter break, the new catalog system will become the default on the library’s webpage. You will still have access to the old catalog; click on the Catalog Classic tab. A Task Force has recently been formed to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for the libraries. Susan Ohmer, Assistant Provost and Interim Director of the Hesburgh Libraries, is leading the process.

Funding Subcommittee
The Funding Subcommittee will meet with Dean Sterling to discuss the current status of graduate student funding and the strategic plan. After this meeting, we will reassess how the committee can effectively advocate on behalf of the graduate students.

Graduate Student Research Symposium
By the time of the GSU meeting, acceptance emails should have been sent out.

Library Computer Cluster Move
We are still waiting to hear about the moving date, but will inform you as soon as we find out.
External Affairs
December 2010
Submitted by Melissa Pirkey

NAGPS
From November 11-14, I attended the 24th annual conference for the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students at MIT in Boston, MA. I attended several panel presentations, including a presentation on how the University of Maryland, Baltimore County developed a position of “Writing Advisor” within their GSA to assist the graduate community with general writing issues, a presentation on the “Consensus Building Approach to Decision Making,” as well as talks on surveying graduate populations and promoting civic engagement. Additionally, I observed a demonstration of a new social networking site for graduate students called GradShare (www.gradshare.com) which allows students to ask questions of other grads within their general fields (social sciences, humanities, physical sciences, business, engineering, education, and life sciences) and access articles written by experts on topics about professional development and graduate life. Finally, I attended the business meetings and voted on behalf of Notre Dame for the new executive board, as well as the location for the next annual meeting, which will be at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

GSU Volunteer Event: Northern Indiana Food Bank
On November 19th three graduate students attended a graduate student volunteer event at the Northern Indiana Food Bank. Though the event was advertised through the list serv and web site, recruiting volunteers was difficult. This may have been due to the time slot of the event, which took place on a week day during working hours, or due to short notice. While volunteering at the food bank is a valuable experience, it felt disorganized at times. I would not recommend using the food bank for group volunteer events again, though I would encourage individuals to consider volunteering with the food bank, especially if they can make a regular commitment.

If you have any suggestions for other locations that might be able to accommodate groups of students as volunteers, or have suggestions for days or times that might be more attractive to grad students, please let me know.
Orientation & Electronic Resources
December 2010
Submitted by Kevin A Mueller

University Committee on Academic Technologies
I could not attend the November meeting due to a class conflict. I passed along the concerns raised to me at the end of the November GSU Council meeting to the chair so that it can be discussed. I will elaborate on them more at the next meeting. The current concerns raised to me are as follows:

1) Make more software free for students (grad in particular) for research, teaching;
2) Discuss possible cost-saving measure for MATLAB license;
3) Easier way to share online space for collaborative research;
4) Better advertisement, promotion of new/current software available to grad students;
5) Classes on new software;
6) Galvin Building Library closing - noticed that only thing used was the pharos printer. Removed library but never put printer back in, which is what was promised;
7) Keep webfile or something similar.

If there are any other concerns or items you want brought up at the next meeting please let me know.
Quality of Life Chair Opening
Liz Martinez, Quality of Life Chair, has resigned from her position. The executive committee is currently taking applications for the Spring 2011 semester (available on the GSU website). See the executive committee report for more information. Feel free to contact Victoria (vfroude@nd.edu) or Kasey (kswanke@nd.edu) for more information about the chair position.

Married Student Couples Dinner and Reflection
- Friday, February 11, 2011, 6:00 - 8:30 pm
- Oak Room, South Dinning Hall
- Registration Fee: $20.00 (refunded at dinner)
- Registration begins January 24, 2011 at the Office of Campus Ministries

For the second year in a row, the Graduate Student Union, the Office of Campus Ministries, and the Student Activities Office will hold an evening for graduate married student couples to intermingle and reflect on their family’s future in Academia. The evening will include a formal dinner, and over coffee and dessert Thomas Cummings (Director of the STEP Program, Institute for Church Life) and Dr. Kathleen Cummings (Assistant Professor of American Studies) will offer a short reflection on their experience of balancing faith and family in academia.

Parking and Traffic Appeals
Victoria and Kasey were unable to attend the Traffic Appeals meeting this month; however, future meetings are expected to be attended.
Publicity & Procedures
December 2010
Submitted by Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham

Website
I have continued to update the GSU website on a weekly basis as new events are announced and campus news is released. If you have any suggestions for content for the website, please contact me (sdunhamc@nd.edu).

Listserv Emails
I have continued to work with Donna Frahn to compile and send weekly listserv emails to the graduate student body, in an effort to inform students of all upcoming graduate-student related events occurring on campus and in the community.

Advertising
I have assisted the Executive committee with advertising for the upcoming GSU Christmas Party and Graduate Research Symposium.
Social Report
December 2010
Submitted by Ellen Childs and Karen Saavedra

NOVEMBER 2010

GSU Free Skate
- Friday, November 5th from 7-9pm at the JACC Ice Arena. Approximately 150 people attended and seemed to have a great time!

NBA Basketball – International Student Night with the Indiana Pacers
- Co-sponsored with ISSA
- 28 people signed up to take a bus to the Indiana Pacers game on 11/12. Two students even got to go onto the court during halftime!

International Taste of South Bend
- Co-sponsored with ISSA
- Tuesday, November 16 in the LaFortune Ballroom from 7-8:30.
- Food vendors from across South Bend came to serve approximately 250 people.

Thanksgiving Brunch
- Thursday, November 25 from 11:30-3:30. We sold out of all the tickets!

We are currently in the process of planning the following events:

DECEMBER 2010

Children’s Christmas Party
- Saturday, December 4th from 1-3pm at the University Village Community Center.
- All graduate students and their children are invited.
- We’ll provide food, gifts for the children, and even a visit from Santa!

"Season of Light" Film Screening
- Co-sponsored with ISSA
- December 5th at the Digital Visualization Theater in the Jordan Hall of Sciences
- The show begins at 3, with hot chocolate and cookies being served at 2:15

GSU Christmas Party
- Thursday, December 9, Legends from 8-11pm
- Celebrate the end of the semester and the holidays by creating holiday crafts and watching holiday movies! Details TBD.
- This event is sponsored by the Student Activities Office.

JANUARY 2011

**Skiing / Snowboarding trip to Swiss Valley (Jones, MI)**
- Saturday, January 29th, 10am – 5pm
- Tickets go on sale January 18th at the LaFortune box office.
- The bus will leave from the library circle at 10am, and will return at 5pm.
- Cost: $30 includes ski/snowboard equipment, lift ticket, and bus ride.
  - If you bring your own equipment, the cost is $25.
- Graduate students can purchase up to 2 tickets with a valid ID.

FEBRUARY 2011

**Hot Chocolate Social**
- Tuesday, February 15th, 2-4pm, LaFortune Ballroom
- We will provide hot chocolate and fixings, coffee, and cookies/treats. Come and take a study break!

MARCH 2011

**GSU Charity Gala**
- Friday, March 25th, 2011. We have begun researching locations for the Gala, including the Morris Park Country Club and The Landing.
- Also, we are thinking the theme will be a “Masquerade”.
- The gala will benefit the Boys and Girls Club of St. Joseph County.

APRIL 2011

**Legally Blonde~ The Musical**
- Friday, April 29th, 7 pm, Morris Performing Arts Center
- Price and ticket sales TBD.
University Committee of Women Faculty and Students
December 2010
Submitted by Amber Handy and Alison Regier

UCWFS Meeting
The UCWFS had its first meeting on Nov. 17th. Susan Ohmer was reelected as chair and asked the committee to consider several recommendations for the group to focus on in the coming year. These include a status update on the benchmark report on the recruitment and retention of female faculty that the UCWFS wrote in 2006, a reexamination of pay equity among faculty members, and thinking about how to celebrate the upcoming 40th anniversary of the arrival of female students at Notre Dame next year. The committee was also encouraged to tackle the ongoing problem of communication to the wider university community, perhaps by pushing hard to get the comprehensive website we were promised several years ago up and running. For now, the Women in Arts and Letters website provides some great resources for women and families in the area (http://wal.nd.edu/). There was also discussion about whether the name of the committee should be altered to reflect the majority of the group’s work, which focuses more on gender equity than on specifically women’s issues (though of course the two overlap). Susan Ohmer requested feedback on what the group would prefer to work on and a final decision will be made at our next meeting in December.

Graduate Student Family-Friendly Practices and Policy Changes
Perhaps of more interest to the graduate student community is the fact that at our next meeting on Dec. 10 the committee will take up the full report on graduate student family-friendly practices and policy changes which the GSU saw a portion of in September. Thanks to your input and the input from the DGSs the policy portion of the report has undergone substantial revisions to make it clearer, though it substantively remains the same. The report was approved and endorsed by the DGSs late last month and the UCWFS is eager to see it and (hopefully) endorse it as well. It will then go before the Graduate Council in January at which time we hope it is approved and put into action.

Family Play Time at Rolfs - Discontinued
On a more disappointing note, I am sorry to report that the Family Play Time at Rolfs will end this week and not continue into the spring semester. Not a single graduate student parent brought their child(ren) to take advantage of the reserved play space and RecSports is understandably going to return Court 1 to the regular reservation schedule rather than continue to hold it for us. While the relatively warm fall weather and the awkward timing of the hours RecSports was willing to let us reserve the space (which had to do with peak use times of the facilities) undoubtedly played a part in the lack of use, it is still a sad blow to our efforts to create family-friendly spaces on campus. We will continue to look for better ways to make those spaces available, but in the meantime I would ask the departmental reps to please look around your departmental offices and take down any remaining fliers for the Family Play time so that nobody goes over to Rolfs and comes away disappointed. Sarrah has already removed the information from the GSU website and calendar.
Professional Development ad-hoc Committee (TREC)
December 2010
Submitted by Ralf Bendlin

TREC Team Meeting
The TREC team met on Monday, November 8, from 4:30pm to 5:20pm in 112 Flanner Hall. We welcomed Ann Amico Moran, Associate Director at the Career Center for Graduate Student Career Programs. She introduced herself and shared her ideas and vision. In particular, she will complement the Career Center’s existing means of counseling with a stronger focus on placement both for academic and non-academic career paths.

In addition, I was able to recruit two more members from the Physics and Civil Engineering departments. Also, thanks to Laura Carlson, Associate Dean at the Graduate School, I can now serve pizza at our meetings. If you know of any fellow graduate students in your department that might be interested in joining our group, please contact me at rbendlin@nd.edu. We are still looking for students that are willing to commit some time and work to help support the university’s endeavors in strengthening its professional development initiatives.

Research Spiel and Cocktail Party
Together with the Professional Development Team, I helped organize a two-part workshop series held on November 8 & 15 to assist graduate students develop and practice their research spiel. The first workshop was a lecture style, and the second part was in the form of a cocktail party sponsored by the Graduate School to let graduate students practice their ability to concisely share their research in a range of situations. The workshop was very successful and will hopefully be repeated next year. Until then, the slides are available at: http://graduateschool.nd.edu/professional_development/career/.

Together with Carolyn Rodak, I attend the professional development team meetings every Wednesday morning at the Graduate School.

Ethics Sub-Committee at the Center for Social Concerns
The newly established graduate student advisory group of the Center for Social Concerns had its inaugural meeting on Monday, October 25, from 4:15pm to 5:30pm in the Founders Room, 135 Geddes Hall (see previous report).

Together with Jay Brandenberger and Connie Mick, assistant directors of the Center for Social Concerns, TREC members discussed how to improve the involvement of graduate students in the center’s mission. After 90 minutes of brain-storming, we concluded that the following three formats are needed to suit all graduate students from all departments:

- one-day community service events;
- week-long events (e.g., over fall/spring break) possibly with some kind of certificate and similar to existing programs already in place for undergraduate students;
- research projects in collaboration with the Center for Social Concerns spanning several years.

A second meeting was scheduled for November 22. However, it was canceled due to the short holiday week.
December 9, 2010

Mr. Josh Berlo
Senior Assistant Athletic Director, Athletics Event Marketing & Ticketing
University of Notre Dame
C113 Joyce Center
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Dear Mr. Berlo:

A recent issue was brought before the Graduate Student Union (GSU) Council on December 9, 2010 regarding season tickets for students. It is commonplace for the student ticket package for sports such as men’s basketball and ice hockey to exclude those games over fall and winter breaks. While this makes perfect sense for undergraduate students, graduate students keep very different schedules and are frequently on campus during these breaks. It would be convenient for these games to be included in an additional student ticket package. Having two options when purchasing season tickets would give those students who are on campus over break to attend the sporting event without worrying about it selling out to the general public. Alternatively, those students who will not be on campus can simply buy the original student ticket package and pay proportionally less.

The GSU would appreciate you and the rest of the athletic department to consider this proposal and provide students with more ticket options.

Thank you and Go Irish!

Sincerely,

Victoria Froude
GSU President
February 10, 2011 – Council Agenda

Meetings held at 7:00PM in the Notre Dame Room of LaFortune

- **Roll Call/Sign-In**

- **Approval of the Minutes** (December 9, 2010)

- **Executive Committee’s Report:** Victoria Froude, Carolyn Rodak, Kasey Swanke

- **Committee Reports**
  - Academic Affairs – Kelly Martin
  - External Affairs – Melissa Pirkey
  - Health Care – Samuel Rund
  - Orientation & Electronic Resources – Kevin Mueller
  - Quality of Life – Victoria Froude & Kasey Swanke
  - Publicity & Procedures - Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham
  - Social - Ellen Childs & Karen Saavedra

- **University Committees**
  - Academic Council - Kelly Martin
  - Academic Technologies – Kevin Mueller
  - Faculty Senate - Carolyn Rodak
  - Graduate Council - Victoria Froude & Kasey Swanke
  - Committee for Women Faculty and Students - Amber Handy & Allison Regier
  - Library Committee – Kelly Martin
  - Traffic Appeals – Victoria Froude & Kasey Swanke
  - LaFortune Tenants – Ellen Childs & Karen Saavedra
  - Professional Development ad-hoc Committee – Ralf Bendlin

- **Old /New Business**
  - Revised Athletic Department Letter: Men’s basketball and hockey packages – Victoria Froude

- **Adjournment**
Minutes

February 10, 2011
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune Student Center

**Officers:** Victoria Froude, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering (*GSU President*); Carolyn Rodak, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (*Co-Vice President*); Kasey Swanke, Political Science (*Co-Vice President*).

**Chairs:** Kelly Martin, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (*Academic Affairs*); Melissa Pirkey, Sociology (*External Affairs*); Kevin Mueller, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (*Electronic Resources/Orientation*); Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (*Publicity & Procedures*); Ellen Childs, Sociology (*Social*) and Karen Saavedra, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (*Social*).

**University Committees:** Allison Regier, Computer Science & Engineering (*Women Faculty & Students*).

**Department Representatives:** John Dantonio, Lionel Pittman (*Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering*); Jackson Zorn (*Art History & Design*); Shannon Flynn (*Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences*); Josh McManaway (*Classics*); Jason Rastovski, Sebastian Roelands (*Economics*); Denise Ayo, Sarah Baechle (*English*); Michael Dean (*ESTEEM Program*); Sean Phillips (*History*); Yvonne Mikuljan (*Literature Program, PhD*); Katie Bugyis (*Medieval Institute*); Katherine Rueff, Collin Lines (*Physics*); Hilary Davidson, *Sociology*; Ricky Klee (*Theology*).

**FOG & University Village Representatives:** Evan Claudeanos, (*Philosophy*) University Village

1. Victoria Froude, *President*, called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
2. Carolyn Rodak, *Vice President*, asked that item 21.a read “...experiences of being a married student. All married couples, including civil unions, are invited to attend”. There was a motion to approve the minutes as amended and the motion carried. The minutes were approved as amended.
3. Victoria stated that the Executive Committee’s report stands. She announced that she had several additions.
   a. Victoria highlighted the upcoming GSU President and Vice-President elections. Presidential platforms and accompanying paperwork are due Friday, March 25th, and elections will take place Friday, April 29th. Platform details and forms can be found on the GSU website ([http://gsu.nd.edu/news/18408-gsu-presidential-elections-nominations-due-march-25th/](http://gsu.nd.edu/news/18408-gsu-presidential-elections-nominations-due-march-25th/)).
   b. Victoria announced that the Executive Committee was unsuccessful in filling the vacant Quality of Life Chair position due to a lack of applicants. Victoria
and Kasey Swanke, Vice President, will assume all duties of the Chair for the remainder of the academic year. If anyone is interested in the position, please contact Victoria (vfroude@nd.edu) or Kasey (kswanke@nd.edu).

c. Evan Claudeanos, University Village Residence Representative, inquired about the status of the Family Friendly Policy. Victoria reviewed her Graduate Council report, highlighting that the Council voted in favor of four actionable items. She stated that the accommodation policy that was passed is being distributed to department chairs and the directors of graduate students for each department, and the policy should reach students in the coming weeks. The accommodation policy is now a minimum requirement for all departments. Kasey added that the implementation of the actionable items highlighted by Victoria should be effective immediately, but that their advancement will likely be piecemeal, much like the graduate student health insurance stipend. If anyone has information regarding this policy, please contact Victoria (vfroude@nd.edu) or Kasey (kswanke@nd.edu).

d. Victoria announced that the Grad Council did not discuss the outstanding issue of requiring outside chairs for thesis and dissertation defenses. This topic is the first item on the agenda for the next meeting.

4. Kelly Martin, Academic Affairs Chair, stated that her report stands.
5. Melissa Pirkey, External Affairs Chair, stated that her report stands.
6. Carolyn announced that Samuel Rund's, Health Care Chair, report stands. She requested that if anyone has suggestions for the upcoming Health Care Fair, to please forward them to Sam (srund@nd.edu) as soon as possible.
7. Kevin Mueller, Orientation Chair, stated that his report stands. He stated that he has started planning for the 2011 Graduate Student Orientation and Social. Kevin requested suggestions for a location, other than Legends, and activities for the upcoming Social. Michael Dean, ESTEEM Program, suggested using University Catering and hosting the event in the LaFortune Ballroom. Kasey recommended using the stadium penthouse. The Joyce Athletic & Convention Center and Eddy Street Commons were additionally suggested for locations. If anyone has suggestions, please contact Kevin (kmuelle4@nd.edu).
8. Victoria stated that the upcoming Married Students Dinner will take place the weekend following this meeting, and that tickets are sold out for the event. She also announced the annual Bike Fest, hosted with RecSports, will be held this spring and more details will be announced soon.
9. Sarrah Cheatham, Publicity & Procedures Chair, stated that her report stands.
10. Karen Saavedra, Social Chair, stated that the Social report stands. She highlighted the GSU Hot Chocolate Social, to be held on February 15th from 2-4pm in the LaFortune Ballroom. She encouraged everyone to attend. Secondly, Karen reported that the Ski Trip to Jones, MI was a success; tickets sold out for the event in two days. Lastly, Karen asked everyone to save the date for the 9th Annual GSU Charity Gala: Masquerade Ball. The Gala will take place on Friday, March 25th from 7pm-midnight at Palais Royale. Information about tickets can be found on the GSU website (http://gsu.nd.edu/social/gsuevents/).
11. Kelly Martin, Academic Council, stated that her report stands.
13. Carolyn Rodak, Faculty Senate, stated that her report stands. She announced that there were three additions to the report.
a. The University is redefining the “post-doc” position. Currently, the University does not have a central policy that sets guidelines for hiring or guidelines for job requirements for post-docs.

b. The University is making changes to the Conflict of Commitment Policy for faculty. This policy ensures that faculty members spend appropriate amounts of their time on University commitments and do not get over-involved with other commitments.

c. The University has proposed to make changes to definitions within faculty, research and administrative positions. Among these changes is to treat non-research and non-teaching faculty, such as faculty that are responsible for advising students, more like staff. The Senate unanimously voted against the proposed changes.

14. Victoria Froude, Graduate Council, stated that the Graduate Council report stands.

15. Allison Regier, Committee for Women Faculty and Students, stated that her report stands.

16. Kelly Martin, Library Committee, stated that her report stands.

17. Victoria Froude, Traffic Appeals, stated the Appeals meeting was held during the 3rd Annual Graduate Research Symposium, and was therefore unable to attend.

18. Ellen Childs, LaFortune Tenants, stated that the tenants had not met since the last GSU report.

19. Victoria stated that Ralf Bendlin’s, Professional Development ad-hoc Committee, report stands.

   a. Ann Moran, Grad Career Programs Assistant Director, Career Center, added that the Professional Development committee has two upcoming events. The first event is an Etiquette Dinner that is aimed to improve students’ dinner etiquette for job interviews and socials. The event will take place on Tuesday, March 29th from 6-8pm in the Donor Room at the Morris Inn. The event is open to the first 20 students and is free. To register for the event, visit the Graduate School Professional Development website (http://graduateschool.nd.edu/professional_development/event-registration/).

   b. Carolyn added that the Committee has planned a Graduate Dissertation/Thesis Camp during Spring Break 2011 (March 14-18). The camp is limited to 25 students, provides workshops to provide helpful tips about writing a dissertation/thesis, and offers breakfast and afternoon refreshments every day. To register for this event, visit the Hesburgh Library website (https://www.library.nd.edu/forms/instructions/dissertation-camp/).

20. Victoria announced that one item was submitted for new business.

   a. Kevin announced that he changed the letter addressing Josh Berlo, Senior Assistant Athletic Director, regarding including free student tickets to sporting events during the fall and winter breaks games as well. Kevin informed the Council that he changed the letter to read “supplemental student ticket package” (in place of “additional student ticket package”), “Having an additional option when...” (in place of “Having two options when...”), and “...simply ignore the supplemental package and experience no additional charge” (in place of “...simply buy the original student ticket package and pay proportionally less”). Victoria announced that a voting quorum was not met at the meeting and therefore tabled the vote to send the
submitted letter to Josh Berlo until the March 2011 GSU meeting.

21. Victoria opened the floor for any announcements.
   a. Kelly announced that the 3rd Annual Graduate Research Symposium was a success. She extended her thanks to everyone that participated. Kelly announced the winners of this year’s Symposium:
      i. First Place:
         1. Edit Varga (Engineering)
         2. Patrick Mello (Humanities)
         3. John Engbers (Sciences)
         4. Chadwick Curtis & Elizabeth Munnich (Social Sciences, co-winners)
      ii. Second Place:
         1. Punit Bandi (Engineering)
         2. Brandon Cook (Humanities)
         3. Patrick Shirey (Sciences)
   b. Kasey asked for feedback from the Council regarding whether the current GSU meeting day and time is family friendly, or if Council members would prefer a meeting time that is more conducive to families. If you have any preferences, please contact Victoria (vfroude@nd.edu) or Kasey (kswanke@nd.edu).
   c. Kate Rueff, Physics Department Representative, stated that she had been approached about the GSU budget. She stated that graduate students were curious how their annual $65 activity fee is spent, and if there was an option to opt out of paying the fee if they do not attend GSU social events. Victoria replied that a sizeable portion of the money acquired from the activity fees is budgeted for the GSU Conference Presentation Grant, which can give students up to $1250 during their career at Notre Dame. Ellen also added that the budget for GSU social events that is taken from the activity fees is small compared to the total social budget, as the Graduate School provides most of the money for social events. Victoria stated that she would speak with Donna Frahn, GSU Administrative Assistant, about providing a GSU budget for distribution at the next GSU meeting.
   d. Victoria reported that the Executive Committee and the GSU would like to thank the department representatives and committee chairs for devoting their time and efforts to the GSU this year. As a token of appreciation, Victoria passed out GSU mugs to each member in attendance. If any Council members were not in attendance but would like a mug, please visit Donna Frahn in the GSU office.

22. Victoria entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was approved and carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:37pm.

Minutes submitted by Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham
Executive Committee’s Report  
February 2011  
Submitted by Victoria Froude, Carolyn Rodak, Kasey Swanke

GSU Elections for 2011-2012  
Elections for the next executive committee are quickly approaching. If you are interested in running for President/Vice-presidents of the GSU for the next academic year, please stay after the council meeting for an informal session to learn more about the positions. We are happy to talk to anyone considering running for either office even if you haven’t yet thought of who could complete a full ticket.

The ELECTION DATE for this year will be Friday, April 29th with election materials (petition and platform) DUE Friday, March 25th. All candidates wishing to run for the offices of President and Vice-Presidents of the GSU must complete a petition form (available online soon). Candidates must run as a complete ticket covering both positions (1 president and 2 vice-presidents). The petition must include the signatures of 20 currently enrolled graduate students. A platform outlining your goals/objectives for the GSU must be included with the petition and forwarded to the GSU office, Mezzanine Level, LaFortune Student Center.

GSU 3rd Annual Graduate Research Symposium  
The Graduate Research Symposium is taking place between the time of submitting this report and the council meeting.

Graduate Council Meeting  
Victoria and Kasey both attended the Graduate Council Meeting which took place on Thursday, January 27th. The Council meeting was very busy and had several key developments.

1. Family Friendly Policy – A family friendly policy report was brought before the council for review and a vote on 4 actionable items. All 4 items were approved by the council and are briefly outlined here:
   a. A statement of commitment to be added to the graduate school’s website.
   b. The accommodation policy which was presented at the GSU council meeting in November was approved.
   c. A recommendation for all pregnant graduate students working in labs to visit Risk Management has been put in place. Additionally information on risks to the fetus is recommended to be added to the mandatory safety training given by Risk Management.
   d. Recommendations to help improve the family friendly climate of the university will be circulated to departments and deans.
      i. Make becoming a family friendly environment a priority for
departments by examining policies, resources, and cultural practices already in play.

ii. Know the family friendly accommodations policies and resources that apply to graduate students and actively highlight and advertise these.

iii. Maintain a zero tolerance policy for discrimination and disparaging remarks and behavior from faculty, staff, or graduate students.

iv. Encourage faculty to be open with graduate students on how to balance the demands of an academic career with family.

v. Have family friendly scheduling for required meetings, colloquia, flexibility in TA or teaching assignments, allow for reimbursement for care-giving when traveling for conferences or research, etc. Take into account that some students may have families when scheduling courses and other activities.

2. A new PhD program was approved: The Notre Dame Integrated Biomedical Sciences Program (IBmS).

3. A new professional Master’s Degree was approved: Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics

4. Discussion of outside chairs was not reached during the meeting time but will be the first item on the agenda for the next council meeting.

Library Strategic Planning Committee
Kasey is representing the GSU on the Library Strategic Planning Committee this year. It will meet prior to our next council meeting, and items on the agenda include discussing readings that cover current changes in academic research libraries.

Digital Asset Strategy Task Force
Victoria and Kasey are still sitting on the digital asset strategy task force. Each of their subcommittees have submitted a final report and the task force is now contacting peer universities with promising Digital Asset Strategies for brainstorming.

Faculty Senate
The February Faculty Senate meeting will take place between the submission of this report and the GSU council meeting. Of discussion in the February meeting: (1) New definition of the post doc position, (2) Changes to the Conflict of Commitment Policy, and (3) Proposed changes to definitions within faculty, research and administrative positions.
Academic Affairs
February 2011
Submitted by Kelly Martin

Academic Council
The Academic Council had no new business this month. The Advanced Studies Committee, together with the Office of Research, continues to write and revise policies, procedures, and guidelines for postdoctoral appointments at the University of Notre Dame. The document addresses the definition of a post-doc, requirements, responsibilities, salary, benefits, term of appointment, grievance policies, and the like. The document contains two sections: 1) policies and 2) procedures and guidelines, which provide guidance for administering the appointment and clarifies policies. We expect the document to be brought to the full Council for approval in February.

University Library Committee
A Latin American Studies Subject Specialist has been hired and should begin this spring. The new catalog system is now the default on the library’s webpage. They continue to seek feedback, which can be submitted via the link on the right hand corner of the webpage. This year, the Library awarded one Graduate Fellowship in Special Collections, which enlisted a graduate student with language expertise to help catalogue the Library’s collections. It is expected they will offer multiple Special Collections Fellowships next year, though the number has yet to be determined. In addition, the Library acquired money to expand the Byzantine Studies and Modern Poetry collections. The funding supports a graduate student (one for each subject) to work with the collection.

Funding Subcommittee
The Subcommittee met with Dean Sterling in December. He spoke on his top priorities, which include (in order): base pay, insurance subsidies, summer funding, and competitive 6th year funding. We learned that the Sorin and Kaneb Teaching Fellowships were cancelled because they did not achieve their goals (i.e. help students obtain faculty positions at major research universities). The fellowships will be replaced with new fellowship opportunities, which we should learn about soon.

Graduate Student Research Symposium
We will report on the event at the meeting.

Library Computer Cluster Move
The Cluster in the Hesburgh Library has moved to the 10th floor graduate student study room. We plan to update the computers this spring.
External Affairs
February 2011
Submitted by Melissa Pirkey

Planning Future Service Events and Collaboration with other Graduate and Professional Groups.
Last week I met with Shawn Chuong Do, the SVP of Community Outreach for the MBA Association to discuss possible collaboration between the GSU and MBA Association, and the SBA to put on a larger scale service event in the fall of 2011. As currently envisioned the event would take place on an away game weekend and would include a large community service event, a casual opportunity for socializing (perhaps organized around watching the football game) and would conclude with a Mass. We are still in the early stages of planning, and expect to meet again within the next week.

Focus on Service: Make A Difference in the Life of a Child.
This year make a resolution to make a difference in the life of a child. South Bend and the surrounding area are home to a number of charities that help children and youth of all ages with a variety of needs.

- **El Campito, Inc.** promotes the “educational, social, and economic success of culturally diverse children and families” through programs for those most in need. El Campito has a variety of volunteer opportunities, from working in the classroom with children to spring and fall clean up or office support.

- **Big Brothers and Big Sisters of St. Joseph County** provide one-to-one mentoring for school aged children and are looking for volunteers willing to make a weekly to bi-monthly commitment.

- **Youth Service Bureau of St. Joseph County** is a community based non-profit organization that offers free services to teens and young adults at critical points in their lives. Among their many services and programs are a Crisis Hotline and the Porch Light Transitional Program, which helps young homeless mothers and their children. Residents receive counseling and education, as well as job and independent living skills while living in the 24 hour supervised apartment setting.

- If you’d like to volunteer but don’t have much time, the **Boys and Girls Club of St. Joseph County’s 4Kids Program** provides school aged children with homework tutoring. Volunteers in the 4Kids program give just one hour of their time each week, and The South Bend Community School Corporation NEEDS volunteers to read to a child for 30 minutes once a week during the school day.
For more information about volunteer opportunities please contact:

**El Campito, Inc.**  
Susan Enamorado  
(574) 232-1024  
elcampito@sbcglobal.net

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Joseph County**  
Deborah Burrow  
(574) 232-9958  
bbsstjoe@sbcglobal.net  
bbbs-sjc.org

**Boys and Girls Club of St. Joseph County**  
James Cramer  
(574) 232-2048  
jcramer@bgcsjc.org  
www.bgcsjc.org

**South Bend Community School Corporation Partnerup/Read to a Child**  
Connie Moore  
(574) 283-8182  
cmoore4@sbcsc.k12.in  
www.sbcsc.k12.in.us

**Youth Services Bureau of St. Joseph County, Inc.**  
Bonnie Strycker  
bstrycker@sbcglobal.net  
(574) 235 9231  
www.ysbsjc.org
Health Care
February 2011
Submitted by Samuel Rund

Health Insurance Reform, Going back on your parent’s health insurance.
As of September 23, students up to the age of 26 may go back on their parents’ policy. For those who elect to do so, Aetna has developed a one-time spring premium policy reimbursement program for students. You may review this policy at [http://www.aetnastudenthealth.com/schools/DependentCoverageExpansion.pdf](http://www.aetnastudenthealth.com/schools/DependentCoverageExpansion.pdf).

***Please note that the Graduate School subsidy is for an entire year, and only for the University plan. Your subsidy will thus be reduced if you leave the University’s plan.

Graduate Student Health Fair
I am in the midst of planning this semester Graduate Student Health Fair. If you have any suggestions or recommendations, please email me at srund@nd.edu.

Are you regretting not getting a flu Shot?

In South Bend
9th Floor County-City Building
227 W. Jefferson Blvd.
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
8:00 – 11:45 am and 1:00 – 3:30 pm
Call 245-6656

In Mishawaka
County Services Building
219 Lincolnway West
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday
8:00 am- 12:15 pm and 1:30 – 3:30 pm
Call 256-6223 or 256-6730
Orientation & Electronic Resources
February 2011
Submitted by Kevin A Mueller

University Committee on Academic Technologies
I could not attend the January meeting due to a research meeting conflict. I passed along the concerns raised to me at the end of the November & December GSU Council meeting to the chair so that it could be discussed. I will elaborate on them more at the next meeting. The current concerns raised to me are as follows:

1. Make more software free for students (grad in particular) for research, teaching;
2. Discuss possible cost-saving measure for MATLAB license;
3. Easier way to share online space for collaborative research;
4. Better advertisement, promotion of new/current software available to grad students;
5. Classes on new software;
6. Galvin Building Library Closing - noticed that only thing used was the pharos printer. Removed from library but never put printer back in, which is what was promised;
7. Keep webfile or something similar.

Responses recorded in the minutes from the November 2010 meeting are as follows:

Graduate Students, Kevin Mueller
Mueller, unable to attend, submitted a list of graduate student concerns.
1. Make more software free for students (graduate students in particular) for research, such as Adobe and Stata. Mr. Kraemer suggested a policy response to this request.
2. Make online space for collaborative research easier to access--possible crossover with Digital Asset Task Force. Mr. Kraemer noted that the Digital Asset Management group is currently working on this concept. Ed Bensman said that a collaborative research space will be readily available if the new CMS choice is Sakai. However, he noted that some vetting may be necessary as materials connected with teaching will be stored in the same space as collaborative materials.
3. Provide better advertisement for and promotion of new and current software which is available to graduate students; offer classes for students to learn the software.
4. Reinstall the printer in the Galvin Building; when the Galvin Building Library was closed, access to the Pharos printer was eliminated.
5. Suggestion: Keep webfile or something similar indefinitely, since many people use this religiously.

On the issue of printer access, members discussed campus issues which have led to a
greatly increased use of printing by students—the increased use by faculty of eReserve rather than texts or course packs for course reading; larger print jobs, the move to electronic materials by publishers; increased use of the CMS by faculty (Dean Edmonds noted that the Law School Library is also dealing with these concerns). Rowland noted that printing volume in August 2010 increased 42% from August 2009 and 54% from September 2009 to September 2010. This has necessitated an aggressive replacement plan of the residence hall printers during the Winter 2010 break; 36 printers will be replaced with high-end printers, in conjunction with Xerox. Mr. Kraemer noted that the increased printing occurs in part because of the convenience to students; while it is not an exorbitant expense; a twice yearly replacement of printers is also not a ‘green’ solution.

Mr. Kraemer said the problem of ready access to printing capabilities is a concern for administration; neither faculty nor students should be hampered by printer failures. By the beginning of the Spring 2011 semester, the necessary printers, software and drivers will be installed and available by the start of classes on January 18, added Rowland.

Members also discussed the particular issue of access to printing poster sized documents, which students in the Sciences and Engineering particularly need. Options were discussed, including online services, local printing shops, printers available in central locations on campus, such as the library, and in-house printers located in the high demand departments. Ms. Pilkinton noted that the cost of printing done in service of class work could be wrapped into library services, if printers were housed in the library. She stressed that the library is particularly committed to supporting course work. Pilkinton added that the cost of tubes for transportation of posters might also be wrapped into library services. Mr. Kraemer noted that Indiana University’s main library has created a printing center in the lobby of the building; possibly a consultation with administrators there would provide some useful information. Members agreed that the problem touches many disciplines, and that poster presentations are a useful teaching tool, worth the financial support of the institution.

Dean Edmonds reported that printing costs have increased 25% in the Law School Library this semester, and students regularly request access to more printers. This problem is likely to increase as the use of iPads and other mobile devices spreads. Members discussed the financial ramifications of the situation: since the total cost of campus printing is growing so rapidly, it would be sensible to consider alternative options.

IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER CONCERNS OR ITEMS YOU WANT BROUGHT UP AT THE NEXT MEETING PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

2011 Graduate School Orientation and Information Fair
SAO request has already been initiated for August 19, 2011 at the Jordan Hall of Science galleria. More details to follow.

2011 Graduate Student Social
SAO request has already been initiated for August 22, 2011 at Legends. The current plans are for it to be similar to last year, including trivia from BrainBlast productions. Please let me know if you have any other ideas for this event.
Publicity & Procedures
February 2011
Submitted by Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham

Upcoming GSU Presidential Elections
I would like to inform the Council that the annual Presidential & Vice-Presidential elections are coming up. Platform petitions (available on the website) are due **Friday, March 25th**. Voting will take place **Friday, April 29th**. If you are interested in running, please contact me (**sdunhamc@nd.edu**), Victoria (**vfroude@nd.edu**), or Donna Frahn (**dfrahn@nd.edu**), or visit the website (**gsu.nd.edu**) for complete details.

Website
I have continued to update the GSU website and the GSU calendar on a weekly basis as new events are announced and campus news is released. If you have any suggestions for content for the website, please contact me (**sdunhamc@nd.edu**).

Listserv Emails
I have continued to work with Donna Frahn to compile and send weekly listserv emails to the graduate student body, in an effort to inform students of all upcoming graduate-student related events occurring on campus and in the community.

Advertising
I have assisted the Executive committee with advertising for the upcoming GSU Graduate Research Symposium, as well as other events.
Social Report
February 2011
Submitted by Ellen Childs and Karen Saavedra

December 2010
Children’s Christmas Party
- Saturday, December 4\(^{th}\) from 1-3pm at the University Village Community Center
- This event was a big success! Santa came and all the children took pictures with him
- We also distributed gifts and had coloring and crafts out for everyone
- Approximately 75 people were in attendance including parents. We had a lot of leftover pizza too!

"Season of Light" Film Screening
- Co-sponsored with ISSA
- December 5\(^{th}\) at the Digital Visualization Theater in the Jordan Hall of Sciences
- This was a popular event. ISSA reported that it was well received by all who attended.

GSU Christmas Party
- Thursday, December 9, Legends from 8-11pm
- We had an overwhelming turnout at the Christmas party, with a lot of great prizes!
  - We screened ‘A Muppet Christmas Carol’ and had plenty of activities for everyone in attendance.

January 2011
Skiing / Snowboarding trip to Swiss Valley (Jones, MI)
- Saturday, January 29\(^{th}\), 10am – 5pm
- Tickets went on sale January 18\(^{th}\) at the LaFortune box office.
- The bus left from the library circle at 10am, and returned at 5pm.
- Cost: $30 included ski/snowboard equipment, lift ticket, and bus ride. If you brought your own equipment, the cost was $25.
- Graduate students could purchase up to 2 tickets with a valid ID.
- 51 people who bought tickets came. Everyone had a great time! We should definitely do this event again.

We are currently in the process of planning the following events:

February 2011
Hot Chocolate Social
- Tuesday, February 15\(^{th}\), 2 - 4pm, LaFortune Ballroom
- We will provide hot chocolate and fixings, coffee, and cookies/treats. Come and take
a study break!

**March 2011**

**GSU Charity Gala, “Masquerade Ball”**
- Friday, March 25\textsuperscript{th}, 2011, Palais Royale, 7pm - 12am.
- Tickets are $20/person and go on sale February 28\textsuperscript{th} at the LaFortune Box Office.
- The gala will benefit the Boys and Girls Club of St. Joseph County.

**April 2011**

**Legally Blonde The Musical**
- Friday, April 29\textsuperscript{th}, 7 pm, Morris Performing Arts Center
- Price and ticket sales TBD.
University Committee of Women Faculty and Students
February 2011
Submitted by Amber Handy and Alison Regier

UCWFS Meeting
The UCWFS met on December 10th. Most of the meeting focused on the presentation and discussion of the full family-friendly childbirth/adoption accommodation report and policy proposals for graduate students. Barb Turpin presented the report and asked the committee for feedback and their support. There was a lively discussion about the details of current graduate student family life gleaned from Prof. Jessica Collett’s graduate student survey and how the committee might think about addressing some of the wider climate and institutional issues raised in the report. The committee also discussed the dangers of lumping all grad student women into the family category and reaffirmed its desire to help improve climate and institutional issues for all women, not just those with families. This report, however, was seen as a positive step in the right direction. In the end, the report was unanimously endorsed by the UCWFS before being sent to its final committee, the Graduate Council, in January.

The committee also discussed a proposal for an undergraduate babysitting volunteer group at the request of the General Counsel office. While the committee is certainly behind the creation of a central location where students and parents can meet to fulfill their babysitting and income needs, several members of the committee reported having seen better proposals elsewhere on campus than the one currently on the table. The committee voted to recommend against the current proposal and urged General Counsel to contact the other groups working on similar projects for collaboration.

While not technically part of the UCWFS, the report and policy recommendations for making the graduate school more family-friendly did go before the Graduate Council on January 27th. As part of the committee that wrote the report, Amber was present at the meeting. While leaving the details of the discussion to the official GSU reps on that council, we would like to say that the policy proposals did indeed pass the Graduate Council. The final decision on implementing the many policies and recommendations included in the report falls to Dean Sterling, and given his enthusiastic support of the portions voted on by the Graduate Council we are hopeful that they will soon be enacted.

The date of the next UCWFS meeting has not yet been set.
Professional Development ad-hoc Committee (TREC)
February 2011
Submitted by Ralf Bendlin

TREC Team Spring 2011 Meetings
As of January 2011, the Professional Development ad-hoc Committee, or TREC Team, has 12 members representing the following programs:

- Sociology
- Psychology
- Political Science
- Theology
- Literature
- History
- Physics
- Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Electrical Engineering
- Civil Engineering and Geological Sciences
- Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering

The Spring 2011 meetings have been scheduled for the following dates in 112 Flanner (same room as last year):

- Monday, February 14, 2011 during lunch (12:00-1:00pm)
- Monday, March 21, 2011, from 4:30-5:30pm
- Monday, April 11, 2011, from 4:30-5:30pm

I coordinated the spring schedule for the TREC team with Laura Carlson, Associate Dean for Professional Development, and Ann Moran, Assistant Director of the Graduate Career Program, who will try to attend all meetings. Other directors from the Professional Development Coordination Team (see below) have announced that they are able to attend as well which is good news for this committee.

The first meeting will be a lunch meeting. Pizza and drinks will be provided both at the lunch meeting in February and at the late afternoon meetings in March and April. We will use the first meeting to set an agenda for the March and April meeting.

We are still in need of volunteers for this committee as many departments are not yet represented. If you know someone who might be interested in joining us, please contact me at rbendlin@nd.edu.

Professional Development Coordination Meetings
I met with Laura Carlson, Associate Dean for Professional Development at the Graduate School every Wednesday morning, together with representatives from the Kaneb Center, the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, the Career Center, the Writing Center, the
GSU Executive Committee, the Center for Social Concerns and the Library System.

**Career Center Open House for Graduate Students**
Ann Moran organized a Career Center Open House for Graduate Students on Wednesday, January 26 from 3:00-5:30 p.m. The event was specifically tailored for graduate students to learn about the services the Career Center has to offer for them. The event also featured pizza and door prizes. The turn-out was exceptionally strong and many graduate students learned about the services that the Career Center has to offer. Jessica Beard, Amanda Albrecht and I helped Ann during the event giving tours of the Interviewing Center and the Counseling Center.

**Upcoming Events**
- Faculty Panel on the Job Talk, Thursday, February 24, 3pm-5pm, Flanner 114.
- Etiquette Dinner, Tuesday, March 29, 6pm-8pm, Donor Room, Morris Inn. This event is limited to 20 participants!
- Cover Letter Workshop, Wednesday, March 30, 4pm-5pm, Flanner 112.

Please visit [http://graduateschool.nd.edu/professional_development/pdcalendar/](http://graduateschool.nd.edu/professional_development/pdcalendar/) for a list and description of all upcoming events on campus related to professional development.
February 11, 2011

Josh Berlo  
Senior Assistant Athletic Director, Athletics Event Marketing & Ticketing  
University of Notre Dame  
C113 Joyce Center  
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Dear Mr. Berlo,

A recent issue was brought before the Graduate Student Union (GSU) Council on December 9, 2010 and February 10, 2011 regarding season tickets for students. It is commonplace for the student ticket package for sports such as men’s basketball and ice hockey to exclude those games over fall and winter breaks. While this makes perfect sense for undergraduate students, graduate students keep very different schedules and are frequently on campus during these breaks. It would be convenient for these games to be included in a supplemental student ticket package. Having an additional option when purchasing season tickets would give those students who are on campus over break to attend the sporting event without worrying about it selling out to the general public. Alternatively, those students who will not be on campus can simply ignore the supplemental package and experience no additional charge.

The GSU would appreciate you and the rest of the athletic department to consider this proposal and provide students with more ticket options. Thank you and Go Irish!

Sincerely,

Victoria Froude  
GSU President
March 10, 2011 – Council Agenda

Meetings held at 7:00PM in the Notre Dame Room of LaFortune

- Roll Call/Sign-In

- Approval of the Minutes (February 10, 2010)

- Executive Committee’s Report: Victoria Froude, Carolyn Rodak, Kasey Swanke

- Committee Reports
  - Academic Affairs – Kelly Martin
  - External Affairs – Melissa Pirkey
  - Health Care – Samuel Rund
  - Orientation & Electronic Resources – Kevin Mueller
  - Quality of Life – Katherine Rueff
  - Publicity & Procedures - Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham
  - Social - Ellen Childs & Karen Saavedra

- University Committees
  - Academic Council - Kelly Martin
  - Academic Technologies – Kevin Mueller
  - Faculty Senate - Carolyn Rodak
  - Graduate Council - Victoria Froude & Kasey Swanke
  - Committee for Women Faculty and Students - Amber Handy & Allison Regier
  - Library Committee – Kelly Martin
  - Traffic Appeals – Katherine Rueff
  - LaFortune Tenants – Ellen Childs & Karen Saavedra
  - Professional Development ad-hoc Committee – Ralf Bendlin

- Old Business
  - Letter to Athletic Department – Kevin Mueller

- New Business
  - Executive Committee’s Constitutional changes
  - Ricky Klee’s Proposed Resolution for more support for women with children
  - Ricky Klee’s Proposed Resolution for changing the activity fee

- Adjournment
February 10, 2011
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune Student Center

**Officers:** Victoria Froude, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering (*GSU President*); Carolyn Rodak, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (*Co-Vice President*); Kasey Swanke, Political Science (*Co-Vice President*).

**Chairs:** Kelly Martin, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (*Academic Affairs*); Melissa Pirkey, Sociology (*External Affairs*); Kevin Mueller, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (*Electronic Resources/Orientation*); Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (*Publicity & Procedures*); Ellen Childs, Sociology (*Social*) and Karen Saavedra, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (*Social*).

**University Committees:** Allison Regier, Computer Science & Engineering (*Women Faculty & Students*).

**Department Representatives:** John Dantonio, Lionel Pittman (*Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering*); Jackson Zorn (*Art History & Design*); Shannon Flynn (*Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences*); Josh McManaway (*Classics*); Jason Rastovski, Sebastian Roelands (*Economics*); Denise Ayo, Sarah Baechle (*English*); Michael Dean (*ESTEEM Program*); Sean Phillips (*History*); Yvonne Mikuljan (*Literature Program, PhD*); Katie Bugyis (*Medieval Institute*); Katherine Rueff, Collin Lines (*Physics*); Hilary Davidson, (*Sociology*); Ricky Klee (*Theology*).

**FOG & University Village Representatives:** Evan Claudeanos, (*Philosophy*) University Village

1. Victoria Froude, *President*, called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
2. Victoria called for the approval of the minutes from the December 9, 2010 meeting.
   Carolyn Rodak, *Vice President*, asked that item 21.a read “...experiences of being a married student. All married couples, including civil unions, are invited to attend”. There was a motion to approve the minutes as amended and the motion carried. The minutes were approved as amended.
3. Victoria stated that the Executive Committee’s report stands. She announced that she had several additions.
   a. Victoria highlighted the upcoming GSU President and Vice-President elections. Presidential platforms and accompanying paperwork are due Friday, March 25th, and elections will take place Friday, April 29th. Platform details and forms can be found on the GSU website (http://gsu.nd.edu/news/18408-gsu-presidential-elections-nominations-due-march-25th/).
   b. Victoria announced that the Executive Committee was unsuccessful in filling the vacant Quality of Life Chair position due to a lack of applicants. Victoria
and Kasey Swanke, Vice President, will assume all duties of the Chair for the remainder of the academic year. If anyone is interested in the position, please contact Victoria (vfroude@nd.edu) or Kasey (kswanke@nd.edu).

c. Evan Claudeanos, University Village Residence Representative, inquired about the status of the Family Friendly Policy. Victoria reviewed her Graduate Council report, highlighting that the Council voted in favor of four actionable items. She stated that the accommodation policy that was passed is being distributed to department chairs and the directors of graduate students for each department, and the policy should reach students in the coming weeks. The accommodation policy is now a minimum requirement for all departments. Kasey added that the implementation of the actionable items highlighted by Victoria should be effective immediately, but that their advancement will likely be piecemeal, much like the graduate student health insurance stipend. If anyone has information regarding this policy, please contact Victoria (vfroude@nd.edu) or Kasey (kswanke@nd.edu).

d. Victoria announced that the Grad Council did not discuss the outstanding issue of requiring outside chairs for thesis and dissertation defenses. This topic is the first item on the agenda for the next meeting.

4. Kelly Martin, Academic Affairs Chair, stated that her report stands.
5. Melissa Pirkey, External Affairs Chair, stated that her report stands.
6. Carolyn announced that Samuel Rund’s, Health Care Chair, report stands. She requested that if anyone has suggestions for the upcoming Health Care Fair, to please forward them to Sam (srund@nd.edu) as soon as possible.
7. Kevin Mueller, Orientation Chair, stated that his report stands. He stated that he has started planning for the 2011 Graduate Student Orientation and Social. Kevin requested suggestions for a location, other than Legends, and activities for the upcoming Social. Michael Dean, ESTEEM Program, suggested using University Catering and hosting the event in the LaFortune Ballroom. Kasey recommended using the stadium penthouse. The Joyce Athletic & Convention Center and Eddy Street Commons were additionally suggested for locations. If anyone has suggestions, please contact Kevin (kmuelle@nd.edu).
8. Victoria stated that the upcoming Married Students Dinner will take place the weekend following this meeting, and that tickets are sold out for the event. She also announced the annual Bike Fest, hosted with RecSports, will be held this spring and more details will be announced soon.
9. Sarrah Cheatham, Publicity & Procedures Chair, stated that her report stands.
10. Karen Saavedra, Social Chair, stated that the Social report stands. She highlighted the GSU Hot Chocolate Social, to be held on February 15th from 2-4pm in the LaFortune Ballroom. She encouraged everyone to attend. Secondly, Karen reported that the Ski Trip to Jones, MI was a success; tickets sold out for the event in two days. Lastly, Karen asked everyone to save the date for the 9th Annual GSU Charity Gala: Masquerade Ball. The Gala will take place on Friday, March 25th from 7pm-midnight at Palais Royale. Information about tickets can be found on the GSU website (http://gusu.nd.edu/social/gsuvents/).
11. Kelly Martin, Academic Council, stated that her report stands.
13. Carolyn Rodak, Faculty Senate, stated that her report stands. She announced that there were three additions to the report.
a. The University is redefining the “post-doc” position. Currently, the University does not have a central policy that sets guidelines for hiring or guidelines for job requirements for post-docs.

b. The University is making changes to the Conflict of Commitment Policy for faculty. This policy ensures that faculty members spend appropriate amounts of their time on University commitments and do not get over-involved with other commitments.

c. The University has proposed to make changes to definitions within faculty, research and administrative positions. Among these changes is to treat non-research and non-teaching faculty, such as faculty that are responsible for advising students, more like staff. The Senate unanimously voted against the proposed changes.

14. Victoria Froude, *Graduate Council*, stated that the Graduate Council report stands.

15. Allison Regier, *Committee for Women Faculty and Students*, stated that her report stands.


17. Victoria Froude, *Traffic Appeals*, stated the Appeals meeting was held during the 3rd Annual Graduate Research Symposium, and was therefore unable to attend.

18. Ellen Childs, *LaFortune Tenants*, stated that the tenants had not met since the last GSU report.

19. Victoria stated that Ralf Bendlin’s, *Professional Development ad-hoc Committee*, report stands.
   
a. Ann Moran, *Grad Career Programs Assistant Director, Career Center*, added that the Professional Development committee has two upcoming events. The first event is an Etiquette Dinner that is aimed to improve students’ dinner etiquette for job interviews and socials. The event will take place on Tuesday, March 29th from 6-8pm in the Donor Room at the Morris Inn. The event is open to the first 20 students and is free. To register for the event, visit the Graduate School Professional Development website ([http://graduateschool.nd.edu/professional_development/event-registration/](http://graduateschool.nd.edu/professional_development/event-registration/)). The second event will focus on students’ interviewing skills. Details about this event will be announced soon.

b. Carolyn added that the Committee has planned a Graduate Dissertation/Thesis Camp during Spring Break 2011 (March 14-18). The camp is limited to 25 students, provides workshops to provide helpful tips about writing a dissertation/thesis, and offers breakfast and afternoon refreshments every day. To register for this event, visit the Hesburgh Library website ([https://www.library.nd.edu/forms/instructions/dissertation-camp/](https://www.library.nd.edu/forms/instructions/dissertation-camp/)).

20. Victoria announced that one item was submitted for new business.
   
a. Kevin announced that he changed the letter addressing Josh Berlo, Senior Assistant Athletic Director, regarding including free student tickets to sporting events during the fall and winter breaks games as well. Kevin informed the Council that he changed the letter to read “supplemental student ticket package” (in place of “additional student ticket package”), “Having an additional option when...” (in place of “Having two options when...”), and “...simply ignore the supplemental package and experience no additional charge” (in place of “...simply buy the original student ticket package and pay proportionally less”). Victoria announced that a voting quorum was not met at the meeting and therefore tabled the vote to send the
submitted letter to Josh Berlo until the March 2011 GSU meeting.

21. Victoria opened the floor for any announcements.
   a. Kelly announced that the 3rd Annual Graduate Research Symposium was a success. She extended her thanks to everyone that participated. Kelly announced the winners of this year’s Symposium:
      i. First Place:
         1. Edit Varga (Engineering)
         2. Patrick Mello (Humanities)
         3. John Engbers (Sciences)
         4. Chadwick Curtis & Elizabeth Munnich (Social Sciences, co-winners)
      ii. Second Place:
         1. Punit Bandi (Engineering)
         2. Brandon Cook (Humanities)
         3. Patrick Shirey (Sciences)
   b. Kasey asked for feedback from the Council regarding whether the current GSU meeting day and time is family friendly, or if Council members would prefer a meeting time that is more conducive to families. If you have any preferences, please contact Victoria (vfroude@nd.edu) or Kasey (kswanke@nd.edu).
   c. Kate Rueff, Physics Department Representative, stated that she had been approached about the GSU budget. She stated that graduate students were curious how their annual $65 activity fee is spent, and if there was an option to opt out of paying the fee if they do not attend GSU social events. Victoria replied that a sizeable portion of the money acquired from the activity fees is budgeted for the GSU Conference Presentation Grant, which can give students up to $1250 during their career at Notre Dame. Ellen also added that the budget for GSU social events that is taken from the activity fees is small compared to the total social budget, as the Graduate School provides most of the money for social events. Victoria stated that she would speak with Donna Frahn, GSU Administrative Assistant, about providing a GSU budget for distribution at the next GSU meeting.
   d. Victoria reported that the Executive Committee and the GSU would like to thank the department representatives and committee chairs for devoting their time and efforts to the GSU this year. As a token of appreciation, Victoria passed out GSU mugs to each member in attendance. If any Council members were not in attendance but would like a mug, please visit Donna Frahn in the GSU office.

22. Victoria entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was approved and carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Minutes submitted by Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham
Executive Committee’s Report
March 2011
Submitted by Victoria Froude, Carolyn Rodak, Kasey Swanke

GSU Elections for 2011-2012
Elections for the next executive committee are quickly approaching. If you are interested in running for President/Vice-presidents of the GSU for the next academic year, please stay after the council meeting for an informal session to learn more about the positions. We are happy to talk to anyone considering running for either office even if you haven’t yet thought of who could complete a full ticket.

The election date for this year will be Friday, April 29th with election materials (petition and platform) due Friday, March 25th. All candidates wishing to run for the offices of President and Vice-Presidents of the GSU must complete a petition form (available online at http://gsu.nd.edu/about/forms). Candidates must run as a complete ticket covering both positions (1 president and 2 vice-presidents). The petition must include the signatures of 20 currently enrolled graduate students. A platform outlining your goals/objectives for the GSU must be included with the petition and forwarded to the GSU office, Mezzanine Level, LaFortune Student Center.

Quality of Life Chair
While the GSU Executive Committee reported last month that we were unable to fill the position of Quality of Life Committee Chair, we are excited to announce that Kate Rueff of Physics has been appointed this position for the remainder of the term. We are very pleased with Kate's proposed plans for this chair, and if you have any issues related to Quality of Life, please contact her at krueff@nd.edu.

Campus Leadership Committee - Hesburgh Library Strategic Planning Group
Kasey is continuing to represent graduate student interests as this group convenes. This committee is currently looking at the various subcommittee reports regarding, for example, the organizational structure of the library and its digital assets. Ultimately, a report from the committee will guide the upper offices of the University and the new Director of the Hesburgh Library. If you have concerns and thoughts that you would like Kasey to raise at these meetings, please feel free to contact her with them.

GSU Operating Budget Transparency
During our February Council Meeting, department representatives expressed interest in us publishing important parts of the GSU’s operating budget. It can be found under the “About the GSU” tab on the GSU website in the near future and copies will be distributed at the meeting.
Graduate Council Meeting
The Graduate Council did not meet during the last month. The last meeting of the semester is expected in early April.

Faculty Senate
The faculty senate met on March 1st, 2011. Fr. Poorman came and shared his view on Student Activities with the senate as well as their new focus on reevaluating graduate programs and our needs. Following his presentation we discussed a resolution which ultimately did not pass.
Academic Affairs
March 2011
Submitted by Kelly Martin

Academic Council
The Academic Council passed the Policy, Procedures and Guidelines for Postdoctoral Appointments at the University of Notre Dame. The document is divided into two sections: (1) policies, which define postdoctoral recruitment, requirements, benefits, dismissal, etc. and (2) guidelines, which expand upon the policies. The Council also passed guidelines for the classification of a University Research Center; to be a University Research Center, the activity of the entity must be substantial and primarily cross-college and supported in consultation with the Deans. The Advanced Studies Committee is now in the process of selecting a new topic to explore.

University Library Committee
Diane Parr Walker, deputy university librarian at the University of Virginia, has been named Edward H. Arnold University Librarian at the University of Notre Dame. Walker's appointment is effective July 25.

The Library continues to add opportunities for graduate students. Graduate students will now be working the reference desk at Hesburgh. The Library recently started an annual Special Collections fellowship. In addition, there is secured funding for graduate student fellowships that support cataloging assistance in the collections of Byzantine Studies, Modern Poetry, Russian Studies, and the Catholic Portal Project. Graduate students may also be interested in applying for funding through the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts. The Hesburgh Library/Graduate Student Library Liaison Grants encourage collaboration between graduate students and subject librarians in the Humanities. See www.isla.nd.edu for more details.

Teaching Awards
The advertisements for the GSU Teaching Awards were sent out last week. This year, we will present two $350 awards: one to an “outstanding graduate teaching assistant” and one to an “outstanding graduate instructor”. The students may be nominated by 1) the chair or director of graduate studies, 2) the faculty member responsible for the course, or 3) the graduate student. If you are interested, please see www.gsu.nd.edu for application requirements. Deadline is MIDNIGHT MARCH 31ST.
External Affairs
March 2011
Submitted by Melissa Pirkey

Service Events with Students from MBA & Law Programs
The external affairs committee has continued to work on developing collaborative service events with students from the MBA and Law programs. The first collaborative event will be held on March 26, 2011 from 10:00 am -2:00 pm. This is the day after the GSU Gala and we hope that this may become a tradition which creates a weekend of charity and service within the ND community. Though the details are still being worked out, three locations have agreed to work with us during this time, which will provide volunteers a choice of location and activity. These organizations are:

- Corvilla (http://www.corvilla.org)
- Habitat for Humanity (http://www.habitat-for-humanity.org/), and
- Hannah & Friends (http://www.hannahandfriends.org)

As we have new information we will update the GSU website, so please encourage students in your department to mark their calendars and check for new information as the date approaches.

The Bald and The Beautiful
Another great event happening on campus is The Bald and The Beautiful, which will raise money for St. Baldricks, a foundation dedicated to advancing research surrounding childhood cancers. More information about The Bald and The Beautiful can be found on the following page of my report.
The Bald & The Beautiful: ND Fights Cancer

This event includes:
Head Shaving & Fundraising for St. Baldrick’s
Donating 8” of Hair to Pantene Beautiful Lengths
Purchase Colored Hair Extensions to support Memorial Hospital

April 13, 2011  4:00-10:00 PM
April 14, 2011  4:00-10:00 PM
April 15, 2011  4:00-8:30 PM

All events located in LaFortune Student Center
Dooley & Sorin Rooms

Stay Tuned as we’re looking into another event to take place at Legends.

In the meantime…

Register and/or Donate at www.nd.edu/~class12

Don’t get a haircut

Request donations from friends and family

Last year we raised over $41,700!

This year our goal is $60,000!

Email JOriano@nd.edu with any questions
Health Care
March 2011
Submitted by Samuel Rund

Graduate Student Union Health Care Fair
This year's GSU Health Care Fair will be held at University Village April 9th from 1:00-3:00pm. This will be an especially great activity to bring your young children too – as the Memorial Hospital Health Works will be there with their amazing body hummer and health fair. Come on out for a great time!

If you have any ideas or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Sam (Srund@nd.edu)

Department of Health and Human Resources rules issued February 9 to ensure students get health insurance protections of the Affordable Care Act
Under the proposed rules, some of the new health insurance protections include:

- **No Lifetime Limits on Coverage:** Insurance companies would no longer be able to impose lifetime dollar limits on the amount they spend on health benefits in student health plans.

- **No Arbitrary Rescissions of Insurance Coverage:** Insurance companies can no longer drop coverage when student health plan enrollees get sick because of an unintentional mistake on an application.

- **No Pre-Existing Condition Exclusions for Students under Age 19:** Insurance companies cannot deny or exclude coverage for students under age 19 because of a pre-existing condition.


Changes to next year's student health insurance plan
Victoria and I went to a meeting on the student health insurance plan. Negotiations are ongoing with our current provider, Aetna, over changes to next year's policy. At this time, no decisions have been made but we should be prepared for non-trivial changes.

GSU Blood Drive
The Spring GSU Blood Drive will be held Tuesday, April 5, 2011 from 11:00am-4:00pm in the LaFortune Ball Room (Second Floor) Closer to the date, we will once again have e-reservations to cut down on your wait time.
Orientation & Electronic Resources
March 2011
Submitted by Kevin A Mueller

University Committee on Academic Technologies
The next meeting is March 9, the day before the council meeting. The report from this meeting cannot be summarized here but will be discussed at the GSU meeting. The current concerns raised to me are as follows:

1) Make more software free for students (grad in particular) for research, teaching;
2) Easier way to share online space for collaborative research;
3) Better advertisement, promotion of new/current software available to grad students;
4) Classes on new software;
5) Galvin Building Library Closing -- noticed that only thing used was the pharos printer. Removed library but never put printer back in, which is what was promised.
6) Keep webfile or something similar.

Electronic Resources Chair
The listserv with new Spring 2011 students will be updated soon.

2011 Graduate School Orientation and Information Fair
SAO request has already been initiated for August 19, 2011 at the Jordan Hall of Science galleria. More details to follow.

2011 Graduate Student Social
SAO request has already been initiated for August 22, 2011 at Legends. It was brought up at the previous GSU meeting that the social be moved to somewhere with less expensive food. I am in the process of contacting the Joyce Center Purcell Pavilion to use their facility. This would allow us to use Catering by Design for the food and cash bar. I will only proceed with this alternative if we save money (or is the same) over Legends. The current plans are for it to be similar to last year, including trivia from BrainBlast productions. Please let me know if you have any other ideas for this event.
Publicity & Procedures
March 2011
Submitted by Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham

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Social Report
March 2011
Submitted by Ellen Childs and Karen Saavedra

February 2011

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- Tuesday, February 15, LaFortune Ballroom, 2:00 – 4:00pm.
- We provided hot chocolate and fixings, coffee, and cookies / treats.
- There was a steady stream of people, and everyone commented that they loved the selection.

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March 2011

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- Friday, March 25, 2011, Palais Royale, 7:00pm – 12:00am.
- Gala tickets: $20.00/person and are on sale at the LaFortune Box Office.
- Raffle tickets: $2/ea. or 3 for $5 at the GSU office Monday - Friday 8:30am – 1:30pm.
- Grand prize: Xbox 360 and Kinect.
- All Raffle and half of ticket sales will benefit THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY.

April 2011

GSU Annual Easter Brunch
- Sunday, April 24, 2011, South Dining Hall, 11:30am – 3:30pm
- Tickets will be $5.00 and will go on sale at the LaFortune Box Office Monday, April 4.
- Children 5 and under are no charge.

Legally Blonde The Musical
- Friday, April 29, 2011, Morris Performing Arts Center, 8:00 pm.
- Tickets will be $12.00 and will go on sale at the LaFortune Box Office Friday, April 8.
- There are a limited amount of tickets available.
Professional Development ad-hoc Committee (TREC)
February 2011
Submitted by Ralf Bendlin

The Personal Side of Professional Life
During our last meeting on February 14, 2011, the TREC Team decided to organize and host an event on the personal side of professional life. Claudia Anewalt (Political Science), Brenda Jackson (Psychology), Annie McGowan (Theology), Melissa Pirkey (Sociology), and Ralf Bendlin (Electrical Engineering) agreed to form an organizing committee and met on February 24, 2011 and March 3, 2011. The event is scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2011 from 3:30pm – 5:00pm and will be called The Personal Side of Professional Life. Five panelists will share their experiences and provide guidelines related to:

- the personal side of professional relationships: communicating personal needs in a professional environment
- the personal side of the job search: meeting your partner's employment needs, handling inappropriate interview questions, and negotiating family policies
- the personal side of life: leaving the guilt behind

We are in the process of recruiting panelists for the event. Please check the Google Calendar on the Professional Development website of the Graduate School for updates on the event: http://graduateschool.nd.edu/professional_development/pdcalendar/

Past Events
Ann Amico Moran, Assistant Director of the Graduate Career Program, facilitated an extremely productive and insightful roundtable discussion about placement of our graduate students in industry with faculty, students, staff and representatives from Whirlpool, Procter & Gamble and Zimmer.

Upcoming Events
- Graduate Dissertation/Thesis Camp, March 14-18 (Spring Break), 9am-4pm, Hesburgh Library
- Etiquette Dinner, Tuesday, March 29, 6pm-8pm, Donor Room, Morris Inn
  This event is limited to 20 participants!
- Interviewing Insights. With members of the Graduate Advisory Council. March 31, more details to follow.

Please visit http://graduateschool.nd.edu/professional_development/pdcalendar/ for a list and description of all upcoming events on campus related to professional development.
Date: March 11, 2011

Josh Berlo  
Senior Assistant Athletic Director, Athletics Event Marketing & Ticketing  
University of Notre Dame  
C113 Joyce Center  
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Dear Mr. Berlo:

A recent issue was brought before the Graduate Student Union (GSU) Council on February 10, 2011 and March 10, 2011 regarding season tickets for students. It is commonplace for the student ticket package for sports such as men’s basketball and ice hockey to exclude those games over fall and winter breaks. While this makes perfect sense for undergraduate students, graduate students keep very different schedules and are frequently on campus during these breaks. It would be convenient for these games to be included in a supplemental student ticket package. Having an additional option when purchasing season tickets would give those students who are on campus over break to attend the sporting event without worrying about it selling out to the general public. Alternatively, those students who will not be on campus can simply ignore the supplemental package and experience no additional charge.

The GSU would appreciate you and the rest of the athletic department to consider this proposal and provide students with more ticket options. Thank you and Go Irish!

Sincerely,

Victoria Froude  
GSU President
CONSTITUTION OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT UNION

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Article V: Committees

Section 2. The Standing Committees:

Electronic Resources Administrator

The Electronic Resources Administrator shall oversee and maintain the electronic resources of the Graduate Student Union offices, including but not limited to office computers and servers. He or she shall be available to assist those members of the GSU who wish to make use of the resources for GSU projects and shall serve on ad-hoc committees as designated by the President of the GSU. This administrator is also responsible for the technical details of the GSU website, and for the electronic election process. In addition, the Electronic Resource Administrator shall oversee the computing concerns of the graduate student body. This is done primarily by providing for the maintenance and oversight of the graduate student computer cluster and through maintaining a dialogue with the University Office of Information Technology in order to address graduate student computing concerns as they arise. Annual stipend: $900.

Orientation Committee

The Orientation Committee is responsible for organizing the incoming Fall and Spring Orientation activities for new students, which include both professional development and social activities coordinated with the appropriate university bodies. The chair of this committee needs to be at Notre Dame during the summer to plan Fall Orientation, which takes place before classes begin in August. In addition, the Orientation Committee shall oversee the computing concerns of the graduate student body. This is done primarily by providing for the maintenance of the GSU Listserv and through maintaining a dialogue with the University Office of Information Technology in order to address graduate student computing concerns as they arise. Annual stipend: $900.

Publicity and Procedures Committee

The Publicity and Procedures Committee maintains the professional image of the GSU through published and web-based materials. The Publicity and Procedures Chair will work closely with the Electronic Resources Administrator to ensure that the content of the GSU website is frequently updated and the GSU-related materials, such as the Constitution, the calendar of GSU-sponsored events, and contact information, are current. This individual is
Executive Committee’s Constitutional Changes

The Executive Committee is responsible for recording and documenting the minutes of each council meeting. Additionally, he/she is in charge of designing, ordering, and procuring the GSU T-shirt for Orientation. The Publicity and Procedures Chair will also be in close communication with the GSU administrative assistant, helping publish flyers for GSU events and manage the content of the weekly listserv emails distributed to the graduate student body. The Publicity and Procedures Committee ensures that all promotional materials are functional and appealing for our target audience and acts as a censor to every piece. It is the responsibility of this committee to maintain a digital and a printed archive for future use of the GSU. This committee, along with the Electronic Resources Administrator, supervises elections and assures that constitutional procedures are followed. This committee is also responsible for organizing, publicizing, and conducting the annual general election. Annual stipend: $900.

Professional Development Committee

The Professional Development Committee acts as an advocate promoting the professional development of graduate students in order to fully prepare them with confidence in their careers in academia, the private sector, government, or non-for-profit organizations. The Professional Development Committee shall work closely with the Associate Dean for Professional Development at the Graduate School. The Chair of the Professional Development Committee will attend the weekly Graduate School Professional Development team meetings. These meetings connect and coordinate the efforts of the various centers, institutes and other entities at Notre Dame that provide events, workshops and services for graduate students, such as the Kaneb Center, the Career Center, the Writing Center, the Center for Social Concerns, or the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts. In addition, the Chair of this committee is responsible for forming and managing the TREC (Teaching, Research, Ethics, Career) Team which shall be composed of representatives from all departments. The TREC team meets monthly and provides graduate student input to the Graduate School’s professional development team. This committee is encouraged to support, organize, and co-host events on campus which promote the professional development of graduate students at Notre Dame. Annual stipend: $900.
Proposed Resolution to Appropriate Funds to Improve Female Student Retention Rates

WHEREAS, The most recent study of the Graduate School notes that only 57% of doctoral students at Notre Dame graduate with a doctoral degree, and that women perform ten percentage points less well than men in attaining a degree;

WHEREAS, National studies demonstrate that female doctoral students with children perform far less well in achieving a degree than single students (whether female or male) and male students with children; this indicates that at Notre Dame female students with children likely have the worst attrition rate of any demographic;

WHEREAS, a study by former Assoc. Dean of the Graduate School, Peter Diffley, demonstrated that students who leave its doctoral programs are among its best, and that even a ten percent increase in retention rates may save the University over a million dollars per year

WHEREAS, Many of Notre Dame’s graduate programs do not have representative numbers of female students with children, as with the Theology department, which has over 110 doctoral students but only five female doctoral students with children;

WHEREAS, Universities that have been successful in raising recruitment and retention rates among female students with children have appropriated new funds for use in grants for child care, extended program funding, and targeted grants for families with demonstrated need;

WHEREAS, The Graduate School’s recent study and adoption of ‘family friendly policies’ included no new funds appropriated in any of these areas despite expressed support for them by members of the Graduate Council

BE IT RESOLVED by the Representatives of the Graduate Student Union that the Board of Trustees, President, Provost, and Graduate School of the University should quickly adopt a plan to provide such funds so as to increase the number of women with children who attain a doctoral degree at Notre Dame.

Richard Klee
Proposed Resolution to Increase the Graduate Student Activities Fee by Twenty Dollars Per Year to Fund Health Care Access for International Student Children

3.10.11

WHEREAS, Dozens of children of international student families are uninsured by the University’s Health Plan, due to its high family premium cost

WHEREAS, These children are not eligible as non-citizens for Hoosier Healthwise, the State of Indiana’s Medicaid program

WHEREAS, The University has no plan to insure these children or increase their access to health care by other means

WHEREAS, The Catholic Church holds that access to affordable health care is an “inalienable human right” as recently proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI

WHEREAS, Lack of access to affordable health care increases health and financial risks to a family

BE IT RESOLVED by the Representatives of the Graduate Student Union that it should work to increase the yearly Graduate Student Activities Fee by twenty dollars per year, with the funds generated by this increase dedicated to increasing access to medical services among these uninsured children.

Richard Klee
April 14, 2011 – Council Agenda

Meetings held at 7:00PM in the Notre Dame Room of LaFortune

- Roll Call/Sign-In

- Approval of the Minutes (March 10, 2010)

- Executive Committee’s Report: Victoria Froude, Carolyn Rodak, Kasey Swanke

- Committee Reports
  - Academic Affairs – Kelly Martin
  - External Affairs – Melissa Pirkey
  - Health Care – Samuel Rund
  - Orientation & Electronic Resources – Kevin Mueller
  - Quality of Life – Katherine Rueff
  - Publicity & Procedures - Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham
  - Social - Ellen Childs & Karen Saavedra

- University Committees
  - Academic Council - Kelly Martin
  - Academic Technologies – Kevin Mueller
  - Faculty Senate - Carolyn Rodak
  - Graduate Council - Victoria Froude & Kasey Swanke
  - Committee for Women Faculty and Students - Amber Handy & Allison Regier
  - Library Committee – Kelly Martin
  - Traffic Appeals – Katherine Rueff
  - LaFortune Tenants – Ellen Childs & Karen Saavedra
  - Professional Development ad-hoc Committee – Ralf Bendlin

- Old Business
  - Executive Committee’s Constitutional changes
  - Ricky Klee’s Proposed Resolution for more support for women with children

- Adjournment
Minutes

March 10, 2011
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune Student Center

Officers: Victoria Froude, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering (GSU President); Carolyn Rodak, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (Co-Vice President); Kasey Swanke, Political Science (Co-Vice President).

Chairs: Kelly Martin, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (Academic Affairs); Melissa Pirkey, Sociology (External Affairs); Sam Rund, Biological Sciences (Health Care); Kevin Mueller, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (Electronic Resources/Orientation); Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (Publicity & Procedures); Ellen Childs, Sociology (Social).

University Committees: Kelly Martin, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (Library Committee); Lauren Whitnah, Medieval Institute (Library Renovation); Amber Handy, History (Women Faculty & Students).

Department Representatives: John Dantonio, Lionel Pittman (Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering); Virginia Hungate-Hawk, Jackson Zorn (Art, Art History & Design); Jessica Stoller-Conrad, Mary Cloutier (Biological Sciences); Douglas Rice, Ian Sander (Chemistry & Biochemistry); Amanda Albrecht, Shannon Flynn (Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences); Jason Rastovski, Sebastian Roelands (Economics); Ralf Bendlin (Electrical Engineering); Denise Ayo, Sarah Baechle (English); Sean Phillips (History); Shashi Regmi (Kroc Institute for Int’l. Peace Studies); Gretchen Busl, Yvonne Mikuljan (Literature Program, PhD); Ben Reinhard, Lauren Whitnah (Medieval Institute); Charles Pence (Philosophy); Katherine Rueff, Collin Lines (Physics); Douglas Ansel (Political Science); Jeff Brooks (Psychology); Hilary Davidson, Ana Velitchkova (Sociology); Ricky Klee (Theology).

FOG & University Village Representatives: Evan Claudeanos, (Philosophy) University Village

1. Victoria Froude, President, called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

2. Victoria called for the approval of the minutes from the February 10, 2011 meeting. Kevin Mueller, Orientation & Electronic Resources Chair, asked that item 20.a read “...Senior Assistant Athletic Director, regarding including student tickets to ...”. There was a motion to approve the minutes as amended and the motion carried. The minutes were approved as amended.

3. Victoria stated that the Executive Committee’s report stands. She highlighted the upcoming GSU Presidential and Vice Presidential elections platform deadline on March 25th. Victoria also announced that Katherine Rueff is the new Quality of Life Chair.

4. Kelly Martin, Academic Affairs Chair, stated that her report stands. She announced that the Advanced Studies Committee in the Academic Council is changing their focus to improve policies regarding residential life for graduate students. If you have any
ideas or suggestions, contact Kelly at kmartin9@nd.edu. Kelly also announced that there was a misprint on the Outstanding Teaching Award posters. Course instructor feedback summaries should be generated from the Center for Institutional Data website (http://www.nd.edu/~cif/cif.shtml) and not the Center itself.

5. Melissa Pirkey, External Affairs Chair, stated that her report stands. She highlighted the upcoming service events on March 26th. Melissa announced that the Red Cross has been added to the list of organizations, in addition to Corvilla, Habitat for Humanity, and Hannah & Friends. Registration for the event will begin at 9am. For complete information, please contact Melissa at mpiirkey@nd.edu.

6. Samuel Rund, Health Care Chair, stated that his report stands. Sam (srund@nd.edu) highlighted the upcoming Health Care Fair on April 9th. This year’s fair will also include child-friendly events, so children are encouraged to attend.

   a. Ralf Bendlin, Professional Development ad-hoc Committee Chair, asked what “non-trivial changes” should be expected regarding the changes to next year’s student health insurance plan in the Health Care Chair report. Victoria replied that Aetna is increasing their cost next year and that Dean Sterling is working to keep the cost for graduate students as low as possible. More information will be announced as soon as it’s released.

7. Kevin Mueller, Orientation & Electronic Resources Chair, stated that his report stands. He added that UCAT met on March 9th. Among the topics of discussion: (1) we are trying to get a Pharos printer in Galvin, (2) trying to catalog all software utilized on campus to acquire the appropriate licenses, and (3) trying to improve cell phone reception around campus. If anyone has suggestions or concerns regarding electronic resources, please contact Kevin (kmuelle4@nd.edu). Kevin stated he would announce more information regarding the Orientation Fair at the April 2011 meeting.

8. Victoria stated that Katherine’s, Quality of Life Chair, report stands. She stated that if anyone is interested in being a part of the LGBT Committee, please contact Katherine at (krueff@nd.edu). Everyone is welcome to participate.

9. Sarrah Cheatham, Publicity & Procedures Chair, stated that her report stands.

10. Ellen Childs, Social Chair, stated that the Social report stands. She highlighted the 9th Annual GSU Charity Gala: Masquerade Ball. The Gala will take place on Friday, March 25th from 7pm-midnight at Palais Royale. Information about tickets can be found on the GSU website (http://gsu.nd.edu/social/gsuevents/). Half of admission ticket proceeds and all of raffle ticket proceeds benefit the Boys & Girls Club of St. Joseph County. Ellen also encouraged all Council members to attend the GSU Easter Brunch (April 24th) and Legally Blonde (April 29th). For a complete list of GSU events, visit the GSU website (gsu.nd.edu/social).

11. Victoria distributed the GSU annual budget. To see the budget, visit the GSU website (http://gsu.nd.edu/about/archives/).

12. Kelly Martin, Academic Council, stated that her report stands.


14. Carolyn Rodak, Faculty Senate, stated that her report stands.

15. Victoria Froude, Graduate Council, stated that the Graduate Council had not met since the last GSU meeting.

16. Amber Handy, Committee for Women Faculty and Students, stated that the Committee had not met since the last GSU meeting.

17. Kelly Martin, Library Committee, stated that her report stands.

18. Victoria Froude announced that Katherine’s, Traffic Appeals, report stands.
19. Ellen Childs, *LaFortune Tenants*, stated that she and Karen were not able to attend the Tenants meeting and have not yet received the meeting minutes.

20. Ralf Bendlin, *Professional Development ad-hoc Committee*, stated that his report stands. He announced that the Graduate School Etiquette Dinner sold out quickly. He also announced that students need to register for the upcoming Interviewing Insights event (March 31st) on the Graduate School website: [http://graduateschool.nd.edu/professional_development/event-registration/](http://graduateschool.nd.edu/professional_development/event-registration/).

21. Victoria announced one item of old business:
   
a. Victoria opened the floor for amendments to the submitted letter to the athletic department. No amendments were proposed. There was a motion to approve the letter and the motion carried. The letter was approved as stands.

22. Victoria announced that three items were submitted for new business.
   
a. Executive Committee’s Constitutional changes
   
i. Victoria announced that the Executive Committee has proposed to make the following changes to the GSU Constitution: remove the Electronic Resources Administrator position from Section 2; amend the Orientation Committee to include the responsibilities of the previous Electronic Resources Administrator; amend the Publicity & Procedures Committee to remove mention of the Electronic Resources Administrator; and include a new committee, the Professional Development Committee, which will act parallel to and in conjunction with the Graduate School’s Professional Development Committee.
   
   ii. Victoria opened the floor for discussion regarding the proposed amendments. Kelly Martin made a friendly amendment to change “Orientation Committee” to “Orientation & Electronic Resources Committee”.
   
   iii. Victoria called for a vote to pass the Constitutional amendment with Kelly’s friendly amendment. The first vote on this order of business was unanimously in favor of the changes. Victoria announced that in order to make the constitutional changes official, the Council must vote in favor of the changes at the April 2011 meeting.

b. Proposed resolution for increasing the graduate student activity fee
   
i. Richard Klee, *Theology (Ph.D.) Department Representative*, announced that his proposed resolution aims to increase the graduate student activity fee in an effort to provide health care for international student children, as they are the only demographic of children that are ineligible for health insurance aid. He emphasized the third statement of the resolution, “WHEREAS, The University has no plan to insure these children or increase their access to health care by other means.” Richard suggested that the GSU make an effort to assist these children by raising the annual activity fee, and the money be allocated to these children. He proposed that the GSU Health Care Chair could receive applications from international students with children in order to access the funds, or the GSU provide a health care subsidy for these children.
   
   ii. Victoria announced that the GSU is not able to make the final decision to raise activity fees, as the Graduate School is in control of that decision. Victoria stated that if a vote in favor of this resolution was
passed that she would pass the request on to the Graduate School and ask that they raise the activity fee.

iii. Victoria announced that there is a great deal of legality concerns regarding the proposed resolution. Victoria asked Amber Handy to address these concerns. Amber stated that in the 2006-2007 academic year, the GSU provided a slush fund for graduate student family emergencies. However, the University stopped this practice, as the GSU was acting as an illegal insurer. To correct this, the GSU took other measures to provide free health care to graduate students, including providing free flu vaccinations at the annual GSU Health Care Fair and accepting applications for reimbursement for health care-related bills. However, when the account was audited, the GSU discovered that the funds were misused and abused. Amber recommended that the GSU not repeat these practices, and that if the proposed resolution passes that the GSU take the resolution to the University’s General Council to proceed.

iv. Sam Rund asked how the previous slush fund differed from The Shirt Fund. Amber replied that The Shirt Fund can be accessed by any student, not just one demographic. Amber raised the question of fairness to Richard, asking if it’s fair to raise every graduate student’s activity fee cost to benefit the needs of the 5% of graduate students’ children which are not insured. Richard replied that the proposed resolution aims to raise the funds needed for uninsured children; the decision of how to allocate and disperse the funds will be made later.

v. John Dantonio, Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering Department Representative, stated that the difference between raising the graduate student activity fee and The Shirt Fund is that the former is a mandatory collection of funds, whereas a donation to The Shirt Fund is a decision a person makes when they purchase The Shirt. John motioned to table the discussion until the following issues have been addressed: (1) the legality of the proposed resolution, (2) an outline for the implementation and execution of the proposed resolution, and (3) a clarification of the purpose of the resolution. The motion was approved and carried.

c. Proposed resolution for more support for women with children

i. Richard summarized that the proposed resolution aims to appropriate funds to improve female student retention rates, highlighting the first statement of the resolution: “WHEREAS, The most recent study of the Graduate School notes that only 57% of doctoral students at Notre Dame graduate with a doctoral degree, and that women perform ten percentage points less well than men in attaining a degree.” He stated that a recent study has shown that the demographic that performs the least well is female graduate students with children, hence the focus of the resolution.

ii. Victoria announced that if a vote in favor of this resolution was made, that the Executive Committee would take this issue to the board of trustees meeting. She then opened the floor for discussion.

iii. Ian Sander, Chemistry & Biochemistry Department Representative, asked why the resolution focuses on female graduate students with
children, and not simply female graduate students since they perform less well than male graduate students in attaining doctoral degrees.

iv. Lauren Whitnah, *Medieval Institute Representative* asked that the phrase “less well” in the first statement of the resolution be changed to a less offensive phrase to female graduate students.

v. Ana Velitchkova, *Sociology Department Representative*, stated that a recent study has shown that the demographic of graduate students that experience the most difficulties is the single female in a humanities discipline.

vi. Amber Handy commented that Dean Gregory Sterling, the Dean of the Graduate School, has been working to address the issues brought forth in the proposed resolution. She stated that Dean Sterling’s struggle has been allocating the funds necessary to improve the current situation, as he has to find the desired money, which Amber estimates at $52,500,000+, within the current budget. Amber stated that the recent Family Friendly Policy was the first step toward improving the current situation for female graduate students and graduate students with children. Other efforts to further improve the quality of life for these students that have been proposed to Dean Sterling have been too expensive and therefore have not been raised for a vote.

vii. Melissa Pirkey motioned for a friendly amendment to the resolution, that the title of the resolution better reflect the request within the resolution. If the resolution is to focus on female graduate students with children, or just female graduate students, then she requested that the resolution title state this.

viii. Sam Rund stated that the GSU should not vote against this resolution just because there is currently no money to act upon the requests therein.

ix. Richard addressed Ana’s comment, stating that the study only found one single student whom believed their stipend was enough to support themselves, implying that students need more assistance. Ricky then addressed Amber’s comment, stating that her budget estimates assume 90%+ coverage, whereas the proposed resolution aims to provide closer to 50% coverage, thus lowering the amount of money needed. Further, Richard recommended that the target audience for this resolution be the Board of Trustees, as they have control of the University’s budget.

x. Sarah Baechle, *English (Ph.D. / MA) Department Representative*, stated that the financial need for families with one spouse that holds a non-graduate student job is more comfortable than a single graduate student or a family where both spouses are graduate students. Sarah stated she was concerned that the proposed resolution has the potential to create a hierarchy in female graduate students.

xi. Kasey Swanke commented that she was concerned about the GSU passing a large quantity of resolutions, and that this resolution does not have the potential to make a large impact. She stated that she was in favor of the proposed changes to the resolution as proposed by Melissa and Lauren.
xii. Collin Lines, *Physics Department Representative*, asked if the Council could be provided with the studies mentioned by Richard and Ana. He asked how large the sample sizes of each study was, and how each study calculated the needs of students (e.g. per student, or total money spent). Richard replied that the study was calculated based on spousal premiums.

xiii. Carolyn Rodak recommended that the resolution be amended to recognize and acknowledge the efforts and advances made by the Graduate School.

xiv. Ben Reinhard, *Medieval Institute Representative* asked how lowering spousal premiums would address retention rates for female graduate students with children. Richard replied that this issue is not a part of the proposed resolution.

xv. Mary Cloutier, *Biological Sciences Department Representative*, stated that Notre Dame should not be compared to the Ivy League schools mentioned in the aforementioned studies, as Notre Dame has a unique department structure and a different grant money situation, and as a result the statistics of the other schools cannot be directly compared to Notre Dame. Richard stated that he attempted to target statistics from schools with similar department structures and grant money situations.

xvi. Kelly Martin stated that she is concerned that resolutions have the potential to offend the persons that have worked for the GSU and other campus organizations to achieve the success we benefit from today. Kelly also suggested that the proposed resolution focus on family friendly policies, including male and female graduate students with children, not just females.

xvii. Yvonne Mikuljan, *Literature Program (Ph.D.) Department Representative*, asked if statistics existed that compare female graduate students with children to male graduate students with children. Richard replied that because females spend more time at home with their children, that female students with children perform less well than male students with children. Yvonne further inquired why the proposed resolution does not include male students with children. Richard stated that the majority of users of similar policies at other schools are female students. He suggested that the GSU change their advocacy approach in order to reach out to this demographic, and that the proposed resolution does not offer a one-size-fits-all answer to the problem.

xviii. Sarah Baechle stated that the proposed resolution does not clearly state any objectives or desirables.

xix. Victoria Froude clarified that the issue of female retention rates is a problem at many schools, not just Notre Dame.

xx. Gretchen Busl, *Literature Program (Ph.D.) Department Representative*, asked that the resolution be changed to reflect the wording of the recent family friendly policy, and that the term “caregiver” be used in place of mother, father, parent, etc.

xxi. Douglas Ansel, *Political Science Department Representative*, asked for
more information regarding two issues: (1) what is the current situation at Notre Dame and who is affected, and (2) can the mentioned studies in the resolution and in the Council discussion be distributed?

xxii. Ellen Childs motioned to table the resolution until the requested changes and clarifications are completed. The motion was approved and carried.

23. Victoria added two final announcements
   a. If any Council members did not receive their mugs at the February 2011 meeting, please visit the GSU office.
   b. If any graduate students want to contribute to the Graduate Student Graduation Committee for the Graduate Council, contact Victoria (vfroude@nd.edu).

24. Victoria entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was approved and carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm.

Minutes submitted by Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham
Executive Committee’s Report
April 2011
Submitted by Victoria Froude, Carrie Rodak, Kasey Swanke

GSU Elections for 2011-2012
The GSU received 1 platform for the executive committee for 2011-2012. The platform, consisting of Sam Rund, Ellen Childs, and Kevin Mueller, can be found online at the GSU website. The election date for this year will be Friday, April 29th. Voting instructions will be sent out closer to the election date.

Graduate Council Meeting
The Graduate Council did not meet during the last month. The last meeting of the semester is expected in late April.

Board of Trustees Meeting
Kasey and Carolyn met with Sister Sue Dunn and Peggy Hnatusko in preparation for the April Board of Trustees meeting. Discussion centered on what material would be presented. We are still waiting on our exact appointment time, but we are scheduled to present at the meeting. We are currently forming our presentation.

Faculty Senate
Carolyn was unable to attend the April Meeting. The faculty senate is currently working to schedule an additional meeting for April; however, the time has not been determined.

Thank you to all of the department representatives and chairs for your hard work this year!
Academic Affairs
April 2011
Submitted by Kelly Martin

Academic Council
The Academic Council passed proposals to create two new degrees: (1) a professional Masters of Science degree in Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics (ACMS) and (2) a doctoral degree in Integrated Biomedical Sciences (IBmS). An IBmS Ph.D. will take classes cross departments. The student will belong to both the IBmS program and a specific department (chosen based on their academic focus).

Advanced Studies Committee
The Advanced Studies Committee discussed possible topics to explore in regards to graduate student services and housing. The Committee asked me to gather student opinions and report them to the Committee no later than April 15th. To fairly represent as many graduate students as possible, the GSU hosted two pizza lunches with discussion. An email was sent to graduate students via the departmental representatives.

The pizza lunches were held on April 6th and April 7th from 12:00-1:30 in the Sorin Room, LaFortune. Between 15-25 students showed up for each lunch. They provided me with insightful recommendations on how to improve University services to graduate students. Thank you to all who came.

University Library Committee
The Library Committee did not meet this month.

Teaching Awards
Due to feedback from faculty stating that our advertising efforts had not reached them, we sent an email to all Directors of Graduate Studies the last week in March and extended the deadline by one week (April 8th). Next year, we will ensure flyers are put in both student and faculty mailboxes and an email to send to the Directors of Graduate Studies earlier.
External Affairs
April 2011
Submitted by Melissa Pirkey

RECENT EVENTS

MBA/Law/Grad Collaborative Service Day
On March 26th, 2011 a total of seventy two students from the Law, MBA, and Grad School participated in a collaborative service event that served four area organizations: Habitat for Humanity, Corvilla, Hannah and Friends, and the Red Cross. Of these seventy two students seven were from the graduate school. All seven graduate students worked at Hannah and Friends, and I would highly recommend having other service events at Hannah and Friends as they are well organized and deal well with large groups. Overall the event was a success, and I am now in the process of collecting feedback from participants so that we can better plan future collaborative events. If you have an organization that you think should be considered for a similar event, please let me know.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Bald and the Beautiful: ND Fights Cancer
This APRIL 15TH there are five great ways to make a difference in the life of someone with cancer:

- Attend an afternoon fundraiser at Legend’s from 1:00-3:00pm; 100% of your $5 cover goes to St. Baldricks. Enjoy complimentary appetizers and drink specials!
- Donate your hair to Pantene Beautiful Lengths (there is an 8” minimum length required for donation);
- Purchase colored hair extensions to support Memorial Hospital. Hair extensions are $10 each, or 3 for $25;
- Have your head shaved for a minimum $10 donation, proceeds to benefit St. Baldrick’s (www.stbaldricks.org);
- Make a donation to benefit St. Baldrick’s through the Bald and the Beautiful.

For more information, to register for shaving or extensions, or to make a donation, please visit www.nd.edu/~class12.

Students wishing to have their head shaved or purchase extensions must register. Also be sure to contact Joe Oriano at Joriano@nd.edu so that stylists may be scheduled accordingly.
Health Care
April 2011
Submitted by Samuel Rund

Changes to next year’s student health insurance plan
These are the final changes for next year's health insurance plan

- The deductible will be increased to $500 from $200. (This means you will have to pay $500 out-of-pocket before Aetna starts to pay (excluding services at South Bend Medical Foundation, Health Services, XRC, Rad Inc. & McDonald Physio.)
- Services at South Bend Medical Foundation, XRC, Rad Inc. & McDonald Physio will now require the student to pay 20% of fee, up-to the out-of-pocket max ($2500/yr.)
- The continuance option has been eliminated. The latest day your policy can be continued to past your graduation is February 2012. Everyone is covered until Aug 15. **YOU MUST SIGN UP FOR CONTINUANCE PRIOR TO AUG 15, 2011.**
- Premium was raised to $1666 from $1239. The graduate school will subsidize at least $1050.

Why did this happen?

- The cost of health care continues to rise astronomically.
- Aetna is losing money on Notre Dame. The claims submitted are greater than the premiums paid. This is unsustainable.

Premiums for dependents have risen as follows:
- Spouse $3,098 → $4166 // Children $2416 → $3249 // All dependents $5514 → $7415

Going Forward
I intend on launching a major fundraising effort to provide assistance to uninsured dependents. I have found people within the University administration that may be willing to help us with this.

GSU Blood Drive
The blood drive was held on Tuesday, April 5, LaFortune Ballroom. We had a total number of donors sign in at 37; collected 31 units; and had 13 new donors.

Health Care Fair
The GSU health fair was held Saturday, April 9 at the University Village community center. Participants included: Anthem insurance - ND Fire department - St. Joseph Hospital outreach - Health Works - Rec Sports - Office of Drug & Alcohol education - Red Cross - IUSB Dental School - University Health Services. Everyone who attended had a good time, especially the kids.
Orientation & Electronic Resources
April 2011
Submitted by Kevin A Mueller

University Committee on Academic Technologies
The committee will look into the Galvin Building library closing, as they were not aware of the situation. As far as software goes, the University currently has a sub-committee looking into the software and license issue across campus. Since this may take some time it has been suggested that the GSU use the key & technology fund to buy new hybrid computers (Mac with PC installed via boot camp) and purchase software that the GSU would like.

In order to make this process go smoothly, I would like members of the GSU to send me an email (kmuelle4@nd.edu) requesting what software they would like to see installed on these new computers. Please include information on where to purchase the software and how much it should cost. I will compile a list and talk to OIT about how to purchase them.

If there are other concerns, please let me know so that I can bring it up at the next meeting.

Electronic Resources Chair
The listserv with new Spring 2011 students is updated.

2011 Graduate School Orientation and Information Fair
SAO request has already been initiated for August 19, 2011 at the Jordan Hall of Science galleria. More details to follow.

2011 Graduate Student Social
SAO request has already been initiated for August 22, 2011 at Legends. It was brought up at the previous GSU meeting that the social be moved to somewhere with less expensive food. I am in the process of contacting the Joyce Center Purcell Pavilion to use their facility. This would allow us to use Catering by Design for the food and cash bar. I will only proceed with this alternative if we save money (or is the same) over Legends. The current plans are for it to be similar to last year, including trivia from BrainBlast productions. Please let me know if you have any other ideas for this event.
Publicity & Procedures
April 2011
Submitted by Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham

GSU Presidential Elections
Voting for the 2011-2012 GSU Presidential & Vice-Presidential elections will take place Friday, April 29th. A link will be sent via the GSU listserv on Thursday, April 28th to remind all graduate students to cast their vote. The site will be active from 12:01 a.m. until midnight on April 29th. If you have any questions regarding the election, please email me (sdunhamc@nd.edu).

Website
I have continued to update the GSU website and the GSU calendar on a weekly basis as new events are announced and campus news is released. If you have any suggestions for content for the website, please contact me (sdunhamc@nd.edu).

Listserv Emails
I have continued to work with Donna Frahn to compile and send weekly listserv emails to the graduate student body in an effort to inform students of all upcoming graduate-student related events occurring on campus and in the community.
Quality of Life Report  
April 2011  
Submitted by Katherine Rueff

Quality of Life Chair  
I am looking to start a Coffee Talk, bi-weekly in LaFortune, where graduate students can come and discuss medium-heavy topics of concern and interest in the graduate community over some coffee, tea, and snacks. If anyone would like to help organize some of these, please contact me at krueff@nd.edu.

Planned Coffee Talk topics for the future:  
- LGTBQ Grad community  
- Women’s & Family graduate struggles  
- Integrating as an International grad student.

Bike Fest - Friday, April 29th from 12-5pm  
On April 7th, I met with the Bike Fest Committee to go over organization. WE NEED GRAD VOLUNTEERS who know how and would like to help fix bikes! Bring you and your family’s bikes for FREE repairs & maintenance, lots of prizes, and bike-related events. The GSU has $500 allocated towards Bike Fest that will go towards food, t-shirts, and setup costs.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, & Questioning (LGBTQ) Council  
I met with Sr. Sue Dunn, the Co-Chair of the Core Council, to discuss the undergraduate LGBQ organization, mission, and events and get her advice on the creation of a Graduate LGBTQ community.

I will attend (audit) the Ally Training on April 19th-20th, which is normally only available for future RA’s and faculty/staff, and bring back those techniques that would serve beneficial for the GSU to organize a similar Ally training for graduate students in the future.  

I have yet to hear any interest from others who might like to be a part of/ help with building a LGBTQ community; so again, I invite all interested graduate students to join the LGBT council. Please contact me at krueff@nd.edu.

Parking & Traffic Appeals  
I attended Traffic Appeals on March 8th; however, the last two council meetings which are bi-weekly have been postponed due to all members, but myself, being unable to attend. This has become a frustrating procedure for the ND Parking authorities since this means we are unable to pass/deny any parking appeals for the past 6 weeks. I’m hoping the April 19th meeting will have enough people.

On April 25th, I will attend the Ad Hoc Parking Committee and lobby for the D2 lot next to the Library lot to become a commuter/short term only parking lot. Based on the parking permit numbers given to me by Jeff, the parking services manager, the commuter number of parking permits outweighs the on-campus permits by 610 permits. I believe that this argument, as well as others, will be a strong case to support change for better, more convenient, and safer parking for commuters. If lots cannot be changed quickly, I will lobby for the creation of a shuttle run to the further parking lots during the fall/winter seasons.
Social Report
April 2011
Submitted by Ellen Childs and Karen Saavedra

MARCH 2011

GSU Charity Gala, “Masquerade Ball”
- Friday, March 25th, 2011, Palais Royale, 7pm - 12am.
- We sold 110 tickets to the gala, plus tons of raffle tickets!
- We gave out a lot of good prizes, and danced the night away. We saw a few ornate masks.
- We presented a check to the Boys and Girls Club of St. Joseph County for $2,005.00.

We are currently in the process of planning the following events:

APRIL 2011

Easter Brunch
- Sunday, April 24th, 11:30am – 3:30pm
- Tickets went on sale Monday, April 4th at the LaFortune Box Office. Tickets are $5 each with a limit of 4 per graduate student ID.

Legally Blonde The Musical
- Friday, April 29th, 8pm, Morris Performing Arts Center
- Tickets went on sale Friday, April 8th at the LaFortune Box Office. Tickets are $12 with a graduate student ID. There is a limit of 2 tickets per ID due to the limited amount.
University Committee for Women Faculty & Students
April 2011
Submitted by Amber Handy and Allison Regier

The University Committee for Women Faculty and Students met on April 8. Amber updated us on the results of the Family Friendly Policy report, which had been voted on by the Graduate Council since the last time we met. The information about the new Family Friendly policies should appear on the graduate school web site very soon, and will take effect next fall.

The members of the committee are very supportive of keeping the needs of graduate students in mind, even as the immediate focus of the committee moves to other things. One event to keep in mind is the upcoming 40th anniversary of the university becoming co-ed (2012). This could be an opportunity to raise awareness and discussions of the current climate for women as well as look back.

Both Amber and Allison will be gone from this position next year, so new representatives to this committee will need to be appointed.
Professional Development ad-hoc Committee (TREC)
April 2011
Submitted by Ralf Bendlin

The Personal Side of Professional Life
The Professional Development ad-hoc Committee had a very successful inaugural event on April 7, from 3:30-5:00pm followed by a reception at the Career Center in 114 Flanner Hall. The six panelists were passionate speakers and had plenty of stories and personal anecdotes to share. I am convinced that their experience will help other graduate students navigate similar challenges in their professional life.

We recruited the following panel: Maura Ryan, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Letters; Kathie Newman, Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Physics; Jessica Collett, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Jason Springs, Assistant Professor, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies; Laura Flynn, Associate Director, Career Center and Megan Brown, Staff Psychologist, University Counseling Center.

The main topics covered were:
- the personal side of professional relationships: communicating personal needs in a professional environment;
- the personal side of the job search: meeting your partner's employment needs, handling inappropriate interview questions, and negotiating family policies;
- the personal side of life: leaving the guilt behind.

Barbara Turpin, Vice President & Associate Dean at the Graduate School, gave the introduction. The event was paid for in equal parts by the GSU and the Graduate School. University photographer Matt Cashore took photos during the event. Eighteen (18) students had signed up for the event with 19 students signing in at the event. We could not have been more pleased with the turnout and the many positive responses we got.

I want to thank the other students on the organizing committee, Claudia Anewalt (Political Science), Brenda Jackson (Psychology), Annie McGowan (Theology), and Melissa Pirkey (Sociology), as well as Melissa Wilde from the Graduate School for their invaluable help organizing this event. I have posted an evaluation form on the website of the Graduate School in order to improve similar events in the future.

Past TREC Team Meetings
The TREC Team met on Monday, March 21, from 4:30pm - 5:30pm in 112 Flanner Hall with Amanda McKendree, Assistant Director at the Kaneb Center, and Ann Amico Moran, Assistant Director of the Graduate Career Program, to provide feedback on past events and to brainstorm for future programs and events.
Article V: Committees

Section 2. The Standing Committees:

**Electronic Resources Administrator**
The Electronic Resources Administrator shall oversee and maintain the electronic resources of the Graduate Student Union offices, including but not limited to office computers and servers. He or she shall be available to assist those members of the GSU who wish to make use of the resources for GSU projects and shall serve on ad-hoc committees as designated by the President of the GSU. This administrator is also responsible for the technical details of the GSU website, and for the electronic election process. In addition, the Electronic Resource Administrator shall oversee the computing concerns of the graduate student body. This is done primarily by providing for the maintenance and oversight of the graduate student computer cluster and through maintaining a dialogue with the University Office of Information Technology in order to address graduate student computing concerns as they arise. Annual stipend: $900.

**Orientation Committee**
The Orientation Committee is responsible for organizing the incoming Fall and Spring Orientation activities for new students, which include both professional development and social activities coordinated with the appropriate university bodies. The chair of this committee needs to be at Notre Dame during the summer to plan Fall Orientation, which takes place before classes begin in August. In addition, the Orientation Committee shall oversee the computing concerns of the graduate student body. This is done primarily by providing for the maintenance of the GSU Listserv and through maintaining a dialogue with the University Office of Information Technology in order to address graduate student computing concerns as they arise. Annual stipend: $900.

**Publicity and Procedures Committee**
The Publicity and Procedures Committee maintains the professional image of the GSU through published and web-based materials. The Publicity and Procedures Chair will work closely with the Electronic Resources Administrator to ensure that the content of the GSU website is frequently updated and the GSU-related materials, such as the Constitution, the calendar of GSU-sponsored events, and contact information, are current. This individual is also responsible for recording and documenting the minutes of each council meeting. Additionally, he/she is in charge of designing, ordering, and procuring the GSU T-shirt for Orientation. The Publicity and Procedures Chair will also be in close communication with the GSU administrative assistant, helping publish flyers for GSU events and manage the
content of the weekly listserv emails distributed to the graduate student body. The Publicity and Procedures Committee ensures that all promotional materials are functional and appealing for our target audience and acts as a censor to every piece. It is the responsibility of this committee to maintain a digital and a printed archive for future use of the GSU. This committee, along with the Electronic Resources Administrator, supervises elections and assures that constitutional procedures are followed. This committee is also responsible for organizing, publicizing, and conducting the annual general election. Annual stipend: $900.

**Professional Development Committee**

The Professional Development Committee acts as an advocate promoting the professional development of graduate students in order to fully prepare them with confidence in their careers in academia, the private sector, government, or non-for-profit organizations. The Professional Development Committee shall work closely with the Associate Dean for Professional Development at the Graduate School. The Chair of the Professional Development Committee will attend the weekly Graduate School Professional Development team meetings. These meetings connect and coordinate the efforts of the various centers, institutes and other entities at Notre Dame that provide events, workshops and services for graduate students, such as the Kaneb Center, the Career Center, the Writing Center, the Center for Social Concerns, or the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts. In addition, the Chair of this committee is responsible for forming and managing the TREC (Teaching, Research, Ethics, Career) Team which shall be composed of representatives from all departments. The TREC team meets monthly and provides graduate student input to the Graduate School’s professional development team. This committee is encouraged to support, organize, and co-host events on campus which promote the professional development of graduate students at Notre Dame. Annual stipend: $900.
Proposed Resolution to Appropriate Funds to Improve the Recruitment and Graduation Rates of Female Students with Children

WHEREAS, The most recent study of attrition at the Graduate School notes that only 57% of doctoral students at Notre Dame graduate with a doctoral degree, and that “there is a difference in completion rates between genders at Notre Dame of 10%, with men completing degrees at higher rates”;

WHEREAS, National studies demonstrate that female doctoral students with children secure doctoral degrees at far lower rates than single students (whether female or male) and male students with children; this indicates that at Notre Dame female students with children likely have the worst attrition rate of any demographic;

WHEREAS, a study by former Assoc. Dean of the Graduate School, Peter Diffley, demonstrated that students who leave its doctoral programs are among its best, and that even a ten percent increase in retention rates may save the University over a million dollars per year;

WHEREAS, Many of Notre Dame’s graduate programs do not have representative numbers of female students with children, as with the Theology department, which has over 110 doctoral students but only five female doctoral students with children;

WHEREAS, Universities that have been successful in raising recruitment and retention rates among female students with children attribute such success to new funds for use towards need-based grants for child care, extended program funding, and targeted grants for families with demonstrated need;

WHEREAS, The Graduate School’s recent study and adoption of ‘family friendly policies’ included no new funds appropriated in any of these areas despite expressed support for them by members of the Graduate Council;

WHEREAS, The Graduate School’s recent study of family friendly policies includes many positive contributions towards improving the climate for student families at Notre Dame, and acknowledges the benefits of greater financial supports for student families;

WHEREAS, Such funds for child care are necessary in order to help female students with children negotiate child care costs for children between ages 0-2, which are currently unsupported at Notre Dame;

WHEREAS, Such funds are necessary to bridge the gap created by use of the new Parental Accommodation Policy at the Graduate School, which when used depletes the student’s academic funding;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Representatives of the Graduate Student Union that the Board of Trustees, President, Provost, and Graduate School of the University should quickly adopt a plan to provide such funds so as to increase the number of women with children who attain a doctoral degree at Notre Dame.

1 Executive Summary of the Notre Dame Graduate School Attrition report by Prof. Sunny Boyd is found here: http://graduateschool.nd.edu/assets/24104/25jan2010_meeting_notes.pdf pp.7-9
2 For a summary of the Chronicle of Higher Education Panel at which this research was presented, please see: https://webspace.utexas.edu/cherwitz/www/ie/s_smallwood.html
3 The University’s supported Early Childhood Education Center accepts children at age two, but due to waitlists the effective earliest age for enrollment for some student families is age 3.