September 2010 Council Meeting Summary

GSU Website and Calendar
If you haven't visited it yet, check out the new GSU website and sync with the GSU google calendar to keep up with events of interest to graduate students.

GSU Concession Stand for Stanford game (09/25)
The GSU Concession Stand will be held on Saturday, September 25th and is in need of volunteer help, especially from noon until 3pm. Volunteers working a two-hour shift will receive a free T-shirt, and volunteers that work a four-hour shift will receive a free T-shirt and a $25 gift card to Target. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Karen Kajder (gsu+social2@nd.edu) or Ellen childs(gsu+social1@nd.edu).
All graduate students are reminded that food at the concession stand is free for graduate students, their spouses and children, provided appropriate ID (for student and spouse) is provided. Please come by!

Army Game Special Ticket Sale
Students interested in travelling to Yankee Stadium in New York City to watch Notre Dame vs. Army will be able to purchase tickets online on Sunday, September 26th starting at 1 pm. The tickets will be distributed on a first come first serve basis and cost $45/ticket. Students will be able to purchase 2 tickets per person.

Straight No Chaser, A Cappella Performance
Sunday, October 3rd, 7:30 pm, Morris Performing Arts Center. The GSU has purchased 30 tickets and is subsidizing them for $12. Tickets can be purchased at the LaFortune Box Office.

Library Computer Cluster
The GSU has been informed that the graduate student computer cluster on the 11th floor of the library will be moved into the larger of the 2 graduate student reading rooms on the 10th floor. This change is expected to take place sometime in the next month. Any students who have paid for a key since January 2010 can come to the GSU office to get a full refund (Mon-Fri: 8am - 2pm).

Family Friendly Play Time at Rolfs
During the Fall semester, Rolfs will make Court 1 available to graduate student families every Monday and Wednesday from 9:00-10:30. Children must be accompanied by at least one parent with a spousal or student ID. Some child-friendly toys will be provided.

Professional Development ad-hoc Committee
Ralf Bendlin (rbendlin@nd.edu) is still in need of volunteers for this committee as many departments are not yet represented. The committee meets monthly and will provide feedback on professional development initiatives from the graduate school.

GSU Listserv
Not all first-year graduate students were automatically added to the GSU listserv list this year due to some technical issues. The system is currently being updated for all students. If students
are still not receiving the e-mails in the next couple of weeks and are interested in doing so, they (or their department representative) may contact Kevin Mueller, the GSU Electronic Resources Administrator (gsu+erc@nd.edu).

**Discrimination Clause Resolution**

Sociology representative, Ana Velitchkova, presented a resolution requesting that the Board of Trustees adds "sexual orientation" to the University's non-discrimination clause. As requested, the resolution is attached for you to examine before the next meeting.

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The Graduate Student Union  
University of Notre Dame  
September 9, 2010

Resolution  
Including “Sexual Orientation” in the Non-discrimination Clause of the University

WHEREAS, the non-discrimination clause of the University does not include “sexual orientation” and such omission hurts the image of the University as an inclusive institution;

WHEREAS, the Spirit of Inclusion declaration adopted by the University in 1997 already states that “We welcome all people, regardless of color, gender, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation\(^1\), social or economic class, and nationality, for example, precisely because of Christ's calling to treat others as we desire to be treated.”

WHEREAS, the University aspires to improve its standing among U.S. research institutions and such aspiration calls for attracting the most talented individuals;

WHEREAS, the Graduate Student Union espouses inclusive practices with regard to sexual orientation;

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees is charged with the task of setting the University policy on non-discrimination;

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the representatives in the Graduate Student Union, encourage the Board of Trustees to consider “sexual orientation” for inclusion in the non-discrimination clause of the University.

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1 Italics not in the original.
November 2010 Council Meeting Summary

Food Bank of Northern Indiana - Volunteer Opportunity
We invite graduate students and their spouses or partners to give thanks through service to others on Friday, November 19th from 1:00-4:00 pm. 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. If you are interested in participating, please contact Melissa Pirkey (mpirkey@nd.edu).

Ad-hoc Committee for International Student Support
Gretchen Busl will be heading up this new subcommittee aimed at improving support for international graduate students on campus. The main goal of this committee is to better support international students in their immersion experience and integration into American culture. If you are interested in joining (or know someone who is) contact Carrie (crodak@nd.edu) or Gretchen (gbusl@nd.edu). Graduate students and spouses are all welcome to share ideas!

GSU Thanksgiving Brunch
Brunch will be served in the North Dining Hall on Thursday, November 25th from 11:30-3:30 pm. Tickets will be sold at the LaFortune Box Office fro $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 11:30 am.

Digital Assets Task Force
We have been asked to give feedback to the digital assets task force of the university on what digital assets would be of most use to students. If you have any suggestions please contact Victoria (vfroude@nd.edu) or Kasey (swanke@nd.edu).

Professional Development ad-hoc Committee
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GSU Listserv
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GSU Hot Chocolate Social
The annual hot chocolate social will take place **Tuesday, February 15th** from 2-4 pm in the LaFortune Ballroom. Take a break from your research and stop by!

GSU President and Vice-President Elections
Elections for the GSU President and 2 Co-Vice Presidents will take place on Friday, April 29th. To run you must have a complete ticket (1 President and 2 Vice Presidents). The platforms and accompanying paperwork are due on Friday, March 25th. Information is available on the GSU website (http://gsu.nd.edu/news/18408-gsu-presidential-elections-nominations-deu-march-25th/) or contact Victoria (vfroude@nd.edu) with any questions.

New Childbirth and Adoption Accommodation Policy
The Graduate College Council has just approved a new childbirth and adoption accommodation policy for graduate students. The policy will be effective starting in the Fall 2011 semester and will not appear in its entirety until that point. General information can be provided, however, the policy will not be circulated until closer to the effective start date.

GSU 9th Annual Charity Gala
The GSU Charity Gala will take place on Friday, March 25th at the Palais Royale in downtown South Bend and will include dinner, dancing, and a raffle for prizes. Tickets to the Gala go on sale on February 28th at the LaFortune Ticket Box. Raffle tickets will be sold at the GSU office and at the Gala. You do not need to be present at the Gala to win any of the awesome prizes! Full information can be found on the GSU website (http://gsu.nd.edu/social/gsuevents/).

GSU Budget
The council has requested a generalized budget to be circulated to the council members and greater graduate student community. In the past, the full budget has not been released due to personal salary information that appears within it. However, the executive committee will create a general budget to be circulated at the March council meeting.

February 2011 Council Meeting Summary
April 2011 Council Meeting Summary

GSU Elections
Elections for the new GSU Executive Committee will be held on Friday, April 29th. Voting instructions will be included in future Listservs.

GSU Chair Applications
Chair applications are available on the GSU website (http://gsu.nd.edu/news/19301-get-involved-in-the-gsu/). There are 8 positions available which are outlined in the application materials and in the GSU constitution. The applications are due by May 30, 2011. Contact the executive committee for more information.

Health Insurance Changes
We have been informed that there will be some changes to the health care policy for next year. These are outlined in the April council packets (http://gsu.nd.edu/about/archives/). The graduate school has not yet announced what the subsidy will be. In addition, any students who are graduating in May or August 2011 and would like a continuation of the current health insurance policy must file for one before August 15, 2011. This would extend health insurance to the student through February 2012 at a higher cost.

Software for GSU Library Computers
The GSU will be purchasing select software for the computers in the graduate student study room in the library. We intend to purchase software that is prohibitively expensive for graduate students to purchase but is necessary for their research. In order to purchase software that is most needed by graduate students, please send any requests or recommendations to Kevin Mueller (kmuelle4@nd.edu). He will be making inquiries with OIT to purchase and install these programs over the summer.

Bike Fest 2011
The annual Bike Fest event will take place on Friday, April 29th from 12-5 pm. Bring your bikes for FREE repair and maintenance, prize giveaways, and bike related events. Additionally, Bike Fest is still looking for volunteers to help with the bike repair. If you are interested in helping, email Kate (krueff@nd.edu) for more information.

LGBTQ Council
In order to support the graduate student community, the GSU is supporting the creating a LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Questioning) community especially for graduate students. Any graduate students interested in joining the council should email Kate (krueff@nd.edu) for more information.

Easter Brunch
Easter Brunch will be held on April 24th 11:30-3:30 pm. Tickets are currently on sale at the Box Office for $5. Limit of 4 tickets per grad student ID.