Minutes

September 9, 2010
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune Student Center

Council Members in Attendance:
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*); Melissa Pirkey, Sociology (*External Affairs*); Samuel Rund, Biological Sciences (*Health Care*); Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (*Publicity & Procedures*); Elizabeth Martinez, Sociology (*Quality of Life*); Ellen Childs, Sociology (*Social*) and Karen Kajder (*Social*).
University Committees: Amber Handy, History (*Women Faculty & Students*).
Department Representatives: Virginia Hungate-Hawk, Jackson Zorn (*Art, Art History & Design*); Jessica Stoller-Conrad (*Biological Sciences*); Mandy Allbrecht, Shannon Flynn (*Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences*); Josh McManaway (*Classics*); Ralf Bendlin (*Electrical Engineering*); Denise Ayo (*English*); Michael Dean (*Esteem Program*); Gretchen Busl, Yvonne Mikuljan (*Literature Program, PhD*); Katie Bugyis, Ben Reinhard, Lauren Whitnah (*Medieval Institute*); Charles Pence (*Philosophy*); Katherine Rueff, Collin Lines (*Physics*); Jeff Brooks (*Psychology*); Ana Velitchkova, Hilary Davidson (*Sociology*).
FOG & University Village Representatives: Evan Claudeanos, (*Philosophy*) University Village; Tony Battaglia, (*Physics*) FOG.

1. Victoria Froude, *President*, called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. She requested a brief roll call of all chairs and council members.
2. Victoria called for the approval of the minutes from the April 8, 2010 meeting. There was a motion to approve the minutes and the motion carried. The minutes were approved as stands.
3. Victoria summarized the expectations for department representatives of the GSU. She listed that department representatives are expected to consult with their constituents about issues discussed during Council meetings and to relay information to their constituents.
4. Victoria distributed copies of the 2010-2011 GSU budget. Ana Velitchkova, *Sociology Department Representative*, inquired why there was a portion of the budget set aside for “Board of Trustees”. Victoria explained that the GSU executive committee provides the Board of Trustees with copies of documents, and that the materials used to provide these documents cost money and are therefore included in the budget. A council member suggested that the GSU become more “green” in future meetings, and project documents onto a screen instead of printing out several copies. Victoria said that she would investigate purchasing a projector for the GSU and include it in next year’s budget. The budgets were then collected by Victoria.
5. Victoria stated that the Executive Committee’s report stands. She noted that there was a typo in the report, and this year’s GSU concession stand would take place on September 25th during the Stanford game, not the Western Michigan game (as written).

6. Kelly Martin, Academic Affairs Chair, stated that her report stands.

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

8. Samuel Rund, Health Care Chair, stated that his report stands.

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

10. Elizabeth Martinez, Quality of Life Chair, reported that her report stands. She added that William Kirk, the contact person on the traffic appeals committee, is no longer working at the University. William’s position has yet to be filled; Elizabeth said she would follow up with the information on the new contact person as soon as one is announced.

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

12. Ellen Childs, Social Chair, stated that her report stands. She emphasized that she is still in need of many volunteers for the GSU Concession Stand on Saturday, September 25th. She especially is in need of lunch rush coverage from noon until 3pm. Volunteers that work 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 Ellen Childs (echilds@nd.edu).

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


15. Carolyn Rodak, Faculty Senate, stated that the Senate convened on September 7th. The Senate is currently determining the main focus of their efforts for the 2010-2011 academic year for the student affairs committee.

16. Kasey Swanke, Graduate Council, stated that the Council convened on September 9th. The Council voted and passed the addition of a new Ph.D. program in Math & Statistics. This new program would offer a consulting service and small and large group sessions that will be interdisciplinary in nature and assist students and faculty with any “quantitative studies” questions. Samuel inquired about the current status of the Global Health Program. Kasey stated that the Graduate Council voted and passed the proposal of the program. The Academic Council will meet to deliberate and vote on the proposed program. Lastly, Kasey informed the council that Dean Gregory Sterling is working hard to find ways to increase financial stipend support for all graduate students and is currently investigating ways to achieve this through summer stipends and the possibility in the future for 6th year funding.

17. Amber Handy, Committee for Women Faculty and Students, stated that her report stands. She informed the council that the Committee has started a “Family Friendly Play Time” program at ROLFS. This program is in a trial period with ROLFS. If families use the space during the allotted times, ROLFS will extend the program and allow families to use more and more space, and this program ideally could lead to child care at ROLFS. If families do not take advantage of the program, ROLFS will revoke the space. Additionally, Amber reminded the council that lactation rooms are available on campus (for more information, visit http://hr.nd.edu/work-life-balance/lactation-rooms/). Hilary Davidson, Sociology Department Representative, asked why the Committee is focused primarily on women with families instead of additional women’s issues. Amber clarified that the Committee generally works on women’s issues, but that the primary focus of the 2009-2010 academic year for the Committee was to focus on families and that the focus of the 2010-2011 academic year will return to women’s issues.
18. Kelly Martin, *Library Committee*, stated that the committee is scheduled to convene the week after the GSU council meeting.


20. Karen Kajder, *LaFortune Tenants*, stated that her report stands. She emphasized one topic of discussion from the Tenants Meeting, which was that the undergraduates are currently demanding more space in LaFortune. There are currently no plans to accommodate these demands.

21. Ralf Bendlin, *Professional Development ad-hoc Committee*, stated that his report stands. He added that he is still in need of one volunteer from each department to join the Committee. Currently, a handful of departments have selected a representative for this Committee, though many more departments are not represented. To learn if your department is represented, contact Ralf (rbendlin@nd.edu). Ralf explained that this committee meets with the Associate Dean of Professional Development (Linda Carlson), whom works within the Graduate School, and is of paramount importance to the Graduate School, and Linda in particular, at the current time.

22. Victoria opened the floor for discussion about the proposed amendment to the GSU constitution. The amendment would add the following clause to the Constitution: “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, or socioeconomic status.” No discussion was brought to the floor. Victoria entertained a motion to vote to pass the amendment into the Constitution. The council voted unanimously to pass the amendment. Sarrah informed the Executive Committee that quorum for voting on a constitutional amendment was not met by the members in attendance, therefore the vote is nullified. Victoria explained that the vote to pass this amendment would therefore be on the agenda for the October 14th council meeting and encouraged all department representatives to urge other department representatives to attend that meeting.

23. Victoria informed the council that Hesburgh Library is planning to move the graduate computer cluster, currently located on the 11th floor, to the 10th floor reading room. She further explained that if any student has purchased a key for the computer cluster since January 2010, they may return the key to Donna Frahn in the GSU office for a refund. Victoria stated that, though we may be losing money from key purchases in future years, the Library is now financially responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the new computer cluster.

23. Victoria opened the floor for new business. Ana presented a resolution, put forth by the Sociology department. The resolution requests that the Board of Trustees add “sexual orientation” to the University’s non-discrimination clause. Ana requested that department representatives take a copy of the resolution back to their constituents, get feedback, and be prepared to vote at the October 14th meeting to pass/veto the resolution.

   a. Ralf asked if any changes have been made to the resolution since the previous meeting. Ana stated that a few minor changes had been made to the resolution, such that the language of the resolution was less aggressive, since that was the main reason the resolution was vetoed at the April 8, 2010 meeting.

   b. Katherine Rueff, *Physics Department Representative*, asked what the impact would be if the resolution was passed at the October 14th meeting. Victoria stated that the GSU would send a letter to the President stating that the GSU would like to see the University include “sexual orientation” in its non-discrimination clause, and that the graduate student community supports the addition of the phrase. Alternately, the executive committee will talk directly with the Board of
Trustees at the annual fall meeting, stating the same concern.

c. Elizabeth inquired why the resolution was not passed at the April 8th meeting. Ana stated that the council’s concern was that the resolution targeted the wrong level of administration, and that the manner of communication was inappropriate; however, the content of the resolution was not a concern. The resolution originally addressed the Board of Trustees. Ana stated that the President was not originally addressed because he has no power with respect to such issues, and would be inefficient to address.

d. Ian Sander, Chemistry & Biochemistry Department Representative, asked why the GSU does not ask the President who the best person or Committee would be. Victoria answered that the President is difficult to get ahold of, and therefore simply asking the President is not a feasible solution.

e. Katherine stated that the GSU needs to get support from the Deans of the Graduate School on this issue before any further steps are made.

f. Tony Battaglia, Fischer O’Hara-Grace Residences Representative, stated that the GSU should encourage the undergraduate community to add “sexual orientation” to their non-discrimination clause to further emphasize to the administration that the students of Notre Dame support this issue. Victoria stated that the undergraduate student body has already added the phrase to their clause.

g. Ben Reinhard, Medieval Institute Representative, and Gretchen Busl, Literature Program Representative, stated that the department representatives should discuss the resolution with their respective constituents, get feedback, and then return ready to vote on the resolution at the October 14th meeting. Ben stated that the pathway of communication should be discussed and decided at the October 14th meeting.

h. Melissa motioned to table the discussion until the October 14th meeting once all department representatives have had an opportunity to gain feedback from their constituents. The motion to table the discussion was approved and carried.

24. Elizabeth proposed that the GSU write a policy within the Department Representative's Responsibilities document that provides a guideline for which topics a department representative is required to discuss with their constituents, and which topics are allowed to be voted on without any feedback from constituents.

25. Victoria reminded the council that the deadline to opt-out of the University health insurance is September 15th. Additionally, if any student is interested in purchasing the dental insurance, visit www.uhs.nd.edu to sign up for the additional insurance.

26. Victoria asked the department representatives to assure that each of their constituents receive the weekly GSU listserv emails. If any students do not receive these emails, please send an email to Kevin Mueller (kmuelle4@nd.edu) stating that the student needs to be added to the listserv.

27. Denise Ayo, English Department Representative, informed the council that Michiana Feral Cat Initiative is hosting an Alley Cat Charity Extreme Bowl on September 18th at Chippewa Bowl from 7:00 – 9:30 pm. The cost to play is $25 and includes 2.5 hours of bowling, shoes, unlimited snacks and sodas, and the chance to win door prizes. All proceeds go directly towards veterinary care for feral and stray cats. To register for this event, go to www.michianaferal.org.

28. Victoria entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was approved and carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Minutes submitted by Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham
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
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); Douglass 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
Minutes

December 9, 2010

Legends

**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**) and Karen Saavedra, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (**Social**).

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

**Department Representatives**: Jessica Stoller-Conrad, Mary Cloutier (**Biological Sciences**); Douglas Rice, Ian Sander (**Chemistry & Biochemistry**); Mandy Albrecht, Shannon Flynn (**Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences**); Josh McManaway (**Classics**); Denise Ayo, Meredith Meagher (**History**); Gretchen Busl, Yvonne Mikuljan (**Literature Program, PhD**); Ben Reinhard (**Medieval Institute**); Charles Pence (**Philosophy**); Katherine Rueff, Collin Lines (**Physics**); Jeff Brooks (**Psychology**); Ana Velitchkova, Hilary Davidson, (**Sociology**).

1. Victoria Froude, **President**, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
2. Victoria called for the approval of the minutes from the November 11, 2010 meeting. There was a motion to approve the minutes and the motion carried. The minutes were approved as stands.
3. Victoria stated that the Executive Committee’s report stands.
4. Kelly Martin, **Academic Affairs Chair**, stated that her report stands.
5. Melissa Pirkey, **External Affairs Chair**, stated that her report stands.
6. Samuel Rund, **Health Care Chair**, stated that his report stands.
7. Kevin Mueller, **Orientation Chair**, stated that his report stands.
8. Victoria stated that the Quality of Life Chair position is open for the spring semester. Applications are now being accepted for review. The application, along with details about the position’s duties, can be found on the website ([http://gsu.nd.edu/news/17586-gsu-quality-of-life-chair-opening/](http://gsu.nd.edu/news/17586-gsu-quality-of-life-chair-opening/)). Applications are due December 15th.
9. Sarrah Cheatham, **Publicity & Procedures Chair**, stated that her report stands.
10. Ellen Childs, **Social Chair**, stated that the Social report stands. She added that there are three options for the location of this year’s Charity Gala: the Woodward, Forest Park Country Club, and Palais Royale. She asked that if any students have a preference regarding the location of the Gala, to please contact her ([echilds@nd.edu](mailto:echilds@nd.edu)).
11. Kelly Martin, **Academic Council**, stated that her report stands.
12. Kevin Mueller, **Academic Technologies**, stated that his report stands.
13. Carolyn Rodak, *Faculty Senate*, stated that the Senate convened on December 7th and discussed student behavior in classrooms. She asked that if any graduate students have noticed a shift in student behavior in classrooms, either good or bad, to contact her *(crodak@nd.edu)* and tell her about the shift so that she can inform the Senate.

14. Victoria Froude, *Graduate Council*, stated that the Council had not convened since the previous GSU council meeting.

15. Amber Handy, *Committee for Women Faculty and Students*, stated that her report stands. Amber also asked the Council that if they notice any “Family Play Time @ ROLFS” flyers hanging around campus, to please remove them. This event is no longer being offered.


17. Victoria Froude stated there is no *Traffic Appeals* report.

18. Karen Saavedra, *LaFortune Tenants*, stated that the Tenant meeting focused on the winter hours for LaFortune businesses.

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

20. Victoria announced that one item was submitted for new business.
   a. Kevin announced that he drafted a 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 asked the Council if the letter was worthwhile sending to Josh Berlo. The Council’s response was in support of sending the letter. Amanda Albrecht, *Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences Department Representative*, offered that a sentence be added to the letter stating that an additional ticket package could be offered to students that would only include tickets to sporting events over University breaks. Victoria announced that voting to send the letter to Josh Berlo would have to be performed at the Council meeting in February.

21. Victoria opened the floor for any announcements.
   a. Katherine Rueff, *Physics Department Representative*, asked if people that are not legally married could attend the Married Students Dinner and Discussion event. Karen replied that the event is intended to provide students an opportunity to talk with other students about the daily experiences of being a married student. If students consider themselves married, but are not legally married, they are still invited to attend the event.
   b. Victoria announced that the Executive Committee will be sending an announcement on Friday, December 10th to the students who submitted abstracts for the upcoming Graduate Research Symposium. The announcement will inform the student whether or not their abstract was accepted for presentation.

22. Victoria entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was approved and carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:17pm.

Minutes submitted by Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham
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, 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/).
   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/). 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/).
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
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 Swank, 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/).

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
Minutes

April 14, 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 (HealthCare); Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (Publicity & Procedures); Katherine Rueff, Physics (Quality of Life); Ellen Childs, Sociology (Social) and Karen Saavedra, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (Social).

University Committees: Lauren Whitnah, Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences (Library Renovation); Amber Handy, History; Allison Regier, Computer Science & Engineering (Women Faculty & Students).

Department Representatives: Jackson Zorn (Art, Art History & Design); Ian Sander (Chemistry & Biochemistry); Amanda Albrecht, Shannon Flynn (Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences); Josh McManaway (Classics); Sebastian Roelands (Economics); Ralf Bendlin (Electrical Engineering); Meredith Meagher (History); Shashi Regmi (Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies); Yvonne Mikuljan (Literature Program, PhD); Ben Reinhard, Lauren Whitnah (Medieval Institute); Charles Pence (Philosophy); Katherine Rueff, Collin Lines (Physics); Jeff Brooks (Psychology); Ana Velitchkova, (Sociology); Ricky Klee (Theology).

FOG & University Village Representatives:

1. Victoria Froude, President, called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.
2. Victoria called for the approval of the minutes from the March 10, 2011 meeting. Victoria asked that “GSU provided a slush fund” be changed to “Graduate School provided a slush fund” in item 22.b.iii., and that “GSU” be changed to “Graduate School” throughout the item. 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 added that GSU Committee Chair applications are due May 30th and are available on the GSU website (http://gsu.nd.edu/about/forms/). Victoria reminded the Council that the GSU elections will take place on April 29th and that details regarding the voting process will be sent along closer to the election. Carolyn Rodak, Vice-President, added that the Faculty Senate had not met prior to the GSU meeting, but a meeting for the Senate has been scheduled for the week after the GSU council meeting.
4. Kelly Martin, Academic Affairs Chair, stated that her report stands. She thanked everyone for attending the “Pizza, Pop, and Discussion” events on April 6th and 7th. Kelly
stated she would provide the summary of the discussion on the GSU website. Issues that were raised include housing costs, quality of housing, the health and counseling centers, and providing small meal plans for graduate students.

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

6. Samuel Rund, *Health Care Chair*, stated that his report stands. Sam highlighted the upcoming changes to the student health insurance plan. Among these changes is an increase in the policy costs for students, spouses, and dependents, an increase in deductibles, and removal of the continuance plan. The continuance plan for the 2010-2011 coverage year will be available to students that sign up for the continuance plan by August 15, 2011, and coverage will extend up to February 2012. However, this plan will not be available in the future. Sam stated that the Graduate School and the University are currently looking for other health care providers to provide cheaper health care for students.

7. Karen Kajder, *Social Chair*, stated that Kevin Mueller’s, *Orientation & Electronic Resources Chair*, report stands. She added that if any graduate students are interested in having specific software installed on computers in the graduate computer clusters, to please contact Kevin (kmuelle4@nd.edu) as soon as possible.

8. Katherine Rueff, *Quality of Life Chair*, stated that her report stands. She highlighted the upcoming GSU Bike Fest, to be held on April 29th. If any graduate students are interested in helping at the Bike Fest, please contact Katherine (krueff@nd.edu). Katherine announced that she is working to create regular Coffee Talks for graduate students, where students come and discuss controversial topics within the graduate student community and brainstorm how to address and correct them. If any students are interested in helping Katherine organize an upcoming Coffee Talk, please contact Katherine (krueff@nd.edu).


10. Ellen Childs, *Social Chair*, stated that the Social report stands.


13. Carolyn Rodak, *Faculty Senate*, stated that the Senate is scheduled to meet during the week following the April GSU council meeting.

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

15. Amber Handy, *Committee for Women Faculty and Students*, stated that her report stands. She added that she is excited to announce the University has hired a “family advocate”, Life Issues Coordinator Mary Daly. Mary works for the Institute for Church Life, which reports directly to Father Jenkins. Amber stated that she believes Mary will be a great avenue for the GSU to reach the University President and the Board of Trustees regarding the recent family friendly issues. Amber additionally announced that the University has a “Pregnant and Parenting Student Assistance Fund”, available at www.lifeinitiatives.nd.edu/ppsa which graduate students are able to use.

16. Kelly Martin, *Library Committee*, stated that the Committee has not met since the March GSU council meeting.


18. 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, despite many efforts to obtain them.
19. Ralf Bendlin, Professional Development ad-hoc Committee, stated that his report stands
20. Victoria announced two items of old business:
   a. Executive Committee’s Constitutional changes
      i. Victoria opened the floor for discussion regarding the proposed amendments. No discussion was made.
      ii. Victoria called for a vote to pass the Constitutional amendment as stands. The vote, the second vote on this order of business, was unanimously in favor of the amendment. The Constitution was amended as stands.
   b. Proposed Resolution for more support for women with children
      i. Victoria passed the floor to Richard Klee, Theology (Ph.D.) Department Representative, and author of the resolution. Richard summarized that the resolution aimed to call upon the Board of Trustees to raise money to support women with children. Richard opened the floor for discussion.
      ii. Katherine stated that she reviewed the references listed within the resolution and the numbers reported in the resolution do not reflect the numbers in the studies, and asked for more clarification. Richard replied that the studies showed that the support programs implemented at the other universities made a large difference in the number of junior faculty that left or changed their career to have children.
      iii. Collin Lines, Physics Department Representative, suggested that the language of the resolution follow the language of the references and Title 9, using “caregiver” in place of “female” or “mother”. Katherine Rueff, Amber Handy, Ralf Bendlin, John Dantonio, Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering Department Representative, and Lauren Whitnah, Medieval Institute Department Representative, all supported this comment. Richard replied that “caregiver” could imply both males and females, and the focus of the resolution is to support females with children, as females students with children statistically need more support and the money raised for this program will likely be limited.
      iv. Sarah Baechle, English (Ph.D./MA) Department Representative, stated that the word “gap”, used in the last WHEREAS of the resolution, is misleading and confusing and requested that it be clarified within the resolution.
      v. Gretchen Busl, Literature Program (Ph.D.) Department Representative, recommended determining if the University itself has a problem with support for graduate students with children before too many efforts are made to push this resolution further, and to stop comparing the University to other institutions. Richard stated that the University and the Graduate School do not currently have statistics on how many students have children, and it would be difficult to determine if there is a need at the University with the available data.
      vi. Ian Sander, Chemistry & Biochemistry Department Representative, asked if there were more male students with children or more female students with children. Richard replied that according to the family
friendly website, a national study determined that more male students had children.

vii. Amber Handy asked that the WHEREAS clause starting with “The Graduate School’s recent study of family friendly policies includes many positive contributions...” be moved closer to the top of the resolution to demonstrate that the author and supporters of the resolution recognize and respect the work that has already been done to improve this issue.

viii. Ralf Bendlin asked if the proposed resolution was aimed to address the cause or the symptoms of the problems. Kasey Swanke, Vice President, stated that there are multiple interests and issues involved within the resolution, but that she believes the resolution is a positive step toward achieving the goals, since the Graduate School is already working toward achieving the same goals.

ix. Sebastian Roelands, Economics Department Representative, asked why there is only one author of the resolution, and why the resolution has not been taken to one of the GSU committees for proofreading before being brought before the Council. Victoria recommended that the resolution be worked on by the Health Care Committee or the Quality of Life Committee.

x. Victoria stated that if the resolution is not passed, the Executive Committee would bring these issues to the Board of Trustees at the April meeting.

xi. Ben Reinhard, Medieval Institute Department Representative motioned to vote to approve the resolution. Victoria called for a vote to pass the resolution as stands. The vote was unanimously against the resolution. The resolution did not pass.

21. Peggy Hnatusko, Student Activities & GSU Liaison, asked for a round of applause for the Executive Committee’s hard work this year and wished each of the members the best on their endeavors.

22. Victoria entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was approved and carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.

Minutes submitted by Sarrah Dunham-Cheatham