COUNCIL AGENDA PACKET

SEPTEMBER 27 (THURSDAY)

6:30 PM

MCNEILL ROOM (1ST FLOOR LAFORTUNE)

THE FOOD PROVIDED FOR THE MEETING WILL BE FROM PAPA MURPHY’S. 
316 W CLEVELAND RD · GRANGER, IN · (574) 272-0072

FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING DATES:
OCTOBER 25 – NOVEMBER 15 – DECEMBER 6, 2012
---------------------------------------------
SEPTEMBER 27, 2012 – COUNCIL AGENDA

Meeting held at 6:30PM in the McNeill Room (1st Floor - LaFortune)

- Roll Call/Sign-In
- Approval of Minutes (April 12, 2012)
- Introduction of GSU Executive Committee, Committee Chairs and Representatives
- Representative Expectations/Roberts Rules Summary
- Committee Reports
  - Academic Affairs – Zack Terranova
  - External Affairs – Hilary Davidson
  - Health Care – Rickey Klee & Lindsey Turnbull
  - Marketing/Merchandising Specialist – Mayra Duarte
  - Orientation & Electronic Resources – Diana LaTorre
  - Professional Development – Erin Drew
  - Publicity & Procedures – Kyle Watson
  - Quality of Life – Tony Cunningham
  - Social – Kara Harmaty and Sydney Blevins
- Break-Out Committees
- Old Business
- New Business
  - Grad Life Grants (Mimi)
  - GSU Concession Stand at Pittsburgh Game (Nov 3rd)
- Adjournment
Minutes

April 12, 2012

**OFFICERS:** Sam Rund, Biological Sciences (GSU President); Ellen Childs, Sociology (Co-Vice President);

**ABSENT:** Kevin Mueller, Civil Engineering and Geological Sciences (Co-Vice President);

**CHAIRS:** Melissa Pirkey, Sociology (External Affairs) Victoria Lam, Biological Sciences (HealthCare); Ian Sander, Chemistry & Biochemistry (Orientation and Electronic Resources); Belen Vicens Saiz (Publicity & Procedures); Katherine Rueff, Physics (Quality of Life); Sukesh Shekar, Chemistry & Biochemistry (Social).

**ABSENT:** Jon Schwarz, Sociology (Academic Affairs); Amanda Albrecht, Civil Engineering & Biological Sciences (Professional Development);

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES:** Ian Sander (Academic Technologies); Ellen Childs (Faculty Senate); Sam Rund & Ellen Childs (Graduate Council); Sukesh Shekar (LaFo Tenant Committee); Katherine Rueff (Traffic Appeals); Victoria Lam (University Healthcare Committee)

**ABSENT:** Jon Schwarz (Library Committee); Amanda Albrecht, Civil Engineering & Biological Sciences (Professional Development); Kyle Beam (Energy & Environmental Issues); Jade Avelis, Catherine Rastovski (Women Faculty & Students).

**DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:** Amy Buchmann (Applied & Computational Mathematics & Statistics); Ali Raja (Biological Sciences); Yunshan Wang, Chaojun Shi (Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering); Douglas Rice, ALTERNATE Doug Hines (Chemistry & BioChemistry); Ann Dallman (Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences); Peng Li (Electrical Engineering); Allison Edgren (History); Kathleen Ansaldi, Victor Ocasio (Mathematics); Brian Long (Medieval Institute); Hannah Zdansky (Ph.D. in Literature Program); Joshua Tepley (Philosophy); Stephanie Lyons (Physics); Claudia Anewalt, Jeremy Castle (Political Science); Paul Stey (Psychology); Richard Klee (Theology).

**ABSENT:** Lionel Pittman, Matthew Mosby (Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering); Jackson Zorn, Justin Barfield (Art, Art History & Design); Jessica Conrad-Stoller (Biological Sciences); Kristi Pellegrini (Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences); Joshua Ryan McManaway (Classics); Nolan Noble, Sebastian Roelands (Economics); Michael Cowan, Richard Ellman (English); Khoa Huynh (ESTEEM Program); Allison Herschel (Global Health Program); Lindsay Wieck (History); Yvonne Mikuljan (Ph.D. in Literature Program); Collin Lines (Physics); May Kim (Psychology); Jade Avelis, Stefanie Wellons, (Sociology); Michael Cover (Theology).

**FISCHER O'HARE GRACE - UNIVERSITY VILLAGE AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES & ACTIVITIES REPRESENTATIVES:** Jack Goetz (Fischer O'Hara Grace); **ABSENT:** Pramita Mitra (ISSA); Peter Campbell (University Village).

1. Sam Rund, President, called the meeting to order at 6.30.
2. Sam Rund congratulated the new GSU executive committee for 2012-13: Douglas Rice (President), Katherine Rueff (Co-Vice President) and Kevin Mueller (Co-Vice President).
3. Sam Rund introduced Linda Sharp, representative of the Hesburgh Library, who announced that the Library would like to hear concerns that students may have. She also stated that the
Library plans to organize regular meetings starting next year so that students can be well informed about issues relating to the Library.

4. Ali Raja, Biology, moved to approve the minutes from March 1, 2012.

5. Ian Sander, Orientation & Electronic Resources, seconds.

6. Sam Rund proceeded with the voting, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Ellen Childs, Co-Vice President, announced that the executive committee report stands. She added that since Dean Sterling is leaving to become Dean of Yale’s Divinity School, his review has been suspended. However, comments about his term can also be sent to him (send comments to Ellen). She also stated that we do not know who will replace him.

8. Sam Rund announced that applications to Committee Chair positions are now open and asked interested individuals to get in touch with present Committee Chairs. He added that the application process will be announced soon.

9. Sukesh Shekar, Social, announced that the GSU Prom has been rescheduled to May 12. He added that the GSU Facebook Page has all the details and asked attendees to pass the info around.

10. Sam Rund announced the break out session for Committee Chairs.

11. Sam Rund proceeded to Committee Reports:

   a. Ellen Childs in place of Jon Schwarz, Academic Affairs, stated that his report stands. She added that a call for submissions to the GSU Teaching Awards has been sent out. She added that the Committee needs people to sort out applicants and that this procedure is always confidential. She asked attendees to sign up to be a part of the committee if interested and also encouraged people to apply.

   b. Melissa Pirkey, External Affairs, stated that her report stands and announced that the Relay for Life event is coming up in two weeks. She added that the GSU has already raised $1,135 and that donations are still open to all via the website. She added that anyone can contribute: friends, relatives, etc.

   c. Tori Lam, Health Care, stated that her report stands and made two announcements: April 26 the GSU will organize a Blood Drive for the South Bend Medical Foundation at the bookstore. She also announced that following the Faculty Senate’s resolution on health insurance coverage for graduate student dependents, the GSU has also come up with a resolution to make explicit the insurance grievances that students have. The GSU will vote on this Resolution towards the end of today’s meeting.

   d. Ian Sander, Orientation & Electronic Resources, stated that his report stands. He added that a survey for the GSU rooms in the 10th floor of Hesburgh is still open and can be accessed here: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dEpYbUFfMldsZVpsUjI0ZDhOM0tDNEE6MA](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dEpYbUFfMldsZVpsUjI0ZDhOM0tDNEE6MA)

   e. Ellen Childs on behalf of Mandy Albrecht, Professional Development, stated that her report stands and asked attendees to let Mandy know if their departments do anything special on professional development. The TREC committee has planned two more events: developing an online presence for April 16 and a professional picture day for May 4. There will be 100 slots for picture day.

   f. Belen Vicens-Saiz, Publicity & Procedures, stated that her report stands.

   g. Katherine Rueff, Quality of Life, stated that her report stands. She announced that she has posters on “StaND against hate week” for departmental distribution and added that the GSU is cosponsoring this week-long event. She explained that this event is designed in solidarity with victims of bullying, hate, etc. She also requested volunteers for the event. As part of this event, a Day of Silence has been scheduled as well in solidarity. On Wednesday the GSU has sponsored a poetry slam. She asked attendees to spread the word.
h. Sukesh Shekar, *Social*, stated that his report stands. He reminded attendees that the GSU Charity Prom will be on May 12 and that tickets are on sale Tuesday. Please spread the word.
i. Sam Rund added that a contra dance event is scheduled for Saturday, April 14.
12. Sam Rund proceeded with University Committee reports:
   d. Ellen Childs, *Faculty Senate*, stated that her report stands and added that a Resolution on health insurance for graduate student dependents was recently passed.
   e. Ellen Childs, *Graduate Council*, stated that their report stands.
   f. Ellen Childs for the *Committee for Women Faculty and Students* stated that they have not met.
   g. Ellen Childs for Jon Schwarz, *Library Committee*, stated that his report stands.
   h. Sukesh Shekar, *LaFortune Tenants*, announced that a combination of Taco Bell and Pizza Hut restaurants will replace Sbarro and that a Panda Express will go where Bueno Provecho is.
   i. Mandy Albrecht, *Professional Development*, stated that her report stands.
13. Sam Rund moved on to new business with Health Insurance Resolution for graduate student dependents. He added that most of the wording has been borrowed from the Faculty Senate Resolution.
14. Tori Lam reads it in full.
15. Melissa Pirkey motions to pass the resolution.
16. Jeremy Castle, *Political Science*, second. He then asked whether the University will do anything about this resolution and if there is anything we can do beyond issuing this resolution.
17. Sam Rund responded that since there is great uncertainty about Obama’s upcoming health care law (a law that will insure all Americans). If the law does not go through then the University will have to rethink this. He added that the South Bend Tribune is working on an article about this.
18. Ellen Childs added that nothing will happen for next year and that we’re hoping for the next year.
19. Ian Sander stated that at least this resolution will go on record and that this is a first step that the GSU is taking.
20. Tori Lam agreed with Ian and added that she has sent many emails of testimonies of graduate students to the University but that this resolution in paper carries extra weight.
21. Sam Rund asked if there were more comments.
22. Ellen stated that only five people from five departments are needed to pass this resolution.
23. Claudia Anewalt, *Political Science*, asked whether we should consider a follow up plan. She agreed that the resolution was a good step but hollow if nothing else is following.
24. Sam Rund responded that we do not know what will happen.
25. Ellen Childs added that this issue has been discussed for a long time and that the new executive committee next year will discuss this further.
26. Katherine Rueff stated that part of the new executive committee’s platform will focus on insurance, housing, and better treatment for grad students.
27. Ellen asked Claudia if she had any suggestions.
28. Claudia responded that she does not know what Tori’s reports have been like and she added that in her department there is a spectrum of opinions on what student coverage should be and what burden this should have to the rest of student body. Let’s continue this conversation.
29. Ellen responded that we do not know if the new Wellness Building will cover students.
30. Sam added that the Grad School is hoping that the Wellness Building will be open to grad students even though this would not mean through insurance but as enabling access to a clinic. This will perhaps allow us to know about numbers of uninsured people as they would have to register.
31. Tori Lam stated that we can do surveys and that they are important, since having accurate numbers is key to making compelling arguments and to build the case for this. We should encourage departments to fill out surveys.
32. Belen Vicens-Saiz asked if there could be just one survey from the University.
33. Tori responded in the affirmative and added that the survey should also be sent to undergraduates.
34. Ian asked if the University knows how many dependents and married students there are.
35. Ellen responded that this information is confidential.
36. Sukesh suggested that the Registrar’s office would be a great avenue.
37. Ellen responded that they won’t let us do it.
38. Katherine Rueff motions to pass the resolution.
40. Sam proceeded with the voting and the resolution passed unanimously.
41. Sam Rund moved on to old business. He raised the constitutional amendments that were discussed and voted in the last meeting.
42. Ellen Childs read the proposed amendment for Article III, Subsection C on Quorum:
   a. “A quorum of the Council, except as hereinafter specifically provided, consists of either (a) The President or Vice Presidents and any five representatives from one-third of those Departments that have selected representatives to the Council, or (b) Representatives from two-thirds of those Departments that have selected representatives to the Council.”
43. Ellen reminded the Council that we need to move to discuss this.
44. Ann Dallman, Civil Engineering, motions.
45. Ali Raja, Biology, seconds.
46. Sam Rund asked if there was any motion to vote.
47. Ann Dallman motions.
48. Katherine Rueff seconds.
49. Sam Rund proceeded to the voting and the amendment passed unanimously.
50. Ellen Childs moved to the second constitutional amendment on the removal of elected officers (Article VIII, Section 4). She read it:
   a. “Elected officers of the GSU may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a regular or special meeting of the Council, provided that quorum is met.”
51. Katherine motions to discuss.
52. Ian seconds.
53. Claudia Anewalt, Political Science, asked whether the constitution had any provisions for expulsion and removal.
54. Ellen responded in the affirmative.
55. Stephanie Lyons, Physics, motions to vote.
56. Ali seconds.
57. Sam proceeded to the voting and the amendment passed unanimously.
58. Tori Lam thanks the GSU Executive Committee for the hard work throughout the year.
59. Sam Rund announced that there will be GSU Summer meetings in late July. He stated that it has been an honor to serve in the GSU.
60. Ellen Childs agrees.
61. Ali motions to end the meeting.
62. Sukesh seconds.
63. Sam proceeded with the voting and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7.23pm.

Minutes submitted by Belen Vicens-Saiz.
Executive Committee Report
September 2012
Submitted by Doug Rice, Kevin Mueller and Kate Rueff

Conference Presentation Grants
The conference presentation grant program (CPG) has been changed to accommodate a more detailed and convenient online application form. The GSU has partnered with the graduate school to use a common application. This way those students applying to both the graduate school and the GSU only have to fill out a single application. It is the hope of both the GSU and the graduate school to eventually bring ISLA and other campus funding sources into the same application. The GSU and graduate school keep their own separate deadlines and review applications independently. The GSU CPG Review Committee was formed at the beginning of the academic year to review applications. This committee includes one member from each of the three colleges. No executive board members or appointed chair may sit on the committee, but at least one executive board member is present at the review meeting to answer policy questions and resolve any potential conflicts. A summary of the changes is shown below. This new system will remove the automatic subsidizing that the GSU was providing for various departments and funding sources on campus. The GSU has decided to take ownership of the CPG fund and make an educated, qualitative, and peer-reviewed decision on who should be awarded funding.

Items added for new process:
- New online application that is combined with the graduate school
- Funding decisions are made by the GSU CPG Review Committee on an application by application basis
- $5000 has been allocated for every month so that there is funding available all year
- First come, first served per month
- If you apply in August for a conference in December, your application will be reviewed at the beginning of September and you will have first access to the $5000 reserved for December conferences (having your act together for funding -> increased probability of funding).

Items removed for new process:
- No lifetime cap while at Notre Dame (previously $1500)
- No individual conference funding cap (previously $250)
- No guarantee of funding (previously $250 per simple qualification rules)

Faculty Senate
The Faculty Senate met in September and established the new committee members for the Academic Affairs, Administrative Affairs, Benefits, and Student Affairs (SA) committees.
Both the graduate (Kate) and the undergraduate student representative joined the SA committee. The members of the SA committee agreed to focus this year’s plan on those issues brought forth by the graduate and undergraduate representatives from their respective student government organizations. Additionally, the committee will continue to work on student deportment issues that have been an area of concern for the committee in the past by conducting a survey that will inquire to professors towards the frequency of deportment issues in their classrooms and on campus.

Grad Life Team
Mimi Beck and John Lubker have put together a team of individuals from University Village, Fischer O’Hara-Grace, International Student Services and Activities, Behavioral Concerns, the Counseling Center, Health Services, Rec Sports, the Center for Social Concerns, Food Services, Two Academic Department Administrators and the Graduate Student Union. We meet once a month to focus on the needs of graduate students, strengthening communication between departments, sharing best practices, coordinating individual efforts, and collaborating on projects and programs that involve multiple constituencies. We are currently in the process of tracking how the functions of our respective groups meet the 5 dimensions graduate student life known as SPIRE: Spiritual, Physical, Intellectual, Relational, and Emotional.

University Accreditation
Every ten years the University engages in a comprehensive and evaluative review that reaffirms its institutional accreditation. The accrediting agency for Notre Dame is the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of College and Schools. Recently, we have been informed that the HLC will conduct our comprehensive site evaluation in early spring 2014. To prepare for this visit, a Self-Study Steering Committee and six Criterion and Compliance Teams—with support from associated advisory resource groups—will work collaboratively by leading a campus-wide Self-Study. Doug and Tony (Quality of Life Chair) have been asked by Daniel Hubert (Assistant Provost) to sit on two of these Criterion and Compliance Teams. Doug will sit on the Ethical and Responsible Conduct team and Tony will be sitting on the Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources and Support team. I have met with Daniel and will begin the process of drafting an evaluation with the team in the near future.

Grad Life Grants
The GSU and Graduate Life have the same goal of finding effective ways to fund creative community-building projects. We have recently met to discuss a collaboration where the administration, disbursements, accountability, and reporting would be done by our Graduate Life office, while the funding and approval of proposals would be shared between the two groups. The GSU is looking to put $5,000 dollars of our discretionary fund towards this venture. Graduate Life is still working out their budget to determine how much their respective departments can commit to what we would call Grad Life Grants. We are still working on the details of the application process and criterion for funding. Our goal is to have this program up and running with applications due in mid-November.
Academic Affairs
September 2012
Submitted by Zack Terranova

Academic Council & Advanced Studies Committee
The first Academic Council meeting of the year was held on September 19, 2012 followed by a meeting of the Advanced Studies Committee. The primary objective of this meeting was the election of five Academic Council members to the Executive Committee. The Advanced Studies Committee also met to discuss the upcoming agenda for the next few meetings, specifically reviewing the Graduate Student life Report when submitted, and review of the School of Architecture Code when submitted. Those reports should be submitted prior to the October meeting.

University Committee on Libraries
Typically the University Committee on Library meetings are held at 8:00 am on the first Thursday of each month, our first UCL meeting is going to be held on October 4, 2012 at 8:00 am.

Symposium
In the past the Graduate Student Union Symposium has collaborated with the Notre Dame Extended Research Community (NDeRC). The NDeRC was an NSF funded initiative at ND to connect researchers and K-12 educators that invite primary and secondary teachers to participate in an annual NDeRC Forum in late January. After reaching out to the organization, I was informed that NDeRC is “winding down as a sponsor” of their traditional forum, but will continue to be involved with their new Coordinator of Academic Community Engagement, Alisa Zornig. I am meeting with Alisa to discuss their involvement on Wednesday September 26th 2012.

The fifth annual Graduate Student Research Symposium will tentatively be held in early February, depending on the availability of Jordan Hall of Science.
External Affairs
September 2012
Submitted by Hilary Davidson

An Insider’s Guide to Notre Dame for Graduate Students
I am collaborating with Law School students to make a guide to off-campus living and leisure. This will be stored on inside.nd.edu and I will work to provide paper copies to be kept in departments, but this hinges on copyright agreements with the group of Law students who collaborate on this project.

In the coming months, I will continue to crowd source information on the best of South Bend. If you know of great spots, getaways, or abodes in and around South Bend, please let me know, I’m all ears. The goal is to get this product ready in time for recruited students to view. I am also interested in developing a webpage on the GSU site to highlight some of this information.

Graduate Student Relations with the City of South Bend
I met with the Mayor’s Office on September 6 to discuss how graduate students can feel more at home in South Bend and how to leverage graduate student brainpower for community problem solving. The former topic will be addressed with much of this information put into the “Insider’s Guide.” The latter includes possibilities such as grant writing, analytics, developing economies of scale, clean-ups, economic development, mapping, practicum’s for engineers and architects, tutoring. We will work together to locate and develop opportunities for graduate students to become involved in the city, but in the meantime, if you are interested in applying your own research to the city, please contact Katherine Roos. We also discussed hosting a “pub night” for graduate student downtown as a social event that would allow for some informal discussions between grads and Katherine Roos, the Deputy Chief of Staff for the Mayor’s Office.

I will also meet with the State Theatre redevelopment team on September 24 to discuss how their new venue can best serve the graduate student population.

Volunteer Opportunities
The Center for Social Concerns is a fantastic resource for local service opportunities. Please encourage students in your department to look into their Guide to Civic Engagement. If you are looking to spend meaningful time giving back to the community, there are plenty of ways to do so. One of my main priorities this year will be to find and develop civic opportunities that draw on the specific skills and passions that grad students have.

The Robinson Community Learning Center (RCLC) and Writing Center
I am working with people at the RCLC to develop programs and a writing center that will specifically draw on the talents and skills of graduate students. So far, we have had a couple of meetings and I will have more information on this for the October meeting.
The Office of Sustainability
A few important items of note here. First, the Office of Sustainability is offering to donate $7/hour to the GSU (which will be funneled to the RCLC Writing Center or an organization on campus of your choice) for each person who helps out with Game Day Recycling. Football games bring thousands of fans onto campus but that also means generating tons of trash, much of which is recyclable. At each home game, student volunteers circulate through the tailgate lots, distributing blue recycling bags to fans and answering questions about single stream recycling. Volunteers also receive a tee-shirt, snacks, and drinks. More information forthcoming for the 10/13 and 10/20 games.

Second, encourage graduate students in your department to sign up to take the Office of Sustainability's 2030 Challenge! In 2010, ND set goals to work towards becoming a greener campus in 20 years, and students are invited to take part in this. They will even send you a free tool kit to help you get started. There are lots of opportunities to get involved and the Office of Sustainability is looking for people who are interested in creating change on our campus in our community.

Finally, graduate students who are conducting research related to sustainability (in any discipline) can submit a 200-word write-up to sustainability@nd.edu about their work. This is a great way to increase the visibility of a personal research agenda as well as keeping others in the know about sustainability efforts at ND.
Healthcare
September 2012
Submitted by Lindsey B. Turnbull

Set Tentative Dates for South Bend Medical Center Blood Drives
The following dates are reserved for potential blood drives: November 13, February 22 and June 4 with Caroline Belcher. Will need to follow-up with the University to reserve rooms for those days and then confirm with Abigail Stopczynski when she returns from vacation.

Organized Aetna Health Insurance Orientations
Health Insurance Orientation Sessions occurred on August 13, 14 and 15 for both U.S. and International Students. Fliers were sent to departments and students were informed via email.

Publicized Dependent Care Options at the University Village
Notices were created and posted via flyers and emails to the residents of University Village regarding the possibility for care and instructions for enrolling uninsured dependents and spouses of students at the new Wellness Center this summer.

Discussion of Health Care as a Human Right
We are working with the University’s Student Health Care Committee to have a discussion for that group with a medical ethicist regarding access to health care as a human right in the Catholic tradition, as well as to learn more about imperatives to ensure access to quality health care for psychological and physical for all members of the University student community. This Committee has yet to meet this year to begin negotiations on the following years’ student health plan.
Orientation and Resources
September 2012
Submitted by Diana LaTorre

Orientation Committee
Orientation meetings were held throughout August in preparation for the Orientation fair on August 17th and the orientation social on August 20th.

In collaboration with the graduate school, SAO, and Campus Ministry we organized events for the incoming graduate students.

Orientation Fair
On August 17th the Orientation Fair was held at the Jordan Hall of Science Galleria & Auditorium. The Information Fair with Campus Departments and Groups was held from 2:00 – 3:00pm and the Orientation Presentation with Christine Maziar, Acting Dean from 3:00 – 4:00pm. We provided a guidebook we created, in addition to other useful brochures. We also had free GSU T-shirts, bags, and appetizers. About 25 university organizations participated in the fair, having representatives provide and pass out information about their offices/groups to the incoming class.

Prayer Service with President Jenkins
We also collaborated with Campus Ministry and held a prayer session at 5:00pm at the Grotto on August 17th.

Welcome Back Social
On Monday August 20th the Welcome back Social was held in Legends. BrainBlast Productions was used for trivia and Legends for Catering. Prizes were given out.

Annual FOG Picnic
On Thursday August 23rd we helped FOG and Campus Ministry in the annual FOG picnic, providing volunteers. Free snow cones from Lalepa’s Island Snow as well as hamburgers, hot dogs, and soda were provided.
Professional Development
September 2012
Submitted by Erin Drew

TREC Committee
The TREC Committee met twice during this school year, July 30 and September 4. During these meetings we completed our committee mission statement (see handout), and planned the year’s first professional development event, Coffee, Cupcakes & TREC, which took place last Wednesday, September 19.

The next TREC meeting will take place the week of October 1.

We are actively recruiting new members, particularly from departments not currently represented on the committee. Currently, we have members from Political Science, Sociology, Art, Art History and Design, Biology, Electrical Engineering, Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, Chemistry and Civil and Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences.

We will be circulating flyers (the handout) about TREC to graduate departments in search of new members. If you are interested learning more about professional development, adding a line to your CV and getting free lunch about once a month, please contact me at edrew@nd.edu!

Coffee, Cupcakes and TREC Event, September 19, 2-4PM
TREC held its first professional development event last Wednesday, Sept 19, a professional development fair featuring representatives from the Career Center, Kaneb Center, English for Academic Purposes, Hesburgh Library, Graduate Grants and Fellowships, Graduate Student Life and the Center for Social Concerns. We had 40-50 students attend. Each received a free t-shirt, grad school checklist, and information about TREC. We followed up with an email with links and information on professional development, as well as a post on the professional development blog [http://blogs.nd.edu/graduate-school-professional-development/].

Attendance was down this year compared to last, which took place in November and attracted about 100 students. Since the event was well-advertised, we think it may have been an inconvenient time for many students. If TREC does a similar event next year, we would recommend holding it over the lunch hour or over a longer period of time, to allow students with afternoon or morning commitments to have a time they could stop by.

Upcoming TREC-sponsored events
TREC is co-sponsoring the Grad School Game Plan series with John Lubker, Associate Dean of Students for the Graduate School. The first session will be on goal-setting. It will take place October 11 at 5PM, location TBD.
Professional Development Committee
The Graduate School Professional Development Committee meets every Wednesday morning to plan programs and events to enhance graduate student professionalization across the four “spires”: Teaching, Research, Ethics, Career. Currently, the Committee is working on initiatives to improve support for Notre Dame postdoctoral scholars and boost awareness and use of the Professional Development Checklist [http://graduateschool.nd.edu/professional_development/professional-development-activities-checklist/]. For more information on professional development at Notre Dame, visit the calendar [http://graduateschool.nd.edu/professional_development/pdcalendar/] or the Professional Development blog.

The Professional Development team won the Presidential Team Irish Award for 2011-12. The award recognizes core staff teams that exemplify the University’s Core Values on behalf of their department and the University. The PD Team will be recognized for their award on the field at the October 13 home game against Stanford.
Publicity and Procedures
September 2012
Submitted by Kyle D. Watson

Website
I have been updating the GSU website/calendar of events on a weekly basis as new events are announced. I have also been adding other events to the calendar that are pertinent to graduate students. A good example of this includes the events listed in the “Grad Life Weekly” announcement. If you have any events you would like me to put on the calendar or mention on the site, please let me know. Also, I welcome any suggestions for improving the site.

Newsletter
The GSU newsletter continues to be sent out on a regular basis. My hope is that it will be a weekly Monday email (so long as there are events to announce). The last newsletter was sent on 18 September 2012. It was opened by 32% of the recipients (844 students). There were 2 who unsubscribed. Overall, the newsletter is sent out to 2607 students. If there are any events that you would like mentioned in the newsletter, please get them to me (kwatson2@nd.edu) by the end of Friday for the upcoming Monday newsletter. If you have any suggestions on how the newsletter could be improved, please let me know.

Facebook & Twitter
As of 20 September 2012, there are 281 people who “like” and follow the GSU Facebook page. If you have any events you would like posted on the Facebook page, let me know. I am also open to suggestions for how to improve the page.

The Twitter page has 50 followers.
Quality of Life
September 2012
Submitted by Tony Cunningham

Ally Training Opportunity/LGBTQ Committee meeting
On September 6th and September 12th the grad students were invited to join the annual Network Ally Training. After sending out the message the remaining spots available filled up immediately and they had to start a waiting list. A clear need has been identified to host an Ally Training specifically aimed at Graduate students. The first meeting of the LGBTQ Committee is being planned. Our goal to host an Ally Training will be sometime early in the spring semester.

Graduate Resource and Problem Resolution (GRPR) Hour
On September 12, 2012 we kicked off our first GRPR Hour. The GRPR Hour is every Wednesday from 4:30-5:30pm and it provides graduate students an opportunity to come and express concerns or receive help on any issues they may encounter in their time here at Notre Dame (e.g. where can they get groceries, who can help them find funding, etc.). Thus far we have only had one person stop by and bring up the issue of spousal insurance which I do believe needs further addressing. He writes:

*In order to insure a spouse on the current Notre Dame plan, it costs the family $4700 and rising. The only options to cover spouses is to pay for this insurance or wait 6 full months WITHOUT INSURANCE before they can go on Medicaid and be covered by the government. With stipends in the area of $14,000-$17,000, it makes it impossible to pay for this, rent, and eat. If Notre Dame wants to continue its message of pro-Family and become a premier research institution, changes are necessary. More experienced researchers will tend to be older and married with children. Some married students aren’t able to bring their spouses and children with them. This is clearly not acceptable for a University that preaches Catholic social teaching.*

Graduate Student Faith Fair
We are currently looking into collaborating with the local parishes and faith providers in order to bring back the Graduate Student Faith Fair. This will provide an opportunity for Graduate Students to get in contact with a variety of church leaders and other sources of religious affiliation so that they are able to branch out and practice their faith as they choose. Our goal for running this will be late October/early November.
Social Report
September 2012
Submitted by Kara Harmatys and Sydney Blevins

Late Summer Events 2012

Shakespeare Festival showing of Hamlet
August 18th, 2012 at 8:00 PM. GSU purchased 40 tickets from the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Cost: $5 a ticket at the LaFortune box office. All tickets were sold.

Silverhawks Baseball Game
Thursday August 30th, 2012 at 7:05 PM. GSU purchased 50 tickets to see the Silverhawks take on the Lansing Lugnuts. Additionally, we purchased $100 worth of Silverhawk Dollars for concessions and we received fifty $10 coupons to be spent on merchandise in the team shop. This event was free and all 50 tickets were given out.

Notre Dame vs. Navy Gamewatch Party
Saturday, September 1st from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM. This event was coordinated and organized by Mimi Beck from the Graduate School. We contributed approximately $1000 towards breakfast and refreshments for students. This event was held at Legends in both the club area and the beer garden outside. This event was extremely successful and well-attended.

Upcoming Fall Events 2012

Dog Park Outing
Sunday, September 23rd, 2012 from 12:00 to 3:00 PM. We have reserved a pavilion at the Prickett Marina Park in Mishawaka. Light refreshments and snacks purchased from Wal-Mart will be provided for both humans and dogs. This event will be free for students.

Trivia Night
Monday, September 24th, 2012 from 8:00 to 11:30 PM. We reserved the Legend’s club area to host a team trivia challenge. Food will be provided through Legends Catering along with a cash bar. Trivia services will be provided by BrainBlast Trivia. Visa gift cards of $100 and $50 will be awarded to both the first and second place teams, respectively. Additionally, a short survey about interest in future social events will be given out; as an incentive, two $10 Chipotle gift cards will be randomly drawn from survey participants. This event will be free for students. (Expected cost ~$3,000).

Southwest Michigan Winery Tours and Tastings
Anticipated Date: Sunday, October 21st from approximately 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. We have contacted three wineries in Southwest Michigan that will accommodate large groups. The
wineries include Lemon Creek, Round Barn, and Hickory Creek. The Round Barn winery has fairly priced food available for lunch (under $10). A bus will leave from campus and take students to each of the wineries and return back to campus that evening. Anticipated attendance is around 35 people. We plan on charging $15 per person to help cover the cost of the wine tastings and transportation. (Expected net cost ~$1,000).

**Pre-planned Future Events**

**Morris Performing Arts Center** - *tickets for the following events next spring have already been purchased:*

- **Shrek the Musical**: February 9th at 2:00 PM. We purchased 60 tickets ($47 each) and will sell them for $25 each. Two tickets per ID.

- **Wicked**: Saturday, May 11th at 8:00 PM. We purchased 60 tickets ($68 each) and will sell them for $30 each. Two tickets per ID.

**Compton Family Ice Center**

Reservations for skating at the Compton Family Ice Center have been made for *Sunday November 11th* and *Sunday February 24th*. 