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); Lindsey Wieck (History); Yvonne Mikuljan (Ph.D. in Literature Program); Collin Lines (Physics); May Kim (Psychology); Jade Avelis, Stefanie Wellons, (Sociology); Michael Cover (Theology).

**FISCHER OHARE 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.

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. Sukses 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=dEpYbUFtMldsZVpsUjI0ZDhOM0tDNEE6MA](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dEpYbUFtMldsZVpsUjI0ZDhOM0tDNEE6MA)
   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.
   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 co-sponsoring 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.