

GCAS Executive Meeting Agenda

Date: February 28, 2024

Time: 5:00 PM EDT

Location: Mather Memorial Building 201

Call to Order & Roll Call 5:02pm

Zachary Milko, President; Kate Freeman, Vice President; Jeri' Avery, Information Officer; Hannah Ludlow, Secretary; Anesha Asvathi, Treasurer; Regan Gee, GSC Coordinator; Morgan McCloughlin, GSC Representative; Lucia Yuan, DEI Officer; Manish Sarkar, GSC Representative; Kyle Im, Physics Rep; Dane Harrison, Music Rep

Officer Reports

President:

- Health Care Insurance Survey Initial Findings and Action Steps 5:03pm
 - Michelle wrote up preliminary notes on findings.
 - 150 responses. Most from the College of Arts and Sciences and College of Medicine. Will keep it open and consider other incentives to increase engagement. Demographics in Michelle's report. Dental coverage is the largest complaint across respondents. Followed by vision care and cost of co-pays. Difficulty finding information on what the Aetna plan actually covers. This raised concerns about the negative impact of inaccessible care that students face.
 - Preliminary solutions include insurance onboarding at the beginning of each school year and offer education sessions on explaining the plan and coverage. They will look into dental and vision coverage.
 - More needs to be done to cover the care for spouses and children. Coverage also needs to be expanded for chronic health conditions.
 - Right now we can expect to see better explanations of coverage in Fall 2024.
 - Discussion: administration response is that this will further be considered and we can expect action on customer service. Unsure what precipitating factor of interest was for administration.
- CAS Graduate Committee 5:13pm- Department Reviews still underway, form rewritten, stipend exploratory study being done.
 - Encouraged to emphasize student experience in these evaluations and are considering a nuanced, or multi-model approach to accommodate the needs of different disciplines. Discussion of stipend increases in the Fall 2024. Questions were raised as to if the increases were occurring across the colleges/disciplines or if there will be emphasis on increasing the lowest stipends.
- Presidents' Roundtable 5:19pm - Long discussion about parking; take GSC parking survey.
 - We know that staff who make under a student amount get a

discounted parking pass. Parking survey will be sent out by GSC in the near future with the intention of asking for a similar reduced parking pass for graduate students. This is also being approached as a compromise for students who do not want to support the RTA passes.

- Meetings with Dr. Harsh Mathur 5:22pm
 - Receptive to our ideas and will start meeting with Zach more regularly. End of semester will have a Dean's forum that gives graduate students an opportunity to ask questions in person. In the past this has cultivated a more effective conversation.

Vice-President: 5:24pm

- Initial Information about Professional Development Week (PDW) (April 1st-5th) Preparation
- Planned Partnerships
 - KSL and writing center
- Will also include social events, such as trivia at the Jolly Scholar

DEI Officer: 5:27

- LGBTQ+ and International Student-Specific Events for PDW

GSC Coordinator: 5:30pm

- All voting members of GCAS are encouraged to attend to vote on issues that might arise organically that need a spontaneous vote.
- Town hall Update
 - Not a large turnout, but those who did attend raised issues that
 - Law schools can notarize documents for free.
 - Title IX office came and talked to the students
 - How will the Title IX office uphold the ruling from the Department of Justice?
 - Office of Equity- Keeping students safe and providing support services
 - CARE make contact with those who are having a hard time in any way. Anyone can submit.
 - Committee concerns- bias reporting and student mistreatment. Someone must submit on your behalf.
 - Food pantry open on campus.
 - Discussion of Academic Discrimination and failure of Title IX and office of Equity to address retaliation. The above offices did not know how to approach this and were not clear what actions they can take to prevent retaliation.
 - If students have an issue to submit, they should not hold anxiety about where to submit. These offices will pass it along to the right group.
- Update on GSC Events
 - Ball will be held at the Cleveland Natural History Museum. However, CMHN was found to have committed a Title IX violation and retaliated against a CWRU graduate student who experience sexual harassment as an employee of the Museum. Rachel Lutner

said that there is not list of organizations that have been found to violate Title IX for us to check before contracting with organizations in the community. In the future we must ask the Title IX office to check the status of organizations.

- The GCAS board finds it hard to believe that the CMHN was the only organization that this has happened with. This raises concerns that students are not reporting Title IX or that these issues have not been addressed properly.

GSC Reps: 5:48pm

- Anything of importance from the last GSC Meeting
 - Ongoing conversations on the constitution and updates to the bylaws.

Other Officer Report Items- None

Other Information/Topics of Discussion: 5:50pm

- The Information Officer will send out the Newsletter by sometime next week—we are looking to do a slight refresh to some aspects of the newsletter and are open to suggestions
- RTA Passes– Please continue to spread the message: “If you still need an RTA pass, it can be picked up in the Dean’s office, 7th floor of Crawford Hall, from Owen Klingenberg on weekdays from 10 am - 1 pm and 2 pm - 4 pm.”
 - Different departments are getting different types of notifications and communications regarding RTA passes.

Open Forum 5:52pm

We ask that you keep your comments brief to provide time for all who would like to bring up topics for discussion

Kyle- Is it possible to have RTA passes through the summer.

Hannah- Will GCAS release a solidarity statement with SJP?

Dane- Sexual harassment issue within department. Who to Contact? Regan suggests Title IX, School of Graduate studies, and office of equity.

Adjournment 6:11PM

Future Meeting Times:

- 03/20 in Tinkham Veale First Floor Conference Room
- 04/24 in Tinkham Veale First Floor Conference Room
- All at 5:00 PM Eastern

Communication Methods:

- Invite students from your departments to join the GCAS CampusGroups page
- GCAS will send out a newsletter every month with important campus and community information

- Meeting agendas and minutes will be available on GCAS CampusGroups under Files

Contact Information:

- For general inquiries, items to add to agendas or newsletters: gcas@cwru.edu
- Officers:
 - President: Zachary Milko, Sociology, zachary.milko@case.edu
 - Vice President: Kate Freeman, Sociology, kjf61@case.edu
 - Secretary: Hannah Ludlow, Anthropology, hxl1134@case.edu
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