

COGS General Assembly Meeting
Wednesday February 21, 2007
St. Paul Student Center

5:00-5:15 Dinner and social time: Pizza Luce

5:15-5:30 Discussion of Graduate Health Insurance Plan

Guest speaker: George Green, *Associate Dean of the Graduate School*

There was much discussion about the multiple insurance cards that many graduate assistants received. Dean Green re-iterated that he is the person to contact if anyone has problems with the graduate health insurance or dental plan, he shared his email: green007@umn.edu. He emphasized that dependents MUST re-enroll in health insurance every year but will be covered through September each year. Also, international students must carry health insurance. Many representatives wanted to discuss the possibility of having insurance cards be printable from the Internet: Dean Green said he would investigate. Others commented that this was not a University issue, since insurance cards are created by the insurance provider. COGS has 3 seats on the health insurance committee, if students are interested in serving on this committee they should contact Dean Green.

5:30-5:45 Elections

- Kristina Erstad, from the Social Work dept, was confirmed as the COGS Legislative Liaison for COGS on a trial basis.
- Eric Grashorn, from the Physics dept, was elected and confirmed as Vice President for External Relations.
- Vichan Syeda and Geoff Hart were unanimously elected and confirmed as Senators. (meetings are the first Thurs of each month)

5:45-6:05 Announcements

- Travel grants and Leadership award applications or nominations are due March 9, 2007—just before Spring Break.
- GradLetter is being written—send ideas, news, events, or “best practices in grad education” to cogs@umn.edu for inclusion in the newsletter—remember there is a prize for the latter.
- GAPSA Update:
 - fees request has NOT been approved yet, likely will be at March meeting
 - GAPSA has a new VP for Public Affairs: Matt Schmidt
 - GAPSA will have open elections for president this coming year: March 9th is deadline for nomination
- Student Loan Interest Rates will not change for graduate students, only undergrad rates (6.8% change to proposed 3.4%)
- Graduate Student Appreciation Week coming in April. Contact cogs@umn.edu if you are interested in working on the planning

committee or have ideas for promotions/activities; we have approximately \$1,500 to spend.

- Website has been fixed and is back up and running. Let us know if there is anything we should add or needs to be updated.
- Transportation issues.

Introduction of Parking Resolution by Geoff Hart

Geoff had a conversation with Victoria Nelson in transportation office; proposed to extend special parking rates to graduate students on the weekends and evenings. (See resolution for more details.)

This resolution passed with one friendly amendment, one rep voted against the resolution

6:05-6:20 P & R Council recruitment, organizing, and planning time.
Individual committees met together to confirm who would attend meetings

6:30 Meeting adjourned