

Meeting Minutes
11/16/23

- Theo Reed (*GSG President, Biological Sciences*) started meeting promptly at 6:30 p.m.
- Theo introduced guest speaker
 - Mike Hildreth, *Dean of the Graduate School, Associate Provost and Vice President for Graduate Studies and Professor of Physics and Astronomy*
 - Started position in July
 - Vision for the Graduate School is to be more communicative
 - Meets regularly with Theo
 - Will gladly set up a time to meet with grad students
 - Very interested in how we (The Graduate School) can help graduate students
 - Increase research output to continue upward trajectory to make programs excellent & distinctive
 - Support for students' training & community building
 - Wants instruction to be excellent
 - Wants (to implement) Graduate Professor Teaching Award
 - Wants different ways to make grad programs distinctive to reflect who we are as a University
 - Wants ethics training
 - Many more opportunities for community engagement
 - Opportunities to go outside the University to work with a group
 - Opportunities for internships & for grad student to study abroad
 - Currently chairing a working group that's looking at Phd stipends
 - He predicts stipends will go up substantially over next few years
 - Proposals are being pushed forward, not final yet
 - Questions
 - A question was asked if there are discussions regarding dental & vision insurance?
 - We are looking at spousal healthcare
 - There is also a program through [IUSB Dental Clinic](#)
 - Preventative Services offered at reduced costs
 - Cleaning
 - Dental X-rays
 - Oral Cancer Screenings
 - Dental Care Instructions
 - Dietary Counseling
 - Fluoride Treatments
 - Sealants
 - Wesley Hedden, Quality of Life Chair (*Peace Studies and Sociology*) commented that he & his wife are both graduate

students with two children. The cost of childcare for one child is almost one of their stipends

- Extra policies for family support are in the works, including vision
- Agus Fiorani (*Anthropology*) asked question regarding housing
 - We have a couple things in the works
 - Adding buildings up by The Landings for cost of Fischer Graduate Residences
 - Other discussions about housing downtown
 - The University is very aware of the housing issue for grad students
 - Whatever is build next needs to be affordable for grad students
- Tatiana Rosales, DEI Chair (*Chemistry and Biochemistry*) asked How do you envision getting the University back to a research institution?
 - Lots of cultural change
 - When faculty think about what's best for students as well as what's best for their lab
 - Envisions supplemental stipends for central funding for research for international internships for areas with higher cost of living
- Adedoyin Okanlawon (*Psychology*) is interested in negotiating for a stipend higher than what is given with the Notebaert fellowship if a student receives an external grant.
 - We're not good at getting external grants for our graduate students. Northwestern grad students get 5% more.
- Theo encouraged students to meet with Mike, saying he's fantastic to work with
- Approval of meeting minutes from 10/26/23 Council meeting
 - Montana Carlozo (*Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering*) made motion to approve
 - Pranav Nalamwar (*Physics*) seconded the motion
 - Motion passed
- Committee Reports (can be found in agenda packet that was sent to all reps at the beginning of the week)
- Blood Drive is December 1
- Thanksgiving Brunch Tickets on sale now!
- Jingle Bell Ball tickets to go on sale soon!
- New Business
 - Thomas Poitevin (*Economics*) asked about updates on parking tickets

- Theo met with Mike & said he is actively working on this. He's getting us information since grads pay the same amount as undergrads
 - Adedoyin mentioned getting parking citation on game days when there is no parking anywhere on home football game days
 - Wesley mentioned his wife TAs a class at Bond & takes their infant along. Has to justify why she needs to get through the gate to go park in order to teach a class
 - Mimi Beck (*Director of Grad Life, Advisor to GSG*) mentioned Bulla Lot usually has space & a shuttle goes to the library & the circle behind the Snite. Can also park in guest lots but have to pay.
 - Thomas mentioned that grad student activity fees can be split to \$35 per semester. Can parking passes be paid the same way, half each semester?
 - Another student mentioned it's cheaper to pay the entire year all at once.
 - Another student spoke up that parking passes are non-refundable if you find out a day or two later that you did not need it.
 - Kyle Seasly (*Keough School of Global Affairs/MGA*) mentioned we need more bike parking in front of Decio
 - Pranav asked the status of the pilot program for food
 - Arpitha Mysore Rajashekara, Q of L Chair (*Biological Sciences*) mentioned that ND has the Cultivate Food program
- Announcements
 - Mimi highly recommends the Provost Listening Session on Monday, November 20 at Hesburgh Library, Carey Auditorium
 - It gives the perspective of where the University is, what they want for themselves. Graduate Students are mentioned multiple times.
 - Monday, November 20, 8:30 p.m. Transgender Day of Remembrance. Chapel at CoMo, then walk to Grotto
 - Thanksgiving Brunch [Tickets on sale NOW!](#) Deadline to purchase is Tuesday. Tickets will NOT be available at the door. MUST be purchased ahead of time.
 - The Graduate School is looking for volunteers to put out table tents the morning of November 29. Will take less than an hour of your time. Free meal at the dining hall on your ID card, for helping.
 - GSG Blood Drive is December 1
 - Jingle Bell Ball is Dec 2

- Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.