

Meeting Minutes
3/21/24

- Theo Reed (*GSG President, Biological Sciences*) introduces guest speakers
 - Rev. Gerry Olinger, C.S.C. (*Vice President, Student Affairs*)
 - Began position June, 2021
 - 300 + meetings listening with staff, partners & students
 - 6 goals showing objectives, listed on [Student Affairs website](#)
 - Faith & Formation
 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 - Health and Well-being
 - Connection and Community
 - Reflection and Discernment
 - Staff Recruitment, Development, and Retention
 - Tatiana Rosales (*DEI Chair, Chemistry & Biochemistry*)
 - Question was asked if we could reach out to the Office of Student Enrichment to start a program for loans for International students
 - Fr. Gerry responded that he & the Graduate School would be the ones to reach out to
 - The Graduate School has an Emergency Fund
 - Some of the Office of Student Enrichment resources are tied to financial aid
 - Barnabas Agbodekhe (*Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering*)
 - Money is needed up front for graduate students, such as for apartment deposits, etc. prior to arrival on campus
 - If grad students had the money, they wouldn't be asking
 - Fr. Gerry responded that active conversations are on-going with Mike Hildreth, Dean of the Graduate School.
 - A lot of questions, discussion & frustration by multiple graduate students in the room regarding mental health resources & how they do not trust the process, nor the resources.
 - Grad students in the room discussed how stressed they are or how their mental health has deteriorated due to
 - poor/abusive relationships with advisors
 - Feeling dismissed upon in-person visits with on-campus mental health services
 - Feeling lack of trust with the process
 - Lack of continuity of care
 - Lack of being informed that their mental health provider has left
 - Frustration with having to 'start over again' with a new therapist/psychologist/psychiatrist
 - Feeling as if care/help/resources disappear(s) once undergrads leave
 - Summertime, breaks, etc.

- Fr. Gerry mentioned Speakup.nd.edu
 - Students in the room seemed unsatisfied with this resource
- Fr. Gerry discussed the Office of Institutional Equity and mentioned that every Dean & Vice President is a mandatory reporter
- Fr. Gerry
 - How do we think about training faculty and staff
 - There are Anti-Retaliation laws at the University
- Adedoyin Okanlawon (*Psychology*)
 - The resources aren't necessarily helping
 - The experiences she's had have not been up to par
 - Cannot trust whatever system is in place
 - Erosion of trust between students & these resources
 - Not seeing a lot being done to build back up the trust
 - Vents or keeps it to herself
 - Knows at least 10 others in her department who have not had a good response or any at all
 - Adedoyin wants to make this clear that there is no trust between students and these processes.
- Fr. Gerry
 - The new executive director for DEI is to liaise with SpeakUp and help us think collectively about how we address this
- Another grad student mentioned how they don't want to use these resources if they'll see some of their students (undergraduates) feel they can't use the avenues they are given.
- Guest speaker Christine Caron Gebhardt (*Assistant Vice President Student Services, Student Affairs*)
 - Christine decided to listen rather than present at this particular meeting
- Montana Carlozo (*Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering*)
 - Was not happy about not being told that her psychiatrist was out (on an apparent leave, according to another student)
 - Students feel dismissed with UCC services & sent out the door quickly, not taken seriously, or feel they need to seek services somewhere else
- Most Grad students don't want to go to any place where undergrads will be
 - We don't get holidays or discounts (like undergrad do)
- Grace Bradley (*MBA Rep*)
 - Used SpeakUp and doesn't trust it
 - Used UCC when she was an undergrad here
 - Care & Wellness consultants helped her as an undergrad but not as a grad student
 - There is a problem with continuity of care
 - A student may have the energy to seek out help but it gets worse when the resources aren't helping
- Another grad student mentioned how their therapist was only there temporarily

- Communication was not there especially about the fact that their therapist was leaving
 - It feels as if the amount of University resources drops off when the undergrads are gone
 - The focus of the University feels to be heavily on the undergrads
- Barnabas
 - Wondered if anybody is taking minutes at this meeting
 - Noted that Christine is here to listen and get feedback
 - Noted there are many University committees that have GSG representation & they listen & discuss what is working & what isn't
- Christine mentioned that every one of the resources on campus such as UCC, UHS, McDonald Center for Student Well-Being, etc., has a place on their website for feedback. This feedback goes to the director. Christine meets with these directors regularly and they go over every single one of them. (submitted feedback)
 - Christine wants to hear what is happening. She's not sure what the solutions are but says we want to do better & she will sit down with her team.
 - She will make sure we don't decrease our hours, etc.
 - She's willing to come back here to these meetings
 - She's willing to have you make an appointment with her
- Edward Ablang (*Kroc Institute for International Peace*)
 - Student Health insurance is abysmal
 - Health insurance has been a grievance for myself & for others
- Guest speaker Jamila Lee-Johnson (*Assistant Dean for Inclusive Excellence, Graduate School*)
 - Jamila has been with the University for 4.5 months
 - Over the next year, planning some writing retreats with students holistically for mind, body & soul
 - Tea Time with me - what would you like the Graduate School to be doing
 - Teaching a class to undergrads to tell them about Graduate School
 - For her, DEI is everyday. Bring in speakers throughout the year not just in February for Black History Month
 - Plans to reach out to Alumni Office to bring in a former Grad student alum to share their experience
- A student mentioned that on IrishCompass there is no one even remotely close to Graduate School alums
- Etinosa Osaro (*GSG Academic Affairs Chair, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering*)
 - Would be interested in workshops
 - A DEI workshop rather than listening to someone speak
- Lauren Harewood (*GSG Social Chair, Physics*)
 - It would be good to have some general education among grad students regarding DEI, marginalized students, etc.

- Include faculty in these conversations as well
 - Adedoyin
 - Not sure how each of the DEI centers/areas are working.
 - Which office do we go to, this for this or you for this, etc.
 - If ND could clarify which resources/departments are for what
 - Some offices are resistant to DEI itself & the efforts
 - Another student asked in regards to DEI initiative, does it also include students with disabilities or just through Sara Bea?
 - Jamila Lee-Johnson
 - We can make sure we have everything included
 - Ariel Thelander (*GSG Co-VP, Chemistry & Biochemistry*)
 - Sara Bea is more for academic accommodations
 - They just route you back to your department & department routes you back to Sara Bea
 - Mimi Beck (*Director of Grad Student Life, GSG Advisor*)
 - Discrimination - Office of Institutional Equity
 - Subash Gamage (*former GSG President, Chemistry & Biochemistry*)
 - Asked Jamila if she is over admissions at all & wondered if ND can make departments more inclusive to accommodate graduate school programs as a whole
 - Ariel
 - (There is) Lack of a unified approach
 - Adedoyin
 - My department did a survey once (but not again) on climate
 - They didn't want to fix the issues so didn't offer it (the survey) again
 - Pranav Nalamwar (*Physics*)
 - It would be great if each department submits their information and students give new students some information so they know what things are like (ahead of time).
- Committee Reports (refer to agenda packet)
 - Social Committee Report was left out of packet in error
 - [Social Committee Report](#)
- Tatiana
 - The three guest speakers should be interacting with Graduate students in all areas
- Theo
 - We do have representation on University committees
 - Most of these committees are sat on by GSG Officers
- Ad hoc committee needed
 - Theo will send out an email
- Biology Department rep said there is a campus wide climate survey at the department level

- Theo
 - International stipends
 - There is an effort by the Graduate School to front load international stipends so that students can afford security deposits, etc that are generally needed ahead of time prior to arrival at campus
- Announcements
 - Mimi
 - The Graduate School will split the cost with the department if a student has trouble getting here. It must be requested. (this is the front-loaded stipends)
 - DeBartolo Performing Arts Center (DPAC) has Jesus Christ Superstar Sing Along next Thursday evening
 - Eclipse glasses available in the Grad Student Lounge
 - Check *The Stream* for applications for GRAND this Fall & the GO (Graduate Orientation) Team
 - Get your Easter Brunch Tickets now!
 - Highly recommend the Penn Resilience Program Workshop
- Theo
 - The GSG has 3 tickets running for election for 2024-2025!
- Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Meeting Links:

Reporting Concerns:

<https://president.nd.edu/reporting-concerns/>

Strategic Plan:

<https://studentaffairs.nd.edu/about/strategic-plan/>

<https://diversity.nd.edu/>

Feedback Links:

UCC:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScj7WuCAKY4HJQhtinIZcgCMXa_1WLjrpVuHZfJTA3tP71F0A/viewform

Support & Care:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScTPuqNwK3x89_0IKO3c8og29GNGyNV_COJlr8ZdbDBUDFgig/viewform