Welcome new members! Anyone not on the listserv?
- New members: Alec Wilken (OBA) and Laura Hunger

Presentation by Max Freedman (Law School, Grad Council -- our new Ombudsperson)
ombudsperson@uchicago.edu
What is the student ombudsperson?
UChicago created the office in the 60s -- a neutral student to help resolve conflicts & disputes between you (a student) & other students, faculty, staff, the university itself.
Confidential services! Unless you specify that the office can share your info, can't share it.
(except -- Title IX mandated reporter)

Example topics where this office can be useful:
-- politics of switching advisors, maybe switching topics -- you can ask the office of the ombudsperson to anonymously reach out on your behalf, e.g., to make overtures to the person whose lab you might want to join
-- asking anonymously about how to use bias response team, about accessing financial aid
Other things the office has heard in the last few years: peer disputes (incivility), issues with housing & dining access, help navigating disciplinary processes, issues with grades & transcripts, reports of unethical behavior, how to credit people when publishing, etc.

Cannot provide legal advice. Not a lawyer-client relationship.
Can help clarify issues & find the right place/people to go to, help figure out available options & strategies. Also can go & negotiate on behalf of a group of students who are all having the same issue.
Max Freedman is graduating this year -- if someone is interested in taking over this role, get in touch!

Note: for any case where you've spent DC money, including using the GEMS card, fill out the Reimbursement Form on the Dean's Council!!!
-- this is whether or not you need reimbursement!!!
If you hit submit at the bottom of the form, it should send to the people who need it (Melissa, co-treasurers).
Don't use the 'deposit' form -- it's on the old website! (If you see 'submit to Katie Barkley', it's the wrong form.)

- Updating the DC listserv
  - If you are interested in transitioning out of your role as a representative, please let us know so we can find a replacement
  - Member list is on website: https://voices.uchicago.edu/deanscouncilbsd/

- Dean’s Council Google Drive Folder
  https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/12r9A6xO1Iia1oMeEOZ74OkQnqQhzWluX

- Volunteering at the Chicago Food Depository for Autumn Quarter
  15 people had expressed interest, but then many had to back out because of increasing COVID concerns/other conflicts -- going to try again next quarter

- Student Mentor Guide (Devin)
  Want to keep updating the guide, make sure it's reflective of what students want & will be useful. Devin will be graduating & the other people who wrote it are no longer on Dean's Council. People send in comments to the alias if they have any. This maybe means no one has suggestions?
  Responsibilities: take over the alias email & keep track of feedback; present & explain the document to the first year cohort in their Ethics class.
  Get in touch with Devin if you want to be part of the team responsible for keeping this up-to-date!

- Dean’s Council Storage Locker
  Some expired items & some soda exploded, so it's currently a bit of a mess. Could use three people to clean it out & sort through what should stay in/get thrown out. (Including someone from equipment library team!)

- GEAC Application
  See Vicky Prince's email! 1 year position, positions for 4 students.
  Eligible to apply if you've passed your quals.

- Brittany & Sarah - Cultural Co-Chairs
Second City happy hour event: 25 people, sold subsidized tickets -- everything went smoothly, including handing out goody bags (included leftover Dean's Council beer & cider from the storage locker).
Need to work out how to transfer money to Melissa after people paid for tickets using venmo. This was also an issue in the past.

- Mira - Community Service Update (see above)
- Sandra - Newsletter Update
  Got a bit more engagement on this email than the previous month!
  Think it helped that it was shorter this month... (consensus that seems to be a good length)
- Meytal & Rosy - Treasury Update
  Still don't have update on Biophys allocations. Melissa has contacted them & is waiting for PSD approval.
  Updates are current on the budget sheet for last month (Nov)
  ...Except if you spent money for your program & haven't filled out the reimbursement form yet!!
- Jimmy and Ross - GRIT representatives
- Jin and Martin - Coffee hour (virtual)
  - Coffee hour organizer
  Has been happening every other week - every time they send email to Starbucks manager to request 25 vouchers, then distribute day before the 'coffee break'.
  Usually give all of them out each week
  Last week was before Thanksgiving -- not many attended. Had 11 left. Distributed for this week's instead.
  Jin will be leaving DC -- looking for replacement! (time commitment ~1hr every other week, split between 2 people.)
- Devin - Travel Fund
  Round just happened -- not funding actual travel this year, just registration fees, etc. & was on a shorter schedule than usual. Didn't have any new apps this round (was only open 4 weeks, shorter than usual).
  Did review some leftover applications from the previous cycle instead.
  Next time... give students longer to apply! (3 month window, etc.)
& expect ppl are getting used to attending online conferences, so there may be more apps in future.

Another point of feedback: add a question asking people's pronouns

- Soo Ji - Equipment Library
- Astra - Website
- Alexis and Sophia - GC

Update from recent Grad Council meetings: many depts & divisions have started new D&I programs - include new offices, hiring personnel...

Diversity Advisory Board: [https://voices.uchicago.edu/uchicagograd/2019/10/17/meet-the-uchicagograd-diversity-advisory-board-dab/](https://voices.uchicago.edu/uchicagograd/2019/10/17/meet-the-uchicagograd-diversity-advisory-board-dab/)

DAB runs a mentorship program for new students; it's cross-divisional (not just BSD) -- [https://college.uchicago.edu/student-services/maroon-mentors](https://college.uchicago.edu/student-services/maroon-mentors)

- Sports Chair: Open position available
- Program representative updates (how is your program doing/any ideas for activities/anything that DC can help with?)

Come up with a more formal onboarding procedure for new representatives? Because it's hard to understand where to find everything, how to submit forms, etc. without being told by the person you're replacing!