Dean’s Council Agenda (Thursday, May 13th, 2021)
4:30 pm CST

- Call for new Dean’s Council Chairs
  - Sarita and Nikita are stepping down (this will likely be our last meeting as chairs), so please let us know if you would like to be a chair, and send a blast to your programs!
  - Will need to have a vote of the membership to confirm. (Elected positions)
  - At a minimum: schedule & lead monthly meetings, create the agenda, facilitate planning events (send follow-up emails after the monthly meeting)
- GEMS Card Update
  - Current GEMS card has to be canceled (in case it's auto setup to pay and the person responsible just hasn't noticed)
  - Maintain current policy -- have to request use from Melissa for each purchase? Or purchase with own funds and submit reimbursement.
- If you are spending DC money, you must complete the following form and submit ALL receipts in a timely manner: https://voices.uchicago.edu/deanscouncilbsd/forms/
- Welcome new members! Anyone not on the listserv?
- Dean’s Council Meetings: 2nd Thursday of every month at 4:30 pm CST
  - Upcoming meetings scheduled for June 10, July 8, August 12
- 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
- Amruta, Kiseok, and Yichen - Travel Fund
  - Suggestions to improve the fund
  - Last round didn't receive any applications. Thoughts on what the barriers to applying might be: 1) only supports students who are presenting (poster or talk), can't support attendees. Might change to give presenting students higher priority, but allow consideration of attending students if there aren't many presenting students. 2) students can only be funded once during time in the program. Students may 'save it up' until their later years in the program. Could change to give first-time awardees highest priority. 3) virtual conferences cost a lot less than $500 that's currently allocated... could change to split the $500 into multiple smaller awards
  - Is there any historical data on when the drop-off happened? It used to be that we couldn't fund all the applicants -- most likely a COVID artifact.
• We typically fund to the amount available, so smaller awards would be funded up to that limit.
• "Travel Fund" name is a problem... we could change it to be "Research Conference Presentation Fund" or something like that. And allow people to request up to the amount they could use; we can fund less than that.
• Given that we can fund more people who are attending, we might be able to open up to re-applications for students that have already been awarded.
• Or we could say 'every student gets up to $500' and can spend it in multiple awards/application cycles, if they don't use it all on the first award.
• We'd need to track historical awarding a bit better.
• Currently, application is open twice a year (beginning of Fall & Spring quarters) -- could change it to every quarter rather than every 6 months?
  -- would need to be careful to weight the quarters' allocations based on how many applications typically get. Some quarters don't get as many applications.
  -- people might be applying more often now because the conferences are broadening their calls for abstracts, abstract windows
  -- process could always go back to only twice per year if it becomes overwhelming post-pandemic.
• Mira - Community Service Update
  • Volunteering at the Chicago Food Depository for Spring Quarter
  • Remote location volunteering is going well! Still working out the details for local (Hyde Park) volunteering.
• Brittany & Sarah - Cultural Co-Chairs
  • Second City Event went well, sold all the tickets & got good feedback
  • Chicago Food Tours: West Loop & Chinatown. (65/person for West Loop, 80 for Chinatown) Can book for a private event -- not sure whether the pricing changes. Days seem to be Fri, Sat, Sun. But might be able to choose for a private event. https://www.chicagofoodplanet.com/
  • we might ask for higher personal payments than for Second City - more like 20-25 paid by the student.
  • Probably want to send an interest survey to gauge interest first. (& check how much people are willing to pay -- in the 20-25 range?)
  • normally, the subsidy would be roughly half the price of the original ticket.
  • The University isn't with the CDC yet on in-person events... the guidelines haven't changed much recently. So this may be an event on the horizon.
• Sandra - Newsletter Update
  • Continue sending any updates!
• Meytal & Rosy - Treasury Update
  • just got the spring Q allocations; the budgets should be updated in the spreadsheet through April. If any questions, reach out to Meytal and Rosy!
Jimmy and Ross - GRIT representatives
- sounds like can't plan in-person events for end of year right now.
- GRIT partnering w Howard Brown to put on a South Side vaccination event! Originally planned & budgeted to be a one-shot event. (J&J vaccine) BUT we got a 2-shot event, so needs more budget
- what the budget is going towards: shuttles (biggest item - can be funded); food for volunteers (also fundable); goody bags for people getting vaccines (can't fund that from the general fund)
- transporting students can be funded, but transporting the community/giving goody bags would have to be donations/other funding sources.
- What about reaching out to Pritzker, med students?
- the med students actually get information about people in the UofC hospital treatment system who haven't signed up to get vaccines yet, so they can do outreach -- there's a transportation budget for this initiative! Meytal has names of people who are running that direct outreach work.
- CSW fund (Grad Council) can also fund community service events. Some of this might fall under that umbrella
- Martin & Hannah - Coffee hour (virtual)
  - going well -- got new iced vouchers that can be used for cold or hot beverages.
  - students have been using both the med campus and the Darwinian location drop-offs. Seems to be a good way to distribute more widely
  - What about setting up a similar voucher for Pret, since it's closer to the Darwinian buildings?
  - might be harder to distribute the vouchers if people have to choose Starbucks vs Pret as well...
  - but that could be a good cluster-specific event!
- Astra - Website
- Alexis and Sophia - GC
  - split from college council, so now grad programs have their own council.
  - got an increase in budget for next year, so hoping to be able to continue the funds that were established during pandemic when some more hybrid/in person events start up again.
- Soo Ji - Equipment Library
- Sports Chair: Open position available
- Program representative updates (how is your program doing/any ideas for activities/anything that DC can help with?)