Graduate Council Structure

- UChicagoGRAD Administrators
  - Martha Jackson
  - Trenity Tigner

- Jason Merchant  Vice Provost
- Brooke Noonan  Assistant Provost, Director of UChicagoGRAD Experience

- GC Co-Presidents

- Executive Team Members

- Divisional Representatives

- Non-Representative Committee Members
Graduate Council Executive Team Structure

**Operations**
- Rebecca Delay
  - VP of Internal Affairs
- Joseph Solis
  - VP of Marketing and Communications
- Bishwa Pandey
  - Parliamentarian

**Student Life**
- Olivia Pura
  - VP of Social Programming & Events
- Jo Griffin
  - VP of Community Initiatives
- Briana Banks
  - VP of Diversity & Inclusion
- Joe Reda / Sophia Horigan
  - VP of Health and Wellness

**Finance**
- Indranil Ghosh
  - VP of Research & Personal Development Fund
- Zhengyuan Ling
  - VP of Academic & Professional Fund
- Rupan Bharanidaran
  - VP of Community, Social & Wellness Fund
Graduate Council Through the Years

**2019-2020**
- Three fund committees and social committee
- Biweekly meetings, voting on legislation
- Very little programming

**2020-2021**
- Three fund committees, social, D&I, H&W, CI, M&C, and Executive VP
- Formalized BUILD act (split undergrad and grad states)
- Committees filled at the end of Fall Quarter
- Structural improvements, increase in programming despite pandemic; creation of new committees and revamping of funds

**2021-2022**
- Three fund committees, social, D&I, H&W, CI, M&C, Internal Affairs, GCE, and advocacy committee
- Formalized structure and bylaws post-BUILD act
- Committees filled at the beginning of Fall Quarter
- Major structural, financial, and organizational improvements (robust Google Drive); creation of sustainable processes
2021-2022 Updates

- Keeping up with the demand for graduate student programming/services
- Overcoming the ongoing challenges of communicating with divisions by creating new processes for disseminating information
  - Revamped M&C efforts
- Launch of an International Graduate Student Advisory Board (IGSAB)
- Safety and transportation response, survey, and analysis (report can be found on our website)
- Major changes, improvements and updates to GCwebsite (www.gc.uchicago.edu)
- Opportunity to formalize structure after split of undergraduate and graduate student councils
2021-2022 Updates

- Filled committees at the beginning of fall quarter
- Include committee members (non-divisional representatives in GC meetings)
- More hands-on mentorship/onboarding of divisional representatives and executive team members
- More intra-GC bonding events
Non-Exhaustive Event List 2021-2022

Fire and Ice
Fall Quarter Grad Gala
Activity Circles
All-Grad Families
Winter Quarter Rock Bottom Social
Spring Quarter MSI Gala
Plant Distribution Diva
Cup Distribution
Juneteenth Series of Events
D&I Book Distribution
Food security programming
Mental Health Awareness Week
Funds – A&P, CSW, and RPD
Graduate Liaison to Board of Trustees

Three Student Perspectives Series ("SPS") Meetings:
Topics are proposed by the graduate and undergraduate liaisons to the board of trustees, who then each select 3 - 4 students to join these conversations.
• Fall 2021: State of student mental health and wellbeing at the University
• Winter 2022: Safety and Transportation on Campus
• Spring 2022: Size of the College and the quality of undergraduate and graduate education

Two Student-Trustee Luncheons:
Each luncheon is planned with 30 students total in attendance - 20 selected from the graduate schools and 10 selected from the college
• Tuesday, May 3 2022: Craig J. Duchossois and Ashley D. Joyce
• Tuesday, May 24 2022: Emily Nicklin
## Representatives, Vote Distribution and Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>GC Seats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Booth</td>
<td>1339</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSD</td>
<td>1191</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSD</td>
<td>1144</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harris</td>
<td>959</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Humanities</td>
<td>738</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>657</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graham</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSD</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crown</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pritzker</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divinity</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PME</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>8235</strong></td>
<td><strong>33</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Allocation '21-22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research &amp; Personal Development Fund</td>
<td>$130,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic &amp; Professional Fund</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture, Social, &amp; Wellness Fund</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Programming &amp; Events</td>
<td>$140,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Initiatives</td>
<td>$26,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity &amp; Inclusion</td>
<td>$26,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Wellness</td>
<td>$26,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>$21,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$510,500</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose</strong></td>
<td>Internal Affairs works to build intra-GC community, keep updated spreadsheets for GC membership, assist in the dissemination of policy and benchmarks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Responsible</strong></td>
<td>The VP is responsible for facilitating communication and data sharing with divisional student governments and serving as Parliamentarian at all GC meetings and GC Exec meetings or securing replacement in advance in the event of absence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Initiatives</strong></td>
<td>Fostering and Building a community within Graduate Council with a positive energy and wide array of icebreakers and games, including a Grad Council / International House Social Mixer.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Internal Affairs Budget

Fall -
- GC Meetings - $2,475.67

Winter
- GC Meetings - $888.39
- Gifts/Office Supplies - $526.27

Spring
- GC Meetings (current) - $446.04
  - Two more meeting to be held 5/10 and 5/24
- GC/I-House Social - $1,314.12
### Marketing & Communications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>To advertise Graduate Council’s work and the brand itself to the general graduate student body</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Responsibilities | Promote GC programming  
Weekly Mass Communications  
Strengthen GC’s brand  
Social Media maintenance  
Website maintenance |
| Initiatives | - Weekly newsletter distributed to all graduate students  
- Establish new partnerships with stakeholders on campus to increase our reach  
- Publish success stories covering previous events and award recipients to increase interest in future events and funding applications |
A weekly newsletter system was established to reach all graduate students. The newsletter features GC programming, division-specific events, partners’ events and job opportunities.
The marketing committee created and published success stories on the graduate council’s website, which illustrated the initiatives from different organizations and individuals that received funding from the Council.

Success Stories

**LAW SCHOOL STUDENT**

ESERHAN ESER ATTENDS "THE MIDWESTERN LAW & ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE" (R&D FUND RECIPIENT)

Eserhan Eser, first year JSD Candidate at the University of Chicago Law School applied to the Research and Personal Development Fund for an academic conference in October. The Midwestern Law & Economics Association Annual Conference, which he recounts in a manner about initiatives in

**ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL FUND**

SUPPORTS THE 57TH CHICAGO LINGUISTIC SOCIETY CONFERENCE

The UChicago Grad Council’s Academic and Professional Fund helped the 57th Chicago Linguistics Society Conference. The event was hosted by the Chicago Linguistics Society, which is the largest annual meeting of linguists, scholars, and practitioners. The event was especially focused on hosting a big annual conference on linguistics with scholars, from all over the world, presenting and discussing research.
Through powerful visuals, events were constantly promoted on our social media outlets, leveraging some of their user experience capabilities such as highlights and stories. To diversify the content, we also included campus photography courtesy of current committee members.
## Academic & Professional Fund

**Budget:** $60,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>The A&amp;P Fund supports student-led programming for academic and professional development - such as conferences, guest lectures, discussion groups, and academic socials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Responsibilities | - Disburse a $60,000 budget for student-led programming  
- Utilize the system for individual reimbursements for small purchases  
- Organize and launch interdisciplinary academic initiatives  
- Coordinate finance operations required to process reimbursements and payments |
| Initiatives | - **Individual Reimbursement Process:**  
  ○ 50 events, 760 attendees, $45,000 disbursed  
- **Winter Graduate Academic Socials:**  
  ○ 20 events, 310+ attendees  
- **Computational Skills Training Initiative:** 150 attendees.  
- **[Upcoming] Grammarly Premium** for >1,000 students  
- **[Upcoming] Headspace Premium** for >500 students (in collaboration with H&W) |

All figures reported as of April 20, 2022
Academic & Professional Development Fund

**Student-led programming**
- Events funded included conferences, guest lectures, writing groups, and networking events
- Events: 15
- Participants: 3,000+
- Disbursed amount: $23,000+

**Graduate Academic Socials**
- Funding for food or books for people to virtually or in-person spend time with colleagues in academic and professional units in a more relaxed setting
- Events: 15
- Participants: 310+
- Disbursed amount: $5,000+

**Computational Skills Training Initiative (ongoing)**
- Python Course on EdX: **$15,000**
- Professional Instructor Compensation (for hosting office hours and customized lectures; all instructors are UChicago grad students): **$5,000**
- Participants: 150
- Instructors: 6
- Disbursed amount: **$15,000 + $5,000**

All figures reported as of April 20, 2022
Academic & Professional Development Fund

Fall
- Slow start due to in-person transitioning; 2 out of 2 applications approved (distributed $2,160)

Winter
- Graduate Academic Socials: 21 out of 39 applications approved (unapproved applicants referred to CSW Fund for better matching)
- 11 out 15 of applications approved (distributed $16,825)

Spring
- (ongoing review) 2 out 4 of applications approved (distributed $4,000)
- Computational Skills Training Initiative:
  - Guided Python Course, 150+ participants, 6 instructors, $20,000.
- Grammarly Premium membership [upcoming]: 1,000 students, $7,000
- Headspace Premium membership [upcoming]: 500 students, $4,500 ($2,500 from H&W)

Summary
Total funds disbursed: $56,985
Remaining funds: $60,000 - $56,985 = $3,015
Final Date to Apply: May 23, 2022
95% of A&P-funded events this year were open to more than one graduate division.
A&P Fund: Graduate Academic Social Applications

Number of Academic Socials Application per Division

[Bar chart showing the number of applications per division, with SSD having the highest and Divinity and Graham having the lowest.]
A&P Fund: Computational Skills Training Applications

Number of Computational Skills Training Enrollment per Division
## Community, Social, & Wellness Fund

*Budget: $70,000*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Purpose</strong></th>
<th>The CSW Fund provides funding for graduate student groups and organizations at the University of Chicago to plan and host events and programming that promote community-building and wellness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Responsibilities</strong></td>
<td>The CSW Fund serves graduate students as a source for community-building, social connection, and emotional support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Initiatives</strong></td>
<td>This year provided a great opportunity to come up with new and creative ideas through strategic partnerships</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Encourage collaboration between different graduate divisions on campus**

**Helped support initiatives led by the International Graduate Student Advisory Board and Diversity Advisory Board**
Community, Social, & Wellness Fund

Fall
● 13 applications approved for $22,410

● Events included Diwali Night, a Latin American Thanksgiving celebration, and wellness initiatives including yoga and rock climbing
● CSW also supported the Social Impact Summit and provided funding for the International Graduate Student Advisory Board and Diversity Advisory Board

Winter
● 11 applications approved for $17,271

● Events included the graduate student blood drive competition, a lunar new year celebration, technology conference, wellness talks, and much more
Community, Social, & Wellness Fund

Spring
- 4 applications approved for $8,513
- Events include student softball league, CPR classes, Ramadan Iftar dinners, networking events, and graduation socials
- Helped support Grad Council’s Spring Formal by subsidizing 100 additional tickets
- Three more funding deadlines this quarter, so we expect most of our funding to be used up by the end of the quarter

2021-2022 Academic Year
- 28 applications approved thus far for $48,195 total funding (68% of CSW Fund budget)

All figures reported as of April 8, 2022
Community, Social, & Wellness Fund

Number of Approved Applications by Division

- Pritzker: 7
- Harris: 7
- Booth: 6
- Grad Council: 6
- Social Sciences: 5
- Crown: 2
- Pritzker Molecular: 2
- Physical Sciences: 2
Purpose

This fund incorporated the personal development (PD) aspect at the onset of the pandemic. This year, travel restrictions were lifted and the fund operated to allow both travel and PD aspects.

Responsibilities

As COVID restrictions eased, the traveling aspect for research conferences were back in the scope of the fund. Also, research projects and internships were brought into the fold of the fund.

Research Fund:
- In-person and virtual conferences registration/attendance fees, membership fees.
- Traveling for research projects and internship.
- Food, airfare, car and gas, lodging for travel were covered, just like during pre-COVID.

Personal Development Fund:
- Online courses, certifications, or bootcamps for building a certain skill or generating knowledge
- Licenses for research tools or software
- Professional networking events
- With these awards, we encouraged creativity and aimed to be flexible

Initiatives

Budget: $110,000
Research & Personal Development Fund

- Budget: $110,000.
- Max Values:
  - Research Awards (Travel): $600 if presenting, $300 if not.
  - Research Awards (Non-Travel): $300 if presenting, $200 if not.
  - Personal Development Awards: $300
- 271 awards approved worth almost $120,500 (Average Value = $444.6)
Research & Personal Development Fund

27th September to 15th April, 2022: (Budget: $110,000)
Applications approved worth $120,500 (overshot budget)
Reimbursements approved: $61,650 (much below budget).
Plan on setting aside $30,000 for the summer awards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Approved</th>
<th>Total Rejected</th>
<th>Forfeited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>271</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Travel continues to draw the most funding: $87,000
Pritzker ($26,400) and SSD ($24,800) received the most funds.

- Pritzker (13.3%), Humanities (5.6%), and SSD (4.31%) received the most awards as a percentage of their graduate unit population

- 2.61% University of Chicago graduate students have received RPD Funding in 2021-2022
# Health & Wellness Committee

**Purpose**
The Health & Wellness Committee is committed to improving the wholistic wellness of graduate students by creating interactive programming and providing wellness-related resources.

**Responsibilities**
- Generate graduate student-wide wellness programming
- Foster and utilize connections with existing wellness institutions across campus
- Oversee a cross-division committee of students passionate about health & wellness

**Budget:** $26,500

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Health</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Menstrual Health Initiative, Food Security Programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mental/Emotional Health</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Plant Parents @ UChicago, Headspace, Emotional Mutual Aid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Menstrual Health Initiative

- Free reusable menstrual products for students
- Partnership with DivaCup and GladRags, including virtual employee-led training sessions

Over 400 products distributed
Plant Parents @ UChicago

- **600 kits** included a **new plant**, a **decorative pot**, and a bright white **light bulb** that supports the student and the plant.
- Partnership with **local nursery, Growers Outlet** for plant acquisition.
- Distribution acquainted hundreds of students with the new **Graduate Student Lounge**.
- Upcoming **repotting event** to take place **May 12th** on campus with distributed soil.
Additional Programming

**Food Security Panels**

- Panel topics: meal-prepping, local grocery stores, food security resources on campus
- Free meal for students

Collaboration with **Center for Identity and Inclusion**

**Emotional Mutual Aid**

- Pandemic-themed community emotional support session with supervising psychologist from UChicago Counseling
- Similar event following loss of student last year discussing safety and anxiety around it
- Prizes, food, structured sharing

Collaboration with **UChicago Counseling**
Budget & Impact

Budget = $26,500

- Menstrual Health = $6,000
- Plant Parents = $8,000
- Food Panels = $1,000
- Emotional Mutual Aid = $500
- Committee Compensation = $2,000
- *Plant Repotting Event = $2,500
- *Headspace Memberships = $2,500
- *Additional Wellness Giveaways = $4,000

Projected Total Spending = $26,500

Total number of students served = ~1100

- 400 menstrual initiatives
- 600* plant parents
- 60 food programming
- 20 EMA
- 12 committee members

*Not including everyone who shares space with new plant :)
### Social Programming & Events

**Budget:** $170,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>The Social Programming &amp; Events Committee is committed to growing campus-wide community by organizing and hosting large-scale events for UChicago graduate students.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Responsibilities | ● Host at least one large-scale social event per quarter, open to students in all Divisions  
● Foster community across the entire graduate student body  
● Provide more affordable opportunities for both casual and semi-formal outings in the Chicago area |
| Initiatives | ● **Gargoyle Gala**  
  ○ 1,000 attendees, ~500 on waitlist  
● **Rock Bottom Social**  
  ○ 1,000 attendees, ~300 on waitlist  
● **[Upcoming] Spring Soirée: Night at the Museum**  
  ○ 1,684 attendees, ~650 on waitlist |
Social Programming & Events (SP&E)

Fall - Gargoyle Gala
- $60,000 budget allocation
- $95,000 spent - $39,000 earned (ticket sales) = $56,000 net spent

Winter - Rock Bottom Social
- $32,000 budget allocation
- $56,000 spent - $24,000 earned (ticket sales) = $32,000 net spent
- Received $30,000 total budget reallocation to accommodate high interest

Spring - Spring Soirée [UPCOMING]
- $80,000 budget allocation
- Projected to remain within budget
SP&E - Gargoyle Gala Attendees by Division

1,000 Attendees
SP&E - Rock Bottom Attendees by Division
SP&E - Spring Soirée Attendees by Division

1,684 Attendees
SP&E in Photos
### Community Initiatives

**Purpose**
Community Initiatives facilitates community building across the graduate student body with each other and with Chicago and Hyde Park.

**Values**
- Build connections with the surrounding nine neighborhoods
- Prioritize investing in locally owned businesses
- Connect students across divisions

**Initiatives**
- Kickstarted clubs which met consistently instead of only planning individual events
- Prioritized investing in local businesses for food and supply purchases

**Budget:** $35,000
Programming Overview

- **Activities Circles (225 people):** inter-school clubs centered around activities like climbing, fiction book clubs, and fiber arts

- **Graduate Families (225 people):** inter-school social groups centered around Chicago neighborhoods

- **Fire Event (150 people):** Food trucks, plants, and summer games

- **Ice Event (200 people):** Ice skating, 90s tunes, cupcakes, churros and hot cocoa

- **Chicago Neighborhood Tours (180 people):** 6 trolley trips to 3 different Chicago neighborhoods

- **Celebrating the South Side (400 people):** South Side jazz ensemble and 8 family owned restaurants
Fire & Ice: 350 people
- **Activities Circles + Graduate Families:** both spent below projected levels due largely to a combination of cold weather and COVID restrictions

- **Neighborhood Trolleys + Celebrate South Side** are both projected expenses and will utilize the remainder of our budget
Divisional Participation

Total Summed Divisional Participation
(across all events and groups)
## Diversity and Inclusion

**Budget:** $26,500

### Purpose
The Diversity and Inclusion Committee of Grad Council has a mission to curate and promote an inclusive and diverse environment through the four pillars: **infrastructure, community, people, and climate**

### Responsibilities
- Foster inclusive spaces throughout campus
- Curate programs and workshops that celebrate diversity
- Provide platforms where students feel seen, heard, and understood

### Initiatives

#### People:
- Navigating Wellness as a URM student Workshop
- Anti-racist book distribution

#### Infrastructure:
- Inclusive pedagogy workshop for Faculty and TAs
- GC Student Cultural Spotlight

#### Community:
- UC Juneteenth 2022
  - Allyship
  - Fellowship
  - Speaker Series
Programmatic Overview and Budget Spent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People</th>
<th>Infrastructure</th>
<th>Community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Navigating Wellness as a URM student Workshop</td>
<td>Inclusive Pedagogy Workshop</td>
<td>UC Juneteenth 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-racist book distribution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Spent</th>
<th>Budget Spent</th>
<th>Budget Spent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$6,500</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$17,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Book Distribution Initiative

6 books, 50 copies per book = 300 books distributed to graduate students across divisions
UC Juneteenth 2022

**Building Allyship**
Anti-racist Workshop at Dusable Musuem
History of Juneteenth Panel at Dusable Museum

**Fellowship**
Black@UC Fellowship Mixer at the Center for Identity and Inclusion

**Dynamic Black Women Speaker Series**
A Conversation with Dr. Eve Ewing at International House
A Conversation with Valerie Jarrett at International House

Join us in a series of events designed to build allyship, create community spaces for Black students, staff, and faculty, and highlight Black excellence.

Full schedule at gc.uchicago.edu/juneteenth