

## Executive Report

NAGPS Midwest Regional Conference  
March 24 – 26, 2006  
Notre Dame University  
South Bend, Indiana

Goal: Get involved with NAGPS, connect with other graduate leaders, and gain insights.

### Summary:

We rented a car from Cleveland and drove approximately 4 hours to Notre Dame. We met-up at the Registration and Cocktail reception. There were approximately 22 NAGPS members present. This meeting was the annual Midwest Regional Conference – and it was noted by others present that Case has not been represented at NAGPS meetings for a few years. We were able to meet other leaders at the cocktail reception.

We received information on NAGPS sponsored student health insurance programs (see attached flyer). Other suggestions included finding corporate sponsorships for our GSS. Additionally, we need to begin celebrating the Graduate Student Appreciation week. There are other ways we can plug-in to the national advocacy scene. Also, we will renew participation in the OGC – Ohio Graduate Council, which is an assemblage of the presidents and chairs of the various graduate student senates/associations/unions in Ohio.

One of the presentations focused on the need to encourage breaking down disciplinary silos. This can give insight and provide opportunities for collaboration. This workshop was productive and allowed us to see that many graduate student bodies face the same difficulties we do.

Encouraging participation in reading groups can occur through increasing the accessibility and ease of participation. Not overburdening graduate students facilitates participation.

We presented our self-review and strategic plan process. The description of our process was very useful for other program participants, who mentioned wanting to undergo a similar process. We encouraged those present to visit our website.

At the Regional Business Meeting a call for nominations was held. Liz Linares will be the new Midwest Regional Coordinator, making her a member of the NAGPS Executive Committee. Also, Case Western Reserve University will be the host of next year's Regional Conference in March 2007.

Goals for the coming year in NAGPS are: double membership base; increase participation in lobby days; initiate a NAGPS self-review and strategic plan; and continue advocating for improved representation of graduate student needs.

We returned on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> having successfully represented the GSS and with strengthened networks.

This report is respectfully submitted to the GSS Executive Committee by Liz Linares, Saad Alkazemi, and Michael Rueschman. 26 March 2006.