

Updates:

GSS Picnic Tomorrow, 5/4, on Freiburger field.

Diekhoff award winners are Richard Hanson from Biochemistry and Richard Boyatzis from Organizational Behavior.

Campus Center, Graduate Student Focus Group: The office of student affairs is looking for 10-15 graduate students to form a focus group to solicit ideas for the new Campus Center. Contact Jeremy Heilman (jah44@case.edu) for more information.

Denise Douglas was been awarded the Women of Professional Excellence by the YWCA!

Committee Updates:

Transportation: Jimmy reviewed the situation. Motion to hold a referendum in the fall to institute a mandatory \$25 pass, which carried with three dissenting votes. Since the constitution and bylaws have no mention of holding a referendums, a second motion was made to require a 2/3 majority for the referendum to pass. This motion also passed.

**NOTES: pursuant to the discussion in the 4/26 exec meeting, this approval by the senate will require the exec committee to organize and advertise the referendum in the fall of 2007.

ITS: SIS system is being demoed, and it looks nice. Not \$426/year nice, but nice. In first form it will replace solar for online class registration. It will also house a graduate student's program of study, which can be used to schedule courses,

ITS rolled out its new five year strategic plan, which doesn't have the same obvious improvement goals as the previous plan, but maintains current core services.

A new SSN policy (final draft web location unknown) has been drafted and presented to Provost. It takes a hard line against unwarranted use of the SSN as an identifier, but liberally allows use when alternatives are lacking. Simply, it's a step in the right direction, and at least we will have IDs separate from the SSN, but will not be adamantly enforced unless we keep pressure on.

Research Committee: The High Performance computing cluster (HPC) is online and growing. Students may gain use it for research. This requires their advisor to create an account with the HPC. Contact Roger Bielefeld.

Data and Analytical services is a student-accessible web-based oracle for \$25 that provides, well, I don't know what it provides. I couldn't find a website.

Health Committee: Survey on enforcing smoking ban is open. The committee is leaning toward total ban, so dissenting opinions should make their voices heard.

Health care premiums will increase 12% in fall 2007 (roughly \$110/yr). Adding dental coverage has been shelved for political and cost reasons, but vision will likely appear in a year for about \$10/yr.

Health center is looking in to granting physicals for dependents, which currently have no such coverage under our plan.

Currently, there are some options for reduced vision coverage at <http://www.caseeyes.com/index2.html>

NAPGS: Health care is available for NAGPS associated schools. "Student basic" health care plan is around \$850/year, individual opt-in, and other coverage options exist. More information, including

premiums for spouse and dependents, www.studentresources.com. Search for student plans affiliated with NAPGS. Graduate Leverage (www.graduateleverage.com) has information regarding student loan lender scandals, with help to navigate the loan process.

Patrick Keelber from the Career Center: Programs and services most often used by grads: Career counseling and Assessment Activities. Job search, incl. interviewing, CV development. Special programs, incl. department oriented visits. Over summer, their web offerings will include grad student resources. Suggestions include cataloging TA opportunities for people headed to academia. CV building (from an early stage) instead of CV writing. Get the career center into the departments, perhaps during a seminar. Can provide guest speakers. Opening career fair up with more grad student options, or push grads into company visits. Actively searching for companies that are looking for PhDs, (oversought by employee relations). Finding a better “in” than online portals or career fairs. Develop and inroad to hook students in and develop personal interactions. Have information on what people are making in similar fields.

Campus safety and VT tragedy: Suggest develop a campus cell phone registry to alert people in the event of crisis. Presidents want a grad/pro student to sit on security advisory committee. R.S. will set up a forum to discuss this electronically. This can be found at <http://forum.case.edu/read/11/19423>