



President's Report to the Senate

Senate Meeting, October 19, 2016

Rajesh Kumar, GSO President

Graduate Student Representatives on Search Committees

Chancellor Syverud announced Chief Financial Officer Search Committee members on 27th September (see [memberslist](#)). No student representatives were included in the search committee disregarding the transparency and shared governance concepts. Similarly, the administration did not include any graduate student representatives on the search committee for the senior vice president for enrollment and the student experience. This issue was brought before the Chancellor and he acknowledged the importance of having graduate student representatives on search committees and made necessary arrangements for a GSO representative to meet all the candidates of the CFO position. Additionally, the Chancellor reassured us that the oversight will not occur in future, and that there will be graduate student representatives on all important search committees.

Off-campus Housing and Safety

The Chancellor has tasked Peter Vanable, Dean of Graduate School to work on the issues of off-campus housing and safety in consultation with Provost Wheatly and in collaboration with the GSO. The Graduate School and the GSO found that the Office of Off-campus and Commuter Services (OCCS) has plenty of information on housing locations, housing costs, lease agreements, landlords etc. which never gets shared with the incoming graduate students through a proper channel. It was also found that some schools (iSchool and Newhouse) collaborate with OCCS to provide important and sufficient information related to housing and safety whereas the remaining schools & departments does not provide adequate information. Another problem is that the circulated information are inconsistent from school to school, for example, OCCS advises students NOT to sign the lease without looking at the property, whereas iSchool suggests to sign the lease as soon as possible. The GSO is working with the Office of Graduate School, OCCS, and Office of Graduate Enrollment to figure out the best possible way to inform incoming graduate students on the off-campus housing and safety.

Review of Career Services for Graduate Students

The GSO insisted to get a timeline on the review of career service for graduate students. Chancellor Syverud tasked the Dean of Graduate School to consult with Provost Wheatly and possibly form a working group to look into the issue and find out what is desired for the development of career services. We will keep the Senate posted on further updates.

Graduate Student Employee Benefits (Health Insurance, Minimum Stipend, Assistantship Types)

Health insurance of graduate student employees is still being discussed. University Administration is still gathering the data to carry out cost-benefit analysis of viable options. As soon the options are available for discussion with supporting data, the board will bring it before the senate. Data on minimum stipend and types of assistantships has been requested from Interim CFO and will be provided to the GSO committee on Graduate Employment Issues.