



## **Graduate Student Representative's Report to the Board of Trustees**

Executive Committee Meeting, December 6, 2013

Patrick Neary, President of the Graduate Student Organization

### **Successful Events and Graduate Appreciation**

The GSO has put on a variety of successful events over the course of November. Before the Thanksgiving break, the Inn Complete hosted one of the largest beer tastings we have held, attracting roughly 200 graduate students. We are looking forward to a final wine tasting on the evening of December 6, a star event that typically fills the Inn Complete to capacity. In addition, during the last week of classes, we have donuts and coffee on the quad, to help grad students in the last week. This event is highly attended and very cost effective, while also promoting graduate students to the campus at large. We often have many undergraduates and faculty asking about our tables, helping to raise the visibility of our student population on campus.

### **Open Forum**

The GSO held an open forum on November 6 to discuss the priorities of the GSO and a potential student fee increase. The fee increase was not met with opposition. A lively discussion was had concerning the direction the GSO should take, both fiscally and strategically. Unfortunately, low attendance prevents us from making any sweeping generalizations based on the forum. We are encouraging our Senators to reach out to their departments to gather additional data for us.

### **National Association of Graduate-Professional Students**

Two members of the GSO attended the 2013 National Conference of the NAGPS. This organization brings together GSOs from across the nation and creates a forum to discuss best practices, organizational successes, and find solutions to common problems. NAGPS also represents graduate students in Congress, and negotiates financial benefits with national insurance companies, etc, for all grad students nation-wide. Our representatives always bring home many good ideas and strategies from these conferences, and this was no different. I am excited to implement a number of efficiency improvements and negotiating positions. Peta Long, a University Senator, is looking forward to setting up a committee and action group to work on social justice issues at the university. Overall, we are very happy to be a member of NAGPS.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to reporting our activities into the new year.