Town Hall- Graduate Student Council Meeting  
October 8, 2014  
Meeting begins at 2:30 PM on October 8, 2014.

Sammy Hoi gives presentation to the graduate students in attendance.  
Overview of presentation: What I Promised (Who I Am / How I Work)

- Student Focused  
  - Team Focused  
  - Clarifying  
  - Pragmatic Idealist  
  - Change Agent  

- Aligned Goals (First-year work plan)  
  - Plans leading to Goals  

- Goals: Long Term  
  - Leading 21st Century Art and Design Education  
  - Premier National and International Appeal for MICA  
  - Renowned City/College Strategy and Action  
  - Sustainable Operation/Best Practices  
  - Undisputed MICA Value in Education and ROI  
  - Model Cost Relationship with Students and Families  
  - One Team Campus Community in Spirit and Action  

- Leadership Evolution VIA First-Year Work Plan  
  - 3 months / 6 months / 1 year  
    - Promise > Faith > Trust  
    - Alignment > Collaboration > Team  
    - Knowledge > Understanding > Vision  
    - Honoring Legacy > Test Action > New Momentum  

Questions/Comments regarding presentation:

- Concerns are expressed regarding Fiscal Compensation. There is a lack of transparency relating to the budget and also a lack of dialogue for students questions.  
  - Possible solutions are to improve the lack of transparency and dialogue by addressing student questions more honestly, allowing more opportunities for dialogue participation, enhancing communication as well as create more of an understanding all while working towards a one team approach.  

- Interests are expressed about entrepreneurial training and experiencing in order to better prepare students for graduation and their chosen career fields.
- Possibilities of building a stronger sense of entrepreneurship for students by collaborations with the provosts, deans, career development, etc. through workshops pertaining to the markets that the grad students will be entering.

**Introductions by Gwynne Keathley of those in attendance for the panel as well as the Graduate Student Council Leadership Board.**

The structure and agenda for the meeting is briefly described.

**ID Access Issues:**

- We would like to acknowledge the difficulties students had at the beginning of the semester with regard to the IDs and access to spaces. Issues with IDs appear to be systematic and have been seemingly unresolved since they first appeared this past winter. We are aware that many students are frustrated by the situation and we understand that interactions between students and Campus Safety have not always been positive or productive. To that note, we would like to work with Campus Safety to address the current ID card issues, while also developing a plan to resolve future issues in a timely and productive manner.

- **Responses:**
  - An apology is expressed for the lack of communication, access issues, delay of results, and lack of information provided.
  - An explanation is made of the internal issues within Campus Safety about transitions of faculty/staff over the summer as well as system errors.
  - Moving forward there will be regular maintenance to the systems, hardware, and software in order to clean up existing data, streamline the system, and improve the overall functioning of the current system.
  - Through these actions the system will be more effective and efficient. This will also be achieved through meeting with representatives of different undergraduate and graduate departments in order to identify the specific needs of each program/department.
  - Also, there will be an overall audit of the current system concerning access level credentialing, member classification, etc.
  - If this issue were to arise again in the future, Campus Safety is working to clear up the lines of communications with students as well as making sure that the most accurate and recent information is being relayed.
  - They are also working to build new procedures around new and existing buildings, renovations, space modifications in order to further address which students should have access to which spaces.
Suggestion is made of Campus Safety’s interest in a undergraduate and graduate “ID Card Access Roundtable” in order to address campus wide issues as well as brainstorm for the most effective and efficient solutions.

Moving forward, Campus Safety is working to make the system “so easy that anyone could use it” in order to avoid the previous issues of “loss of knowledge” during transitional periods of staff and faculty.

Some of these phases are near completion but others are more long-term plans.

Campus Safety expressed that they are very open to suggestions and feedback from Graduate Students in order to help improve the current and future situations. Also, Campus Safety is working with the Graduate Studies Office in order to further identify issues.

Building Accessibility:

- There have been many concerns about the accessibility of MICA buildings for students with disabilities.
  - MICA Place only has handicap accessibility to the basement but the student and workspaces are located on the 2nd and 4th floors of the building.
  - In 1801 there is only one exit on the ground floor that is only accessible by entering the Rinehart program space, all other exits from the ground floor must be accessed by elevator or stairs.
  - There are no automatic doors in the Lazarus center for handicap accessibility.
  - The frequent disruption in elevator service in the Lazarus Center also raises concern for the students with disabilities and their ability to access the different floors of the building, including the lower level Leidy Gallery.
  - The Dolph Building is not handicap accessible, preventing students with physical disabilities from utilizing the space.

Can you please speak to these concerns and provide a history or context for MICA’s stance on addressing these issues.

- Clarification is made that MICA has only built five buildings on their own, the rest are previous buildings that were adapted for use by MICA.
- An explanation is made about how MICA looks at the code requirements of accessibility for Baltimore and how those codes pertain to MICA buildings. Also, each building goes through access reviews of these requirements each year.
- MICA is working to relocate and adapt spaces but it is a long transitional period.
- As for the issue of the non-existent handicap access button for the Lazarus Center, the rebuttal is that through the design renovation of the building that the access
button’s physical location would be too far away from the door that it would control. Instead, the decision was made to comply with the “8 pound” door weight that is the code requirement.

- In addressing the issues of MICA Place accessibility and availability/scheduling of shuttle runs to and from MICA Place, Transportation is willing to work with students in order to further customize and shape the schedules as well as finding affordable ways of expansion.
- There is an explanation of the collaboration with Johns Hopkins in order to allow MICA students access to their modes of transportation.
- Actions have already been made to open up communication with residents of MICA Place in order to balance the greatest level of needs.
- It is expressed by Transportation office that these students concerned with the transportation issues should directly contact the transportation coordinator as well as more graduate student involvement in the Transportation Committee.
- A further explanation is made about how MICA collaborates not only with Johns Hopkins, University of Baltimore, etc. but also with the city offices of transportation in order to address issues of safety and other issues in hopes of further shaping and influencing the city decisions to support MICA needs.

Diversity:

- Can you please provide information on MICA’s past initiatives to increase diversity on campus and MICA’s future strategies and goals to diversify the student, faculty, and staff populations?
- The topic of Diversity is now passed on to GSC Diversity sub-committee. Statistics are presented and the need for more transparency is introduced. A request is made for more accurate and updated information. Also, the need is expressed for an exploratory committee of student and faculty representatives in order to take actions to improve the diversity at MICA.
- Responses:
  - Ray Allen explains his personal experience at MICA and the past actions taken to achieve more diversity. In the past, MICA collaborate with various companies that provided grants for artists of diversity to attend the college but unfortunately at the time, MICA had a policy where they did not hire graduates of the college. Explanations are also made about how the market of hiring artists of diversity works as well as how competitive it has become. Also, it is clarified that ultimately students are accepted to MICA based upon the quality of their work and artist portfolios.
  - Sammy Hoi suggests that a task force in a very effective way to proceed. Also, he suggests that since diversity is such a broad and rich term that it should be defined specifically for
what would like to be achieved specifically at MICA and how diversity is encapsulated at MICA.

- It is explained that the goal for students when they come to MICA is that a mutual commitment is made stating that the students time at MICA will be beneficial and fruitful; but this can not be achieved unless MICA is a place where students feel comfortable, cherished, and valued. This applies not only to students of diversity but to all the students in attendance.

- An explanation is made about the positive impact on diversity that has been made through community engagement (i.e. community engagements that grew into graduate programs and programs that are now aimed towards how art and design are involved in the diverse community).

- Moving forward, faculty and administration are very willing to be participants of a Diversity Committee in order to further explore these current issues as well as develop more cohesive and effective ways in which to further improve. It is expressed that these groups and committees are only as effective as the level of student involvement through feedback, clarification of wants and needs as students of diversity, as well as through continuation of these groups as new students arrive and other students graduate.

**Exhibitions:**

- By consistently showcasing the talent of the student body, MICA has the opportunity to further solidify itself as an essential part of the artistic center of Baltimore and the United States. We would like to work with MICA to find solutions to student concerns about the public accessibility of exhibition space as well as the limited exhibitions space able to accommodate work in all mediums.

- The topic of Exhibitions is now passed on to the GSC Exhibitions Sub-committee. The representatives read a letter of proposals that was dispersed to the members of the panel.

**Responses:**

- Agreements are expressed that it would be very beneficial to find not only more spaces, but also spaces that will be able to accommodate all mediums.

- Addressing the issue of continual showing of Graduate student’s work, it is brought to attention that there are graduate program shows that span the entire academic year leading up to the spring thesis shows.
• Exhibitions explains the overall expansion of gallery spaces from six to fourteen over the years but also that they are continually working to achieve access to more spaces. Also, the ideas of student run spaces as well as professional development spaces are strongly supported.

• Clarifications are made pertaining to the “hallway spaces” that are often used for exhibitions. These spaces are opened up to exhibitions in order to provide not only more exposure for students but to also draw more public interaction into the galleries that might not be as centrally located.

• Pertaining to the issues of lack of show proposals for the available spaces, it is understood that it is difficult to proposed to show in a certain space that would not accommodate all mediums. Therefore, students should explore spaces that would serve well to exhibit their artwork.

• There is a discussion of forming “pop-up” galleries. Many issues concerning security, stability, professionalism, as well as space availability arise.

• Ideas of collaboration between programs, as well as community collaboration, are strongly supported. Through these collaborations, more spaces could become available as well as more opportunities for shows with longer durations or larger scale shows.

• Moving forward, the GSC sub-committee is encouraged to being meeting directly with the Exhibitions faculty in order to address these current issues as well as find resolutions.

Due to time constraints, the meeting is brought to a close. For those in attendance who had further questions or comments, it is encouraged that they fill out the comment cards as well as post their concerns on the GSC Forum.

Closing remarks and thanks are made by Gwynne Keathley and Sammy Hoi.