Welcome Back!

Introduction of GSC leaderboard board (Ashely Cone, Hoffberger/Heather Braxton, PEM/Nasreen Zakariya, PEM).

Morgan Kempthorn fills in for Patti, with an update:

- Undergraduate and graduate students working with graduate studies office and staff from operations and staff from learning resource center to address overall concerns of facility accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

- List is being compiled of items that need to be addressed and their costs, which are being prioritized by what is possible and if there is funding to address these items and items that are not possible. The budget timeline is for March-April. Gwynne is interested in turning this into a mica collegiate initiative.

Nasreen Zakariya gives an update:

- Received a breakdown of the history of the id card system from Stephen Davis during the ID Card Workgroup in early January.

- Campus Safety is working on creating documentation to maintain system which alleviates any issues if staff changes occur and has limited the number of people who have access to make changes to the system.

- One issue that will be addressed over the summer is to purge old data from the system in order for the system to run more smoothly.

- Discussion arises on whether it’s possible not to have ID card access turned off during winter break? Morgan provides explanation that it is a flaw in the system that a lot of dates were set based on academic calendar based on undergraduate dates.

- Discussion on issues arising with campus safety not responding to student issues with ID access in the building. Campus safety has been contacted by students without any success.

- Suggestion to bring up issue at town hall or to bring a strong appeal with testimonies to Campus Safety.
• Discussion on issues arising with card readers in the GradLab but Campus Safety does not address it until numerous students email the GradLab with complaints on getting access to the GradLab

Nasreen will be graduate point of contact for ID Card issues. Request more transparency from Campus Safety on how they are resolving issues and what is their timeline for resolving issues.

Kurt Oster fills in for Alanna Purdy:

• Power and Equity forum brought up issues of diversity at last town hall meeting with President Hoi, following with the creation of the Diversity and Equity forum.

• At last meeting of Diversity and Equity forum, name was changed to Power and Equity to better accommodate the needs of its constituents. The last meeting did include a majority of undergraduate staff as well as faculty and graduate students and more graduate students from the GSC as well as representatives from each graduate department are encouraged to attend or to sign up through listserv to receive updates.

• President Hoi's response to BSU and MFACA's letter.

President Hoi has addressed diversity and MICA’s recent hate-bias incident that occurred on campus that was directed at the Black population at MICA's Board of Trustee' meetings. The Board of Trustees were very receptive and will provide a formal response letter in the following weeks. A follow up meeting of the Board of Trustees will be next week and a faculty and staff meeting on Feb 11 will garner more support around this topic.

President Hoi and Board of Trustees is gathering feedback from graduate and undergraduate communities with the intention to create a sustainable long term dialog that seeks more specific input from the different departments. including a focus on creating a more diverse administration.

A series of action steps have been created including a short term action group, long term action groups and a series of diversity initiatives that will occur on campus.

Request for information to be posted on GSC forum so information can be relayed to individual graduate programs as updates occur and to garner interest in the diversity initiative.

• Reminder of upcoming Intersectionalities workshops on February 13, March 13, and April 10 which is facilitated by Kalima Young.

• Discussion on being sensitive to the language used to discuss issues surrounding Diversity.

• Next Power and Equity Forum meeting is on March 6

• Upcoming workshop on March 8, open to entire MICA community facilitated by the Theatre Action Group (TAG) to explore power, race and inclusion.
MICA's Community Arts department is now offering a power series with the former dean of graduate studies, Leslie King-Hammond, Paul Rutgers, Kathleen O'Toole. All sessions will be held at MICA Place, contact Kurt Oster for more information.

Stephen to attend a Student Affairs Trustee meeting and will discuss Diversity discussion from today's GSC meeting.

Heather Braxton gives an update:

- Graduate Exhibitions Committee has become GradEx.
- In late April, the first juried exhibition will be held at the Chicken Box.
- For this show GradEx is seeking: Curators from Curatorial Practice to volunteer as Jurors. Graphic Designers to help with "Call For Arts" posters and other promotional material to be displayed within the next month.
- A signup sheet was passed around for people to sign up and support GradEx.
- Discussion on what is being done to gain more exhibition space in Lazarus Center.
- GradEx is working on acquiring hallway space and gaining support from Exhibitions.
- Morgan mentions that with a more sustainable model and strong support from the grad community, more exhibition space will be feasible.

Mandy Chesney gives an update on last meeting:

- They discussed proposed liberal arts classes for grad students and looked at proposed abstractions provided by professors on what they would like to teach. There was a discussion on moving to a block scheduling system to dedicate time when all programs could be free simultaneously to participate in possible inter-program workshops, peer-to-peer workshops, short educational series of classes or opportunities to build skills.

If anyone wants to join, contact your GPA for further information on scheduled meetings.

**SVA Town Hall Meeting- Mark Your Calendars!**
**Wednesday, March 11, at 2:30-4:30pm, Falvey Hall, Brown Center**

Aschely Cone gives an overview of the proposed layout of Town Hall:

- Town Hall will differ from previous Town Hall meetings because GSC now falls under the Student Voice Association umbrella, therefore issues will be presented at Town Hall as a unified student association with the Undergraduate community. Therefore, any issues brought up during Town Hall must be relevant to the whole MICA community.
Heather Braxton discusses the possible topics to bring forward at Town Hall (as discussed with SVA):

- diversity
- accessibility
- budget priority

Specifically toward exhibition space which affects both undergraduates and graduates. Discussion on undergraduates push for budget transparency follows and whether that is the best route to follow. Undergraduates have requested Flow Chart form Doug Mann to see the flow of budget decisions.

ID cards and Diversity are agreed as priority topics to discuss.

- Discussion on ID card issues and the importance of resolving issues asap. Frustration voiced at lack of action plans by Campus Safety to resolve issues in timely manner.
- Moving forward, GSC with SVA will identify the extent of the ID card issues with the Undergraduate population to see if this is a topic for Town Hall.
- Discussion continues on ID card issues and the need to obtain solid documentation so as not to prematurely discuss the issues without substantial evidence.
- Specific ID card issues can be emailed to Nasreen Zakariya at nzakariya@mica.edu
- Suggestion to have Stephen Davis attend Town Hall to give an update on ID card issues.

Discussion on format of Town Hall follows:
Undergraduate associations are encouraged to create proposals to reduce rhetoric. There will only be 2-3 presentations and that will be formalized, allowing for time for the administration to respond, with a brief open forum per topic for everyone to discuss each topic. The facilitators will use a debate style approach to ensure that each topic is given equal discussion time. Graduate students are strongly encouraged to attend Town Hall.

Reminder given for everyone to sign in so that all attendees can be added to the GSC forum to continue discussions on topics and issues concerning the graduate community.

OPEN FORUM
Next Graduate Student Advisory meeting will be on February 27th at 12:30pm.
Morgan spoke on behalf of Matthew Bambach (Graphic Design):

- Matthew was concerned with the amount of food thrown away after catered MICA events. Sometimes students and/or staff gets to take food but most often it gets thrown away. Morgan
directed Matthew to reach out to the student organization, Students for Sustainability, to see if that was an issue they are confronting.

Kurt Oster speaks on behalf of MFACA community:

- He requested to bring to the attention of GSC an issue with an MFACA adjunct faculty member accused of harassing, intimidating and threatening students who are outspoken. MFACA students do not feel safe within their department. Kurt states that Center for Education is aware of the issues but, but to his knowledge have not taken action. MFACA has lost 3 out of 9 students this year with the possibility of 3 more students leaving. Without an understanding of intended next steps by the Center for Education or MFACA's director, Kurt has turned to the GSC for support.

In response, GSC is a safe forum to voice these issues. In order to move forward with any support, GSC would like to further investigate the issue and seek out the right channels to address these concerns.

- Morgan offers explanation that course evaluations is one way for students to speak about their experience in the classroom. MICA also has a supportive HR department and policies in place to handle issues of harassment.

- MICA's harassment policy can be found at: http://www.mica.edu/About_MICA/Policies_and_Handbooks/Institutional_Policies/Harassment.html

- GSC will be looking into harassment policies and making them accessible to students.