

## Graduate Student Organization Open Form September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Introduction by GSO Chair, Kelsey Otero

1. Introduction by the Chair, Kelsey Otero to the GSO purpose and pillars:
  - a) Advocate for student concerns and issues
  - b) Community Building to unite graduate school programs and departments and build camaraderie.
  - c) Professional Development through opportunities to develop skills and prepare students for the next step in their career.
2. The GSO is working to bring more exposure and opportunities to graduate students in academics and professional development.

Teach for America introduction and presentation by Zack Henderson

1. Graduate students interested in Teach for America opportunities can reach out to Zack at zachary.henderson@marquette.edu

Updates:

1. Happy Hour tomorrow, September 27<sup>th</sup>, which will reoccur the last Friday in October at Caffrey's from 5-7pm. The GSO will provide starting pitchers and pizza.
2. Poster Session submissions due Oct 1.
3. Reminder about the open forum for MU Accreditation.
4. Mention of CINCH discount dining plan.

Committee updates

1. No current updates as most committees haven't met yet.

GSO History and recent wins

1. Purpose is to advocate on behalf of graduate students
2. The GSO is a relatively new organization looking to make strides this year with the previously stated pillars as the foundation for progress.
3. Past achievement to mention is the discounted parking for graduate students, limited to 1 or 2 month permits. Might be beneficial for students on campus short term.

Goals this year

1. Pillars
2. Trying to make an impact for graduate students as individuals and unite students as a whole.

Turn over to attendees to hear issues, questions and suggestions.

1. Health insurance – A concern was raised in regard to health insurance premiums being taxable, as well as concern in the difference between international and domestic students' options and fees for health insurance. The GSO will follow up and get more details.
2. Funding for research and travel - working on this with a November meeting soon through PFF.
3. Buss passes – The GSO is meeting with MU faculty on this for more information and then creating a plan.
4. More opportunities to present research – The GSO is brainstorming how to create more opportunities and looking into existing programs.
5. Space on campus for grad students – The attendees decided this was not an important or necessary addition.