



THE GRAD GRIND

A PUBLICATION OF THE
TUFTS UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE STUDENT
COUNCIL
(GSC)

Officers of the GSC:

President — Kellie Donovan
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Vice President — Randi Rotjan
Randi.Rotjan@tufts.edu
Treasurer — David Proctor
David.Proctor@tufts.edu
Secretary — Marta Paczynska
Marta.Paczynska@tufts.edu



Upcoming Event:

Tufts Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Graduate Student Group Movie Nights

Sunday 9 Mar 8:00 PM -
"The Sum of Us"

A young Russell Crowe as a gay plumber in Australia living with his somewhat TOO supportive Dad. From the play by David Stevens (who also wrote the screenplay).
At the LGBT Center, 226 College Ave. (the yellow house on College Ave. between Talbot & Professor's Row).

More info: <http://ase.tufts.edu/lgbt/gradgroup.htm>

THE PRESIDENT RETIRES! LONG LIVE THE PRESIDENT!

Pub Nights. Eye care coverage. The lounge. Temporary summer housing. The booze cruise. Information sessions for international students. Graduate Student Organizations. GradGrind. What will the Graduate Student Council do in 2003-04? That depends on you—your leadership, vision, and drive.

Nominations for all four GSC officer positions—President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary—will be in early April, and elections will be at the last general GSC meeting in April. All positions are open for nominations. Three of our current officers—Randi Rotjan (VP), David Proctor (Treasurer), and Marta Paczynska

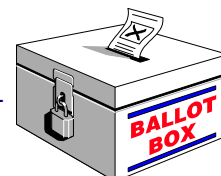
(Secretary)—have not announced whether they will run for their positions again, but Kellie Donovan (President) has decided that she will not run for a third term.

Take this opportunity to shape the work of the GSC for the coming year—run for office! We need dedicated, energetic officers with ideas about ways to improve grad life at Tufts. All ASE graduate students are eligible to run for any officer position, subject to the guidelines in Article IX (Elections) of the GSC Constitution. If you're interested in running for a position, please review this material, available on our website: <http://ase.tufts.edu/gsc>.

We highly recommend that anyone who's interested in one of the positions contact the current officers, and talk about what it's like to be an officer of the GSC. Although Article IV of the GSC Constitution describes the officers' duties, a conversation will give you a much better sense of what we do over the course of a year. Being a GSC officer is definitely manageable in a grad student's schedule, but we want all candidates to run with full information about what's expected if they're elected. If you're thinking of running, drop any of us a line, and we'll give you an insider's peek behind the scenes of the GSC.

Dan's Top Ten Reasons to Run for GSC President:

- 10) You get to choose the GSC Office Color Scheme ("Purple passion with lime green! I'm loving it!")
- 9) You receive the only I.D. that actually opens the door to the GSC Lounge
- 8) You receive your very own GSC Presidential Stationary (which in actuality is plain white paper with "GSC President" hand scribbled across the top)
- 7) You receive a complimentary West Hall Elevator Pass
- 6) Election as President instantaneously makes you the star of the GSC Feud
- 5) GSC Presidency makes you part of the Tufts "Presidential Decision-Making Team" of 3 (well, 2, since the Tufts Senate lacks a president) [who do you think was responsible for last week's "snow day"]
- 4) You can finally say to your friends, "please address me as Mr./Ms. President" (come to think of it, don't you do that anyways?)
- 3) You receive your very own Presidential Toga (to be used during all GSC Social events)
- 2) You feel like "king for a day"... until, of course, all the work associated with being GSC President sets in.
- 1) Two (powerful) Words: "Meeting Adjourned!"



The Task Force on the Undergraduate Experience: A GSC Conversation

Upcoming Event:

In Honor of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week

Tufts Health Service & Eating Disorders Task Force Proudly Present:

Jamie-Lynn Sigler

Tuesday, February 25
8:00 pm
Cohen Auditorium

Jamie-Lynn Sigler is an actress on a major hit show (*The Sopranos*), a recording artist, an author and a Broadway star. She is also the spokesperson for the National Eating Disorders Association. Come and hear her talk about her struggle to recover from an eating disorder. There will be a question and answer period following the presentation and a book signing.

GSC Classifieds:

Car for Sale:

1999 Ford Escort ZX2, 5-spd, good condition, A/C, <42K miles, 1 year left orig warranty, 1 owner, \$7,000 OBO

Interested? Contact Jason at:
617-628-8293

Don't waste your time advertising on Craig's List... Advertise specifically to your fellow Tufts Grad Students:

Post a free ad in the Grad Grind... e-mail your ad/information to:
gsc@tufts.edu

Although the Task Force on the Undergraduate Experience focuses on undergraduate life at Tufts, grads have many reasons to read the two interim reports and weigh in with the committee about their recommendations. (Read the reports at <http://ugtaskforce.tufts.edu>) Time is running out, however. The task force has to make its final recommendations by early May.

Members of the GSC—Kellie Donovan, Randi Rotjan, David Proctor and Eduardo Calvillo—recently met with Professor Gib Metcalf and Dean Charles Inouye, two of the co-chairs of the task force, task force member Professor Jim Glaser, and Charline Han, co-chair of the Student Advisory Committee to the task force. Discussion during the hour and a half meeting ranged over a variety of points made in the two interim reports, but focused primarily on ways in which the proposals would enhance the **graduate** experience at Tufts.

Many of our comments to the task force representatives highlighted that undergrad connections would be most valuable if they build on elements that are already present in grads' programs.

While a few grads may be interested in mentoring undergrads who have been randomly assigned to them, we stressed that we already have a presence with undergrads as their RAs, TAs, instructors in first year writing, and in some science and engineering research groups, and that extending those kinds of contacts could be important to grads as professional training.

We also had a number of comments about the proposed four-year writing requirement, especially the writing portfolio assembled by the student, and the heavy reliance on the Writing Fellows beyond English 1 & 2. It was pointed out that evaluating a portfolio takes a great deal of time per student, especially one which reflects four years of writing, and we underscored the importance—and difficulty—of establishing uniform standards for evaluating such material. We also discussed the possibility of grads working with upper-level undergrads to help them learn to write effectively within their disciplines.

Our more general comments for the task force focused on spending the University's limited resources on improv-

ing existing facilities, programs, and departments rather than starting new and expensive building projects, such as the café on top of the Tisch. The task force representatives had begun the meeting by noting that the two interim reports do not adequately capture the degree to which grads have been included in the task force's approach to improving the undergraduate experience. We followed up with our observation that the rhetoric of the report too often folds grads into references to "students" on campus, or to the "Tufts community," without sufficient attention to the specific contributions that grads make to undergraduate life on the Medford campus. As a major study of the campus community, we feel that the report needs to be more precise in its language.

Kellie, Randi, David, and Eduardo all felt that the meeting was productive, and that the task force was truly listening to our concerns. Although no additional student forums are scheduled as of *GradGrind* press time, if you have comments for the task force, you can email them to UGTaskForce@tufts.edu, or call x7-4678.

SHOW ME THE MONEY!

Well, thank\$ to the ASE graduate \$chool, all of the opportunitie\$ for re\$earch and \$tipend funding, for ALL field\$, are all located in one convenient place. Check out their web\$ite to find grant\$, fellowship\$, and scholarship\$.

http://ase.tufts.edu/gradstudy/research/Funding_index.htm

Also, the ASE graduate school is sponsoring a Grants-In-Aid program, which will award successful applicants up to \$500 for research in their field. The next submission deadline is in the fall, but stay tuned to hear more! Winners from Fall 2002 include graduate students Mark Cooperman and Melinda Franceschini from Biology, Sophie Naudeau and Shireen Riley from Child Development, and Sondra Steinbrenner from the Classics Department.

