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**Outline of the University City Graduate Student Coalition Meeting  
January 19, 2009**

The meeting was convened at 6:30pm at 1515 Market Street, Philadelphia.

Present were:

Sara Ansaloni (Drexel), Jamie Dasilva (USP), Jessica Geer (USP), Whelton Miller (USP), Brittany Sturges (Campus Philly), and Natalie Williams (Penn).

**I. What is Campus Philly?**

- a. Non-profit organization that partners with Universities in Philadelphia.
- b. Mission: participate in the economic development of the grater Philadelphia area through attracting students to local colleges and universities. The ultimate goal is to increase the number of educated people in the area in order to attract companies.
  - i. Recruit students.
  - ii. Engage students in the city.
  - iii. Connect students and industries.
- c. People: 8 full time employees.
  - i. Jon Herrmann, executive director (Penn Alumnus, W'00).
  - ii. Melanie Rago, senior director.
  - iii. Brittany Surges, Events and Media Associate.
  - iv. Kara Ashe, Business Accounts Representative.
  - v. Lysette Artis, Staff Assistant,
  - vi. Jennifer Johnson, Career Services.
  - vii. Stephanie Skari, Web Designer.
  - viii. Ian VandenBeulken, Community Engagement.
- d. Funding: City, State, Colleges, and private foundations
- e. Campus Philly is becoming more targeted to graduate students
  - i. Webpage dedicated to graduate students.
  - ii. Newsletter dedicated to graduate students.

**II. What can graduate students organizations (University City Graduate Student Coalition) do?**

- a. Reach out to their students and advertise events.
- b. Advise about activities that would attract graduate students.
- c. Create connections among graduate students across different schools (for example Temple).

**III. What do Graduate Student Organizations need?**

- a. Find sponsors for “win-win” activities targeting graduate students.
- b. Locations for events.
- c. Bars and restaurants in Old City and University City.

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- d. Movie Theatres.
  - e. City Paper to advertise and sponsor events.
  - f. Overcome problems of space for large grad students gatherings:
    - i. Break down the crowd in several places.
    - ii. Use large spaces (The Hub in the CIRA centre, Philadelphia Museum of Art).
    - iii. Organize smaller events but more frequently.

**IV. Brainstorming for a social event to be organized as a start**

- a. What appeals to graduate students?
  - i. Cheap events.
  - ii. Drinks and food for free.
  - iii. Social environment limited to the age group 21-35
  - iv. Possibility of meeting different people.
- b. Possible Event Ideas
  - i. “Pub Crawl” in University City with drinks specials and food specials.
  - ii. Graduate student night in the Philadelphia Museum of Art (Cezanne exhibit visit already organized by Penn GAPSAs even if his event is for a limited number of people).
  - iii. Northern Liberties 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday.
  - iv. Movie night at the Bridge.
  - v. Old City graduate student night.
  - vi. Philadelphia Zoo wine tasting for grad students.
  - vii. Ethnic parties for graduate student subpopulations.

Submitted by Sara Ansaloni