

UNC Graduate Student Association
GSA News for Grad Council
Thursday, 2/18/2021

Mobile Food Pantry

Tuesday, Feb. 23

2 – 3:30 p.m.

Y-Parking Lot (northeast of Nottingham football field)

The Mobile Food Pantry was cancelled on 2/16 due to cold weather. The event has been rescheduled for Tuesday, 2/23. All students, faculty, and staff may pick up free, fresh produce and baked goods. This is a drive-up event in partnership with Weld Food Bank, UNC Libraries, and the Graduate Student Association.

What Grad Council Members Can Do:

Please help pass along this information to graduate/undergraduate students, faculty, and staff. No proof of income is necessary at this event. Please bring your UNC ID card.

UNC Police Chief Search

UNCPD Chief Dennis Pumphrey will be retiring at the end of spring semester 2021. Blaine Nickeson is in charge of the search committee for a new police chief. The GSA has emailed Blaine to express our interest in putting one or more graduate students on the search committee.

What Grad Council Members Can Do:

The GSA would like Grad Council to support graduate student participation on this search committee. If you know of any graduate students that have law enforcement experience, or that have done research on law enforcement as it would relate to the hire of a new police chief, please refer them to GSA Director David.shimokawa@unco.edu.

Meeting with President Feinstein

Wednesday, Feb. 24

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Register: https://unco.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6tVjR2tgwFggS33

The GSA has a monthly meeting with President Feinstein. They are announced in the monthly GSA newsletter and posted on the GSA website. He wants to meet with graduate students to answer questions and discuss their issues. Only students from NHS and EBS have been attending. No representation from PVA, HSS, or MCB graduate students so far.

What Grad Council Members Can Do:

Encourage graduate students to attend these meetings. These meetings allow students to bring program- and college-specific issues up with the President. Even if students don't have a particular issue to address, attendance can help with staying informed of administrative decisions at UNC.

Graduate School Town Hall

Tuesday, Mar. 2

3 – 4 p.m.

Register: https://unco.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9QTmnfDIZSCicFo

The Graduate School will be holding a town hall meeting to discuss the state of graduate education at UNC. Dr. Lyons will be present to meet with graduate students and answer questions. Graduate

students from all UNC colleges and campuses (Greeley, Loveland, Denver and Online) are welcome to attend.

What Grad Council Members Can Do:

Encourage graduate students to attend this town hall. We would like to have student representation from every graduate program.

Campus Rec Advisory Board (CRAB)

The GSA has appointed Alicia Romero (SES: Sport Administration, Ph.D. student) as our representative on this board. CRAB has been out of service for the past year, but we are wanting to get it running again so graduate student concerns / suggestions can be discussed with Campus Rec administration.

What Grad Council Members Can Do:

If there are Campus Rec concerns / suggestions, have your graduate students send them to GSA Director, David.shimokawa@unco.edu. Alicia will also be overseeing graduate student intramural participation.

Graduate Student Employment

Graduate students can have other employment while also holding a graduate assistantship. From the [Graduate TA Handbook](#):

You may not hold regular full-time employment while holding an appointment as an assistant. Full-time employees of UNC may not hold an assistantship. Those with a dependent tuition waiver may not hold an assistantship at the same time. Instead, you must choose between the assistantship and the dependent tuition waiver.

Because being both a graduate student and a graduate assistant will occupy most of your time, we do not recommend that you hold any outside employment during your assistantship. Nevertheless, we do not prohibit you from holding part-time off-campus employment – which in no event may exceed 20 hours a week. It is up to you to determine how much time, if any, you can devote to additional activities and still make progress toward your degree and fulfill your responsibilities as a graduate assistant. Programs or units do have the discretionary right, however, to make appointments to students whose level of commitment suggests that they will be most likely to attain their educational goals while maintaining their graduate assistant responsibilities.

The assistantship policies do not prohibit students from working fulltime in another job during Thanksgiving Break, Spring Break, Winter Break, and the summer. International students, due to their visa status, are not allowed to work more than the 20 hours per week required for their assistantship while school is in session. International students may be eligible to work full-time in other positions while school is not in session – please contact the Center of International Education for more information.

What Grad Council Members Can Do:

Please let your students know that holding a graduate assistantship does not preclude them from part-time employment.

Student Health Insurance

Health insurance is a recurring topic of discussion at GSA meetings. The annual premium for a single student on UNC's Student Health Insurance Plan is \$3,552.00 (August 17, 2020 – August 17, 2021). Eligible students can save money by signing up for Colorado Medicaid or purchasing health insurance through the Healthcare.gov marketplace.

Medicaid income guidelines: <https://connectforhealthco.com/get-started/health-first-colorado/>

What Grad Council Members Can Do:

Let your students know that they are not required to use UNC's Student Health Insurance if they can find sufficient medical coverage through Colorado Medicaid or other health insurance plan. Any students that would like to explore their insurance options should contact North Colorado Health Alliance. They are a non-profit that will assist students with signing up for Medicaid or other plan through the Marketplace:

Cassy Gonzales

Cgonzales.alliance@noco.org

970-346-2578

Lisa Lopez

Llopez.alliance@noco.org

Graduate Student Panel

Wednesday, Feb. 24

4 – 5 p.m.

The UNC Center for Human Enrichment (CHE) is looking for four to five graduate students to sit on a panel for undergraduate students. The theme of the workshop is pathways to graduate school and graduate school experiences from the perspective of a first-generation student. Panel moderator, Bryson Kelly, would like the panel to talk about their experiences with:

- Application process
- Selecting a program
- Funding
- Research
- Relationship with advisors
- Work-life balance in graduate school

What Grad Council Members Can Do:

If you have a student that you'd like to recommend for this, please contact David.shimokawa@unco.edu asap.