

Doctoral Students in Urban Planning (DSUP)
Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP)
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
December 7, 2007

To: DSUP members, DURP faculty
From: Joanna Ganning, DSUP President
Re: Fall 2007 Progress Report

DSUP has made much progress this fall semester. This report highlights those accomplishments, as well as lays out our goals and plans for the upcoming semester. Our goal with this report is to provide the current DSUP members and the departmental faculty with a clear picture of where we are as an organization and how we plan to continue to thrive as an organization.

Accomplishments

1. As of October 31, 2007, DSUP is a Registered Student Organization at the University of Illinois. This entitles us the right to apply for funding from the university. We also now have access to leadership resources, rooms for use during activities, A-V equipment from the university, and many other benefits.
2. DSUP has successfully implemented and executed a weekly research seminar. Since November 7, our annual weekly attendance has been about 9, generally a mix of faculty and students. We believe attendance was even higher earlier in the semester, but we did not count it before November 7. We believe our attendance record represents an important advance from recent years. We also believe this highlights our ability and desire to contribute to the intellectual development of the department.
3. DSUP has worked with SPO to better understand our relationship to one another through the department's organization structure. Through these discussions we have established institutionalized means of promoting discussion between DSUP and SPO. We have also established a Joint Memorandum of Understanding stating that we intend to support members of both organizations during events such as SPO's fundraising for APA and DSUP's efforts to promote attendance at ACSP.
4. DSUP has established some organizational habits to further its development, such as the recording and distribution of meeting minutes, the establishment of a regular monthly meeting, and a web presence through the department's homepage.
5. DSUP successfully organized logistics to facilitate student attendance at ACSP.
6. The President and Treasurer have successfully worked together to cover ACSP travel costs as equitably and as fully as possible, while protecting our ability to organize events throughout the remainder of the year.

7. DSUP has worked together to improve our students' representation on our own and the departmental websites. Tim Green worked to develop an attractive format and gather information from students to develop that page. He has also maintained the DSUP webpage, complete with updates on seminars and meetings.

Goals and Plans

1. In addition to our upcoming efforts to secure funding through the university as a Registered Student Organization, DSUP has worked to develop a fundraiser for the spring semester. The fundraiser has been developed not only to increase our budget, but to encourage students to interact with urban planning ideas through a planning-themed scavenger hunt.
2. To fulfill our mission to contribute to the intellectual life of the department, DSUP has decided to pursue a planning-themed debate in the Spring of 2008. We hope to engage students and faculty in a moderated debate around an established topic. We believe this event will encourage scholarly discussions, promote social networking, and contribute to the ongoing development of students.
3. Yu Xiao is currently arranging our spring line-up of seminar speakers.
4. DSUP is working to get an early start on our application for funding from the University for ACSP 2008. We've outlined a time frame for action steps, which we will begin as early as January 2008.