

Doctoral Students in Urban Planning (DSUP)
Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP)
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
May 14, 2008

To: DSUP members, DURP faculty
From: Joanna Ganning, DSUP President
Re: Spring 2008 Progress Report

Accomplishments

1. Participated in the DURP faculty search through meetings with the candidates, attendance at candidates' job talks, and a report (written by Yu Xiao) providing our input to the faculty.
2. Successfully hosted a Treasure Hunt-themed fundraiser (coordinated by Kate Nesse). We decided to host a similar fundraiser in the fall, in conjunction with orientation weekend. We believe this will allow more participation and will facilitate introductions between new students and the existing student body and faculty.
3. Completed an application for SORF funding to attend the ACSP/AESOP joint meeting in July. Coordinated by Marisa Zapata. Through that application we were granted about \$3,200 for the conference!
4. Began a conversation on how, when, and to whom teaching assignments are given. This initiative is being headed by Tim Green.
5. Opened the channel of communication between faculty and doctoral students by appointing a representative (Joanna Ganning) at faculty meetings. Via this representative, departmental news and announcements are passed on to the doctoral students and doctoral students' input is passed to the faculty.
6. Continued the weekly research seminars with an average attendance of about seven. Yu Xiao coordinated the schedule of presenters with support from her peers. Yu has also started a discussion within DSUP about formalizing the seminar, making it a mandatory class for doctoral students.
7. Continued to hold regular DSUP meetings, complete with agendas and a distribution of minutes. Coordinated by Joanna Ganning.
8. Co-sponsored the Planners' Network event titled "Airing Planning's Dirty Laundry." Our involvement facilitated the provision of supplies and refreshments, which made for a social environment in which members of our community could interact.
9. Held annual elections. Joanna Ganning will serve as president and Kate Nesse as treasurer for academic year 2008-2009.

Goals and Plans

1. DSUP hopes to coordinate another Treasure Hunt for August 2008.
2. DSUP will work to develop a student/faculty engagement activity to go along with the presidential elections of November 2008.

3. We would like to communicate with the faculty regarding potential ways for DSUP to meaningfully contribute to the department.
4. DSUP would like to discuss opportunities for external funding and any impact such increases could have for PhD student stipend levels and for PhD admissions.