

Doctoral Students in Urban Planning (DSUP)
Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP)
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
August 2009

To: DSUP members, DURP faculty
From: DSUP
Re: Spring 2009 Progress Report

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. Successfully applied for SORF funding (\$1220) for the Regional Health and Population Economics (RPHE) conference held at UIUC. None of this money was used, as costs were covered by the registration fee. DURP also allocated \$200 to the conference; those funds were also not ultimately needed.
2. Successfully applied for funding for five attendees for the Urban Affairs Association conference. We were approved for \$1452. Three students attended the conference.
3. We compiled and distributed to faculty a summary of PhD student accomplishments over the past year. This included publications, funding, conference presentations, etc. This document was meant to demonstrate our collective value added to the department and assist the department in assessing our collective success.
4. Several DSUP members worked with Masters students to assist with UpWords. This initiative is currently on hold as the departmental newsletter continues to evolve.
5. We successfully organized another semester of research seminars. There were six seminars with a total of approximately 31 attendees. We hosted an end-of-year happy hour to thank research seminar presenters and participants. We had a substantial turnout for this event, at Jupiter's downtown location.

Looking forward

1. We are currently looking to change leadership in both the president and research seminar coordinator roles.
2. We hope to maintain an active voice in departmental discussions regarding student space.
3. We have offered to speak about the PhD student experience at SPO brown bag seminars, and hope they will take us up on that offer this fall.