Dear graduate and graduate-professional students,

As the academic year comes to an end and finals approach, The Council of Graduate Students is beginning a new phase within the Executive Board. On behalf of the 2014-15 COGS Executive Board, we look forward to serving you this upcoming year, and we welcome our new representatives, supporters, and friends. COGS represents MSU’s graduate and professional students through advocacy, innovative research, and the development and dissemination of the best practices. The COGS Full Council’s responsibility is to ensure that the graduate and graduate-professional student voice is heard, and respond to the unique set of issues that graduate students face. There are exciting times of change and opportunity ahead for graduate and graduate-professional students at Michigan State University.

Next year, as the President of COGS, I will focus on increasing community, inclusivity, and connectedness for students. As a first year master’s student in the College of Education, I have noticed that there is a great sense of community within the college and within individual departments across campus. However, I would like to expand this sense of kinship both on campus and at our distance education sites around the state. There is a misconception that graduate students are more connected to their undergraduate institution, and I hope to develop a stronger sense of belonging among graduate and graduate-professional students from their first day as an MSU Spartan.

In addition, one of the initiatives COGS focused on last year was the state of mental health for graduate and professional students at MSU. We will work with our valued partners as we continue the conversation around mental health on campus for all MSU students. I would like to thank the past COGS Executive Board for their leadership, guidance, and dedication to students on campus. You have truly made a positive impact and increased awareness of the unique agenda of graduate and graduate-professional students both on and off campus. Thank you to the new COGS Executive Board for what they will accomplish this year, and thank you to our valued partners for your continued support. We appreciate your time and efforts to help enhance the graduate student experience. Lastly, thank you for the opportunity to serve in this role for COGS, and I look forward to connecting with you this year.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

April Full Council Meeting Highlights

- Inside Teaching MSU: online resource community for graduate students and post-docs to talk about teaching. Inside Teaching Lounge to discuss teaching, hoping to build an advisory board with a COGS representative.
- New COGS logos adopted.
- Summer Construction Projects on Campus: High impact from three big maintenance projects, please use awareness of the construction and equipment moving, will take up parking in some areas. http://construction.msu.edu has information about impacts of construction on roads, there are construction pages on each.

Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation week took place April 6-12th nationwide: We, however, decided to really emphasize how much we regard our graduate and professional students and make our appreciation “week” nine days long this year. Students were invited to pick up coupons for Chipotle buy one get one free burritos, Dairy State ice cream, Starbucks coffee and get awesome discounts on Sparty coffee, State Food Truck, and Wharton Center shows like Rock of Ages and Peter Pan. We also showed our students appreciation by offering a free movie night at Wells Hall and majorly discounted tickets for baseball games like Crosstown Showdown and a Detroit Tiger’s Opening Weekend game. Students were even encouraged to take a printout of your bill with the COGS tax highlighted is sufficient) 4. $150.00 Cash, check, or money order. COGS is currently transitioning to a new credit card vendor. We will be able to accept credit cards again in Fall 2014.

A Letter From COGS’ President

Visit our Website: www.cogs.msu.edu

COGS is now selling Summer Semester Parking Permits to the Downtown East Lansing Division Street ramp (Lot 10 — Colordul Parking Garage at Division & Albert Streets) and New permits can be purchased in the COGS Office for only $150.00 and are valid 5/12/14—8/26/14. Bring with you: 1. Vehicle registration (For new permits only) 2. Your student ID 3. Proof that you have the COGS tax in the permit you’re purchasing the permit for (To prove that you are a graduate student - a printout of the COGS tax highlighted is sufficient) 4. $150.00 Cash, check, or money order. COGS is currently transitioning to a new credit card vendor. We will be able to accept credit cards again in Fall 2014.

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