

## **Graduate Student Organization**

Mitchum Owen describes the function of his organization and its contribution to IUPUI student life.

March 06, 2008

Duration: 3:20

### **Transcript**

[ M. Owen ] My name is Mitchum Owen and I'm president of the Graduate Student Organization at IUPUI. The GSO basically serves the function of representation for graduate and professional students all throughout campus. So if students have a particular issue, whether it's academics or policy, they can bring those issues to us and then we make sure that the proper administrator or committee on campus is aware of the issue and is able to address it appropriately.

Well, we have three officers: the president, vice president, and secretary, and we also have an advisor. We also have several schools which are supposed to have representatives in the GSO; we don't have full representation right now, but that is one of our goals for this semester. So we had 19 people show up at our last meeting and we usually include user comments, the reps bring in issues, and then we'll have a speaker come in as well.

This is actually a special year for the Graduate Student Organization and all students on campus. There's been a lot of changes with the student activity fee, we have the new Campus Center, and specifically for the GSO we have a one semester term of office for all the officers. So I was actually elected in December and a new officer will be elected in May, as I'll be graduating. So, trying to take advantage of this semester and year of change, our main campaign right now is graduate students coming to the table. So what I'm trying to do in my tenure is make sure we know the committees that are available throughout campus, so we're getting a list of all the different committees that need graduate student representation on them. We're also trying to make sure we have, like I said earlier, a full representation from all the different school councils, and we're also trying to move into our new space, here is our new office in the Campus Center, and then also we're also developing a new website and Listserv. So we're really trying to come to the table and provide a unified body that students can come to when they have issues and concerns.

One issue that has come up is the student activity fee, and so lots and lots of changes are occurring with that and there's lots of different opinions on how the student money should be spent. Obviously when you deal with money, there's lots of issues there. One thing that we've done very well is to make sure that graduate students are represented in these different committees, so we've had representatives in the ad hoc committees that actually have helped decide some of the major processes, and we've also had graduate students within the actual student development funding committee that are determining, on an individual project-by-project basis, sorry, program-by-program basis, which ones need to be funded, and which ones are appropriate for student fees.

If a student has a particular issue that they want brought to the student government, I first of all recommend that they talk to their specific school council, so they can be brought up to that body first, so they can deal with it at a local level. But if it's something that is campus-wide, they're definitely welcome to pry this information to their representative who will bring it to us, or they can contact us directly. Our website is [iupui.edu/~gradstu](http://iupui.edu/~gradstu). Our email address is [gradstu@iupui.edu](mailto:gradstu@iupui.edu) and our phone number in our new office is 317-278-0615.