

Graduate Faculty Student Senate Update We've Got Issues

by Vince Carducci

The Graduate Faculty Student Senate (GFSS) agenda for spring 2005 is a full one. Old business includes representing students in developing the Graduate Faculty's mission as well as in the upcoming move to 79 Fifth Avenue. New business includes hiring an Associate Dean, correcting the University's food service policy, and developing a University-wide Student Senate.

The timing of the Graduate Faculty's move to 79 Fifth Avenue seems to be up in the air. But already some trial balloons haven't floated too well among students. At a December meeting, New School Executive Vice President James Murtha said the new building wouldn't have dedicated computer facilities, but would instead feature hallway work stations with limited word processing and Internet access only. Students needing full-service computers would need to use the University Computing Center (UCC) on 13th Street. In response to concerns about the noise levels at the UCC, Murtha offered the possibility of using headphones.

"Jim Murtha says that so-called 'smart classrooms' will be used for lectures during the daytime and have computers that will pop up for use at night. But why have all of those computers sitting idle all day when students might otherwise be able to use them?" asks GFSS speaker Chelsea Mozen, who attended the meeting.

Student concerns about computer facilities were raised in the Dean's Advisory Committee, which GFSS representatives attend each month. Mozen says "GFSS is involved with planning for the new building and will meet with school officials to give their input."

The need to hire a new Associate Dean was prompted by the unexpected departure of Dan McIntyre, a long-time administrator and staunch student supporter. A job announcement was published in *The New York Times* and elsewhere, and a search committee is being formed by GF Dean Benjamin Lee.

